



European
Commission



Success Stories

from the Migration
and Home Affairs Funds:
Solidarity and Management
of Migration flows
(2007-2013)

*Migration and
Home Affairs*

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Foreword

Although the movements of persons into, out of and within each EU State vary, our societies share similar migration opportunities and challenges. Adequate, flexible and coherent financial resources are essential for strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice and for developing the common Union policy on asylum and immigration based on solidarity between EU States and towards non-EU countries.

For the period 2007-13, almost EUR 4 billion was allocated for the management of the Union's external borders and for the implementation of common asylum and immigration policies through the General Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows" (SOLID). This General Programme consisted of four instruments: External Borders Fund (EBF), European Return Fund (RF), European Refugee Fund (ERF) and European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF).

The SOLID funds were mainly implemented by each country through shared management. Each country implements the Fund through **national annual programmes** on the basis of **multiannual programming**. These programmes are prepared, implemented, monitored and evaluated in partnership with other designated authorities and bodies.

The EBF aims to establish financial solidarity between Schengen countries by supporting those countries for which the implementation of the common standards for control of the EU's external borders represents a heavy burden. The Fund also supports actions for managing efficient controls (border checks as well as surveillance) and the flow of persons at the external borders; improving the management of activities carried out by consular authorities; building a common EU visa policy in order to facilitate legitimate travel, while tackling irregular border crossings and visa fraud. All EU countries (except for the UK and Ireland), as well as the non-EU countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein), participate in the EBF. Overall, EUR 1 820 million is allocated for the Fund objectives over the period 2007-13.

The ERF (EUR 630 million over the period 2008-13) supports EU countries' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons and in guaranteeing access to consistent, fair and effective asylum procedures. The Fund also supports resettlement programmes and actions related to the integration of persons whose stay is of a lasting and stable nature. Moreover, it provides for emergency measures to address sudden arrivals of large numbers of persons who may be in need of international protection, which place significant and urgent demands on EU countries' reception facilities or asylum systems.

With a budget of EUR 825 million for the period 2007-13 (EUR 57 million for Community actions), the EIF supports national and EU initiatives that facilitate the integration of non-EU immigrants into European societies. All EU countries except for Denmark participate in the EIF. The EIF is primarily targeted at newly arrived immigrants. It supports EU countries and civil society in enhancing their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate integration strategies, policies and measures, as well as their exchanges of information and best practices and cooperation on integration issues.

The European Return Fund (RF), in which all EU countries participate except for Denmark, allocates EUR 676 million for the period 2008-13. Specifically, it seeks to improve return management as well as to encourage the development of cooperation between EU countries and with countries of return.

Here follows a series of projects financed by the Funds and selected by the Member States as their best examples. These project posters were presented during the Conference on Home Affairs Funds: 'Investing in an Open and Secure Europe' (29-30 September 2015, Brussels Belgium)

Matthias Ruete
Director-General
Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs



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and solidarity on migration

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COI SERVICE 2014



Fair and efficient procedures to determine international protection needs require country of origin information (COI) that has been collected and processed in a neutral and impartial manner. COI of high quality needs to be relevant, balanced, reliable, accurate and current. It should be available for all parties involved in asylum procedures.

Main objectives

The project contributes to fair and efficient asylum procedures by providing high quality country of origin information (COI) to all actors involved in procedures for international protection in Austria.

Activities

- www.ecoi.net is a publically available online tool providing country information relevant for procedures of international protection;
- Research services: responses to case specific queries and country or thematic reports based on the needs of the target groups;
- Training in researching and using country of origin information.

Results

- www.ecoi.net is updated on a daily basis (252.000 documents available with short summaries in German and English); 4 featured topics (online reports) have been updated monthly;
- Publication of 3 reports on China, Darfur and Iran;
- 564 query responses based on case specific questions from Austrian target groups;
- 240 participants in 12 training courses (workshops for judges and students, Blended Learning courses); some training activities are open for target groups outside Austria.

Project beneficiary: Austrian Red Cross / ACCORD

Duration: 01/01/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 780 000

- EU contribution: € 260 850

- national co-financing: € 441 000

- other contributions: € 78 150



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STAFF TRAINING ON THE PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



The project implements Priority 2 of the annual programme for 2013, which provides for measures for improvement of the quality of the procedures for the examination of applications for international protection and strengthening the administrative structures in order to meet the challenges related to the enhanced practical co-operation with other Member States.

Main objectives

- Increasing the professional capacity of 60 persons – case workers and legal advisers from the Bulgarian State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers (SAR), prosecutors and judges from the relevant administrative courts;
- Measures for achieving stability of the results of the project after its finalisation through the elaboration of a training module for the needs of the National Institute of Justice.

Results

- Realisation of 3 two-day trainings, conducted in Sliven, Haskovo and Pravets;
- Participation of 68 persons in the trainings (magistrates, legal advisers and case workers from all territorial divisions of SAR).
- Elaboration of 1 up-to-date training module – a set of training materials, covering the legal basis up-to-date as of the period of implementation of the project.

Activities

Elaboration of an up-to-date training program aimed at increasing the effectiveness and impartiality during examination of applications for protection and appeal of decisions for refusal of granting protection. Conducting 3 specialised two-day trainings for judges and prosecutors, case workers and legal advisers from all territorial divisions of SAR.

Project beneficiary: FORUM

Association – a Bulgarian non-governmental organisation

Duration: 01/08/2014 – 28/02/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 19 997.92

- EU contribution: € 14 998.44
- national co-financing: € 4 999.48
- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

FREE LEGAL AID FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE ASYLUM DECISION PROCESS



The aim of the project was the continuous implementation of legal protection of asylum seekers during the procedure and providing legal representation in second and third instance procedures.

Main objectives

Legal protection of asylum seekers.

Results

The free legal aid is provided to all asylum seekers in need of it, in line with the law and the Ordinance on free legal assistance during the asylum procedure.

Activities

- Preparing the list of providers of free legal aid, in line with public calls for the selection of legal representatives;
- Informing the asylum seekers on their rights with regard to free legal aid and choosing the legal representative;
- Implementation of free legal aid.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior, Directorate for Administrative and Inspection Affairs
Duration: 01/05/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 37 119.97
 - EU contribution: € 27 838.48
 - national co-financing: € 9 279.49
 - other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

IMPROVING SERVICES AT THE KOFINOU OPEN RECEPTION CENTRE



This emergency measure was implemented in order to increase capacities in the existing Kofinou centre from 70 to almost 400 places with modern pre-fabricated units fully equipped. The implementation of the project was completed within a timeframe of only six months including design and implementation.

Main objectives

The main objective was to increase the capacity of the existing Reception Centre, in order to address the growing needs of newly-arrived persons that may be in need of international protection as well as a backlog of pending asylum applications.

Results

- Increased capacity for the reception of applicants of international protection within the Centre;
- Improved quality of reception and residence conditions at the Centre;
- Creation of a medical centre;
- Special arrangements for the convenience of families, which are separated from single persons.

Activities

Around 65 units were placed at the Centre for: families, single persons, kitchens, a medical centre, sanitary rooms, laundry rooms and offices, all fully equipped with furniture and electrical appliances. Construction of retaining walls, electrical/mechanical works and road construction were also undertaken.

Project beneficiary: Asylum Service

Duration: 01/03/2014 – 31/08/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 705 704.72

- EU contribution: € 1 705 704.72

- national co-financing: € 0

- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

ASYLUM FACILITIES OF 2013



The main goal of the project was to boost the standard of services, both in reception and residential centres, by the provision of a broad scale of services aimed at applicants for international protection and the enhancement of their self-dependence.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to provide for all clients a broad spectrum of services in reception and residential centres, with special emphasis on vulnerable people. The objectives aimed at improvement of leisure time, providing targeted psychological services, material assistance and promoting coexistence with the majority.

Results

The activities contributed to a proactive approach and adaptation for all clients. The total number of people directly supported (1 114), the number of participants in leisure time activities (1 021), the total number of directly supported people from vulnerable groups (231) and the number of people who participated in the Czech lessons (147) all exceeded their initial targets.

Activities

The main activities included:

- Czech lessons;
- Purchase of equipment for the centres;
- Leisure time activities and workshops;
- Supply of newspapers and literature;
- Lessons of low-budget cooking;
- Psychological services; and
- Social wardrobe.

Project beneficiary: The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior

Duration: 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 47 585.94

- EU contribution: € 35 689.45

- national co-financing: € 11 896.49

- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

WELL-FUNCTIONING ASYLUM PROCEDURE



Authorities dealing with asylum seekers require up to date knowledge of relevant legislation, procedures and chain of command. However, trainings are expensive and time consuming. Moreover, the knowledge is easily forgotten as opportunities to use acquired skills in practice are rare as so far, Estonia has had a limited number of asylum applications.

Main objectives

An interactive virtual learning environment is developed to enhance professional competences of the authorities dealing with asylum seekers. Additionally a massive influx crisis management scenario is developed focusing on teaching coordination, cooperation, logistics and information exchange between different command levels and agencies.

Results

A new solution has been developed that enables to place theoretical knowledge into virtual practice and thus be well prepared for real asylum cases. The teaching lab enables 15 participants to play through 20 different scenarios in a 4 hour training session. In total 5 trainings and a massive influx cooperation exercise were carried out for 93 persons.

Activities

- Software procurement, purchasing hardware, software development and instalment;
- Development of training products: creation of avatars, virtual airport, land border, forest and harbour, simulation exercises and teaching manuals for instructors;
- Virtual trainings and a massive influx cooperation exercise "Nehalennia 2015".

Project beneficiary: Estonian Academy of Security Sciences

Duration: 01/01/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 70 949.84

- EU contribution: € 53 212.38

- national co-financing: € 17 737.46

- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR TRAUMATIZED ASYLUM SEEKING AND REFUGEE CHILDREN



The refugee and asylum seeking children and youth arriving in Finland are often severely traumatized or display symptoms, while data shows that only a small part of them receive treatment or support for their problems.

Main objectives

Specialized psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation services for traumatized or tortured refugee and asylum seeking children and youth were developed. Consultation, support and training on good practices in working with the target group for the various actors at the national and municipal level were provided.

Results

A successful, individualized model of psychiatric care was developed. 136 children and youth (0-24 years of age) received comprehensive, multidisciplinary psychiatric care. The project was a pioneer in Finland in providing specialized treatment and rehabilitation services for this target group.

Activities

- Providing psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation services for tortured or traumatized children;
- Providing counselling and family therapy for the target group and their family members;
- Increasing awareness on the needs and experiences of the target group;
- Providing training on psychiatric care of the target group and their families.

Project beneficiary: Helsinki Deaconess Institute

Duration: 01/01/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 274 526.34

- EU contribution: € 205 894.75

- national co-financing: € 68 631.58

- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

MEDICAL THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES



Asylum seekers and refugees have ten times more risk of suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress than the average population. It is thus necessary to offer a specific medical and psychological support in order to treat these sufferings.

Main objectives

The objective of the project is to take care of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees suffering from consequences of traumatic events through a multidisciplinary care (tortures, violence in the framework of war, infringements of human rights, gender-based violence, etc.). Besides the improvement of the well-being and of the quality of life of patients, this approach aims to prevent repetition of the symptoms and development of risk behaviors (suicides, drug addiction, ...).

Activities

The project offers free medical and psychological consultations as well as consultations of physiotherapy and art therapy. All these activities contribute to the greater well-being of the victims of trauma.

Results

In 2013, about 400 asylum seekers and refugees benefited from care offered by the association, among which 10% children and 38% women. The project provided more than 2 000 consultations during this year. The care of these victims is an essential prerequisite to their integration in France.

Project beneficiary: Association
Parcours d'Exil
Duration: 01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 203 932.97
- EU contribution: € 80 000.00
- national co-financing: € 53 000.00
- other contributions: € 70 932.97



European Refugee Fund

TAKE CARE!



The project is aimed at addressing the need for health education and services as a lot of refugees lack basic knowledge about health issues. The project focussed on the treatment and prevention of disease, especially STDs, violence and addiction by offering a wide range of courses and counselling services.

Main objectives

- Empowerment and participation;
- Holistic approach to increase health;
- Prevention of addiction and violence;
- Sex education;
- HIV/STD prevention;
- Intercultural opening;
- Gender-mainstreaming;
- Training of multipliers.

Results

- Increase in awareness of health issues such as hygiene, STD prevention;
- Increase in social competences;
- The participants joined associations and clubs;
- 924 consultations took place;
- 665 refugees participated in the events and courses;
- 35 multipliers (refugees) have been successfully trained.

Activities

The activities which are part of this project include: weekly sport and health services (health meetings, swimming courses, football sessions for boys, girls and adults), German language courses for women and further training (dealing with public administration, legal advice on asylum, first-aid courses, "Living in Germany", dental health and baby care).

Project beneficiary: Deutsches Rotes Kreuz – Landesverband Badisches Rotes Kreuz e.V.

Duration: 31/12/2011 – 30/12/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 849 052.44

- EU contribution: € 406 160.30

- national co-financing: € 293 251.61

- other contributions: € 149 640.53



European Refugee Fund

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR REFUGEES



The aim of the multi-annual project was the involvement of refugees/beneficiaries of subsidiary protection into specialized (tailor-made) vocational trainings as a result of which they become capable of being employed. Having access to the labour market is the basis of the integration for the target group, but blue collar jobs requiring vocational skills are typically not available for these beneficiaries since their original profession is unknown, their vocational skills are often lacking or poor, and they do not have a real contact network.

Main objectives

Tailor-made complex or special training programmes were designed to improve the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into the Hungarian society. The personalised programmes focused on vocational training and creating the best opportunities for the members of the target group in order to gain access to the labour market.

Results

85% of the participants involved successfully finished vocational trainings (vet-assistant, welder, cook, butcher, shop keeper, florist, etc.), and altogether more than 25% of the latter became employed or self-employed.

Activities

The guarantee for success of the project was the selection of motivated people with good basic skills. For this purpose a career advisor-mentor was involved who provided career orientation and skills-investigation for the chosen applicants. The project also provided integrated language training for the participants, and those who successfully completed the training course were assisted by a mentor to find a job. During the training, financial incentives for the participants avoided dropping out, which was identified as being the highest risk.

Project beneficiary: Office of Immigration and Nationality
Duration: 01/01/2012 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 258 048.72
 - EU contribution: € 193 536.52
 - national co-financing: € 64 512.20
 - other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE



The project aims to ensure that information and skills are made available to those providing services to refugees and asylum seekers so that they can design and deliver their services in a way that optimises the support provided to those who have experienced trauma and that empowers and enables asylum seekers and refugees to manage the impact of trauma on themselves.

Main objectives

To enhance the capacity of service providers to respond sensitively, effectively and appropriately to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees who have experienced sexual violence and other trauma.

Results

13 Training programmes were provided. A total of 201 participants from 63 organisations attended the training. An external evaluator provided reports on each individual training. These reports showed very high satisfaction ratings by participants.

Activities

DRCC collaborated with key organisations to provide training to targeted professionals in significant roles in the provision of support and services to refugees and asylum seekers who have experienced sexual violence and other trauma.

DRCC developed and delivered the following training programmes:

- Issues in working with the impact of Sexual Violence and other Trauma;
- Trauma and the Child;
- Working sensitively with Refugees and Asylum Seekers who have experienced Sexual Violence and other Trauma;
- Interpreting Sensitively with Refugees and Asylum Seekers who have experienced Sexual Violence and other Trauma;
- Training programmes for key staff in the Reception and Integration Agency/Direct provision accommodation centres.

Project beneficiary: Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Limited
Duration: 12/12/2013 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 103 584
 - EU contribution: € 73 140
 - national co-financing: € 30 444
 - other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

RE-LAB: START UP YOUR BUSINESS



The key challenge addressed by the project is the economic integration of refugees, ensuring they take active part in the new society. Many refugees would consider setting up a business but they face additional obstacles: lack of knowledge on markets, difficulties to access financial services.

Main objectives

The project aimed at boosting job opportunities for refugees, in particular developing and testing a sustainable model for supporting the start-up of micro businesses owned by refugees, through public and private stakeholders as well as refugee communities' active involvement.

Activities

The intervention model includes:

- Territorial awareness;
- Selection of direct beneficiaries;
- Entrepreneurship training;
- Start-up support & mentoring of 14 new businesses;
- Linkages with market and financial services;
- Setting up of a group of refugee tutors for supporting new migrants' start-ups.

Results

Main results:

- 341 refugees involved,
- 125 selected for entrepreneurship training,
- 98 trained on Business Development,
- 53 feasible business plans designed,
- 26 BP pre-selected out of which 14 financed & accompanied to the start-up,
- 12 tutors,
- guidelines for supporting new interventions,
- local networks.

Project beneficiary: International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO)

Duration: 22/10/2012–30/06/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 714 423.32

- EU contribution: € 857 211.67

- national co-financing: € 685 589.35

- other contributions: € 171 622.30



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ASYLUM SEEKERS RECEPTION CENTRE "MUCENIEKI"



Providing the necessary reception conditions and assistance for asylum seekers as well as improving asylum seekers' reception standards in the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre "Mucenieki".

Main objectives

- To improve the technical condition of the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre "Mucenieki"(ASRC);
- To provide practical aid and improve the asylum seekers' personal data processing.

Results

- Expert consultations, translation, medical aid, material, psychological and social assistance provided to the asylum seekers;
- Equipment/inventory for the ASRC purchased, renovation/maintenance works carried out;
- Common Migration Information System improved.

Activities

- Provision of necessary assistance to the asylum seekers;
- Carry out renewal/repair works at the ASRC;
- Improvement of a Common Migration Information System (on help provided to asylum seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection and data regarding their cases in adjudication).

Project beneficiary: Office of the Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Duration: 01/07/2010 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 266 597.53

- EU contribution: € 949 948.15

- national co-financing: € 316 649.38

- other contributions: € 0



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IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASYLUM RECEPTION AND LIVING SYSTEM



The project is aimed at improving the process of the reception of asylum seekers by fulfilling physical, spiritual, social and educational needs.

Main objectives

- Improve living conditions of asylum seekers in the Foreigners Reception Centre (FRC);
- Provide asylum seekers with complex support;
- Organize learning and cognitive processes;
- Ensure a focused leisure and occupation of asylum seekers;
- Provide information to the local community about asylum seekers.

Results

CARITAS has established the Day Centre and continues activities under the 2009-2013 ERF annual programmes, where asylum seekers can get various types of support and participate in social events with the local community. The living conditions of asylum seekers in the FRC have been improved. Support was provided to 324 asylum seekers.

Activities

- Internal repair living premises in the Foreigners Reception Centre;
- provision of humanitarian, social, psychological assistance;
- medical services;
- legal counselling;
- Lithuanian language courses;
- informational meetings;
- social events for asylum seekers and with the local community.

Project beneficiary: Vilnius Archbishop Caritas (CARITAS)
Duration: 01/04/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 259 826,65
 - EU contribution: € 194 869,98
 - national co-financing: € 64 956,67
 - other contributions: € 0



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ENG BRÉCK NOBAUSSEN: A BRIDGE



Providing cross-culturally sensitive psychological support for asylum seekers suffering from severe mental health problems. Culture conditions the understanding of health and illness as well as its symptoms and strategies to look for help and acceptance of treatment. The challenge is to "read" mental health troubles differently in respect of respective cultures and "translate" them into cross-culturally sensitive care measures.

Main objectives

- Provide cross-culturally sensitive psychological support and care to asylum seekers suffering from severe mental health issues on 3 levels: individual, group and socio-therapeutically;
- Organize and maintain a care network around and with the ill person in cooperation with the mental health network.

Results

The number of beneficiaries largely exceeded initial estimations: 2009 - 43; 2010 - 65; 2011 - 71 persons. In 2012, the project was fully integrated in the ethnopsychological unit of the department of migrants and refugees of the Red Cross Luxembourg. From 2009 to 2014, 434 asylum seekers benefited from the care provided and their number continued to increase.

Activities

- Identify mental health issues within the asylum seeker population -preliminary diagnostics in respect of cultural background;
- Put in place psychiatric and psychotherapeutic care based on identified needs. Ethnopsychological care is provided based on personal needs without prerequisites or waiting periods, regardless of the mental health issue (schizophrenia, PTSD). This support ranges from emergency interventions to long-term care;
- Elaborate an individual project emphasizing personal skills to regain autonomy.

Project beneficiary: Red Cross Luxembourg - Department of Migrants and Refugees

Duration: 01/01/2009 – 31/12/2011

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 275 613.34

- EU contribution: € 137 691.58

- national co-financing: € 137 691.60

- other contributions: € 230.16



European Refugee Fund

INCLUSION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN IN MALTESE SCHOOLS



This project was developed in response to the particular challenges faced by refugee children, as they seek to adapt to life in Malta, as well as the challenges faced by teachers and school administrators who must deal with the new reality of culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse school populations, often without adequate support.

Main objectives

To facilitate the integration of refugee children in local schools, by fostering a deeper understanding of their experience among teachers and peers, highlighting existing good practices and promoting greater respect for human dignity and the diversity of people and cultures in Malta today.

Results

- The setting up of 4 Core Teams (CT);
- Research conducted into the experience of refugee children;
- Awareness raising visits in 20 primary and 19 secondary schools, reaching 5,395 students;
- Conference incorporating basic training to sensitize teachers to the particular challenges faced by refugee children.

Activities

- Setting up of a Core Team (CT) to advise in the planning and implementation of the project, with a background in educational psychology and/or inclusive education;
- Research in the experience of refugee children through a variety of means to identify their needs and challenges;
- Publication of short documentary/DVD focusing on the experience of refugee children both prior to and after their arrival in Malta.
- Awareness raising activities in schools, aimed at raising awareness of the experiences of refugee children and increasing understanding of the challenges they face.

Project beneficiary: Jesuit Refugee Services

Duration: 01/07/2012 – 30/06/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 36 479.17

- EU contribution: € 27 359.37
- national co-financing: € 9 119.80
- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

HOUSING AND WORK – INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS IN LUBLIN



The project was directed to persons with a refugee status or subsidiary form of protection, and indirectly influenced on the host society. The initiative responded to the identified barriers to the full participation of refugees in life in Poland which are: problems in accessing the housing and labour market, unequal opportunities for personal development and start in life for children who left their country in search of a safe shelter.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to expand the existing range of the integration offer for beneficiaries of international protection by providing jobs, housing and educational opportunities.

The project included forms of an integration assistance, i.e. the place of professional support for foreigners, stay in sheltered housing, educational activities and general development of children as well as psychological counselling.

Results

- 80 people received assistance;
- 36 hours of psychological assistance provided;
- 10 foreigners benefitting from an internship;
- 13 people staying in sheltered housing during a month;
- 36 foreign children participating in educational and general development;
- 5 exhibitions organized.

Activities

- Social care and counselling for refugees;
- Support in participation in social life;
- Finding an accommodation and a job;
- Strengthening vocational competences and educational qualifications;
- Temporary accommodation at a sheltered house;
- Providing children with kindergarten education and organizing their leisure time.

Project beneficiary: MOPR Lublin (City's Family Integration Centre)
Duration: 01/01/2014–31/12/2014
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 88 823.22
 - EU contribution: € 66 617.42
 - national co-financing: € 0
 - other contributions: € 22 205.80



European Refugee Fund

RESETTLEMENT IN PORTUGAL



The project aims at securing protection and promoting integration of resettled refugees in Portugal, including resettled unaccompanied minors.

Main objectives

Providing direct support to initial reception of resettled refugees and creating a favourable environment for their integration into the Portuguese society.

Activities

- Pre-arrival country information and welcome at the airport with interpreters;
- Initial accommodation in CPR's Reception Centre for Refugees and in the Reception Centre for Refugee Children (unaccompanied minors);
- Social and employment counselling specifically directed to the needs of the group;
- Intensive Portuguese language courses;
- Production and revision of a Cultural Orientation Guide for practitioners and cultural orientation sessions for resettled refugees;
- Promotion of resettled refugees' voluntary work;
- Consolidation of a local resettlement network, with the support of the municipalities.

Results

- Resettled refugees accessed initial reception in CAR and a dedicated social and integration team;
- Intensive Portuguese language courses facilitated integration and the cultural orientation sessions foster a better understanding of the host country;
- Specific medical needs were safeguarded. Support for family reunification was foreseen;
- Practitioners more aware of refugee resettlement;
- Inter-institutional network for resettlement in Portugal promoted a comprehensive approach to resettled challenges.

Project beneficiary: Portuguese Refugee Council

Duration: 01/09/2007 – 31/08/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 441 934.21

- EU contribution: € 270 235.83

- national co-financing: € 90 078.62

- other contributions: € 81 619.76



European Refugee Fund

IMPROVING ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN RECEPTION CENTRES



The project aims to create appropriate living conditions in the Reception Centres of Galati and Maramures.

Main objectives

To ensure adequate facilities for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of a form of protection in Romania.

Results

- Accommodation conditions in the Reception Centre Galati improved by thermal rehabilitation of the buildings;
- Accommodation conditions in the Reception Centre Maramures improved by repairing the living rooms, bathrooms and other spaces.

Activities

Modernization/Rehabilitation of the Reception Centres of Galati and Maramures:

- Services for drafting the technical/economical documentation and supervision of works;
- Works for the modernization of RC Galati;
- Works for the rehabilitation of RC Maramures.

Project beneficiary: General Inspectorate for Immigration
Duration: 02/10/2013 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 141 000
 - EU contribution: € 105 750
 - national co-financing: € 35 250
 - other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

STEP



The key challenge of the project is the integration of refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection into the society of the Slovak Republic by providing the target group a complex set of services related to integration.

Main objectives

The main objective of this project is to provide full services regarding the integration of refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection into society. It tries to help refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection to start the successful integration through social, legal, psychological and financial support. It is focused also on specific needs of vulnerable groups.

Results

This project supported 170 beneficiaries of international protection in the integration process and helped them start a new life in Slovakia. Awareness of the target group was raised and services such as social, legal, psychological counselling as well as housing, access to health care, education and integration into the labour market were provided.

Activities

- Social counselling and assistance;
- Legal services;
- Psychological counselling;
- Provision of accommodation;
- Increasing employment and economic activity;
- Ensuring access to health care;
- Access to formal education and career;
- Language training.

Project beneficiary: Marginal
Duration: 01/04/2013 – 31/03/2014
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 289 911.74
 - EU contribution: € 217 433.80
 - national co-financing: € 72 477.94
 - other contributions: € 0

European Refugee Fund

ASSISTANCE IN ACCOMMODATION AND CARE OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS



This project aimed to contribute, by performing the envisaged activities, to the provision of a uniform standard for accommodated persons and to improve their living conditions, care, as well as the exercise of the applicants' rights. The programme's activities aimed at ensuring that the international protection applicants obtained all relevant information on the customs, institutions, culture and work in the Republic of Slovenia.

Main objectives

- To maintain and enhance motivation for personality development, self-support and self-initiative among international protection male and female applicants;
- To assist in a mutual solving of conflicts and problems resulting from their common life in Asylum Centre;
- To raise the level of knowledge and information about their status, rights and possibilities;
- To reach a higher level of knowledge and information about Slovenia, its culture, history, society, customs, institutions and work;
- To contribute to the integration of applicants in the Slovenian social and cultural milieu.

Activities

- Assistance in accommodation and care of applicants, information on their rights and obligations, provision of general information on the lifestyle in Slovenia;
- Performance of activities for quality leisure time.

Results

- Preparation and production of leaflets "Information on House Rules, rights, obligations, written and non-written rules of behaviour in Asylum Centre" as well as oral information for applicants in Asylum Centre;
- More than 30 lectures and discussions on Slovenian culture, society, habits and customs;
- Performance of more than 300 creative workshops (fine arts, cuisine, ecology, sewing...);
- More than 250 sports and recreational activities;
- Monthly activities concerning the topic of the month.

Project beneficiary: Institute for African Studies

Duration: 01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 79 785.40

- EU contribution: € 59 839.05

- national co-financing: € 19 946.35

- other contributions: € 0



European Refugee Fund

CIRO I: SHELTER FOR YOUNG ASYLUM SEEKERS



The aim of the project was to provide services to young asylum seekers and refugees without a family network, due to their specific needs.

Main objectives

Coverage of the basic needs (accommodation, food and clothing), support and accompaniment in order to facilitate social integration for young minors who came to Spain unaccompanied searching for international protection.

Results

The project has been implemented in coordination with the protection services of the Madrid Regional Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Spain and the National Asylum Office. Out of 75 young asylum seeker participants 50% have received some form of international protection and 95% have received a residence permit.

Activities

Activities oriented to the promotion of personal and social development, from a holistic perspective:

- Individualized support;
- Specialized training;
- Psychological and physical health care;
- Spanish language training;
- Accompaniment in the process of application for international protection.

Project beneficiary: La Merced Migrations Foundation

Duration: 01/01/2009 – 31/12/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 883 521.30

- EU contribution: € 662 640.97

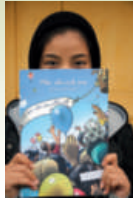
- national co-financing: € 215 014.30

- other contributions: € 5 866.03



European Refugee Fund

UNDERSTANDABLY, ALL THE WAY



The aim is to make the resettlement comprehensible all the way for newly arrived children and young people, which should improve conditions in the new country and increase the sense of ownership of their migration process. The project will achieve this objective by developing new teaching and information material for the target group.

Main objectives

Developing new teaching and information material for newly arrived children and young people in order to optimize their migration process following resettlement.

Activities

The project has worked to improve the reception and introduction process for resettled children and adolescents (0-19 years old) by developing a pedagogical method and tools that provide support to staff involved in the resettlement process. In the project, these tools have been tried and several competence-raising seminars have been conducted together with several activities directed specifically at unaccompanied children. Project staff also participated in the quota eliminations where the material developed has been tested.

Results

The project has developed one method (guide and tools) for the reception of resettled persons: Sweden Program (the green bag), reception programs Sweden, and community information (I, we, and society).

Further results are:

- 18 information campaigns (177 people);
- Two parent training programs (20 people);
- Five social teachings (58 people);
- Sweden Program for Iran, Kenya, Lindesberg and Burma;
- Six reception programs for children and young people (26 people);
- Individual activities for 20 adults and 53 children;
- Dissemination to 35 municipalities and 565 people (278 from Strömsund).

Project beneficiary: Strömsunds municipality

Duration: 01/01/2012 – 30/06/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 855 019.40

- EU contribution: € 427 509.70

- national co-financing: € 85 501.90

- other contributions: € 342 007.80



European Refugee Fund

HOUSING, ORIENTATION AND SUPPORT OF TORTURE SURVIVORS



Experience of torture and extreme interpersonal violence, including sexual violence are common amongst refugee women and children. Without treatment, support and security research shows severe health and social problems are far more likely to occur. This project uniquely focused on these issues.

Main objectives

To support and protect 150 women and children refugees who will:

- Be permanently housed;
- Receive full medical rehabilitation;
- Be psychologically supported;
- Be engaged with health, welfare, housing, medical, educational and support services;
- Increase language and practical skills.

Results

Provision of the services was provided to 127 women and children refugees and included a Trauma Resilience Toolkit for refugees to share their stories and identify ways to manage their experiences of trauma. This project also had many impacts which could not be quantified.

Activities

The main activities was a Personal Rehabilitation Plan to address the consequences of trauma and using an asset-based regime to build resilience which included a specialist medical and psychological service with a be-spoke social support plan with achievable milestones for one year for each refugee.

Project beneficiary: Horton Housing Association

Duration: 01/06/2011 – 31/05/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 204 858.83

- EU contribution: € 897 381.83

- national co-financing: € 0

- other contributions: € 307 477





European Union cooperation
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European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

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STATISTICAL YEARBOOK "MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION"



The annual Statistical Yearbook aims to make the benefits and challenges of diversity in Austria visible and apparent and contribute to the improvement of Austrian integration policy. Based on 25 indicators of integration, the progress of integration-political actions may be assessed.

Main objectives

- Evaluation and the long-term monitoring of core areas such as the job market and education which allow the formulation of a target group oriented concept for action, including counter action as required
- Demonstration how actively immigrants are participating in life in Austria
- Provide current figures and data relevant to migration and integration in Austria

Activities

Evaluation and presentation of objective integration indicators (such as level of education, employment rate, living conditions or health and social issues) that provide insight into the results of current integration policies in Austria and thus make it possible to evaluate the outcome of these.

Results

Reveal on-going developments with regard to integration and to what extent the integration strategies being employed at the various levels - from local authority to state level - are proving to be effective. The provision of this information will make it possible to further develop priorities and tools to enhance the integration process.

Project beneficiary: Statistics Austria

Duration: annual since EIF 2009

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 124 546.39

- EU contribution: € 62 273.20

- national co-financing: € 60 932.21

- other contributions: € 1 340.98



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

NEDERLANDS WERKT CIVIL INTEGRATION COACHES

To offer a complete programme for third-country nationals, starting with basic training and general orientation, gradually working towards employment

Main objectives

The focus was on employment and to improve social skills and the position of the participants in their integration process.

Results

There were 384 participants in total, which exceeds the anticipated number of 300.

Activities

The project is built on five pillars:

- 'GOAL'-sessions: explaining to the third-country nationals how the programme works and what they can expect
- 'VIA': first real step on the integration-ladder. It functions as a screening towards employment. The participants perform communication exercises and can indicate what talents and expectations they have
- If + => 'Job-Intra': similar to an internship, but is accompanied with on the job language coaching
- Supportive role of the OCMW/CPAS towards the NT2 (Dutch as second language) training
- 'Intercultural intermediation': improved the communication significantly. The 'social translators' were able to break through both the language and cultural barriers in a lot of cases.

Project beneficiary: OCMW Gent

Duration: 2007-2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 590 015.80

- EU contribution: € 611 612.76

- national co-financing: € 268 117.25

- other contributions: € 710 285.79



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

NEW LINK – VOLUNTEER NETWORK



The project refers to the need for capacity establishment at all levels of implementation of the integration policy on the basis of volunteering: municipalities, social partners, NGOs, in order to improve the quality of services provided to third country nationals (TCN) and implementation of integration policy and contribute to active citizenship and the integration of TCN.

Main objectives

- Building of voluntary work capacity on integration issues for TCN in Bulgaria, and improvement of cooperation between different partners in this area.
- Ensuring permanent upgrading of the capacity for the implementation of the integration policy, also through e-learning, and promoting participation of target groups and stakeholders, including TCN and their communities in social, cultural and economic activities.

Activities

- Establishing of a New Link volunteer network that aims to provide information and advice to citizens of third countries, encourage local communities of third countries to present their views for local and national policies and decisions that affect them
- The established New Link - electronic academy enables e-learning of the volunteers and representatives of the target groups to work in the field of integration policy.
<http://newlink.cci-vratsa.org/>

Results

- Improved cooperation between the different members of the New Link network, beneficiaries and different partners in the field;
- Increased awareness of the integration policy of Bulgaria
- 19 signed Agreements for establishment of voluntary network New Link;
- Developed New Link – e-academy for volunteer experts for the benefit of citizens of third countries in Bulgaria
- Improved quality of services provided to the citizens of third countries.

Project beneficiary: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vratsa
Duration: 03/02/2014 – 30/06/2014
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 23 810.29
 - EU contribution: € 17 857.72
 - national co-financing: € 5 952.57
 - other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

TV COOKING SHOW – KITCHEN WITHOUT BORDERS



A country's gastronomy is an important part of its culture and identity. It is a creative meeting place of cultures, while highlighting their interaction. This was the main idea for implementing a culinary TV program called "Kitchen without Borders" demonstrating various third countries' local cuisine. The program was broadcasted by a national television station.

Main objectives

Familiarization and acquaintance of the Cypriot public with third countries' culture through their local cuisine, was the main objective of the project. Furthermore, the aim was to highlight the interaction of different cultures, to facilitate mutual understanding and acceptance of diversity within Cypriot society, and therefore assist the integration of TCNs in Cyprus.

Results

"Kitchen without Borders" has been appreciated and cherished from Cypriot audience and was also transmitted globally through a Satellite Channel raising the number of viewers. The program attained a satisfactory impact toward cultural acquaintance with third countries, cultivating a climate of acceptance for the multicultural diversity in Cyprus.

Activities

The TV program was hosting TCN and EU citizens to demonstrate their local cuisine and invited celebrities in order to spread messages of multiculturalism and integration of non-EU citizens in Cyprus society. Short documentaries introducing third countries and other cultural shows (dancing, singing etc.) were part of the program. All the recipes presented were compiled in a cooking book.

Project beneficiary: G.S.

Europractices

Duration: 16/12/2014- 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 248 900

- EU contribution: € 236 455

- national co-financing: € 12 445

- other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

INTEGRATION CENTRE PRAGUE II



The main goal was to operate a Centre which would support integration of Third Country Nationals (TCN), provide information, advice, courses of Czech language and socio-cultural orientation of TCN in the society through cooperation with NGOs and other subjects in the region.

Main objectives

The aim of the project is to provide a broad spectrum of services for TCN such as language tuition, counselling, information and contact with the host society and to create several groups (an expert group, a foreigners forum, a platform) that would help create a Concept for the Integration of Foreigners on the territory Prague.

Results

The ICP provided services to 2 500 TCN and thousands of TCN were addressed in the course of fieldwork which enabled faster orientation of the TCN's in the new environment and integration into the society. Through established platforms the integration at the local level was influenced and a Concept for the Integration of TCN on the territory of the capital city of Prague was created. This led to faster orientation of the TCN's in the new environment and integration into the society.

Activities

The main activities included legal and social counselling services, Czech language and socio-cultural courses, organization of community and cultural events, multicultural workshops in schools and preschools, to support integration of migrants. The complexity and interconnection of the offered services were key factors for the success of the integration measures.

Project beneficiary: : Integration Centre Prague

Duration: 01/04/2013 – 31/03/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 563 318.31 EUR

- EU contribution: € 422 175.52

- national co-financing: € 139 626.51

- other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

KITCHEN – THE BABEL OF NATIONS



Photo author: Ülo Josing (ERR)

The project seeks to address intercultural dialogue and involvement of the host society in the integration process.

Main objectives

Support common information space for different nations living in Estonia and increase Estonian media consumption by third country nationals.

Results

Total of 28 TV podcasts in Estonian national television – Estonian Public Broadcasting (ERR).

Activities

The projects produced the series *Köök – Rahvaste paabel* (Kitchen – The babel of nations) and *Köögikodanikud* (Kitchen's Citizens) where the presenter editor of the show visited a total of 28 (16 and 12) restaurants and cooked with the TCNs working there. Each episode was a documentary where, in addition to presenting different ethnic foods and showing how to prepare it, the TCNs spoke of their progress or problems in terms of life in Estonia.

Project beneficiary: : NGO Film Club MP DOC
Duration: 01/08/2010–31/12/2011 and 06/01/2012–31/03/2013
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 58 859.84 (2010) and € 77 319.08 (2011)
 -EU contribution:
 € 44 144.88 / € 57 989.31
 -national co-financing:
 € 14 714.96 / €19 329.77
 -other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

NOODLES



Interviews and analysis of living conditions of South Asian women living in Finland revealed that they were silently suffering from a cultural shock that they alleviated by making Asian food. The aim of the project was to empower South Asian women in Finland by filming issues and values that matter to them.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to increase cultural awareness and intercultural interaction by producing a documentary film of Asian food mobile store activity and its customers. The innovative character of the project was the way it handled the subject by respecting the immigrants' own integration by bringing up food as a theme in the film.

Results

A documentary film was produced and distributed, on TV and online. A DVD was released and presented in film sessions. The results of the project keep on living as the film keeps reaching new audiences.

Activities

A documentary film 'Food Memory' was shot in 2012-2013 all over Finland. It was broadcasted in Finland's national public-broadcasting company YLE's television channel, reaching 309 000 viewers, and online, on YLE Areena Video On Demand (4061 viewers). Furthermore, the film was broadcasted in TV Finland in Sweden, and film sessions were held in Helsinki and Tallinn.

Project beneficiary: : RT

Documentaries Oy

Duration: 01/01/2012 – 30/06/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 60 000

- EU contribution: € 30 000

- national co-financing: € 30 000

- other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

CO-PROD MIGRANTS



Arriving to a new country is very complex, particularly for the newcomers who don't yet master the language and codes of the host country. Towns that provide support don't take into account these problems enough. In order to offer better support, a new guidebook dedicated to newcomers should be created.

Main objectives

In order to more closely meet the needs and the concerns of migrants arriving in Nantes, the district proposes collaboration with third country nationals in the implementation of a local policy for welcoming newcomers, access to care, information and basic legal rights. This will be realized with the creation of a guidebook aimed at improving and disseminating information.

Results

This project sheds light on the migrants' first days in Nantes. The document "state of the project – design", written with the CNCE, was very informative and has enabled a lot of people, including the elected representatives, to easily comprehend this course. The workshop dedicated to elderly migrants has helped raise awareness of the specific aging related difficulties of the migrants. This has brought all the actors involved in the aging and immigration policy together with the migrants.

Activities

The Council for the Citizenship of Migrants in Nantes (CNCE) has created specific tools in order to facilitate the integration of migrants in its district. It aims at building up a local policy for welcoming migrants. More specifically, it implemented cultural and integrative workshops for newcomers (a guidebook) and elderly migrants (realization of a film "Visions of inhabitants of Nantes: for a better growing old in Nantes").

Project beneficiary: : Ville de Nantes
Duration: 02/01/2013 – 31/12/2013
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 168 662
 - EU contribution: € 84 321
 - national co-financing: € 84 341
 - other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

ERZIEHUNGSWELTEN



The project is aimed at teaching intercultural and interreligious competences, demonstrating and strengthening possibilities to cope with ethnic conflict and training on measures designed to prevent violence.

Main objectives

- To demonstrate possibilities of how to live in different living environments within a democratic, open and diverse society.
- To reduce daily exclusion, discrimination and racism via inter-cultural dialogue.

Results

In all five fields of action tangible results have been achieved for the target group. The project's implementation and results led to new approaches in the sphere of integrative and educational social work.

Activities

The activities which are a part of this project include: creating innovative concepts, practical programs and measures designed to increase the openness for interreligious dialogue. Overall, the project encompasses five fields of action namely seminars, workshops for parents especially for fathers, events and networking seminars.

Project beneficiary: Diakonie Düsseldorf

Duration: 01/12/2011 – 30/11/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 1 049 408.70

- EU contribution: € 757 785.78

- national co-financing: € 50 985.20

- other contributions: € 240 637.72

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

STEP TOGETHER V CAREER-ORIENTATION FOR MIGRANT YOUTH



Migrant children and youth are enrolled to school based on their age, but with no reference to their actual knowledge of the Hungarian language. Hungarian schoolbooks are designed to build on the preliminary knowledge and language competences of Hungarian speakers. The project focused on reducing these disadvantages of migrants.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to develop the Hungarian language skills of migrant youth and children and their career planning-competences, to support their integration in the labour market. The project created practical learning aids, supported career planning, and developed Hungarian language skills necessary for the labour market.

Results

12 CLIL-based learning aids for teachers and students in the topics of career-orientation; 81 migrant students taking part in the pilot programme (241 lessons taught); 18 university students in the specific course; 6 national and 3 international disseminations / conference papers / monographs. Based on the above pilot trainings were also implemented involving migrant children and their teachers in six schools.

Activities

Preparing learning aids for career orientation and Hungarian language skill development, flash cards for vocabulary learning and teacher's handbook, realising a pilot program at schools teaching migrants and integrating the method and results in the university level education, disseminating of the methods and results for the professional-scientific community.

Project beneficiary: University of Miskolc

Duration: 01/01/2014-28/02/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 67 358.35

- EU contribution: € 50 518 3.76

- national co-financing: € 16 839.59

- other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

CROSSCARE



- Many migrants experience difficulties in accessing their rights and other supports
- Policy makers and frontline service providers are not always in touch with current migrant issues
- Migrants are not adequately engaged in the design and delivery of integration actions
- Migrants are not sufficiently engaged with the political process or establishment

Main objectives

- Promote access to mainstream services among marginalised migrant communities
- Promote better understanding of policy and procedural barriers to integration among statutory and NGO services
- Help generate greater participation in the political system among migrant communities and promote diversity in the political establishment

Results

- 1,036 migrants assisted with family reunification, citizenship and residency
- 20 volunteer Chinese interpreters engaged
- Teams from 10 frontline welfare organisations trained
- 9 migrants interned with TDs and Senators to experience the political system
- 18 forums run with NGOs highlighting on-the-ground migrant issues to immigration policy makers

Activities

- Running an information & advocacy clinic with volunteer Chinese interpreters
- Training welfare and homeless organisations on immigration issues
- Co-coordinating NGO forums with the immigration services' policy makers
- Co-ordinating a migrant internship scheme where migrants get an insider's experience of the political system

Project beneficiary: Third Country Nationals

Duration: 12/12/2013 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 112 097

- EU contribution: € 68 379

- national co-financing: € 43 718

- other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

CAPITALIZZAZIONE



The project is aimed at promoting the capitalization of experiences and skills for migrants' associations, supporting the empowerment of their operational, visibility and networking capacities. It focuses on 5 priority areas for integration: inter-culture, citizenship, social and occupational inclusion, solidarity with communities of origin.

Main objectives

- To promote the emersion and valorisation of migrants' associations intervention practices within the integration process.
- To support the strengthening of associations' capacities by implementing pathways for capitalization, training, exchange of good practices, peer validation.
- To raise community's and stakeholders' awareness to develop knowledge, networks, and synergies.

Results

- Strengthening of associations' empowerment.
- Activation of networks/collaboration between public and private stakeholders and associations, based on specific competences and skills.
- Activation of a structured dialogue with Institutions aimed to define and implement integration actions.

Activities

The activities which are a part of this project include: drawing up of research methodology, investigation tools, good practices selection criteria, capitalization pathways; Collection / analysis of associations' competences and actions; final document and analysis; good practices selection; creation of 5 groups for exchanging and validating good practices; capitalization and territorial meetings; feedback on results; proposals submission.

Project beneficiary: FOCSIV – Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario
Duration: 02/09/2014– 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 117 224.38
 - EU contribution: € 87 918.29
 - national co-financing: € 26 106.10
 - other contributions: € 3 200

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

DIVERSE SOLUTIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION 3



The goal of the project « Diverse Solutions for Public Education and Integration 3 » was to diverse support, adaptation, and integration opportunities available to third-country nationals.

Main objectives

To provide wholesome access to support adaptation and integration services in Latvia and before arrival and to increase the motivation of third country nationals to take part in civil processes. Together Activities involved about 300 members of the direct target group providing Latvian courses in several Latvian cities.

Results

154 people learned Latvian (69 tested for A1, A2, B1 and C level certificate), 5 guides (Looking for Diversity) developed. Integration classes about Latvian food, history, culture. 170 legal consultations given to 69 persons 8 TV shows, 4 NGO Dialogue platform meetings held etc.

Activities

Latvian language courses, integration programs, information availability, activities to promote a united society, project publicity etc.

Project beneficiary: Society Shelter "Safe House"

Duration: 28/11/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 169 939.12

- EU contribution: € 127 454.34

- national co-financing: € 42 484.78

- other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE PLUS



To increase possibilities for integration of third-country nationals (TCNs), providing high quality services to them and ensuring continuity of Consultation and Information Centre PLUS (Centre).

Main objectives

- Ensure the functioning of the Centre and the availability of services;
- Provide possibilities for TCNs to acquire Lithuanian language skills, knowledge of history, institutions, cultural life, fundamental norms and values, etc.;
- Provide assistance for TCNs in order to create more favourable opportunities to use public and private services, etc.

Activities

Ensuring functioning of the Centre and the availability of services; Lithuanian language trainings; civic orientation programme; consultations of social worker / lawyer; consultations on business establishment and organization / labour issues / migration issues; trainings on road traffic rules issues; health education trainings; etc.

Results

The Centre was visited by 236 TCNs. 107 consultations were provided by social workers, 73 by lawyers. 66 TCNs received consultations on migration issues, 57 TCNs on job issues and 77 TCNs on business issues. 46 TCNs have participated in 760 hours of Lithuanian courses, 8 TCNs obtained driving licenses, etc. All TCNs who registered for official exam of Lithuanian language at national level passed it 100 %.

Project beneficiary: Tolerant Youth Association

Duration: 01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 133 069.08

- EU contribution: € 99 801.81

- national co-financing: € 33 267.27

- other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

PARTNERSHIP FOR INTEGRATION: INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION SERVICE



In 2008 a new immigration law was voted in Luxembourg with new residency rights requiring important awareness raising efforts. Luxembourg's complex language situation (2 administrative languages: French and German and 1 national: Luxemburgish) and the high presence of foreigners (46%) need targeted communication solutions between TCNs and the administrations.

Main objectives

The main objectives involved:

- Providing practical support in settling procedures;
- Improving intercultural communication to administrations with specialized interpreters;
- Editing material facilitating immigration and integration;
- Using the internet to disseminate information and facilitate communication;
- Consolidating our objectives with the partnerships of TCN NGOs and administration.

Activities

Key activities implemented:

- Immigration law helpdesk;
- Website on integration and immigration issues www.bienvenue.lu – FAQ with integration advice downloadable in 9 languages;
- Welcome booklets for TCNs;
- Downloadable information sheets on the immigration law in French and English;
- Intercultural interpretation service for health care,
- Social assistance or support with administrative procedures.

Results

The support with settling procedures fostered the development of new activities. The strong partner involvement allowed immediate dissemination of all the actions. The launch of the intercultural interpretation service required important training and outreach programmes, raising awareness about intercultural communication. It resulted in the sustainability of the service as a significant support system especially for health care institutions. In practical terms: 1 426 persons benefitted from information sessions and telephone hotline (2008 – 2010) and 13 600 visited the web-site in 2009-2010.

Project beneficiary: Association de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigrés (ASTI asbl)

Duration: 01/01/2008 – 31/12/2010

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 594 949.10

- EU contribution: € 297 474.54

- national co-financing: € 297 474.54

- other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

MEDIA INTERACT



The project aims at the development and improvement of the programmes and activities to strengthen the capacity of the Maltese society to adapt to diversity, and be able to maintain trustful relations with TCNs as well as to strengthen the assent to integration.

Main objectives

Media InterAct aimed at initiating an avenue for mainstreaming integration and cultural diversity within Maltese media and journalism. Incentivising media and the press to capture realities and needs of an increasingly diverse audience, whilst contributing towards removing obstacles and stereotypes by providing a more accurate and balanced portrayal of third-country nationals in Malta and by opening up opportunities in media professions and organisations for migrants.

Results

- Production of a 13-Episode TV Programme Series (40,000 viewers per episode, 16 TCN participated).
- Distribution of 20 000 copies of a magazine (interviews with 13 TCNs taking part in the TV programme and 13 recipes).
- A multi-stakeholder networking conference
- A national report putting forward a set of recommendations published and communicated to 125 policy-makers in Malta and abroad.

Activities

Production of a lifestyle/culinary TV programme series called "Minn Lenti Interkulturali" aimed at promoting intercultural exchange through the sharing of culinary experiences and traditions of TCNs and the simultaneous account of their integration experiences in Malta and an issuing of a magazine, "InterAct – A Portrait of Third-Country Nationals in Malta", dedicated to cultural diversity and integration.

Project beneficiary: Solidarity Overseas Service (SOS Malta)
Duration: 01/07/2011 – 30/06/2012
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 74 112.93
 - EU contribution: € 55 584.69
 - national co-financing: € 18 528.23
 - other contributions: € 0

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

MOM, DAD, ME AND MY TEACHER: LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION OF MIGRANTS



Project sought to address the main problem of linguistic and communication difficulties between immigrants - preschool children with their parents and teachers working with them. Lack of knowledge of Polish results in children's passive participation in educational activities, social and cultural life.

Main objectives

- To support the linguistic and cultural integration between migrants (children, their parents) and Polish society,
- To improve the competence of preschool teachers of Polish language using the innovative didactic programme.

Results

- Number of trained participants: preschool children – 40, parents – 26, teachers – 30.
- New materials for Polish language Learning and Teaching, e.g.: innovative didactic programme for education of preschool teachers working with foreign children, Polish-Chinese, Vietnamese and English Minidictionary.

Activities

The project was implemented in a multicultural kindergarten near Warsaw. The main type of activities for children, their parents and teachers consisted in participation in activities based on an innovative didactic programme. Preschool children and their parents took part in Polish language courses. The preschool teachers in turn took part in the Multicultural Education Training.

Project beneficiary: Foreign Language Teaching Foundation
Linguae Mundi

Duration: 01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 83 827.68

- EU contribution: € 62 870.76

- national co-financing: € 8 382.77

- other contributions: € 12 574.15

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

INTEGRAR COM+SENTIDO



The main challenge of this project is to address innovative answers to the different needs and concerns of third-country nationals, the strengthening, the valorization of cultural diversity and the construction of interculturality with equity on the basis of an evolutionary process perspective, by valuing the personal, emotional, social, cultural and professional processes.

Main objectives

- Promote the integration of third country nationals in the host community and at larger extent in the country;
- Promote and deliver specialized services (psychological, social and employment support);
- Foster inter-culturality in order to develop cultural bridges among people;
- Development of strategies for employment based on wide local partnerships to best promote the integration in the municipality of Moita.

Results

- Increased knowledge of Portuguese language;
- Demonstration of cultural history and fascinating traditions of Cape Verde and Moldova and various cuisines
- Relationship and interfaith dialogue between people of different religions;
- Increased level of self- knowledge through vocational guidance and integration in the labour market;
- Acquirement of Portuguese nationality (support in the document regularization process);
- Families subscriptions to the housing program

Activities

- Activities provided:
- General support, information and routing;
 - Employability support;
 - Social and psychological support;
 - Portuguese classes;
 - IT classes and acquisition of informatics skills;
 - Different cultural classes (cinema sessions, music, dancing, Portuguese traditions, etc.)

Project beneficiary: Fundação Santa Rafaela Maria
Duration: 01/04/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 53 416.51
 - EU contribution: € 50 000
 - national co-financing: € 3 416.51
 - other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

MY PLACE – MULTIFUNCTIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE



The project seeks to address interaction between various cultures, creation of a meeting area for TCNs in Bucharest and performing dedicated activities for children and vulnerable categories of TCNs.

Main objectives

- Supporting TCNs communities by creating a Multifunctional Cultural Centre (MCC) in Bucharest
- Development within the MCC of social, recreational, educational and cultural activities for this category of persons, with their direct involvement

Results

- Creation of the Multifunctional Cultural Centre
- 2.349 TCNs participating in specific activities in MCC/with support of MCC.

Activities

- Setting up of the Multifunctional Cultural Centre
- Promotion of the MCC and its activities
- Specific activities in MCC: sports, activities for children, internet cafe, cultural cinema, workshops, arts

Project beneficiary: JRS Jesuit Romanian Service

Duration: 03/10/2013 - 01/07/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 320 408.39

- EU contribution: € 240 306.29

- national co-financing: € 64 081.68

- other contributions: € 16 020.42

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN INTEGRATION POLICY



Training of 60 persons from the area of local governments and authorities, including creation of pilot schemes focused on integration of third-country nationals, as well as communication strategies among local authorities and general public in 5 selected Slovak towns.

Main objectives

The main objective is capacity building of local governments in the area of integration policy, preparation of environment facilitating the integration process of third-country nationals, stimulating the positive attitude to foreigners among Slovak municipalities and creating a portfolio of best practices in the integration process.

Results

Local integration pilot schemes created in 7 towns, 62 persons from local governments and authorities trained, creation of best practices summary including proposal of legislation amendment on national level, raising local authority and public awareness on subject matter.

Activities

- Informational-communicational activities;
- Educational activities;
- Pilot scheme implementing integration policies focused on creation of local integration strategies in 5 selected cities and their implementation into practice;
- Activities focused on stimulation and creation of local policies.

Project beneficiary: Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia
Duration: 01/04/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 94 997.50
 - EU contribution: € 71 248.12
 - national co-financing: € 23 749.38
 - other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

INITIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS



Key challenge of the project was to assist third country nationals with integration into Slovenian society by offering them a chance to learn the basics of Slovenian language.

Main objectives

To enable TCN to learn communication in Slovenian language on basic level and to gain basic understanding of history, society and constitutional arrangement at the beginning of their stay in Republic of Slovenia often with intention of passing the language exam on a basic level.

Activities

- Teaching basic communication in Slovenian language, necessary for everyday conversation pertaining to living arrangements, work, social security, public service.
- Teaching basic vocabulary connected to orientation in local environment, legislature, political system, media and local customs and history.

Results

Over 1 500 TCN attending the course yearly. 77.86 % of attendants pass language exam.

Project beneficiary: Public institution Cene Štupar, People's University of Maribor, People's University of Žalec, People's University of Kranj, People's University of Koper, People's University of Ajdovščina, People's University of Krško, Development Education Centre Novo mesto

Duration:

01/9/2014 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 415 213.84

- EU contribution: € 311 410.38

- national co-financing: € 103 803.46

- other contributions: € 0



European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

RAISING AWARENESS FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INTER-CULTURAL COEXISTENCE IN EDUCATION



Raising awareness about the importance of education based on respect for diversity and equal opportunities. Nationwide project focused on counselling and school staff training, using both on-site and virtual networks. Teachers would boost participatory processes in the centres, promoting structural changes and involving families and communities.

Main objectives

- Provide teaching materials and educational tools aimed at promoting values´ education, equal opportunities and fighting discrimination.
- Provide opportunities for networking, and disseminate positive actions and models for organization and management in multicultural educational centres.
- Awareness in the fight against racism and xenophobia.

Activities

Website aulaintercultural.org, with more than 600 documents and 125 videos; online training for teachers, production of teaching materials, selection and dissemination of best practices, research on intercultural education, information in all Autonomous Communities, awareness campaigns, educational virtual community

Results

Website Aulaintercultural.org is a benchmark in intercultural education, in the top positions in major search engines; 12.085.460 webpages visited, 9.625 members of Facebook groups and Twitter followers, 602 documents, books, resources, published materials, 6 researches conducted, 180 best practices identified and shared and 155 workshops.

Project beneficiary: General Union of Workers (UGT)

Duration:
01/01/2010 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 611 639.78

- EU contribution: € 560 057.78
- national co-financing: € 48 087.80
- other contributions: € 3 494.20





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AVR AND REINTEGRATION TO RUSSIA & THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC



One of the main challenges for the reintegration of returnees is the limited reception capacity of the local communities, due to restricted financial means and the high rate of unemployment in the Chechen Republic. In order to facilitate reintegration, tailored reintegration assistance is required.

Main objectives

- To offer favourable conditions for the return and sustainable economic and social reintegration of the target group who wish to return voluntarily to the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

Results

- Excellent cooperation between all stakeholders
- A workshop brought together pre-departure and post-arrival practitioners
- Brochure on Business Ideas in the Chechen Republic was published
- 203 returnees and their families received assistance
- 190 income generating activities were financed in the Chechen Republic

Activities

The activities which are a part of this project include: Awareness raising and information provision for return counsellors and (potential) returnees; Voluntary return assistance; Counselling, cash and in-kind reintegration assistance for returnees and their returning family members; Enhancing cooperation among all stakeholders involved in Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Duration: 1/07/2013 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 1 303 908.68
 - EU contribution: € 486 000
 - national co-financing: € 780 441.62
 - other contributions: € 37 467.06



European Return Fund

RETURN OF FAMILIES



Families who do not leave the country within the allocated time, or families who are otherwise apprehended by the police without a legal stay, can be detained in view of removal. The Belgian Immigration Office wishes to take care in the most humane possible circumstances of families who have to return to their country of origin (forced return), to accompany them and to reintegrate them in their country to make their return durable and to give them necessary protection.

Main objectives

These families are placed in open reception facilities dedicated to families (FITT houses). Note that from a legal standpoint, they are still considered as detained. In these facilities, families are closely monitored and are encouraged to return on a voluntary basis. A coach is assigned to each family to assist them with their daily needs, organize access to a range of services (education, social, medical, legal, psychological etc), counsel families and encourage them to opt for voluntary return and hopefully durable reintegration in their country of return.

Activities

- Management of the FITT houses
- Coaching of the families

Results

- 26 units available for families
- 263 families returned
- 10 active coaches + 1 coordinator
+ 1 project manager and 0,4 financial manager
- 8 reintegration paths after return from the family units

This is an innovative project focusing on the humane treatment of families with children.

It is an alternative to detention.

Project beneficiary: Immigration Office

Duration: 2008 - 2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 4 934 350.12

- EU contribution: € 3 700 762.60

- national co-financing:

€ 1 233 587.52

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

PROGRAMMES ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY RETURN



The action aimed at improvement of the voluntary return programmes in all phases of return. Design and implementation of programmes for assisted voluntary return and reintegration was envisaged to provide wide access to information on possibilities for voluntary return, information for the counties of origin, individual legal consultations, assistance to get valid travel documents, medical assistance, assistance in starting own business, etc.

Main objectives

Following the whole process of implementation of the programmes, an effective and sustainable return in the country of origin is to be achieved. A decreased number of the illegally staying persons is envisaged through developing an effective instrument for return of TCNs.

Activities

Elaboration and implementation of programmes for voluntary return and reintegration of third-country nationals, illegally staying in the Republic of Bulgaria, including vulnerable persons.

Results

An analysis of programmes for voluntary return was carried out. This covers all the programmes for voluntary return implemented in the last 5 years in Bulgaria as well as programmes for voluntary return implemented in other member states in order to reflect good practices of other countries and organisations in this field. Two programmes encouraging voluntary return of third-country nationals were developed and implemented. Within the framework of the project 70 individual voluntary return plans were developed and 70 implemented. 102 third country nationals were individually consulted and 28 were reintegrated in their country of origin. The opportunities for voluntary return were publicised in order to encourage representatives of the target group to make a free and informed decision to return to their countries of origin.

Project beneficiary: IOM

Duration: 23/07/2013 - 30/06/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 250 000

- EU contribution: € 187 500

- national co-financing: € 62 500

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

UPGRADING THE RECEPTION CENTRE FOR FOREIGNERS



The aims of the project were improvement of living conditions of third country nationals detained in the Reception Centre Foreigners in Ježevo and reducing the operational costs of the Centre.

Main objectives

- Upgrading the living conditions in the Centre;
- Reducing the running costs of the Centre.

Results

- Conditions for hygiene in the Centre upgraded;
- Connection to the public sewerage system finished.

Activities

- Tendering;
- Contracting;
- Works;
- Supervision of works.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior, Border Police Directorate, The Reception Centre for Foreigners
Duration: 11/02/2015 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 89 952.67
 - EU contribution: € 52 847.16
 - national co-financing: € 37 105.51
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

VOLUNTARY RETURNS PROGRAMME – INFORMATION AND SUPPORT CENTRE



This project is the first assisted voluntary return programme organised in Cyprus and its aim is to establish a centre which will provide third country nationals with information and support related to voluntary returns.

Main objectives

To facilitate the safe and smooth return of irregular migrants who wish to return voluntarily in their country of origin by providing all the necessary support for all aspects of their return procedure prior to departure and upon their arrival.

Results

- 200 TCNs received information regarding assisted voluntary returns
- 159 TCNs have agreed to participate in the programme
- 26 TCNs have returned to their country of origin with the help of the Fund

Activities

The activities which are a part of this project include: Information via guide, leaflets, campaign, website, audio messages in different languages; psychological support; advice on financial plans; housing/ educational/ vocational potentials; airport assistance prior to departure and upon arrival; financial support for travel documents; airline tickets; transportation arrangements; in kind and cash assistance; mobile application of the programme.

Project beneficiary: CARDET - Centre For The Advancement Of Research And Development In Educational Technology Ltd
Duration: 15/01/2015 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 249 949.43
 - EU contribution: € 237 451.96
 - national co-financing: € 12 497.47
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

GENERAL COUNSELLING & LEGAL AID IN RETURN PROCEDURES



General Counselling and Legal Aid to Foreigners in the Return Procedures IV: The project sought to address the requirement of the so called Return Directive (2008/115/EC) to provide legal aid free of charge about the issue of forced returns to third-country nationals who do not fulfil the conditions for legal entry or legal stay in the Czech Republic.

Main objectives

The main objective was to increase awareness about forced return procedures among third-country nationals in order to contribute to smooth process of forced returns. The beneficiary also collected statistical data to identify problems and formulate recommendations regarding the return procedures.

Results

The project enabled third-country nationals with limited financial means or to those placed in a detention centre to receive qualified legal aid. The project fulfilled all planned indicators, the main indicators concerning third-country nationals who received legal aid were even exceeded.

Activities

The main activity of the project included general counselling and legal aid to third-country nationals, especially to third-country nationals placed in a detention centre (with limited access to legal aid) and generally to those who have been granted decision on administrative expulsion.

Project beneficiary: Organization for Aid to Refugees
Duration: 1/07/2013 – 30/06/2014
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 27 202.48
 - EU contribution: € 19 935.08
 - national co-financing: € 0
 - other contributions: € 7 267.40



European Return Fund

VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION FROM ESTONIA



The key challenge of the project is to promote voluntary assisted return and reintegration of those third-country nationals who are in Estonia without any legal grounds.

Main objectives

The purpose of the project is to provide consultation and assistance to third-country nationals returning voluntarily to the target countries, and, if needed reintegration assistance.

Besides assisted voluntary return activities, the aim of the project has also been capacity building of staff of competent bodies on voluntary return and reintegration.

Activities

Main activities are:

- consultation and assistance on voluntary assisted return and reintegration,
- trainings for staff of competent authorities on return issues.

Results

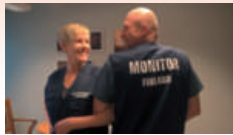
During the project 106 third-country nationals returned voluntarily and 46 persons benefitted from reintegration assistance. In addition, staff of competent authorities has received trainings on different return issues.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Duration: 1/01/2010 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 646 831.72
 - EU contribution: € 485 123.79
 - national co-financing: € 161 707.93
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

DEVELOPING REMOVAL PROCESSES THROUGH MONITORING AND GOOD PRACTICES



The Return Directive sets out the procedures which must be followed during removal, and the legal safeguards for those to be removed. As of 1 January 2014, the Finnish legislation includes an obligation for the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman to monitor enforcement at all stages of removals of those foreign nationals who are to be refused entry or deported.

Main objectives

The project aimed at establishing the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman's position as a monitor of the removal process. The project developed the monitoring of the whole removal process, from preparation to afterwards evaluation, in order to ensure that human rights and the Directive of legal protection were realized in the process.

Results

Information on removals and challenges were gathered, analysed and assessed. The Ombudsman also oversaw implementation of international recommendations concerning returns and effectiveness of national legislation. Trainings were also provided, and guidelines and criteria for monitoring the removal process were prepared.

Activities

The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman reviewed how legislation, instructions and measures of the removal process are being applied, made regular visits to detention units and police prisons where those refused entry are held, and attended transfers of persons who have been refused entry.

Project beneficiary:

Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

Duration: 1/03/2014 – 30/05/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 204 566

- EU contribution: € 153 417

- national co-financing: € 51 139

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

SETTING UP REINTEGRATION SYSTEMS IN THIRD COUNTRIES



This project aims to promote a sustainable return that shall be adapted to the situation of each migrant. By accompanying each migrant in shaping his/her life project, the OFII aims to make the reintegration in the country of origin or chosen country sustainable – thanks to a professional project that would create employment and generate income.

This is a flagship project of the return fund, as it takes into account the individual situation and needs of each beneficiary. As this project has shown good results so far, ongoing discussions address the diversification of reintegration programmes, through a support that is not only at the economic level anymore.

Main objectives

This project aims to offer concrete economic opportunities for migrants, adapted to their needs, skills as well as the needs of the local economy. In order to achieve this objective, the OFII award material assistance and financial aid for reintegration.

Results

The return fund has co-financed reintegration projects for more than 5 000 migrants in a broad range of countries. The maximum amount of aid paid to non-EU migrants today reaches 7 000 €. The countries involved in the reintegration support project (about twenty) are located mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, but some are also located in Eastern Europe and in the Caucasus (Armenia).

Activities

Individualized support to the project holder including a feasibility study, carried out with the help of an operator specialized in business creation, an award by the OFII of material assistance and financial aid for reintegration – within the limit of 7 000 € –, a one-year supervision and monitoring of the project by an operator specialized in business creation.

Project beneficiary: French Office for Immigration and Integration
Duration: 01/01/2008 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 10 732 038.47
 - EU contribution: € 5 366 019.28
 - national co-financing:
 € 5 366 019.19
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

INTEGRATED RETURN PLANNING AND LINKING - IntegPlan II



The project is aimed at addressing the need to professionalize and harmonize the return counselling infrastructure in Germany on the one hand and the lack of a permanent reintegration infrastructure set-up by German project beneficiaries in the home countries of the returnees.

Main objectives

To optimize the counselling infrastructure in Germany and the reintegration infrastructure in the returnees' countries of origin. The project produced online available information about reintegration projects, adopted quality standards and tested individualized integration mechanisms.

Results

- 100 counsellors learned from the activities, which entailed expert sessions, workshops and eight supervisions.
- In addition, the individualized integration mechanisms have been field-tested and the lessons learned were incorporated into workshops. The list of reintegration project has been published.

Activities

The project identified project partners in home countries which are able to assist in the reintegration process. In addition expert session and seminars have been held for return counsellors. Furthermore an individualized integration mechanism has been tested with the project partner in Nigeria.

Project beneficiary: Micado Migration gGmbH
Duration: 01/12/2011 – 30/11/2012
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 181 099
 - EU contribution: € 134 792.59
 - national co-financing: € 46 306.41
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

IMPLEMENTATION OF AVR
INCLUDING REINTEGRATION

The AVRR project implemented by IOM Greece, along with the previous AVRR projects, contributed to the efforts of Greek Government to manage migration and address the needs of moving populations with respect to human rights and according to national, European and international laws and Conventions.

Main objectives

This project assisted irregular migrants, asylum seekers choosing to return, and refused asylum seekers, to return voluntarily to their country of origin. The project focused on third country nationals with special arrangements and care for vulnerable groups. The main component of AVRR is the reintegration assistance given to returnees in order to create sustainable conditions of living back to their countries and support themselves and their families.

Activities

The AVRR project had as core activities the assisted voluntary return of third country nationals to their country of origin with dignity and safety and their further support through reintegration assistance. Third country nationals were provided with detailed information for AVRR project and its benefits and support to obtain travel documents through a close collaboration with the Consular authorities. Travel arrangements and pre-departure assistance were provided. Cash allowance was given to all beneficiaries prior to their departure in order to address their first needs following their arrival. Special arrangements and care was provided for vulnerable groups. Reintegration assistance was provided for establishing small businesses or completing academic studies and/or vocational training.

Results

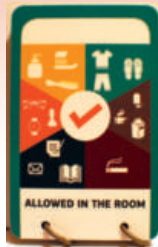
A total of 5,802 irregular migrants returned to their countries of origin in safety and dignity while 2,189 returnees completed their reintegration plans.

Project beneficiary: IOM & UNHCR
Duration: 01 July 2014 - 30 June 2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 11 000 000



European Return Fund

COMPETENCE RAISING IN DETENTION CENTRES



The special skills of the staff of the Nyírbátor alien detention centre needed to be improved in order to enable them to better solve daily conflicts arising during work.

The project is a good example of smooth cooperation between the police and an NGO. Through the daily use of the special communication tool, which was developed with the practical advice of the detention centre's staff, regular conflicts caused by the communications difficulties can be easily avoided.

Main objectives

The purpose of the project was to enhance the skills of the policemen, armed security, health care personnel, psychologists and social workers dealing with potential returnees, to improve the efficiency and standards of the organisational system in order to avoid extraordinary events.

Results

After screening the needs of the staff of the alien detention centre, tailor-made syllabi were prepared for 3 different trainings. 261 staff members were trained and all the experiences were shared with the management of all detention centres during a final consultation. A multilingual printed handbook was developed with pictograms to enhance the daily communication between the staff and the potential returnees.

Activities

The competence of the staff dealing with third country nationals at the alien detention centre were developed through small group intercultural and conflict management trainings. Furthermore the development of a multilingual printed communication tool was a major component of the project.

Project beneficiary: National Police HQ, in consortium with Menedék Association

Duration: 01/05/2013 – 30/04/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 77 273.69

- EU contribution: € 57 955.84

- national co-financing: € 19 317.85

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

AVR AND REINTEGRATION FOR VULNERABLE MIGRANTS



The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Project for Vulnerable Irregular Migrants (IVARRP 2014) contributes to the Irish Government's efforts in facilitating the voluntary return and reintegration of a caseload of vulnerable irregular migrants, particularly vulnerable individuals and urgent humanitarian cases who wish to return to their home countries but do not have the means to do so.

Main objectives

The project aimed to assist up to 250 vulnerable irregular migrants with return and reintegration assistance, over a period of twelve months. Through the provision of tailored AVRR assistance, with a multi-pronged approach aiming to meet the needs of irregular migrants, a targeted number of beneficiaries were going to have their sustainable return needs met, thus contributing also to the migration management needs of the Irish Government.

Results

217 persons applied for assistance to the IVARRP, representing 25 nationalities. 145 persons returned with the assistance of the IVARRP. This represents a return rate of 67% of those applying to the programme.

Activities

Through IVARRP 2014 the following activities were carried out:

- 680 awareness raising sessions;
- 2550 AVRR materials were delivered in person to relevant locations and service providers;
- Outreach consultants were appointed;
- A full suite of new information materials was been designed;
- A transnational workshop on AVRR information and outreach strategies held in early November 2014, bringing together representatives from 7 EU States;
- A monitoring trip took place where 39 returnees were visited and their reintegration projects assessed.

Project beneficiary: IOM
Duration: March 2014 – June 2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 771 230
 - EU contribution: € 385 615
 - national co-financing: € 385 615
 - other contributions: € 0

European Return Fund

REMPLOY III



The project is aimed at providing a specific support to the specific category of beneficiary – unemployed irregular migrants wishing to set up an independent micro-enterprise upon return to their country of origin - with targeted actions aimed at supporting their labour insertion in their country of origin.

Main objectives

To contribute to the management of migration in Italy by facilitating the voluntary return of irregular economic migrants who lost their job as consequence of the economic downturn and decide to return to their country to undertake a new professional working life.

Results

- 86 irregular unemployed migrants and their dependents from Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco and Tunisia assisted in their return;
- 56 returnees assisted through business set up and business management training;
- 56 business plans drawn up;
- 53 business plans implemented in the country of origin and monitored;
- 21 returnees provided with information and support on the access to a small loans;
- 1 toolkit produced and translated in 4 languages.

Activities

The activities which are a part of this project include: collecting the Assisted Voluntary Return requests, processing them after individual orientation; organizing the return travel and airport assistance; providing business creation/management training; elaboration of migrant's business plan; monitoring of reintegration within 6 months after return; migrant coaching in the countries of origin on micro-credit opportunities; submissions to micro-credit Institutions; production of a toolkit on the micro-credit in the 7 target countries.

Project beneficiary: IOM
(International Organization for Migration)
Duration: 1/07/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 433 333.33
- EU contribution: € 325 000
- national co-financing: € 108 333.33
- other contributions: € 0

European Return Fund

TRAINING COURSES FOR ESCORTS



Elaboration of professional skills development courses for the escort and establishment of training technical base - The key challenge project seeks to address is to ensure deportation of illegal immigrants according to the EU standards and requirements

Main objectives

To elaborate professional skills development courses for the escort officers and to establish a proper training technical base for the escort officers in order to ensure deportation of the illegal immigrants according to the EU standards and requirements

Results

- Training classroom equipped with an aircraft model and a bus model for simulating escort officers activities during forced return operations;
- Other requisite purchased for training classroom;
- SBG officers improved their theoretical knowledge, as a result quality of forced return operations improved.

Activities

- To elaborate professional skills development programme for the escort officers;
- Purchasing of the training requisite.

Project beneficiary: State Border Guard

Duration: 31/07/2011 – 30/06/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 69 432.97

- EU contribution: € 52 074.72

- national co-financing: € 17 358.25

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME



In 2011 the Government of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg confirmed its willingness to promote and encourage sustainable voluntary return by offering rejected asylum seekers, asylum seekers and irregular migrants living in Luxembourg a return aid supplemented by a reintegration scheme adapted to migrants needs

Main objectives

The AVRRL programme aimed at facilitating the sustainable return as well as facilitating reintegration into countries of origin. It provided support in the decision making process towards voluntary return, in the preparation for voluntary return, material assistance, education, housing/rent, and income generating activities after return.

Results

217 persons applied for assistance to the IVARRP, representing 25 nationalities. 145 persons returned with the assistance of the IVARRP. This represents a return rate of 67% of those applying to the programme.

Activities

- Public information and individual counselling sessions;
- Assistance in the preparation of return (travel documents, transport...);
- Assistance with housing/rent, training/education, material and legal assistance, job search assistance, professional equipment and set up of an income-generating activity;
- Assistance for vulnerable groups.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration
Duration: 1/07/2011 – 31/12/2013
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 1 046 178
 - EU contribution: € 572 541
 - national co-financing: € 473 636
 - other contributions: € 0

European Return Fund

THE SUPPORT OF AVRR IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by Member States through the implementation of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes.

Main objectives

The general objective of the project was to support the efforts of the Maltese Government to improve the offer of services related to assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) in countries of origin, and to contribute to enhancing return management as a whole. The project aimed at contributing to an integrated, harmonised and sustainable return policy in Malta.

Activities

Building on the experience and lessons learnt during the previous three phases of the AVRR programme in Malta, implemented by IOM Malta in close cooperation with the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security (MHAS), during which a total of 206 persons were returned to their country of origin. The project aimed at continuing to offer the AVRR option for Third Country Nationals (TCNs) who are unwilling or unable to stay in Malta and who request to be assisted to voluntarily return and to restart their lives in their countries of origin, including through reintegration assistance.

Results

A total of 72 persons from the target group benefited directly from the project out of which 64 persons benefited from a full AVRR package including return counselling, assistance with obtaining travel documents, transportation arrangements, one way flight ticket to country of origin, pre departure allowance of €200, departure and transit assistance as well as reintegration assistance of €2800 for micro business start-up or education development or any other chosen reintegration activity.

Project beneficiary: IOM Malta

Duration of the project:

July 2013 – July 2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 314,411.44

- EU contribution: €235,808.69

- national co-financing: € 78,602.81

- other contributions: none



European Return Fund

WORLD TOOLS



Experience shows that for asylum-seekers, return is part of their individual thoughts, but one of the biggest obstacles is to return with empty hands and without any perspective. In the World Tools Project, returnees are assessed about their entrepreneurial possibilities, trained and equipped before returning to their country of origin.

Main objectives

The main objective is to facilitate return of (former) asylum seekers to their country of origin, well trained and equipped for the future. In this project 52 returnees are trained. Twenty-two of them return to Iraq, the others to several different countries.

Activities

- Participants are closely accompanied. In several dialogues the returnee is assessed and entrepreneurship chances are mapped.
- Based on the best possibilities and talents, the returnee is trained in specific skills. For example in carpentry, metalwork, welding, bike repair, textile processing, simple computer skills, etc.
- In addition to this training, the project provides the basic materials and tools needed for the trained skill. Most of the time second hand tools are collected, and with cooperation from the returnee these tools are restored.
- The equipment and tools are then packed in a square meter wooden box and shipped to the country of origin. In this way the returnee receives a 'material microcredit' and can start his or her enterprise.

Results

In the World Tools Project 57 returnees are assessed, trained and equipped prior to their return to the country of origin. This project provides a practical and hands-on perspective for (former) asylum-seekers. The effectiveness and level of success are good. Participants are given attention, training and equipment, which provide a good start for a new future. Furthermore the interaction between the voluntary assistants (teachers) of the project and the participants has a positive effect on the returnees.

Project beneficiary: Border Guards

Duration: 01/01/2014–30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 292,013.98

- EU contribution: € 171,162.55

- national co-financing: € 146,006.99

- other contributions: none



European Return Fund

ORGANISING FORCED RETURN



Project concerning organisation of forced returns. Implemented activities represent a part of migration policy and contributed to proper management of irregular migration of foreigners. This project increased the rate of returns of irregular migrants and thanks to this project, the Border Guards' detention centres have been renovated and equipped, which had a positive impact on foreigners, their safety and dignity.

Main objectives

The project was aimed at improving and supporting forced returns.

Results

- 615 persons returned by land;
- 757 persons returned by air (scheduled flights);
- 221 vulnerable persons returned by land and air;
- 5 consultation meetings;
- 5 modernized detention centres.

Activities

- Escort of foreigners by air (on scheduled flights);
- Organizing charter flights to distant countries;
- Escort of foreigners to borders (by land expulsion);
- Purchasing equipment used by Border Guard officers and devices for fingerprint identification of foreigners;
- Improving conditions of stay in the detention centres;
- Consultation meetings between representatives of the Border Guard and other state institutions involved in the processes of return.

Project beneficiary: Border Guards
Duration: 01/01/2014 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 1 557 319.50
 - EU contribution: € 1 167 989.60
 - national co-financing: € 389 329.90
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

THE ARVoRE PROGRAMME



The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (ARVoRE), developed and implemented by the IOM Lisbon, represents a valid option for migrants in Portugal to return in a safe, humane and dignified way and to try and rebuild their lives in their own countries.

Main objectives

The ARVoRE Programme provides an effective, human-rights based, and sustainable voluntary return option for vulnerable migrants unwilling or unable to stay in Portugal. The programme, which has been implemented throughout the duration of the SOLID, aims at:

- Counselling and informing migrants about the option of return, reintegration prospects, and the functioning of the programme, in order to promote an informed return decision;
- Provide return related assistance;
- Offer continued and individual reintegration support upon return.

Activities

The project consisted of four components:

- Outreach and dissemination (including communication strategy, counselling, etc);
- Pre-departure activities (pre-departure counselling, individual counselling for reintegration support);
- Return assistance (travel arrangements, airport assistance);
- Post return assistance (Monitoring and support provided).

Results

Since 2009, communication materials, such as leaflets and posters, were produced/provided to service providers and migrants. A growing number of organizations directly worked with IOM as partners in the National Network for Information and Counselling, established in 2007. The ARVoRE Web Database, operating since July 2013, enables IOM to receive applications from the network focal points in a faster way, allowing efficient management of voluntary return cases.

To monitor reintegration support in Brazil, field visits and seminars were organized in main Brazilian states of return; and also promoted encounters with several actors to present ARVoRE project. Final project seminars were organized in Lisbon. More recently, to strength visibility and information, dissemination activities were conducted to reach more than 350 organizations and local and national thematic networks directly or indirectly working with migrant populations.

Project beneficiary: IOM

Duration: Jan 2009 – June 2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 5 568 992

- EU contribution: € 4 176 843

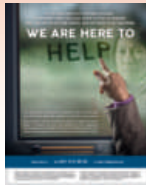
- national co-financing: € 1 392 148

- other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION – AVRR



The key challenges the project seek to address were the dissemination at national level of information regarding the existence and benefits of AVR programmes; specific services and assistance aimed to ensure a dignified return and the support for reintegration in the countries of origin.

Main objectives

Supporting the development of AVRR programmes in Romania through:

- Promotion of voluntary repatriation as an alternative to forced return;
- Capacity building of public authorities for using AVR as a preferable option;
- Integrated approach of the assistance for repatriation allowing the support of beneficiaries during this process.

Results

- Information on AVR benefits and on the opportunities for accessing these programmes;
- Active information point;
- Counselling for repatriation provided;
- Vocational training of persons registered in voluntary repatriation programmes;
- Social packages provided for persons in difficult situations;
- Assistance provided for reintegration;
- Updated and clear information on countries of origin provided.

Activities

- National information campaign;
- Measures of AVRR, respectively voluntary repatriation operations and assistance for reintegration, counselling activities, vocational training, reintegration assistance in the origin countries;
- Measures to increase the knowledge on AVRR, respectively orientation missions, awareness raising seminar.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Duration: 18/07/2012 – 30/06/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 1 495 402.18
 - EU contribution: € 1 121 551.63
 - National co-financing: € 299 080.43
 - Other contributions: € 74 770.12

European Return Fund

VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



The project activities were based on the recognition that return is a two-phase process and requires approaching adequately both stages of the return process; pre-departure and return counselling and reintegration support in the country of origin as second part of this process.

Main objectives

The main objective is to provide the target group with orderly, humane and cost-effective AVRR, specifically via:

- Raising of awareness amongst the target group;
- Ensuring the access to the assisted voluntary return and reintegration;
- Increasing the capability of returnees to reintegrate in the country of origin.

Results

The project helped to develop the system of individual reintegration assistance to the target group and thus broaden the basic Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme in Slovakia. Actual results were achieved having 99 voluntary returns and 30 reintegration operations carried out.

Activities

- Information campaign about assisted voluntary returns: low-cost telephone line, information meetings, audio-visual recordings, etc;
- Realization of assisted voluntary return: registration, assistance, health care etc;
- Reintegration in the country of origin: pre- reintegration counselling and monitoring.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration
Duration: 1/06/2014 – 31/05/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 347 163
 - EU contribution: € 260 372.25
 - national co-financing: € 86 790.75
 - other contributions: € 0

European Return Fund

VOLUNTARY RETURN OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS



The project deals with the voluntary return of third country nationals that have been issued a return decision, and offers reintegration (financial) assistance to returnees in order to cover the immediate expenses related to education, housing, healthcare and others.

Main objectives

- Preferred use of voluntary return in cooperation with NGOs;
- Shortened time of accommodation within the Aliens centre and reduction of costs;
- Sustainable return.

Results

- Travel assistance and escorts;
- Post-return assistance (education, training, housing, healthcare, etc).

Activities

- Travel assistance and escorts;
- Financial assistance for returnees;
- Preparation of information brochures and posters.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Duration: 15.7.2014 – 30.6.2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 133 750
 - EU contribution: € 100 312.50
 - national co-financing: € 33 437.50
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



The project aimed to promote assisted voluntary return (AVR) of migrants to their countries of origin, through training and assistance for self-employment, as well as support for start-up of economic activities, in order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of returns.

Main objectives

- Improving information on return programs, analysis of the return processes and employment options in the countries of origin;
- Improving the abilities for business management, through self-employment training and technical assistance on the development of the business plan;
- Economic and technical support for small businesses establishment.

Results

In this period, 127 migrants from 9 countries were assisted in returning to their countries of origin with a self-employment project for their reintegration:

- Honduras	24
- Bolivia	4
- Colombia	5
- Guatemala	2
- Nicaragua	8
- Paraguay	2
- Gambia	1
- Senegal	81

Activities

- Dissemination and information on AVR programmes;
- Information, support and psychosocial counselling;
- Design of the individualized or family itineraries;
- Training and specialized technical assistance;
- Plane tickets and financial assistance (general reintegration and business set-up);
- Monitoring and technical support in post-return phase.

Project beneficiary: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Duration: 1/01/2013 – 30/06/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 671 103.31

- EU contribution: € 549 888.98

- national co-financing: € 104 896.33

- other contributions: € 16 318



European Return Fund

SWEDISH RED CROSS NETWORK FOR RETURN



The project aims to ensure that asylum seekers who are refused entry or deported against their will have the opportunity to return in a humane, dignified way. Through this project, the Swedish Red Cross (SRC) ensures that this can happen by making things easier for returnees, in the form of better social reintegration for asylum seekers from Iraq, Serbia and Kosovo.

The project also results in SRC membership of a Swedish and international return network and raise awareness of return and of the barriers and opportunities within and outside the Red Cross.

Main objectives

- To identify 3-5 municipalities/areas in Sweden for developing local procedures. Five municipalities/areas have agreed to assist with developing local work in future. There is a desire to facilitate return for people from Iraq, Serbia and Kosovo.
- To identify the six countries from which the most refused asylum seekers needing return aid come. The goal was to facilitate return to these countries too.
- To raise awareness of return and of the barriers and opportunities within and outside the SRC.
- Membership of the SRC of a European network dealing with return issues.

Results

- The project has engaged in transnational collaboration with sections of RC operations in Iraq, Kosovo, Russia and Serbia. Results have been achieved in all the countries involved.
- 17 information events were organized to raise awareness on return.
- The project has also led to an expanded European network.

Activities

- Enhanced support to facilitate the return and improve conditions for social reintegration of refused asylum seekers from Iraq, Kosovo and Serbia.
- Information events to increase awareness of return, barriers and opportunities, within and outside the Swedish Red Cross

Project beneficiary: Swedish Red Cross
Duration: 1/07/2010 – 31/12/2012
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 1 310 438
 - EU contribution: € 655 219
 - national co-financing: € 655 219
 - other contributions: € 0



European Return Fund

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAMME



The project aimed to provide an Assisted Voluntary Return service, predominantly to those who no longer have a legal basis to remain in the UK and those with certain forms of asylum-related temporary status, who wish to voluntarily return.

Main objectives

The project aimed to facilitate the voluntary return of 15,900 applicants from April 2011 to March 2014.

Results

A total of 11,219 Voluntary departures were achieved during the project. This number being lower than anticipated can be attributed to the fact that experience showed that it can take a significant length of time to gather the necessary evidence to make their initial claim and therefore depart.

Activities

The main activities of the project were to provide returnees with:

- Outreach sessions;
- Surgeries at detention centres;
- Initial needs assessments which would lead to applications submitted;
- Departures taking place followed by re-integration support plan and/or post-return contact plan agreed.

Project beneficiary: Refugee Action

Duration: 1/04/2011 – 31/03/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 50 468 774.89

- EU contribution: € 25 234 387.44

- national co-financing:

€ 25 234 387.44

- other contributions: € 0





European Union cooperation
and solidarity on migration

External Borders Fund

www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs → Funding



European Commission
Home Affairs

External Borders Fund

DEPLOYMENT OF DOCUMENT ADVISORS IN THIRD COUNTRIES



The project is aimed at deploying experts in forged documents to destinations which play a major role in irregular immigration to Austria.

Main objectives

The experts in forged documents are working at international airports in order to prevent irregular migration by means of fake visas. The experts are also working at Austrian embassies and are training embassy staff from all Schengen Countries.

Results

Prevention of irregular migration by deployments to:

- Jordan / Amman (2011)
- Russia / Moscow (2012)
- VAE / Abu Dhabi & Dubai (11/2014)

Analysis of trends in forged documents

Activities

- Training of airlines personnel
- Advice to airlines personnel
- Training of embassy staff (visa department)
- Support to the visa department
- Training of police units

Project beneficiary: Ministry of Interior

Duration: 2009-2011 and 1/7/2013 – 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 820 000

- EU contribution: € 1 365 000

- national co-financing: € 455 000

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

FIELD WORKERS



The project aimed at strengthening the fight against irregular migration and use of false documents as well as preventing visa shopping. It addressed the demand for field information to verify documents submitted with visa applications (in i.a. diplomatic and consular posts in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Islamabad, Conakry, Yaoundé, Accra, Abidjan, Ankara and Quito).

Main objectives

The purpose was to improve Member States co-operation in specific visa files. The project involved sharing of tasks and responsibilities for the benefit of Belgium and other Members States.

Field workers can support consular activity and can carry out investigations for different Schengen embassies. Field workers are able to check more effectively whether documents filed for visa are authentic and correct. The other Member States can make use of the field worker if required.

Results

- Seven field workers operational including four trained locally
- July 2013 - May 2014: 964 files treated in Yaoundé for Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Spain, Switzerland, and France
- July 2013 - May 2014: 182 false documents detected in Yaoundé, 126 false documents detected in Abidjan, 38 false documents detected in Dakar, 175 false or non-valid documents in Abuja, in Casablanca false documents in 26 out of 42 files

Activities

- Verification of documents submitted with visa applications
- Field visits to verify whether documents are genuine

Project beneficiary: FPS Foreign Affairs

Duration: 2007 - 2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 582 105.25

- EU contribution: € 436 578.94

- national co-financing: € 145 526.30

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTOMATED BORDER CONTROL OF EU CITIZENS



The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Border Crossing Points at Sofia, Varna and Bourgas international airports to ensure smooth crossing of the external borders by EU citizens. Automated border control facilitates external borders crossing of EU citizens, improves services, optimizes daily work of border staff and helps to gather information which is important for risk analysis.

Main objectives

Electronic gates allow for the automated border control of EU citizens that are travelling with electronic travel documents containing biometric data. Thus the number of staff involved in border checks of EU citizens would decrease. The security and protection of EU external borders will be enhanced.

The systems will allow for accurate and secure checks in information databases i.a. of Ministry of Interior and EU. In addition, accurate information is gathered on passenger flow through the Schengen area.

Activities

- Delivery of equipment, hardware and software
- Testing and launching of the systems
- Training of staff

Results

- Four electronic gates with four tracks have been installed at Sofia airport (1), Varna airport (1) and Bourgas airport (2)
- Time for passengers' checks has been shortened
- Decreased number of staff engaged in first line border control at BCPs on international airports

Project beneficiary: Border Police

Duration: 1/1/2011–30/6/2012 and 1/9/2013–30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 350 750

- EU contribution: € 1 013 062.50

- national co-financing: € 337 687.50

- other contributions: € 0



SCHENGEN FACILITY CROATIA

RECONSTRUCTION OF POLICE
STATION VRGORAC

Police Station Vrgorac, which is located on the external border and is predominately used by the Border Police, was identified as a priority for a reconstruction because of highly inadequate working conditions.

Main objectives

Creating adequate preconditions for the operation of Border Police in the Vrgorac area.

Results

- Reconstruction of Police Station Vrgorac;
- Established facilities for short period detention of persons apprehended for illegal crossing of the external border.

Activities

- Tendering;
- Contracting;
- Works;
- Supervision of works.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior, Border Police Directorate
Duration: 09/09/2014 – 20/04/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 197 986.97
 - EU contribution: € 122 806.32
 - national co-financing: € 75 180.65
 - other contributions: € 0



SCHENGEN FACILITY CROATIA

SUPPLY OF VEHICLES FOR
BORDER POLICE

The length of the Croatian external land border is 1356.2 km. As well, having in mind the dynamic nature of cross-border threats, it is most important for the Border Police to possess capacities for flexibility and agility to deploy additional capabilities to the highest risk areas of the border.

Main objectives

Strengthening capacities of the Border Police in order to timely respond to changing challenges.

Results

Border Police using new vehicles:

- 80 patrol vehicles with police markings;
- 50 unmarked patrol vehicles;
- 40 vans with police markings;
- 20 unmarked vans;
- 50 terrain vehicles.

Activities

- Tendering;
- Contracting;
- Deployment of vehicles.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior, Border Police Directorate
Duration: 01/12/2014 – 30/07/2015
Total (eligible) cost of the project:
 € 4 934 176.41
 - EU contribution: € 4 934 176.41
 - national co-financing: € 0
 - other contributions: € 0

External Borders Fund

MODERNISATION OF 13 CONSULATES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



The visa issuing process at Cyprus consulates had the potential for becoming faster, safer and more compatible with Schengen guidelines. Also, staff security in selected consulates needed upgrading. To address these issues, customized building modifications and installation of security equipment were carried out at the visa issuing section of 13 Cyprus consulates abroad.

Main objectives

The objectives of the upgrade of 13 Cyprus consulates using specialized materials, security tools, systems and equipment as well as refurbishment to ensure the efficient use of space were to:

- Accelerate visa issuing process and decrease workload
- Make visa issuing process safer and more compatible with Schengen guidelines
- Increase security for staff

Results

The visa issuing sections of 13 Cyprus consulates were modernised and visa issuing process is now faster, safer and in line with Schengen guidelines. Consulates were prioritized for modernisation taking into account security reasons and/or workload.

Activities

- Installation of metal bars on windows, guard's counter, visa counters with intercom and bullet-proof drawers
- Arrangement of a dedicated applicant interview room
- Installation of X-Ray inspection systems and walk - through and portable metal detectors
- Installation of security systems i.a. CCTV, alarm system, Queue Management System

Project beneficiary: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus

Duration: 1/1/2010–30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 861 904.51

- EU contribution: € 1 670 856.30

- national co-financing: € 191 048.21

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

BORDER CHECKS OF ITEMS AT EXTERNAL BORDERS



The key challenge of the project was to prevent entering and leaving the Schengen area by persons who may possess potentially dangerous items or substances. The project was also focused on ensuring more comprehensive Schengen external border controls.

Main objectives

Main objective of the project was to equip with specialized equipment the Inspectorates of the Alien Police at selected international airports in the Czech Republic. This equipment primarily consisted in mobile X-rays and Raman spectrometers for carrying out border checks of objects at the external border.

Results

The additional technical resources of the Alien Police made it possible to extend the border controls at the external borders. Also as a result of the training, the number of users of this specialized equipment has increased. Use of equipment during the process of control led to time savings and strengthened the security within the Schengen area. Compared to the situation before implementation of the project it is now possible to authenticate items and substances immediately on the spot instead of waiting 30 days for laboratory analysis.

Activities

- Procurement of equipment
- Training of operators
- Integration of X-ray sets and Raman spectrometers to the process of border checks at the external border at selected airports

Project beneficiary: Czech Republic - Police

Duration: 1/2/2015 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project: € 486 200

- EU contribution: € 364 650

- national co-financing: € 121 550

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

SOFTWARE AND DATABASE PLATFORM FOR THE BORDER CONTROL



The project aimed at establishment of a new and more efficient technical solution in order to support the functioning of border control service. The new Border Control Information System PIKO is end-user friendly and offers quicker and automated border control solution.

Main objectives

- To enable queries to relevant EU systems and national databases
- To link the new software with the existent technological solutions (e.g. passport- and fingerprint scanners, mobile control equipment)
- To ensure compatibility with other database and software platforms in the area of internal security

Results

- Making real-time queries to EU systems and national databases is ensured
- The software is linked with the existent technological solutions and is compatible with other database and software platforms in the area of internal security
- Pre-controlling of lists of passengers is enabled
- PIKO is functional also on tablet PCs, which enables border check which corresponds to Schengen Borders Code in any place and at any time

Activities

- Procurement of infrastructure supporting the new solution
- Development and implementation of the new technical solution for border control

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Duration: 1/10/2011-31/1/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 219 705.56

- EU contribution: € 914 779.16

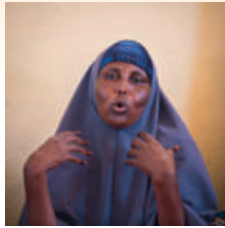
- national co-financing: € 304 926.44

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

DEVELOPING THE LIAISON OFFICER NETWORK IN THIRD COUNTRIES



The aim of the project was to develop and strengthen the capabilities of embassies to prevent illegal immigration and to strengthen cooperation with other Member States. The Finnish Immigration Service implemented the project in cooperation with the Police, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Border Guard.

Main objectives

The project aimed at preventing irregular entries and human trafficking by strengthening the visa and residence permit processes. A liaison officer's desk was established in the Finnish embassy in Addis Ababa. A liaison officers' network was developed through cooperation between other Member States and NGOs.

Activities

- Recruiting and training of the liaison officer
- Training of the embassy staff
- Creating best practices for solving typical problems in visa application and residence permit processes
- Establishing cooperation with other international actors

Results

The liaison officer participated in the inspection of travel documents and trained the embassy staff on visa issuing. The officer worked as an immigration expert in Addis Ababa and monitored the quality of interviews of visa applicants. Cooperation between Member States was strengthened as the liaison officer actively participated in the work of cooperation groups that were founded in Addis Ababa in the beginning of the project. Prevention of illegal entries was intensified due to the better quality of interviews. A well-functioning European network was created in Addis Ababa.

Project beneficiary: Immigration Service

Duration: 1/1/2011-31/12/2011

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 150 000

- EU contribution: € 75 000

- national co-financing: € 75 000

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

ACQUISITION OF A PATROL VESSEL



The beneficiary has started a program to modernize its coastguard system by adapting its naval capabilities to the national and European requirements. This is a general surveillance activity which establishes an operational watch on any incidents encountered at sea, therefore any form of inspection and intervention.

Main objectives

In order to deal with the different threats, the project beneficiary has identified a need for a patrol vessel equipped with devices for the detection of boats and persons. The patrol vessel should enable the boarding of persons and have sufficient capacity to host them on board. The vessel is to be made available for FRONTEX.

Results

To the patrol vessel will be assigned 46 officers. The ship will be made available to FRONTEX 36 days per year, for the first time in November 2015. The vessel will ensure surveillance missions and is fitted to assure safety of persons on board, receive migrants and provide them with first aid.

Activities

The focus was on the construction of the vessel i.a. planning, building of the hull and superstructures, transfer to the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, installation of engines and fittings, and the testing. The vessel is assigned to Seyne-sur-Mer (home port), in the harbour of Toulon. It should be able to fulfil the FRONTEX operational missions as from autumn 2015.

Project beneficiary: General Directorate for Customs and Indirect Taxation

Duration: 1/1/2012 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 12 249 304.90

- EU contribution: € 9 186 603.30

- national co-financing: € 3 062 701.60

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

AUTOMATED BORDER CONTROL SYSTEM – EasyPASS



The project aimed at establishment of an automated border control procedure for EU/ EEA/ CHE citizens with passenger flow-rate higher than in the manual control and no need for a registration process.

Main objectives

A special economic study (cost-benefit-analysis) for the project identified a requirement for 122 e-Gates at the six most frequented airports.

Results

122 EasyPASS gates were procured, installed at the airports and put into operation. The eGates are available for the travellers at the most frequented airports in Germany (Frankfurt/Main, Munich, Dusseldorf, Cologne and Berlin-Tegel).

The system is accepted by the travellers and border guards. EasyPASS opens the possibility for the border guards to concentrate more on the thorough checks of third county nationals, as EasyPASS conducts the minimum checks of EU-citizens as set in the Schengen Borders Code.

Activities

- Procurement of the EasyPASS system
- Installation and modification measures at the airports
- System implementation and marketing (training of federal police staff; development of a communication strategy; creation of a website; production of flyers and posters)
- Maintenance and support of the system

Project beneficiary: Federal Police Headquarters

Duration: 30 months

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 11 620 009

- EU contribution: € 8 715 006.75

- national co-financing: € 2 905 002.25

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

PURCHASE OF OFF-ROAD PATROL VEHICLES (RURAL TYPE)



The aim of the project was to enhance Hellenic Police's detection and surveillance capability by acquiring 150 off-road patrol vehicles to conduct patrolling in inaccessible, mountainous and swampy borders regions of continental and insular Greece.

Main objectives

The main objective of the border patrols is to localise irregular immigrants and to prevent illegal entries at the external land borders. The specific vehicles constitute a very effective operational mean, which provides the Border Guards with the capability to access and patrol in all terrain fields at the external land borders, especially at the Greek-Turkish, Greek – Albanian and the Greek – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia rough border areas.

Results

The implementation of the project contributes to the effective surveillance of land borders, with the increased potential to prevent irregular migrants from entering Greece.

Activities

- Patrolling at the external borders areas
- Interception-localization of irregular migrants and increasing the security level at the borders' areas
- Capacity to send real-time information from the field when immigrants are localized at the borders' areas

Project beneficiary: Hellenic Police

Duration: 4/11/2013 – 17/3/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 4 192 499.43

- EU contribution: € 3 437 849.53

- National co-financing: € 754 649.90

- Other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

THE PURCHASE OF AN OFFSHORE (OPEN SEA) PATROL VESSEL (O.P.V.)



The need to enhance Hellenic Coast Guard's detection and surveillance capability and to manage effectively the mixed migration flows at sea borders made the procurement of the OPV imperative. The purchase of the OPV was a high budget procurement characterised by complexity regarding its technical specifications and the various levels of managing the whole project.

Main objectives

The OPV aims at controlling effectively the territorial waters and the open seas at the external maritime borders. Its enhanced surveillance capacity at sea and the increased reaction capability with regard to detection and interception of illegal border crossers at sea make border security more effective.

Results

The implementation of the project contributes to the effective surveillance of sea borders, with the increased potential to prevent irregular migrants from entering Greece.

Activities

- Conduct patrols even under bad weather conditions
- Speedy arrival at destination/point of interest
- Cooperation with HCG aircrafts in terms of detection, identification and, when necessary, interceptions of targets at sea
- Support to effectively managing the maritime borders.

Project beneficiary: Hellenic Coast Guard

Duration: 29/3/2012 – 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 28 800 000

- EU contribution: € 24 364 800

- National co-financing: € 4 435 200

- Other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

PROCUREMENT OF THERMAL CAMERA SYSTEMS



In order to detect irregular migrants crossing the Serbian-Hungarian and Ukrainian-Hungarian external borders, the National Police strengthened border surveillance by installing fixed thermal cameras.

Main objectives

The objective was to cover routes of irregular migrants at the external borders of Hungary with modern fixed surveillance systems and to support it with mobile surveillance devices in order to detect migrants at the green border.

Results

The area of the Serbian-Hungarian and Ukrainian-Hungarian external borders observed with thermal camera systems increased with 560 km² and 5 000 irregular migrants were apprehended with the support of the surveillance system in the following year after the end of the project.

Activities

- Installation of four fixed thermal camera systems and their integration to the EUROSUR National Coordination Centre (NCC)
- Modernization of two existing fixed thermal camera systems and integration to the NCC
- Procurement of six thermal camera systems installed into off-road vehicles

Project beneficiary: National Police

Duration: 1/9/2011 - 30/6/2013

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 3 788 999.06

- EU contribution: € 2 841 749.29

- national co-financing: € 947 249.77

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM - SIS II



The project aimed at ensuring a high level of security in the Schengen States in the absence of internal border checks. It is designed to be a large-scale information system containing data on persons and objects to be used by border guards and customs officers throughout the Schengen area.

Main objectives

The SIS II is entrusted with reporting non-EU nationals crossing EU borders, issuing alerts on refusal of entry or stay, processing of data relating to alerts and conditions of personal data access and protection, granting reliability and operability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Results

Italy contributes with:

- 17.9 million alerts on 59.7 million alerts reported in the System (30% of the total)
 - 82 812 wanted persons' pictures (58% of the pictures in the system)
 - 88 385 wanted persons' fingerprints (92% of the fingerprints in the system)
- In 2015 Italy queried the system 43 381 586 times.

Activities

The project allowed designing, making operational and managing the second generation of SIS, through the acquisition of hardware devices and software licenses, the development of the ICT infrastructure, the execution of performance tests, the implementation of business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Duration: 1/1/2009 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 9 137 882.15

- EU contribution: € 6 056 487.42

- national co-financing: € 3 081 394.73

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF EXISTING CONTROL SYSTEM IN THE EUROSUR



The project aimed at the fulfilment of EU requirements regarding the EU external land border surveillance and ensuring search and rescue operations coordination through the National Coordination Centre (NCC).

Main objectives

- Development of the State Border Guard real-time information exchange gear and regional information exchange network
- Establishment of the NCC and purchase of equipment

Results

- EUROSUR requirements fulfilled
- State Border Guard and the NCC receive, process and analyse the visual information faster and in a more complete way
- The information exchange gear allows to manage State Border Guard units' activities in a regular and enhanced way

Activities

- Upgrade of video surveillance, control, data communication/transfer equipment and software
- Creation of communication channels, increasing video, control and data communication channel capacity
- Construction of NCC, purchasing furniture and equipment
- Building a structure for secure data exchange/transmission system

Project beneficiary: State Border Guard

Duration: 1/7/2012 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 203 534.58

- EU contribution: € 556 533.94

- national co-financing: € 647 027.64

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

PROCUREMENT OF A PATROL CRAFT



The aim of the project is to acquire a ship that would become an integral element of a maritime border surveillance system. The ship will provide data on small floating targets at a distance approx. 10-20 nautical miles from shore and mid-size floating targets.

Main objectives

The purpose of the project was to improve territorial sea control and surveillance.

Activities

Surveillance data from the ship can be sent to the Maritime Border Surveillance System and integrated into "a recognized maritime picture". Surveillance sensors (cameras and night vision (infrared) devices, etc.) provide reliable and supplementing information on the situation near the external border.

Results

- The ship with an effective and cost-efficient exploitation term of 25 years
- Possession of the ship enables State Border Guard Service to prolong active patrolling hours and shorten time to react to violations and incidents at sea
- Data gathered with surveillance equipment on board is transferred to a control station and will improve the "recognized maritime picture". It has the functional abilities to be integrated into the NCC.

Project beneficiary: State Border Guard (Republic of Lithuania)

Duration: 16 months

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 3 392 744.15

- EU contribution: € 2 544 558.11

- national co-financing: € 848 186.04

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICE DOGS AND DOG TRAINING EQUIPMENT



The project aimed at acquiring dogs and deploying them at border crossing points where the FTD- and FRTD-related movement of Russian nationals from mainland Russia to the Kaliningrad Region of Russia is the most intensive. Since Russian nationals travelling under the facilitated regulations must cross the Lithuanian territory over a limited period of time, the checks on such passengers have to be carried out in the fastest manner and in accordance with the highest quality standards.

Main objectives

- To increase effectiveness of external border control through identification of persons breaching the procedures of facilitated transit.

Activities

Procurement of dogs and dogs related equipment

Results

11 service dogs, 22 dog transportation boxes, 11 dog enclosures with movable dog kennels and 14 dog care sets have been procured.

Trained dogs enable checks of transit trains and motor vehicles in the faster and more effective way.

Dogs help to detect FRTD/FTD regime violators, smuggled goods, prohibited substances, weapons and explosives thus ensuring passenger safety and proper control of the facilitated transit scheme.

Project beneficiary: Border Guard Service

Duration: 17 months

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 43 091.86

- EU contribution: € 43 091.86

- national co-financing: € 0

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

UPGRADE OF LU NS.SISII



The implementation of SIS II was set for March 2013. Several milestones were defined for the Member State. Luxembourg had only a small development setup on the backup site which needed to be upgraded to a full production deployment for both sites. The purchased hardware and the software developed on purpose, which form the heart of the current national SIS II system, had to be ready to reach the milestones.

Main objectives

The objective was to be fully operational with SIS II by March 2013. Therefore, the following deliverables had to be produced:

- Full scale installed and configured production hardware infrastructure
- Case management for the alerts and national alert consultation at ICD version 3.0
- Test tools to run the comprehensive and the LNI/BLNI test

Results

Luxembourg was ready in time for the comprehensive and failover LNI (Local National Interface)/BLNI (Backup Local National Interfaces) tests. The successful test results were validated and adopted by SIS-TECH. The activities were part of the global SIS II project. It built the foundation for other SIS II related activities, like PSAT Test, Milestone 2 Test, implementing the SIRENE FORMS for SIS II, the Global Migration Rehearsal (GMR) and finally performing the Life Data Migration (LDM) before the 'Entry Into Operation (EIO)' in 2013.

Activities

The hardware was installed in January 2012.

The SIS II development environments were migrated to the new machines in January 2012 followed by the setting up of the national SIS II software on the future production machines.

In April 2012, the Comprehensive Test Tool was delivered.

Project beneficiary: Police Grand-Ducale

Duration: December 2011 - August 2012

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 640 125.87

- EU contribution: € 575 857.23

- national co-financing: € 64 268.64

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

ENHANCING THE ARMED FORCES OF MALTA'S INFRASTRUCTURE



The project aimed at providing support for the development and implementation of the national components of a European Surveillance System for the external borders and of a permanent European Patrol Network at the southern maritime borders of the EU Member States.

Main objectives

- To improve on the existing infrastructure and supporting facilities at Air Wing (AW), enhancing aircraft parking facilities and maintenance space.
- To provide technical personnel with ground support facilities.

Activities

This action aimed at upgrading the supporting infrastructure and refurbishing an existing hangar together with the ancillary facilities. Apart from its real estate component, this action also included the procurement of a number of tools, equipment and furnishings which are meant to provide the technical personnel with the required facilities and tools to maintain the aircraft and keep them in constant ready status and in a position to deploy on external border control missions beyond territorial waters and the contiguous zone when required.

Results

An old RAF warehouse was refurbished and new offices erected. The new building spread on two floors with avionics control areas, accommodation and office space is now a dedicated building to manage the avionics. This will support the original structures as will serve as the control room to the operations launched and for crew administration. The infrastructural works have resulted into more robust ground facilities to support air and maritime border control capabilities. This action has successfully resulted in the provision of faster, more effective and more coordinated border surveillance operations.

Project beneficiary: Armed Forces of Malta

Duration: August 2013 - June 2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 917 673.41

- EU contribution: € 1 438 255.05

- national co-financing: € 479 418.36

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

ABC SOLUTIONS



The Airport Amsterdam Schiphol is one of the largest airports in Europe. With passenger numbers growing to about 70 million per year, different solutions have to be found to prevent queues from growing too long. Passenger mobility and speed are just as important as security.

The project aims to automate part of the border crossing process in a smarter, faster and better way.

Main objectives

- To launch a pilot for automated border crossing at Schiphol Airport
- To implement lessons learned in the staff change management process
- To increase passenger satisfaction in the border crossing process
- To keep the border crossing process with e-gates at least as secure as in the manual process
- To create a better passenger flow
- To increase efficiency and strengthen security controls

Results

- Well-functioning automated border process, processing at least 50% of all eligible passengers
- Staff well trained for the new way of working with clear understanding of ABC target groups
- Smoother and quicker border crossing process with shortened border crossing controls
- Best practices

Activities

- Pilots for different target groups
- Testing different software possibilities to make the process as smooth and fast as possible, whilst maintaining high level of security
- Testing different hardware possibilities
- Change in staff management

Project beneficiary: Ministry of Security and Justice

Duration: 1/3/2012 - 30/6/2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 4 660 270.46

- EU contribution: € 2 330 135.23

- national co-financing: € 2 330 135.23

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

EVALUATION AND TRAINING AT NORWAY'S FOREIGN MISSIONS



There was a need to ensure the practical implementation of the Schengen acquis evaluations of the visa handling process at Foreign Missions. Due to the sharp increase in the number of applications and a decline of availability for applicants following the implementation of VIS the organisation of the visa handling process also needed to be re-evaluated.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to ensure that Norwegian Foreign Missions have the necessary knowledge of the Visa Code and its handbooks. Further, the Norwegian Foreign Service needed to be able to handle the increased number of visa applications while still offering good services to the public and ensuring a facilitated application process.

Results

The visa handling process at Foreign Missions has been further streamlined. The feasibility study resulted in a global call for tender for four regional framework agreements with external service providers, procedural descriptions for how to perform call offs to the agreements as well as procedures for training and control of the external service provider.

Activities

The MFA performed nine In Situ evaluations of Foreign Missions and provided training to the consular staff. It also performed a feasibility study, assessing the organisation of the visa application process, mapping possibilities for extended use of external service providers, establishing of hubs and CACs as well as new representation agreements.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration: January 2012 - June 2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 119 304

- EU contribution: € 59 652

- national co-financing: € 59 652

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

LAND BORDER SURVEILLANCE



The cold climate poses challenging conditions for border checks and border surveillance along the Norwegian-Russian land border. This project was implemented to improve the reaction capacity and reaction time in Østfinnmark Police District with focus on mobility, communication and security during the dark and cold winter season.

Main objectives

Improve the police command and control function in land border surveillance in Østfinnmark Police District by:

- Enabling police operations in the field to locate illegal immigrants and conduct land border surveillance
- Improving risk analysis and detection capacity and ensuring a common situational picture

Results

In the case of an incident along the Norwegian-Russian border, the police should be able to deploy police officers for border control/surveillance purposes at any point along the border, at any point in time. As a result, Østfinnmark Police District developed measurable aims regarding both reaction time and capacity, as a part of their reaction concept.

Activities

- Equipment: three cars, seven ATVs, eight snowmobiles and three trailers for transportation, one heartbeat detector to control large vehicles at the land border, one photo/fingerprint scanner to enable searches in EURODAC and ID-registration
- Data line and server for transmitting situational pictures (real time) from the border to the police
- Equipment enabling night vision capability

Project beneficiary: Østfinnmark Police District

Duration: June 2010 – December 2011

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 731 700

- EU contribution: € 365 500

- national co-financing: € 365 500

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATION OF PKD (PUBLIC KEY DIRECTORY)



The project aimed at securing a solution for automating an existing manual and time-consuming process of importance for the distribution of certificates for electronic verification of travel documents.

Main objectives

The project has established necessary infrastructure and routines for distribution of certificates used for electronic verification of passports and travel documents.

Results

The project enabled automated exchange of international certificate information through ICAO PKD and distribution of this certificate information to Automatic Border Control (ABC) units. Automating the process is cost and time efficient, in addition to increasing security at the border.

Activities

- Procurement and implementation of National PKD (NPKD) and Terminal Control Centre (TCC)
- Establishment of a secure operational concept and workflows in accordance with international security requirements and national needs
- Integration of NPKD/TCC towards ABC gates at Oslo Airport

Project beneficiary: National Police Directorate

Duration: November 2013 – June 2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 788 960

- EU contribution: € 1 341 720

- national co-financing: € 447 240

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

CONSTRUCTION OF OBSERVATION TOWERS



The project is a part of a holistic approach to contribute to more effective securing of the external borders of the Republic of Poland as well as of the entire Schengen Area and to preventing against crossing irregularly the external borders.

Main objectives

The aim of the project was to build platforms where specialized observation devices shall be installed. Installation of these devices was made under another EBF project.

Activities

Towers and accompanying facilities were designed, built and equipped.

Results

The result of the project was to equip the four Border Guard's outposts with five towers where observation equipment is installed. The external border protection was reinforced, allowing 360° observation without the need to constantly patrol those border sections. Taking into account topography and natural land obstacles in the border area, this project resulted in creating a modern surveillance system complementary to traditional means of border protection.

Project beneficiary: Border Guard

Duration: 1/1/2013 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 256 073

- EU contribution: € 942 054.50

- national co-financing: € 314 018.50

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

THE SURVEILLANCE, COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (SIVICC)



The SIVICC is a technological platform, composed of fixed and mobile observation posts integrating radar and electro-optical sensors capable of producing relevant operational information with centralized command and control located in Lisbon. The SIVICC system embodies components to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of coastal surveillance and comprises the state-of-the-art infrastructure and operating equipment.

Main objectives

- To prevent irregular immigration by detection and identification of vessels with the intention to illegally cross the border
- To combat criminal activity at external maritime borders
- To manage people flows through maritime external borders
- To enable the interconnection with other external border surveillance systems at sea
- To optimize operational information sharing

Results

- The substantial increase in operational capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance of activities at coastal area and maritime border
- Contribution towards overcoming the difficulties arising from irregular migration through improved chances of search and rescue at sea and identification of vessels intending to cross illegally the external maritime border

Activities

The system consists of three major types of observation posts and equipment (electro-optical and thermal sensors and RADAR) to cover the coastal line as well as a set of communication means to transmit information to control rooms. In addition, premises were fitted to host the control centre and training courses for operators were organised.

Project beneficiary: Ministry of Home Affairs

Duration: 2009-2014

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 12 392 999.50

- EU contribution: € 6 695 215.88

- national co-financing: € 5 697 783.62

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

SYSTEMS FOR THE BORDER SURVEILLANCE - PILOT AT HALMEU BORDER POLICE



The project was implemented in order to ensure the border surveillance with permanent monitoring capacity - 24/7/365. While designing the project the following factors were taken into account: Halmeu Border Police location at the Romanian – Ukraine border with 27 832 km length of land border; the need of real time response to illegal border crossing attempt; the need to implement an integrated system for border surveillance.

Main objectives

- To ensure the external EU border security and to prevent and fight against cross border crime
- To improve the capacity to collect, process and transmit the information provided to the operation centre
- To ensure the complementarity with the existing border surveillance equipment and systems.

Results

The most important result of the project is the provision of 24/7/365 border surveillance monitoring capacity. The rate of illegal border crossing attempts has decreased in relation to an increasing success rate of the operational missions organized in the responsibility area of Halmeu BPS.

Activities

- Movement detection system and sensors
- Attachable IR surveillance system for vehicles and IR and CCTV fixed surveillance system
- Mobile surveillance tower and communication system
- Operations centre which integrates all the surveillance systems in one location and offers full situational awareness of the border

Project beneficiary: Border Police

Duration: April-May 2012

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 1 843 324.64

- EU contribution: € 1 382 493.48

- national co-financing: € 460 831.16

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

DETECTION AND MONITORING SYSTEM AT SLOVAK-UKRAINIAN LAND BORDER



The project aimed at creating better technical conditions to increase efficiency in the control and surveillance of the external borders of the Schengen area, including control of illegal migration and other cross-border crime in the northern section of the state border with Ukraine.

Main objectives

The main objective is to support gradual building up of integrated management system for external borders with a view to improve surveillance of the external land border of Slovakia and Ukraine.

Results

The project enhanced the surveillance of Slovak-Ukrainian land border through the installation of the detection and monitoring system that monitors movement of persons intending to irregularly cross the Slovak-Ukrainian state border in the area of the border crossing points.

Activities

- To install the detection and monitoring system
- To increase speed and fluency of the evaluation of the recorded alarms detected by operation centre

Project beneficiary: Border and Aliens Police Bureau

Duration: 1/4/2015 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:
€ 1 057 451.68

- EU contribution: € 793 088.76

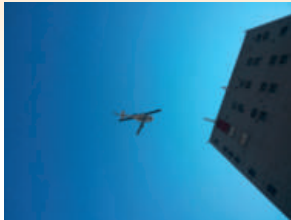
- national co-financing: € 264 362.92

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROSUR



The project is aimed at replacing the obsolete radar used by the police for the control of maritime border.

Main objectives

- Overall improvement of police work in the control of maritime border
- Less radiation burden for the environment
- Better detection of smaller vessels due to reduced radar clutter
- Fulfilment of Schengen evaluation recommendations on the exchange of the situational picture with Italy and Croatia

Results

Comprehensive overview of the situation at the external maritime border, faster identification of threats and implementation of adequate border protection measures

Activities

- Purchase and installation of the new radar for the control of the maritime border

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia - Police

Duration: 1/7/2014 – 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 576 480.50

- EU contribution: € 432 360.37

- national co-financing: € 144 120.13

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE ABC SYSTEM



The project aimed at the implementation of a system that allows the automation of the EU's external borders crossing. The system is to be integrated into the information systems of the National Police Corps (NPC).

Main objectives

The national deployment of the ABC System (Automated Border Control) in order to facilitate and automate the crossing of the EU's external borders by automatic border crossing points for passengers, prioritising air borders with higher number of passengers.

Results

- Reduced crossing time through border control points
- Enhanced security at border crossings due to advanced checks of travellers and authenticity of identity documents using biometric technologies and fingerprint analysis
- Reduction in the number of staff required

Activities

- Pilot project at Madrid and Barcelona airports
- Adaptation of the pilot system for its integration into information systems of the NPC
- Installation of the ABC system at Malaga airport
- National deployment of the ABC system

Project beneficiary: Ministry of the Interior

Duration: May 2010 - June 2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 9 456 010.50

- EU contribution: € 8 139 564.39

- national co-financing: € 1 316 446.11

- other contributions: € 0



External Borders Fund

GreKo NG



For Zurich Airport, the Cantonal Police of Zurich with its partners, developed one of the most state-of-the-art integrated border control system in Europe, which can process travel documents with and without biometric features at high speed.

Main objectives

The objective was to replace the outdated system with a new integrated border control system, which is fast and efficient. The system has to provide a high level of security while ensuring that a high volume of passenger traffic can be handled and waiting times are kept to a minimum. The system also has to connect to SIS II and national systems and be able to read all travel documents.

Results

The new control stations are equipped with the new high performance bespoke border control application and the latest generation of fingerprint and electronic passport readers, meeting the requirements of the VIS II Regulation. This allows police officers instant access to all important data regarding document and identity checks at a glance. With short technical process times, high availability, a stable network and well-engineered devices, the new system at Zurich Airport will help countering illegal migration while ensuring swift processing of bona-fide travellers.

Activities

The EBF funding was used to develop the new integrated border control system (software) which connects to SIS II and national systems and to purchase equipment such as fingerprint and electronic passport readers as well as a couple of mobile devices. Staff training on the new system was also a component of the project.

Project beneficiary: Cantonal Police of Zurich

Duration: 1/2/2013 - 30/6/2015

Total (eligible) cost of the project:

€ 2 336 558

- EU contribution: € 1 752 418

- national co-financing: € 584 140

- other contributions: € 0



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