

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

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MEMBER STATE: The Netherlands

FUND: European Refugee Fund

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Migration Policy Department under the Ministry of Justice

YEAR COVERED: 2010

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

1.1 ERF Steering Group

The ERF Steering Group gives advice to the Responsible Authority about the selection of project proposals. The Steering Group is composed of representatives from the Migration Policy Department and the European and International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Justice; the Directorate Citizenship and Integration of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment; the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment; the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Responsible Authority makes a definitive decision on the selection of project proposals.

1.2 Specific priority

Projects that come under the specific priority as set out in chapter three may qualify for a contribution from the ERF to a maximum of 75%. The Responsible Authority is authorised to determine on a case-by-case basis whether such a project qualifies for a higher contribution from the ERF in terms of percentage. In the consideration whether a project qualifies for a higher contribution, the Responsible Authority has taken account of the following factors:

- a. Innovative content and added value of the project in respect of current national policy;
- b. Applicability of the project, or its results, as a model of best practice in other countries, in particular within the EU.

A generally decisive factor in the considerations of the Responsible Authority to grant co-financing from the Fund of more than 50%, which is partly unrelated to the individual qualities of the subsidy application, is the relationship between the number and quality of the aggregate of annual subsidy applications. Each increase in the contribution from the EU after all implies a reduced spread of the available means in respect of that year.

1.3 Selection methods

1.3.1. Selection of projects in respect of which the Responsible Authority acts as implementing authority

In June 2009, a call for interest was organised in which the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) were asked to present project proposals for the 2010 ERF Annual Programme. By law these

organisations have monopoly positions with regard to the implementation of the asylum procedure (IND) and the implementation of the reception of asylum seekers (COA). In response to this 'call for interest', the Research into the Asylum Seeker's Means of Registration and Identification (*Onderzoek Registratie- en Identificatiemiddelen Asielaanvrager*) of the IND and the 'Children in Reception Centres' (*Kind in de Opvang*) of COA have been included in the 2010 Annual Programme. The ERF Steering Group has approved the inclusion of these projects in the Annual Programme.

Actions 1 and 2 will be implemented under the "awarding mode" (direct awarding).

1.3.2 Multi-annual projects selected in accordance with an open call for submitting subsidy applications ('call for proposals') in previous annual tranches

The Annual Programme includes four multi-annual projects that were selected in accordance with calls for proposals in previous annual tranches. The projects were selected in accordance with the 'call for proposals' method, which has been described both in the 2008 ERF Annual Programme under 1 A and in the 2009 ERF Annual Programme under 1 A. The multi-annual projects will receive funds from the 2010 annual tranche because the evaluation that was conducted end of 2009 had positive results.

1.4 No call for proposals for the 2010 ERF

The monopoly projects of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers mentioned under selection method 1.3.1 and the four multi-annual projects selected in previous annual tranches (see 1.3.2) fully budget the available ERF subsidies. There will consequently be no call for proposals for the ERF 2010 annual tranche. If funds become available for other reasons, a call for proposals will as yet be opened and the annual plan 2010 submitted to the Commission will be revised.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (if applicable)
Not applicable.

3. ACTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAMME UNDER THE PRIORITIES SET
Contrary to what is indicated in the multi annual plan, in the annual programme 2010 no action is planned for the implementation of priority 2: "Development of reference instruments and evaluation methods to test and improve the quality of the procedures for handling requests for international protection and consolidate the administrative structures and thus absorb the consequences of the more intensive practical co-operation with other Member States".

As described in paragraph 1.3 "Selection Methods", projects of the IND and COA have been selected and included in the annual programme. Also, several multi-annual projects that have been selected under previous annual programmes will continue to be co-financed from this annual programme. Because of this, the budget of the annual programme 2010 is fully allocated. In the proposals of IND and COA there were no projects that are to be placed under priority 2. There are also no multi-annual projects under priority 2 for which the co-financing should continue under the annual programme. Therefore, in the annual plan 2010 there will be no action/project under priority 2 taking place.

3.1 Actions for the implementation of priority 1: ‘Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community acquis in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives’

3.1.1 General

The Netherlands has adopted one of the **specific priorities** under priority 1 of the Strategic Guidelines for the period 2008-2013. If any projects under priority 1 are exclusively aimed at the specific priority mentioned below, these projects may qualify for a contribution from the ERF to a maximum of 75 %:

- measures aimed at taking into account the special needs of vulnerable people, in particular, unaccompanied minors, and more specifically measures aimed at improving the definitions and procedures applied by the Member States to identify the more vulnerable asylum seekers and to provide an appropriate response to such needs;

The Netherlands has formulated the following three actions under priority 1:

1. Improve the asylum procedure;
2. Improve the reception of asylum seekers;
3. Improve the integration of admitted refugees;

In the next sections, the objectives, indicators and expected beneficiaries of these actions will be described in further detail.

3.1.2 Action 1: ‘Improve the asylum procedure’

3.1.2.1 Projects under action 1 that will be implemented under the "awarding mode" (direct awarding).

In this annual programme, one project under action 1 has been selected in accordance with the "direct awarding" method.

Title	Research into the Asylum Seeker’s Means of Registration and Identification
Subsidy applicant(s)	Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
Background	With the arrival of the improved asylum procedure whereby the number of preparation days will be increased and which will be implemented as of 1 July 2010, the existing identification instruments that are available to the asylum seeker will be re-examined across all implementing partners involved in the asylum procedure so as to draw recommendations that will help realise improvements. The current identification instruments are not adequate as they can not be used during this preparation period as the asylum seeker has not yet started the asylum procedure thus is not entitled to the <i>W-document</i> (temporary identification document) that is provided during the asylum procedure for purposes of identification..

General identification requirement

When out in the streets or visiting public areas, all persons in the Netherlands are obliged to have identification documents with them. Thus also foreign nationals. This is the result of the general identification requirement that has been effective since January 2005.

Lawful residence and W-document of an asylum seeker

Pursuant to Section 8(f, g, and h) of the Aliens Act 2000 (*Vreemdelingenwet 2000*, hereinafter 'Aliens Act'), the applicant of a temporary asylum residence permit has lawful residence during the asylum procedure. The asylum seeker may provide proof of his/her identity, nationality, and residence status by means of a temporary identification document, a so-called W-document. On the one hand, this W-document serves as a valid identity document (Section 4.21(1)(c) of the Aliens Decree 2000 (*Vreemdelingenbesluit 2000*, hereinafter 'Aliens Decree') in conjunction with Section 3.3 of the Aliens Regulations (*Voorschrift Vreemdelingen*) and, on the other hand, it serves as a document for registration and to monitor the duty to report (the duty to report pursuant to Section 54(1)(f) of the Aliens Act in conjunction with Section 4.51(1)(b) of the Aliens Decree as well as the obligations pursuant to the Sections 55 and 57 of the Aliens Act). The asylum seeker will hold a W-document during the entire asylum procedure.

Temporary period that an asylum seeker is without any means of identification

In the current procedure, the W-document is ordered after the initial apply-procedure (*AC-procedure*; with the exception of AC Schiphol). The short apply procedure currently takes 48 working hours. In the proposed improved procedure, the moment of issuing the W-document would ideally take place on leaving the Application Unit of the Aliens Police – directly after the foreign national has expressed the desire to apply for asylum. In order to prepare for the asylum procedure the applicant for asylum is free (and is expected) to travel, for instance, to the authorised representatives. The identification requirement in public areas also applies to applicants for asylum, but in the current preparation period they are not yet entitled to the current W-document and are therefore unable to identify themselves thus have difficulty to travel. In the proposed improved situation the asylum applicant will receive an identification document in the preparation period that will enable him/her to travel legally.

Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seeker (UMA)

Another problem has been established is the absence of an identification document for UMAs who have exhausted all legal remedies. Although they have exhausted all legal remedies, they continue to be entitled to numerous facilities after completion of the procedure pursuant to C23/3.2 of the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines 2000 (*Vreemdelingencirculaire 2000*), until they have reached the age of 18: these facilities include accommodation and medical assistance as referred to in C23/4.1 of the aforementioned Implementation Guidelines. The UMAs are lawfully entitled to these facilities on the basis of their minority. However, as they do not have an identification document they cannot identify themselves thus experience many problems and do not always receive services that they are entitled to.

In summary, the absence of a (valid) means of identification has several adverse effects:

- During the asylum seeker's stay in the Rest and Preparation Centre, it is not possible for him/her to travel without violating the law, because he/she does not have any valid means of identification;
- It is difficult for UMAs who have exhausted all legal remedies and who are without any means of identification to claim the facilities after completion of the procedure (accommodation, medical assistance, and education) to which this group is lawfully entitled on the basis of their minority;
- The coming into use of temporary and improvised 'solutions' for identification documents which are not legally valid and susceptible to fraud;
- The possibilities of identification and supervision at the reception centres and processing offices are inadequate;
- The absence of a pass system (linked to the INDiGO information system) limits the possibilities of a strict, efficient, and ad hoc planning of the process required within the improved asylum procedure.

The following problems that have been established relate to the manner in which and the moment at which an identification document is currently issued:

- The co-operating organisations have no insight – at least no clear insight – in the registration of the W-documents, because these documents are issued at another centre;
- (Considerable) travel expenses for the asylum applicant to collect his/her *W-document*, because of the location and time of where the document is issued.

	<p>Additional assessment and digitalisation of passport photo and signature for the <i>W-document</i> takes place at a later stage in the procedure. In addition, the lawfulness and place of residence of the asylum seeker are checked once again as a result of which there is a risk of delay and inefficiency when the document is ordered. An exploratory research into the possibilities to tackle this problem across the co-operating organisations is desirable.</p>
Objective	<p>The arrival of the improved procedure and the new IND information system (INDiGO) offers possibilities to examine this identification problem thoroughly and improve it structurally. The purpose of this project is to improve insight in (i) the existing possibilities for applicants for asylum to provide proof of identity during the asylum preparation period but also in the further asylum period, and (ii) expose the legal, practical, and financial advantages and disadvantages, in order to be able to formulate a number recommendations for improvement that will be implemented across the co-operating organisations.</p>
Users	<p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service; Aliens Police; Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers; local authorities (railway police); security teams of the centre.</p>
End User	<p>The applicant for asylum, including Unaccompanied Minor Aliens, whether they have exhausted all legal remedies or not (up to the age of 18 years).</p>
Activities	<p>The report containing the proposals for improvement will be accomplished by joining the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathering information about the current working procedure by means of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visits to co-operating organisations; • diagnosis of processes; • problem analysis; 2. Determining the desired outcome by means of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brainstorm sessions with the relevant co-operating organisations; • identifying current initiatives and possible improvements • seeking links with the Implementation of the Improved Asylum Procedure Programme (<i>Programma invoering verbeterde asielpcedure (PIVA)</i>); the new IND information system (INDiGO); existing security, registration, and identification systems (including PIL (Protocol Identification and Labelling) and BVV (Basic Facilities for Foreign Nationals)); and with other current projects, such as the Ex Ante Implementation Test on biometrics; the study 'Identity fraud in the organisations co-

	<p>operating in the immigration process (<i>indentiteitsfraude in de vreemdelingenketen</i>)' conducted by the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing up the report. <p>3. Organise two conferences whereby all co-operating organisations will be invited. The first conference has the objective of collecting relevant data so as to further design the desired outcome. The second conference, that will be organised 12 months after the first conference, has the objective of providing the findings of the above stated activities to all the co-operating organisations.</p> <p>4. During the course of the research, it will be determined in which way a small-scale practical test (in the form of a pilot project) will contribute to the desired outcome as it is believed that a pilot should not be an end in itself and – given the large investment required for this project – it should make a substantial contribution to the development and quality of the implementation plan. It is expected that a report of the findings can only be delivered if a test has been conducted to understand whether applied systems are compatible (can communicate) with the document (card type) that will be proposed. Part of the pilot is specifically aimed at identification pillars and computer systems of the co-operating organisations.</p>
<p>Results</p>	<p>The project is particularly successful when it provides insight into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibilities of acquiring an identity document/card soon after an asylum seeker registers in the Netherlands. This document should be fraud-insensitive and provide the applicant the possibility to travel freely (during the rest and preparation period) within the Netherlands, to meet with authorized representatives. • Additionally, it should enable enforcement officers/supervisors to quickly check if the person concerned is legally in the Netherlands. With the same card, the applicant should be able to register with the in-house registration system of the reception centre. By activating this system, the reception centre is given a sign to start the planning for further procedures. The applicant should also be able to use this card in the application centre. • Finally, this card should also enable enforcement officers to see that UMA's are legally in the Netherlands until they reach the age of 18 years. Other relevant organisations (labour inspection, schools, municipality) and authorized persons should also be able to see if the UMA concerned is legally at school, in work placement or working.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the basis of these findings a decision will be made regarding the implementation across the asylum process. <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report containing several proposals for improvement which are supported by the co-operating organisations; A pilot project
Duration	1 January 2010 – 30 June 2012
Total budget	€ 1.300.789,19
Contribution from ERF	€ 649.989,19 (being 50% of the costs eligible for subsidy)

3.1.3 Action 2: 'Improve the reception of asylum seekers'

3.1.3.1 Projects under action 2 that will be implemented under the "awarding mode" (direct awarding).

In this annual programme, one project under action 2 has been selected in accordance with the "direct awarding" method..

Title	Children in Reception Centres (<i>Kind in de opvang</i>)
Subsidy applicant(s)	Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA)
Background	<p>In the past, little attention was paid to special facilities for children staying in central accommodation for asylum seekers. A critical report on the situation of children in aliens law by Ms M. Kalverboer was published (partly financed by the Ministry of Justice) in 2008.</p> <p>The Reception Directive of the European Commission has been under revision since 2008. More attention is asked for the reception and specific needs of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Since mid-2008, three studies into the situation of children in reception centres have been conducted on the instruction of COA . One of the studies conducted by Ms Kalverboer, attached to the University of Groningen, contains recommendations from her multiple-year follow-up study; the other study conducted by Ms Kloosterboer (in co-operation with UNICEF NL and Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland); and the third study by Ms S. Manesh, who developed five criteria – protection, quality of life, environment, self-respect, and substantive reception – (in Dutch referred to as the BLOEM-model) to analyse the facilities for children in 22 reception centres.</p>

	<p>These studies produced a large number of recommendations. In May and June of 2009, COA subsequently analysed which ‘quick wins’ could be gained: measures that could be implemented relatively quickly within the existing budgets. The analysis was made on the basis of a questionnaire with 15 questions about the situation at the centre and which measures, from the 15 points raised in the questionnaire, had not been realised and with which support these measures could be realised.</p> <p>From the above studies one of the conclusions that COA drew, which lead to this project, is that improvements in the physical environment of children could be implemented directly and would improve the lives of children in the centres immediately. Concrete activities include the purchase of new playground equipment for children especially in the age group of 6-12 years, the realization of ‘quiet rooms’ where homework can be done. Most likely also indoor games will be purchased. The choice depends on the wishes of the children arising from the baseline study that will be conducted in several locations. This project also aims to increase communication regarding activities for children that take place in the municipalities. The advantage of this, is that children will be able to attend to these activities that strengthen their education, are interesting leisure activities and are an opportunity to further develop their talents. The other recommendations are dealt with outside the scope of this project.</p> <p>Additionally, due to these studies, COA re-examined its policy position regarding children in reception centres and formulated the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child’s parents and/or carers are primarily responsible; • The child’s interest is always included as a consideration in making policy decisions and implementation decisions; • COA is responsible for creating a safe environment; • COA is responsible for creating an environment in which the child can develop. <p>The above policy position will be taken into account in all the activities that COA implements regarding children.</p>
<p>Objective</p>	<p>At the end of this project, COA will have realised more special facilities for children in the reception centres.</p> <p><u>Target group</u> Children of asylum seekers up to the age of 18. It is estimated that approximately 5% of this group is below the age of 5; approximately 15% is between 5 and 12 years of age; and</p>

	<p>approximately 15% is between 12 and 17 years of age. In total, it concerns approximately 5,500 children out of a total population of 21,000 asylum seekers.</p>
Subobjectives	<p>A. Safety, quality of life, substantive facilities; B. Measures for external (co-operating) parties</p>
Activities	<p><u>A – Safety, quality of life, and substantive facilities</u> <i>Activity 1:</i> With regard to the liveability (60) additional pieces of playground equipment (swings and climbing frames) will be installed at the centres for children of primary school age. Furthermore, it will be examined which facilities may be necessary in addition to these equipment for children of secondary school age, for example, a trampoline, a table-tennis table, a large chess set, or additional football goals, basketball poles, and volleyball nets.</p> <p><i>Activity 2:</i> A team of 2 COA employees will give advice to each centre on where and how to equip a quiet room. In this room, the children will have the opportunity to do their homework after school hours, and each room will be equipped with 4 computers (= purchase of 240 computers with Internet connections). COA employees will furthermore give advice on which playground equipment could be purchased best.</p> <p><i>Activity 3:</i> Equipping the quiet rooms.</p> <p><u>B – Measures for external independently operating parties and co-operating parties</u> <i>Activity 4:</i> Measures to encourage co-operation with organisations in the vicinity of each centre. Provide an overview of the socio-professional network and make and/or tighten agreements on information and activities for children provided by external parties. Examples include agreements on information on healthy food, dental care, swimming lessons, and the risks of alcohol and drugs.</p> <p><i>Activity 5:</i> The information on activities inside and outside the centres in which the children may participate will be made available and communicated through the notice boards. If necessary, additional information will be added for the parents.</p>
Results	<p><u>A: Safety, quality of life, and substantive facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing 120 pieces of playground equipment (climbing frames + swings), including EU plaque; • 60 recommendations for centres to realise a suitable area for activities for children and additional playground equipment; • Equipping 60 quiet rooms;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing 240 computers + Internet connections; • Additional playground equipment for children of secondary school age. <p><u>B: Measures for external independently operating and co-operating parties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One single method to prepare an overview of the socio-professional organisations in the neighbourhood of a centre and to encourage them to approach children of asylum seekers; • 60 detailed plans. <p>Overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 client satisfaction survey among children by means of baseline measurements and follow-up measurements.
Duration	1 January 2010 up to and including 31 December 2011
Total budget	€ 2,158.419,85.-
Contribution from ERF	<p>€ 1,618.814,88.- (being 75% of the costs eligible for subsidy)</p> <p>This project aims exclusively at children as a vulnerable group in the reception centre and their special needs and improving their conditions. Therefore, it is a project that is executed under one the specific priorities under priority 1 of the Strategic Guidelines for the period 2008-2013 as described in paragraph 3.1.1 :measures aimed at taking into account the special needs of vulnerable people, in particular, unaccompanied minors, and more specifically measures aimed at improving the definitions and procedures applied by the Member States to identify the more vulnerable asylum seekers and to provide an appropriate response to such needs.</p>

3.1.3.2 Multi-annual projects that were selected in previous annual tranches under Action 2

The multi-annual projects aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Increasing the knowledge and skills of asylum seekers during their stay in the Netherlands, *taking account of the uncertainty of the outcome of the procedure*;
- Making the necessary arrangements for vulnerable groups. The Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of (Council Directive 2003/9/EC) also included that the Member States shall take account of the specific situation of vulnerable persons such as minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence. Consideration could be given to
 - new or follow-up projects aimed at safety, self-help skills, and welfare (such as facilities for the disabled, expression projects for children);

- projects aimed at realising sports activities or other forms of meaningful daytime activities with a view to increase the children's defences and independence and to prevent institutionalisation;
- projects aimed at limiting specific risks (such as drowning and traffic accidents);
- projects aimed at medical and/or psychological care;
- Increasing the quality of stay in a reception centre by taking (innovative) measures, without violating Dutch reception policy.

Indicators:

- 2 projects aimed at vulnerable groups;
- 400 persons who participated in projects for vulnerable groups;
- 1 method/pilot project developed to improve the care provided to asylum seekers with psychological problems;
- 2 qualitative studies, one of the studies includes a description of methodology, for exchanging best practices regarding specific themes;
- 1 literate study
- 2 conferences
- 1 network among policy makers.

Target Groups:

- a) Third country nationals or stateless persons who have the status defined in the Geneva Convention and whom are permitted to stay in one of the Member States as a refugee (*in the Netherlands, these are persons who have a refugee status pursuant to Section 29(1)(a) of the Aliens Act*), and who are still staying in reception facilities awaiting housing elsewhere;
- b) Third country nationals or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2004/83/EC (*in the Netherlands, these are persons who have a refugee status pursuant to Section 29(1)(b) of the Aliens Act*), and who are still staying in reception facilities awaiting housing elsewhere;
- c) Third country nationals or stateless persons who have submitted a request for one of the forms of protection referred to under (a) or (b), and who are staying in reception facilities.

Two multi-annual projects were selected in previous annual tranches under Action 2.

The first multi-annual project relates to a project that was selected in response to the call for proposals for the 2008 annual tranche, namely the 'Reception Expert Teams' project of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA). This project focuses on research, exchange of information and constitution of (European) teams of experts in order to explore solutions for the common European challenges relating reception.

An amount of € 266,672.50 (50%) has been reserved for the second phase of this project, which phase will start on 1 January 2010 and end on 31 December 2011.

The second multi-annual project also relates to a project that was selected in response to the call for proposals for the 2008 annual tranche, namely the 'Care for Asylum seekers with Psychological Problems (*Zorg voor Asielzoekers met Psychische Problemen*)' project of

ASKV/Steunpunt Vluchtelingen. This project focusses on improvement of the health care of asylum-seekers by research, interviews and development of a method.

An amount of € 278,930.75 (75%) as been reserved for the second phase of this project, which phase will start on 1 January 2010 and end on 31 December 2011.

The multi-annual projects that will be receiving funds from the 2010 annual tranche were evaluated at the end of 2009 with positive results. These projects achieved the objectives, they were implemented according to the agreements and renewed agreement has been reached regarding activities in the second phase, and co-financing is guaranteed again.

3.1.4 Action 3: 'Improve the integration of admitted refugees'

3.1.4.1 Multi-annual projects selected in previous annual tranches under Action 3

The multi-annual projects aim to achieve the following objectives:

Intercultural dialogue at the local or community level aimed at sustained contacts by

- reducing the social and cultural gap between refugees and native Dutch people;
- encouraging intercultural dialogue and interaction at the local/community level with refugees, self-help refugee organisations and other refugee organisations;
- methodologies/pilot projects aimed at sustained joint activities for refugees and native Dutch people.

It is preferred that projects in communities are coordinating in nature, in which the local authorities and the social institutions as well as enterprises, residents' organisations, self-help organisations of refugees, and housing associations are involved.

Encourage empowerment and promote emancipation by

- improving the alignment of the needs of – in particular highly skilled - refugees in the areas of employment, education, housing, care, and art and culture on the one hand, and the demands of regular institutions and organisation in these areas on the other hand;
Specific aims:
 - more women and young people are members of the managerial staff of self-help organisations,
 - increased participation of refugees in managements and organisations in community and cultural-based organisations;
 - more refugees find their way to institutions for the provision of care and assistance;
 - increase in participation in education and the labour force among – in particular highly skilled and older – refugees;
 - improved knowledge and expertise of professionals in regular institutions for the treatment of traumas and/or psychosomatic complaints among refugees; and thereby improving the accessibility of these institutions for these groups of refugees;
 - emancipation of refugee men and boys;
 - making homosexuality discussible in refugee circles;

- the prevention of phenomena such as honour-related violence, polarisation, and radicalisation;

Specific aim:

- increase the willingness to report domestic violence, honour-related violence, or sexual violence among refugees;

For the purpose of promoting labour force participation among refugees, it is essential that the sole aim of the projects is preparation for employment. It is not the intention that these projects aim at actually providing employment for refugees. This is to prevent overlap with the European Social Fund.

Indicators

- The network of local self-help organisations with the municipality, local institutions, agencies, and civil society organisations has been expanded and consolidated by at least 10 contacts;
- 18 managerial staffs of in total 7 organisations or umbrella organisations have been trained and coached to initiate changes, aimed at empowerment and active citizenship of refugees, in their environments;
- Within the framework of pilot projects, 5 refugee organisations or umbrella refugee organisations have succeeded in setting up activities and/or projects to enhance empowerment and active citizenship of their fellow refugees and devised plans to ensure the continuation of these activities and/or projects;
- 1 completed campaign to give publicity to the Change Makers model of Refugee Organisations in the Netherlands (VON), and the pilot projects set up with the refugee organisations within the framework of the project, and to create support for Change Makers activities. The campaign includes the following:
 - 1 working website collecting all information about the ‘Change Makers’ concept and making this information available;
 - 1 (visual) national/international network of people who endorse the Change Makers concept and who may inspire and support refugees in active social participation;
- 18,000 persons are familiar with the Change Makers concept;
- A steering group of managers of participating refugee organisations has been established;
- 150 persons have been directly involved in developing the methodology through activities in pilot projects, through the (visual) national/international network, and/or through the steering group;
- 1 methodology has been developed that can be published.

Target groups:

- a) Third country nationals or stateless persons who have the status defined in the Geneva Convention and whom are permitted to stay in one of the Member States as a refugee (*in the Netherlands, these are persons who have a refugee status pursuant to Section 29(1)(a) of the Aliens Act*);

- b) Third country nationals or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2004/83/EC (*in the Netherlands, these are persons who have a refugee status pursuant to Section 29(1)(b) of the Aliens Act*).

One multi-annual project was selected in previous annual tranches under Action 3. This multi-annual project relates to a project that was selected in response to the call for proposals for the 2008 annual tranche, namely the 'Change Makers' project of Refugee Organisations in the Netherlands (VON). This project aims to develop a method to inspire and motivate refugees or refugee-organisations to start up changes in their near social environment.

An amount of € 166,115.57 (50%) has been reserved for the second phase of this project, which will start on 1 January 2010 and end on 1 May 2011.

The multi-annual project that will be receiving funds from the 2010 annual tranche was evaluated at the end of 2009 with positive results. The project achieved the objectives, was implemented according to the agreements and renewed agreement has been reached regarding activities in the second phase, and co-financing is guaranteed again.

3.2 Actions for the implementation of priority 3: 'Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries'

3.2.1 Action 4: 'Improve the resettlement programme'

3.2.1.1 Multi-annual projects selected in response to the previous annual tranches

The activities relate to resettled refugees as referred to in Article 3 (d) of the Council Decision ERF III. The multi-annual project selected aims at realising the following objective:

- social integration and social participation of resettled refugees, particularly aimed at language acquisition, preparation for education, the labour force, and care and assistance programmes, meetings with Dutch people, and networking.

Indicators:

- Improvement in social integration and social participation;
- 1 methodology developed for more highly educated resettled refugees;
- 80 more highly educated resettled refugees identified as such;
- 4 information meetings for resettled refugees about study/work in the Netherlands;
- 60 intake interviews with more highly educated resettled refugees,
- 40 intensive preparatory programmes (language courses and/or preparatory years) with more highly educated refugees;
- 25 more highly educated refugees who can enrol appropriate educational programmes.

Target Groups:

The measures within the framework of Action 4 relate to Article 6(e) of the Council Decision ERF III: 'Third country nationals or stateless persons who will be or were resettled in a Member State.' The residence status of these persons is consistent with the provisions of Article 3(d) of the Council Decision ERF III:

- a. a refugee status within the meaning of Article 2(d) of the Council Directive 2004/83/EC;
- b. a status granting the same rights and benefits pursuant to national and Community law as the refugee status.

It is self-evident that the Netherlands only resettles persons at the request of the UNHCR (Article 3(d)).

One multi-annual project was selected under Action 4. The project was selected in response to the call for proposals for the 2008 annual tranche, namely the 'Resettlement of more highly qualified refugees (*Hervestiging van hoger opgeleide vluchtelingen*)' project of the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF). This project aims to develop a new method for the integration of more highly educated/qualified refugees in the Netherlands. An amount of € 184,587.50 (50%) has been reserved for the second phase of this project, which phase will start on 1 January 2010 and end on 30 December 2011.

The multi-annual project that will be receiving funds from the 2010 annual tranche was evaluated at the end of 2009 with positive results. The project achieved the objectives, was implemented according to the agreements and renewed agreement has been reached regarding activities in the second phase, and co-financing is guaranteed again.

3.4 Visibility of Community financing for actions 1 up to and including 4

Both the Responsible Authority and the project organisations are obliged to include a statement and the EU logo in all communication expressions concerning the programme to the fact that the actions have been made possible by co-financing from the ERF. In addition, the ERF statement (*Ruimte voor innovatieve projecten*) must be included. The project organisations will inform the participants in the projects of the ERF co-financing the project. The obligations of the project organisations regarding the communication about the fund will be included in the grant decision, either directly or by reference to the conditions in the Implementation Framework. The programme secretariat will furthermore communicate this obligation actively to the project applicants with reference to information in progress reports and final reports. The programme secretariat will monitor this obligation during visits to the project managers.

3.5 Complementarity with similar actions financed by other Community instruments for actions 1 up to and including 4

The actions correspond to and are complementary to relevant policy and legislation at national and Community level. The Responsible Authority and the strategic partners guarantee this agreement and complementarity on an ongoing basis and together they have the required knowledge to perform this duty.

The target group of this Fund has been described precisely in the ERF III Multi-annual Programme and has been separated from the group referred to in the European Integration Fund (EIF). The Responsible Authority of the ERF and other departments with insight in other relevant Community funds at the national, municipal or regional level are represented in the Steering Group, which also has the duty to ensure the separation and complementarity between the ERF and other Community funds.

In addition, the Responsible Authority is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the policy on asylum procedures, reception, and resettlement in the Netherlands and guarantees that this strategy is tested against this policy. Structural consultations with strategic partners in the field are an additional safeguard of consistency with policy and legislation at the level of implementation.

The available funds will, in particular, be used for innovative and/or supplementary activities of the competent authorities and organisations in the field. In all cases, the activities for which ERF funds are used must be in line with the Multi-annual Programme and the Annual Programme. Any further particulars in the area of complementarity are specified below by action, where applicable.

Action 1: Improve the asylum procedure

- The projects should be consistent with the changes in the asylum procedure as announced in the letter to the Lower House of Parliament of 24 June 2008.
- Activities that are not performed by the agencies officially charged with these activities should be performed in co-operation with or after liaising with these agencies.
- Activities and measures must have added value for the asylum procedure. More specifically, measures to promote a quick and careful asylum procedure, the continuing harmonisation in the area of asylum, and practical co-operation with other Member States are in line with the ERF.

Action 2: Improve the reception of asylum seekers

- The projects should be consistent with the Directive of the Council laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers and the *Regeling verstrekkingen asielzoekers en andere categorieën vreemdelingen* (Rva).
- The projects should be performed in co-operation with the Central Organisation for the reception of asylum seekers (COA).

Action 3: Improve the integration of refugees

- In encouraging labour force participation among refugees it is important to take account of the fact that projects may only be aimed at preparing refugees for employment. It is not the intention that projects aim at actually providing employment for refugees. This is to prevent an overlap with the European Social Fund.
- Project proposals should be consistent with the migration policy pursued. Projects that receive subsidies from the ERF may apply for remaining financing from, for instance, the existing subsidy schemes Room for Contact (*Ruimte voor Contact*) and the Incentive scheme to promote initiative from third parties in respect of the integration of ethnic groups (*Stimuleringsregeling Initiatieven van derden inzake integratie etnische groepen*). Any expenses subsidised by the Integration Department cannot be included in an application for a subsidy to the ERF.

Action 4: Improve the resettlement programme

- Activities that are not performed by the agencies officially charged with these activities should be performed in co-operation with or after liaising with these agencies, with the exception of integration activities performed after the resettled refugees have been placed in the municipalities.

3.6 Financial information

See chapter 6.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Purpose of technical assistance

In the Netherlands, the four migration funds are managed by the European Funds Programme Secretariat (PEF), which operates as a delegated authority. The PEF has a staff establishment of in total 4.8 FTE. The technical assistance for the four funds is merged. The expenditure for managing the funds – including the salaries of the staff members of the PEF, external evaluations, costs of the audit authority, costs of the certification authority, costs for organising an information meeting as prescribed in Article 33(2)(a) of the ERF III Implementation Decision, costs for publicity and dissemination, travelling costs in connection with visits to projects, participation in the SOLID Committee and the ERF Committee, and the informal consultations on funds management of the Netherlands with seven other Member States – are incurred by the PEF. Insofar as those costs solely relate to one fund, they must be allocated to the technical assistance available to that fund. Any costs that do not solely relate to one fund are allocated to the technical assistance of all funds according to a formula. This formula is based on the available funds for the relevant year and the relevant funds.

A multi-annual budget has been drawn up for the deployment of technical assistance, so that account can also be taken of the reduction in the percentage of technical assistance as of 2011. The multi-annual budget also allows for an expansion of the PEF due to the expected increase in work load and a reservation has been made for unforeseen expenditure and the possibility of a reduction in the available funds as a result of the distribution of funds across the Member States.

4.2 Expected results in figures

The most important cost item for technical assistance in 2010 is formed by the salaries of the staff members of PEF. Other quantifiable cost items are the travel and accommodation expenses in connection with project visits (approximately 60), information meetings (approximately 2), the SOLID Committee (approximately 3), the ERF Committee (approximately 2), and informal consultations (approximately 6): the numbers mentioned apply to the four migration funds together. The PEF is usually represented by two staff members. Finally, account must be taken of the costs to be incurred for opening the calls (e.g. advertising costs).

4.3 Visibility of Community financing

The websites of the four migration funds include a statement about Community financing and the European flag is also shown. The European flag is also printed on forms and such like. In information material mention is made of the Community financing and the European flag is printed on promotional material. During information meetings, too, attention is paid to the Community nature of the funds.

5. OTHER ACTIONS

For 2010, the Netherlands has claimed a fixed amount for the resettlement of persons from the designated specific categories within the calendar year 2010:

- Persons from a country or region covered by a Regional Protection Programme: 10
- Unaccompanied Minors: 5
- Women and children at risk: 100
- Persons with medical needs who can only be treated through resettlement: 50

In total, the fixed amount is € 660,000.-.

The Netherlands intends to send resettlement missions in 2010 to the following countries: Nepal, Syria, East Sudan, Thailand, and the ETC in Romania. Refugees are selected during the missions on the recommendation of the UNHCR. Approximately one fifth of the quatum of – on average – 500 refugees is admitted on a file-based selection procedure with the UNHCR providing information. The most important conditions for resettling refugees is that they have been recognised as refugees by the UNHCR, and that admission is possible pursuant the Dutch Aliens Act 2000. Assessment is made by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. The IOM is responsible for the actual transfer to the Netherlands. To date, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers has been responsible for the initial reception in the Netherlands and the resettled refugees are subsequently transferred to municipalities as soon as possible.

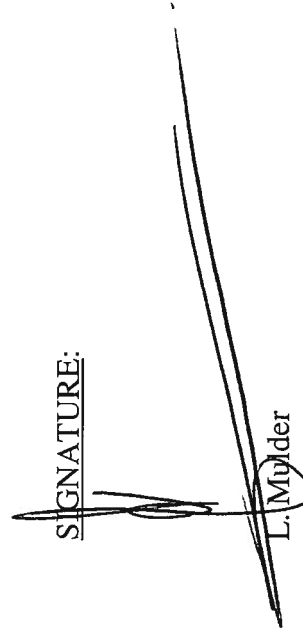
As a result of the municipal mandates, the resettled refugees (and also the other holders of residence permits) are always housed spread throughout the Netherlands. In the municipalities, the resettled refugees participate in the regular civic integration programmes

Since 2007, the Delta Plan for Civic Integration has been effective. This plan aims primarily at improving the quality of civic integration and at simplifying the relevant legislation. A municipality is not obliged to offer a personal programme to each refugee that has been admitted. There are furthermore various projects of the government or NGOs – sometimes specifically aimed at refugees (resttled or otherwise) – which are aimed at improving the educational and labour market position of persons of foreign heritage.

6. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan										
Table 1 – Overview table										
The Netherlands										
Annual programme 2010										
European Refugee Fund										
(all figures in euro)	Ref. priority	Ref. Specific priority	Community Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d = a+b+c)	% EC (e = a/d)	(part of total) (d/total d)		
Action 1: [IND in JP]	1		€ 670.000,00	€ 670.000,00		€ 1.340.000,00	50,00%	21,17%		
Action 2: [COA in JP en ASKV]	1	1	€ 2.025.000,00	€ 520.000,00	€ 155.000,00	€ 2.700.000,00	75,00%	42,65%		
Action 2: [COA meerjarig]	1		€ 276.000,00	€ 276.000,00		€ 552.000,00	50,00%	8,72%		
Action 3: [VON]	1		€ 175.500,00	€ 240.000,00		€ 415.500,00	42,24%	6,56%		
Action 4: [UAF]	3		€ 190.087,36		€ 190.087,36	€ 380.174,72	50,00%	6,00%		
Technical assistance			€ 283.399,05			€ 283.399,05	100,00%	4,48%		
Other actions (resettlement)			€ 660.000,00			€ 660.000,00		10,42%		
TOTAL			€ 4.279.986,41	€ 1.706.000,00	€ 345.087,36	€ 6.331.073,77		100,00%		

SIGNATURE:



L. Mylder

Director for Migration Policy

Responsible Authority for the European Refugee Fund