

## ANNUAL PROGRAMME

Initial version

Revised version following dialogue with the Commission

X Version revised for other reasons

<b>MEMBER STATE: REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA</b>
<b>FUND: RETURN FUND</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR</b>
<b>YEAR COVERED: 2010</b>

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

This annual programme has been revised. Under the annual programme (AP) 2010 two open calls for project proposals (in September 2010 and in April 2011) and an internal call for project proposals under the executing body mode have been carried out. Due to the outcome of the calls for proposals a redistribution of the committed amounts among the different actions was necessary.

Moreover, the action 2.1.6 "Renting or leasing of conveying buses" was withdrawn due to the unsuccessful internal call for project proposal and replaced by the action 2.1.7 "Monitoring of forced return operations". This action is linked to the requirements of the return directive. The allocation for the action 2.1.6 in the initial annual programme has been divided between actions 2.1.5, 2.1.7 and 2.3.1. Also the allocation for the action 2.1.1 has been reduced since the project budget for this action is lower.

In conclusion, following changes have been made in the financial table:

Actions	Initial EU funding	Revised EU funding	Change
2.1.1. Development of consultation system of voluntary return	117 537,26	97 537,26	-20 000,00
2.1.2. Implementation of support system of voluntary return	28 500,00	N/A	N/A
2.1.3. Implementation of reintegration programme	26 825,20	N/A	N/A
2.1.4. Implementation of special measures for vulnerable persons	13 570,75	N/A	N/A
2.1.5. Implementation of forced return of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfill the conditions for entry and stay	82 326,50	141 931,22	+59 604,72
2.1.6. Leasing or renting of conveying buses	91 239,50	0	-91 239,50
2.1.7. Monitoring of forced return operations	0	30 000,00	+30 000,00

2.2.1. Development of operational cooperation with third countries 'institutions responsible for return management	42 395,45	22 395,45	-20 000,00
2.3.1. Organizing trainings for officials involved in returns and removals	52 335,22	93 970,00	+41 634,78
Technical assistance	66 485,05	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	521 214,93	521 214,93	+101 239,50

The selection of projects under the 2010 annual programme has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the multi-annual programme, the management and control system of the framework programme "Solidarity and Management of the Migration Flows" for the period 2008-2013 composed by the Estonian Ministry of the Interior (MoI) and the manual of the procedures (procedural rules, decree of the Minister of the Interior no 74 of 23.03.2010).

### **1.1 Selection of projects when the Responsible Authority acts as awarding body**

In accordance with Article 7 of the Commission Decision laying down rules for the implementation of Council Decision 575/2007/EC (Implementation Rules) Responsible Authority (RA) acts as an awarding body if there are several potential final beneficiaries who could submit a project. RA therefore implements the projects on the basis of an annual open call for proposals. This method shall be used when an action could be implemented both by public and non-public bodies.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Implementation Rules the call for proposals is published in the national press and on the web page of the MoI ([www.siseministeerium.ee](http://www.siseministeerium.ee)) and it includes: (1) objectives, (2) selection criteria, (3) arrangements and final date for submission of proposals.

Under the AP2010 two open calls for project proposals have been carried out: in September-October 2010 (for the actions 2.1.2, 2.1.2., 2.1.3., and 2.3.1.) and in March-April 2011 (for the action 2.3.1.).

In accordance with Article 9(2) of the Implementation Rules the RA ensures that potential beneficiaries are informed of eligibility rules for expenditure, time limit for implementation and the financial and other information.

Before submission of the project proposals, the RA organizes an information seminar in order to provide assistance to applicants in drafting a project proposal fully in compliance with the eligibility rules and other requirements of the fund.

Project proposals have been submitted to the RA both by post and electronically.

The RA has carried out administrative evaluation of the project proposals and fulfilled the check lists.

The evaluation committee is in charge of selecting projects for co-financing. The committee evaluates the project proposals according to the evaluation criteria which are composed on the basis of the minimum criteria set out in the Article 15 of the Basic Act. Also the compliance with the multi-annual programme, annual programme, strategic guidelines and national acts are taken into account while selecting the projects.

The steering committee which consists of higher officials of the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of approval or rejection of project proposals to be funded and submitting them to the Secretary General for authorisation.

The Secretary General of the MoI approves by directive the list the project to be financed.

Successful and unsuccessful projects are provided with written decisions according to the Article 5 and 6 of the Implementation Rules.

Grant agreements are signed by the Deputy-Secretary General for Internal Security of the Ministry of the Interior and the statutory representative of the grant recipient.

### **1.2 Selection of projects when the Responsible Authority acts as executing body**

In accordance with Article 7 of the Implementation Rules the RA acts as an executing body if the characteristics of actions/projects leave no other choice for implementation, such as *de jure* monopoly situations or security reasons. For example the Police and Border Guard Board and Security Police Board are *de jure* in monopoly situation in Estonia as concerns the forced return. They act within the administrative area of the MoI.

Final beneficiaries submit to the RA internal project proposals. They are required to provide the same financial and project information as is required for external project proposals. The project proposals for implementing the actions 2.1.4., 2.1.5., 2.1.6. and 2.2.1. were submitted to the RA in October 2010.

The RA carries out the administrative evaluation of the project proposals by fulfilling a check list. In general, the migration and border policy department of the MoI carries out the evaluation of the project proposals (quality of the proposals and accordance to the policy needs). The Responsible Authority can involve the evaluation committee in the evaluation process of the project proposals, if appropriate. The compliance with the multi-annual programme, annual programme, strategic guidelines and national acts are taken into account while evaluating the projects.

The steering committee which consists of higher officials of the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of approval or rejection of project proposals to be funded and submitting them to the Secretary General for authorisation. The Secretary General of the MoI approves by directive the list of projects to be financed.

Grant agreements are signed by the Deputy-Secretary General for Internal Security of the Ministry of the Interior and the statutory representative of the grant recipient.

### **1.3 Public procurement**

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).

**1.4 Prevention of conflict of interest**

The RA shall ensure transparency in selection process and include mechanisms for avoiding any conflict of interest. The rule for preventing any conflict of interest shall be binding for the following areas and involved persons:

- Selection and award procedure of individual projects – persons authorised to assess project proposals shall not participate in the implementation of individual projects on behalf of a grant recipient of individual project;
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of individual projects – persons carrying out tasks of the responsible authority within the financial management, monitoring and assessment of individual projects shall not participate in the implementation of individual project as a grant recipient.

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

**2.1 Actions implementing priority 1:** Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by Member State

*2.1.1 Development of consultation system of voluntary return*

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>The overall objective of the action is to ensure the sustainability of the voluntary return. The specific purpose of the action is to improve the consultation system of voluntary return. It is planned to continue with the consultations to the target group of the RF (third-country nationals who do not longer fulfil the conditions for stay in the country and whom the order to leave the country has been issued; asylum seekers) on voluntary return and to train the indirect group (officials, social workers etc being engaged in return process) of the RF on the different aspects of return process.</p> <p>It is planned to carry out at least following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultations to the returnees on voluntary return process;</li> <li>- translation service for returnee (<i>if necessary</i>);</li> <li>- pre-return activities (medical checks etc, <i>if necessary</i>);</li> <li>- organising transport to the country of return, obtaining travel documents, offering assistance for arranging transport of personal belongings etc;</li> <li>- compiling informational materials on voluntary return (rights and obligations of returnees etc);</li> <li>- trainings to the indirect group (officials, social workers etc being engaged in return process) on different aspects on return process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>Expected grant recipients shall be state agencies, nongovernmental organisations and international organisations alike.</p> <p>Under AP2008, the action has been carried out by the Estonian Migration Foundation. Under the AP2009, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has implemented the activity (in</p>

	2010). As the outcome of the call for project proposals the IOM implements the activity under the AP2010 (in 2011).
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at least 15 returnees have been consulted on voluntary return process and returned voluntarily;</li> <li>- information material has been compiled and distributed;</li> <li>- translation service has been provided, if needed;</li> <li>- travel to the country of return has been organised;</li> <li>- approximately 30 social workers, officials etc engaged in return process have been trained.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA 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 EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Financial information</b>	<p>Following the outcome of the call for proposals, the amounts of the allocation were revised as such:</p> <p>EU contribution – 97 537,26 EUR  Public allocation – 32 512,42 EUR  TOTAL – 130 049,68 EUR</p>

### ***2.1.2 Implementation of support system of voluntary return***

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	The overall objective of the action is to ensure the sustainability of the voluntary return. The specific purpose of the action is to provide material assistance to the returnees. Providing material assistance motivates returnees to co-operate with competent authorities on return issues and return voluntarily. Under the activity it is planned to provide limited financial contribution for initial expenses after return. The target group of the action includes in the third-country nationals who do not
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	longer fulfil the conditions for stay in the country and asylum seekers. The action is a part of the consultation system of voluntary return and shall be carried out together with the action 3.1.1.
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	Expected grant recipients shall be state agencies, nongovernmental organisations and international organisations alike. Under the AP2008, the action has been carried out by Estonian Migration Foundation. Under the AP2009, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has implemented the activity (in 2010). As the outcome of the call for project proposals the IOM implements the activity under the AP2010 (in 2011).
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- limited financial contribution has been provided to the returnees;</li> <li>- return process is more human;</li> <li>- approximately 10 voluntarily returning persons have been supported.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.
<b>Complementarities with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Financial information</b>	Estimated allocation for the activity: EU contribution – 28.500,00EUR Public allocation – 9.500,00 EUR TOTAL – 38.000,00 EUR

### ***2.1.3 Implementation of reintegration programme***

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	The overall objective of the action is to ensure the sustainability of the voluntary return. The specific purpose of the action is to improve the
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	<p>reintegration measures for the target group of the RF (third-country nationals who do not longer fulfil the conditions for stay in the country and whom the order to leave the country has been issued, asylum seekers) in the country of return. It includes in for example post-return assistance, employment assistance and start-up support.</p> <p>Under the activity it is planned to develop and improve measures which help to launch reintegration programme (e.g. contacts and cooperation with countries of return, development of databases etc. which include in various information on country of return)</p> <p>The action is a part of the consultation system of voluntary return and shall be carried out together with the action 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.</p> <p>According to the Annex 11 of the Implementing Rules, assistance measures following the return to the third country shall not exceed the duration of six months following the date of the return of the third-country national.</p>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	Expected grant recipients shall be state agencies, non governmental organisations and international organisations alike. As the outcome of the call for project proposals the IOM implements the activity under the AP2010 (in 2011).
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assistance on reintegration in the country of return has been provided to 3 returnees at least;</li> <li>- return process is more human;</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA 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 EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Financial</b>	Estimated allocation for the activity:

<b>information</b>	EU contribution – 26.825,20 EUR Public allocation – 8.941,73 EUR TOTAL – 35.766,93 EUR
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#### 2.1.4 Implementation of special measures for expulsion of vulnerable persons

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>The general objective of the action is to improve the management of forced return. The specific purpose of the action is to develop and implement special measures for removal of vulnerable persons.</p> <p>The specific assistance for vulnerable persons includes in providing material and medical assistance. It is planned to create special conditions in the detention centre for parents with minor children. The improvement of conditions for parents with minor children in detention will be in accordance with the standards foreseen in the Return Directive (2008/115/EC, Art. 17).</p> <p>Following activities are planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtaining travel documents for vulnerable persons;</li> <li>- Consulting vulnerable persons on forced return;</li> <li>- Providing material and special assistance to vulnerable persons (e.g. limited financial contribution for initial expenses after return, medical assistance);</li> <li>- Creating special conditions for parents with minor children in the detention centre</li> </ul>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	All authorities in the area of administration of the Ministry of the Interior engaged in forced return (the Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board) are expected grant recipients. Under the AP2008 and AP2009, the action has been implemented by the Citizenship and Migration Board. Under AP2010, the Police and Border Guard Board implements the activity.
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Pursuant to Section 15 of the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (OLPEA), a border guard official, an official of the Police and Border Guard Board or a police officer shall upon existence of a basis for expulsion provided for in the Act detain a foreigner and organise the foreigner's departure from Estonia. As Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board act in the Ministry of the Interior's area of administration, the Ministry of the Interior has the competence on deciding issues related to forced return. Pursuant to the OLPEA, other institutions and authorities do not implement forced return. Thus, the implementation of the project directly by the Ministry of the Interior as the responsible institution is justified.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultancy, material and medical assistance has been provided to vulnerable persons being subject to forced return;</li> <li>- conditions for vulnerable persons staying in the detention centre have been improved.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection

<b>funding</b>	of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA 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 EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Financial information</b>	Estimated allocation for the activity: EU contribution – 13.570,75 EUR Public allocation – 4.523,58 EUR TOTAL – 18.094,33 EUR

**2.1.5 Implementation of forced return of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay**

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>The general objective of the action is to improve the management of forced return. The specific purpose is to achieve a situation where forced return takes place as rapidly and smoothly as possible. As a result of the action, the returnees have valid travel documents, travel to the country of return has been organised, the escorts have valid travel documents (e.g. visas) and the travel for escorts has been organised. The costs for translation have been covered, if needed.</p> <p>In recent years there have been approximately 30 third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay and who have been returned by forced return. Most of the forced returns take place via air. Several forced returns take place to Russian Federation through land border points. The aim is to enhance credibility and integrity of immigration policies and reduce the period of detention of persons waiting for forced return. Following activities are planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organising travel documents, if necessary, for returnees;</li> <li>- organising travel (via land or air) for returnees;</li> <li>- organising the transport of the returnees' luggage;</li> <li>- organising travel for escorts (costs for travel, food, temporary accommodation, daily allowances, insurance, visas);</li> <li>- costs for translation services (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, African languages), if necessary;</li> <li>- limited financial start-up support for returnees:</li> </ul> <p>The direct target group of the action includes in the third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay. The direct group includes in the escorts of the returnees as well. The action has been carried out under AP2008 and AP2009 as well. The projects under AP2008 shall be finished by 31.12.2009. The</p>
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	<p>projects under AP2009 shall start in January 2010 and finish by 31. December 2010.</p> <p>Under the AP2010 the action targeted to the forced return continues. According to the statistics, illegal immigration to Estonia is increasing. On the basis of the prognosis of the Police and Border Guard Board, approximately 30 third-country national shall be returned by forced return in 2010.</p>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	<p>All authorities in the area of administration of the Ministry of the Interior engaged in forced return (i.e., the Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board) are expected grant recipients. Under the AP2008 and AP2009, the action has been implemented by the Citizenship and Migration Board and Border of Border Guard. Under the AP2010 the Police and Border Guard Board implements the activity.</p>
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	<p>Pursuant to Section 15 of the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (OLPEA), a border guard, a migration official or a police officer shall upon existence of a basis for expulsion provided for in the Act detain a foreigner and organise the foreigner's departure from Estonia. As the Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board act in the Ministry of the Interior's area of administration, the Ministry of the Interior has the competence on deciding issues related to forced return. Pursuant to the OLPEA, other institutions and authorities do not implement forced return. Thus, the implementation of the project directly by the Ministry of the Interior as the responsible institution is justified.</p>
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay are removed – approximately 30 persons;</li> <li>- period of custody of persons waiting for forced removal is shorter;</li> <li>- period for removal proceedings is approximately four months;</li> <li>- removal is more human;</li> <li>- escorts for returnees have been organised.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	<p>Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.</p>
<b>Complementarities with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

<b>Financial information</b>	<p>Following the outcome of the internal call for proposals, the amounts of the allocation were revised as such:</p> <p>EU contribution – 141 931,22 EUR</p> <p>Public allocation – 47 310,41 EUR</p> <p>TOTAL – 189 241,63 EUR</p>
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### **2.1.6 Renting or leasing of conveying buses**

Due to the unsuccessful internal call for project proposal the action has not been implemented. The EU contribution 91.239,50 EUR initially allocated to this action was divided between the actions 2.1.5., 2.1.7. and 2.3.1.

### **2.1.7 Implementation of monitoring system for forced return**

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>The general objective of the Return Fund is to improve the management of return in all its dimensions taking into account the EU legislation in this field and in full compliance with fundamental rights (Article 2(1) of the Decision no 575/2007/EC).</p> <p>In the light of the directive on common standards and procedures in the Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (Return Directive) and taking into account the provisions laid down in the Article 8(6) (Member States shall provide for an effective forced-return monitoring system) the purpose of the action is the implementation of actions for the monitoring of forced return activities, including for example the design and development of monitoring systems.</p> <p>According to the Article 2(1) of the Return Directive and the Article 7(c) and 7(d) of the Decision establishing the Return Fund, the target group of the action includes third-country nationals staying illegally on the territory of Estonia.</p>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	The final grant recipient will be the Estonian Red Cross.
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	<p>The action will be implemented under the awarding body method without a call for proposals (according to the Article 7(2) of the Implementing Rules). The final grant recipient will be the Estonian Red Cross.</p> <p>Pursuant to the paragraph 6<sup>4</sup> of the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (OLPEA) which has passed the parliament reading in November 2010 and entered into force in December 2010, the Ministry of the Interior concludes an agreement with a state agency or a legal person governed by private law which will monitor forced return procedures and gives it's opinions and recommendations on the forced return procedures to the MoI. This paragraph foresees that the organization which monitors forced return procedures and operations must be reliable and have sufficient knowledge and skills in order to evaluate the legality of forced return procedures. In addition, the organization must be transparent, independent, neutral, and</p>

	<p>internationally recognized. As forced return monitoring will cover all phases of the return operation the organization must be able to act both in the EU countries and third countries. Also this organization must fulfill the requirements of confidentiality, in particular the protection of personal data as laid down in the Personal Data Protection Act (in accordance with directives 95/46/EC and the regulation No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000).</p> <p>Taking into account the requirements mentioned above, the Ministry of the Interior has analyzed the organisations acting in this specific or similar field in Estonia (their competences and accordance to the requirements). It was also taken into consideration that non-governmental organisations acting in this field in Estonia are already implementing other projects under the Return Fund (e.g. voluntary return activities). The potential conflict of interest must be avoided. According to the criteria set up the Estonian Red Cross was chosen to monitor the forced return procedures. Therefore, the Estonian Red Cross has the exclusive right to monitor the procedures of forced return in Estonia.</p>
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	- monitoring of at least 30 removals have been carried out.
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA 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 EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Financial information</b>	<p>Estimated allocation for the activity:</p> <p>EU contribution – 30 000 EUR</p> <p>Public allocation – 10 000 EUR</p> <p>TOTAL – 40 000 EUR</p>

**2.2 Actions implementing priority 2: Support for the cooperation between Member States in return management.**

**2.2.1 Development of operational cooperation with third countries' institutions responsible for return management**

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the action is to continue the improvement of operational cooperation between Estonia and these third countries which pose the most significant problem for Estonia as origin countries of illegal immigration (Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Somalia etc). Under the action, it is planned to continue the improvement of cooperation in developing effective, stable and lasting operational relationships between Estonian authorities and immigration services of third countries facilitating consular assistance in obtaining travel documents for the return of third-country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals.</p> <p>It is planned to carry out following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cooperation between Estonia's and third countries' competent authorities engaged in forced return operations to create contacts and conclude cooperation contracts (cooperation agreements exist for example with Ukraine, Belarus which need to be updated);</li> <li>- information meetings between Estonian border guards and common immigration liaison officers (ILO) of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in third countries in order to enhance operational cooperation in return management;</li> <li>- seminars for representatives of third countries' embassies in Estonia to facilitate consular assistance in obtaining travel documents for the return of third-country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>All authorities in the area of administration of the Ministry of the Interior engaged in forced return (i.e., the Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board) are expected grant recipients. Under the AP2009, the action has been implemented by the Board of Border Guard. Under the AP2010 the Police and Border Guard Board implements the action.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>Pursuant to Section 15 of the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (OLPEA), a border guard official, a migration official or a police officer shall upon existence of a basis for expulsion provided for in the Act detain a foreigner and organise the foreigner's departure from Estonia. As the Police and Border Guard Board and the Security Police Board act in the Ministry of the Interior's area of administration, the Ministry of the Interior has the competence on deciding issues related to forced return. Pursuant to the OLPEA, other institutions and authorities do not implement forced return. Thus, the implementation of the project directly by the Ministry of the Interior as the responsible institution is justified.</p>
<p><b>Expected quantified results and indicators</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- return process is for returnee more effective and human;</li> <li>- 3 cooperation agreements with third countries' competent</li> </ul>

<b>to be used</b>	<p>authorities have been concluded;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contact points with third countries have been created</li> <li>- cooperation with third countries' embassies in Estonia in obtaining travel documents has been improved.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	<p>Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.</p>
<b>Complementarities with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<b>Financial information</b>	<p>Following the outcome of the internal call for proposals, the amounts of the allocation were revised as such::</p> <p>EU contribution – 22 395,45EUR  Public allocation – 7465,15 EUR  TOTAL – 29,860,60 EUR</p>

## **2.3 Actions implementing priority 4: Support for Community standards and best practices on return management.**

### ***2.3.1 Organising trainings for officials involved in returns and removals***

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>The purpose of the action is to enhance the capacity of competent authorities to implement return operations effectively. The action shall be carried out under AP2009 as well. Under AP2010 the trainings shall continue. The knowledge of the staff of competent authorities engaged in voluntary and forced return will be raised precisely through practical trainings, exchange of experience and simultaneously by deepening of the cooperation ties. The actions carried out under this priority shall help to increase the knowledge of officials involved in the return process in various aspects of return process.</p> <p>The returnees have to understand the return procedure. In order to communicate with the returnees and explain the return procedures, their rights etc, in many cases the officials should command the mother tongue of the returnees. In Estonia, there exist only few interpreters who master languages like Arabic. As the illegal immigration from Arabic countries is growing and the persons from these countries often command their mother tongue only the need for the officials commanding Arabic is growing.</p> <p>It is planned to carry out following activities:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organisation of trainings to develop officials' psychological skills in order to cope with difficult situations in return management;</li> <li>- organisation of seminars and joint training for officials engaged in return operations focusing on theoretical aspects of return operations;</li> <li>- organisation of a practical training for officials engaged in return operations in an EU country which has a wide experience of forced return operations to improve common Community standards and best practices on return management.</li> <li>- compiling training materials on return operations for officials engaged in forced return;</li> <li>- language courses for officials dealing with the target group of the RF directly (e.g. Arabic);</li> <li>- trainings on cultural diversities of the RF target group.</li> </ul>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	Expected grant recipients shall be state agencies, non-governmental organisations and international organisations. The language courses (Arabic) for officials dealing with the target group of the RF will be implemented by the Security Police. As the outcome of the open call for project proposals the IOM implements a training project for stakeholders involved in the return process..
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- officials' knowledge in return management has been improved;</li> <li>- approximately 30 officials engaged in return operations have been trained;</li> <li>- training materials for officials engaged in return operations have been compiled;</li> <li>- at least 4 officials have completed Arabic language course for advanced in an Arabian University.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility of EU funding</b>	Final beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring the correct reflection of EU funding in project documentation and presentations. Grant agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the final beneficiary shall contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the RF co-financing to all items obtained, information produced. RF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The RA monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.
<b>Complementarities with similar actions</b>	Not applicable.

<b>financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate</b>	
<b>Financial information</b>	Following the outcome of the call for proposals, the amounts of the allocation were revised as such: EU contribution – 93 970,00 EUR Public allocation – 31 323,33 EUR TOTAL – 125 293,33 EUR

### 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### 3.1 Purpose of the technical assistance

Technical assistance (TA) shall be used to implement and manage the Return Fund in Estonia in order to provide the stakeholders and final beneficiaries with sufficient information ensure the quality and consistence of the programme.

Technical assistance shall be used by the Ministry of the Interior as the responsible authority and the audit authority, and the Estonian Ministry of the Finance as the certifying authority of the RF for the following activities:

- Expenditures related to the fulfilment of the designated authorities (e.g. salaries of employees of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance engaged in the implementation of the RF);
- Expenditures related to the fulfilment of tasks of external consultants (e.g. preparation of operational manuals and evaluation of the programme);
- Expenditures necessary for preparation and translation of programme documents and evaluation reports for EC purposes;
- Expenditures related to the distribution of information (e.g. publication of call for proposals);
- Expenses for the experts involved in projects' evaluation process;
- Expenditure relating to on-the-spot checks of projects;
- Expenditures related to participation of the officials implementing the fund in various meetings (e.g. SOLID Committee, different workshops arranged by the European Commission etc.);
- Expenditures related to the trainings of the officials implementing the Fund (e.g. project management, evaluation of the projects, monitoring and accounting, reporting of the irregularities);
- Expenditures related to the information activities. Information activities for the potential applicants shall be organized to introduce the eligible activities under the RF and the eligibility rules. In accordance with the Art. 33 of the Implementation Rules, an information activity presenting the achievements of the annual programme shall be organized.

#### 3.2 Visibility of EC funding

The EU logo shall 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) shall be provided with the EU logo. Informational activities (press releases etc) consist of a notice on the RF co-financing.

#### **4. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN**

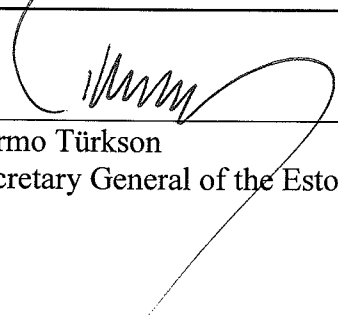
Estonia is covered by the Cohesion Fund. According to the Article 16(4) in the basic act, the Community contribution is increased to 75% per action.

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

Member State: **REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**  
Annual Programme concerned: **2010**  
Fund: **RETURN FUND**

<i>(all figures in euro)</i>	Ref. Priority (1)	Ref. specific priority (a)	EU Contribution(a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d=a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (d=total d)
<i>2.1.1. Development of consultation system of voluntary return</i>	1		97 537,26	32 512,42	0	130 049,68	75%	18,7%
<i>2.1.2. Implementation of support system of voluntary return</i>	1		28 500,00	9 500,00	0	38 000,00	75%	5,5%
<i>2.1.3. Implementation of reintegration programme</i>	1		26 825,20	8 941,73	0	35 766,93	75%	5,1%
<i>2.1.4. Implementation of special measures for vulnerable persons</i>	1		13 570,75	4 523,58	0	18 094,33	75%	2,6%
<i>2.1.5. Implementation of forced return of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay</i>	1		141 931,22	47 310,41	0	189 241,63	75%	27,2%
<i>2.1.6. Renting or leasing of conveying buses</i>	1		0	0	0	0	0%	0%
<i>2.1.7. Monitoring of forced return operations</i>	1		30 000	10 000	0	40 000	75%	5,8%
<i>2.2.1. Development of operational cooperation with third countries 'institutions responsible for return management</i>	2		22 395,45	7 465,15	0	29 860,60	75%	4,3%

<b>2.3.1. Organising trainings for officials involved in returns and removals</b>	4	93 970,00	31 323,33	0	125 293,33	75%	18%
<b>TA</b>		66 485,05	22 161,68	0	88 646,73	75%	12,8%
<b>Other operations (2)</b>		0,00	0,00		0,00	0%	0,0%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>521 214,93</b>	<b>173 738,31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>694 953,24</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

  
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 Tarmo Türkson  
 Secretary General of the Estonian Ministry of the Interior