



EUROPESE COMMISSIE

SECRETARIAAT GENERAAL

ONTVANGEN 7 - OKT 2009

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Brussel, 7.10.2009
SG-Greffe(2009) D/ 6244

PERMANENTE
VERTEGENWOORDIGING VAN
NEDERLAND BIJ DE EUROPESE
UNIE

Hermann-Debrouxlaan, 48
1160 BRUSSEL

**Betreft: KENNISGEVING OVEREENKOMSTIG ARTIKEL 254 VAN HET EG-
VERDRAG**

Het Secretariaat-generaal doet U hierbij, voor doorzending aan zijne
Excellentie de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, bijgaande Beschikking van de
Commissie toekomen.

Voor de Secretaris-generaal

Karl VON KEMPIS

Bij : C(2009)7640

NL



COMMISSIE VAN DE EUROPESE GEMEENSCHAPPEN

Brussel, 7.10.2009
C(2009)7640

BESCHIKKING VAN DE COMMISSIE

van 7.10.2009

**waarbij in het kader van het Europees Vluchtelingenfonds het herziene jaarprogramma
2008 voor Nederland wordt goedgekeurd**

(Slechts de tekst in de Nederlandse taal is authentiek)

BESCHIKKING VAN DE COMMISSIE

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DE COMMISSIE VAN DE EUROPESE GEMEENSCHAPPEN,

Gelet op het Verdrag tot oprichting van de Europese Gemeenschap,

Gelet op Beschikking nr. 573/2007/EG van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 23 mei 2007 tot instelling van het Europees Vluchtelingenfonds voor de periode 2008–2013 als onderdeel van het algemeen programma "Solidariteit en beheer van de migratiestromen"¹, en met name op artikel 20, lid 5,

Gelet op Beschikking 2008/22/EG van de Commissie van 19 december 2007 tot vaststelling van regels voor de uitvoering van Beschikking nr. 573/2007/EG², en met name op artikel 23, lid 1,

Overwegende hetgeen volgt:

- (1) Op 16 december 2008 heeft de Commissie in het kader van het Europees Vluchtelingenfonds het meerjarenprogramma 2008-2013, het jaarprogramma 2008 en de medefinanciering voor 2008 voor Nederland goedgekeurd³;
- (2) Op basis van de resultaten van de oproepen tot het indienen van voorstellen om het jaarprogramma 2008 uit te voeren, heeft Nederland op 20 juli 2009 bij de Commissie een herzien ontwerp-jaarprogramma voor 2008 ingediend, dat wijzigingen van de financiële verdeling bevat die meer bedragen dan 10% van de totale bijdrage uit het fonds aan Nederland voor 2008;
- (3) Het herziene programma bevat de in artikel 20, lid 3, van Beschikking nr. 573/2007/EG voorgeschreven elementen en is in overeenstemming met het meerjarenprogramma,

¹ PB L 144 van 6.6.2007, blz. 1.

² PB L 7 van 10.1.2008, blz. 1.

³ Besluit C(2008) 8351 van de Commissie van 16.12.2008.

HEEFT DE VOLGENDE BESCHIKKING GEGEVEN:

Artikel 1

Bijlage 2 bij Beschikking C (2008)8351 van de Commissie wordt vervangen door de bijlage bij deze beschikking.

Artikel 2

Deze beschikking is gericht tot het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden.

Gedaan te Brussel, op 7.10.2009.

Voor de Commissie
Jacques BARROT
Vice-voorzitter van de Commissie



BIJLAGE

Herzien jaarprogramma 2008 van Nederland

ANNEX

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

MEMBER STATE: Netherlands
FUND: European Refugee Fund
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Director of the Department of Aliens Policy of the Ministry of Justice
YEAR COVERED: 2008

This annual programme deals with the issues below in the following order:

- a) *asylum procedures,*
- b) *reception of asylum seekers,*
- c) *the integration of refugees with refugee status pursuant to the Asylum Agreement and persons enjoying protection within the meaning of Directive 2004/83/EC,*
- d) *resettled refugees (including the integration and reception thereof).*

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

Two implementation methods are being applied for the European Refugee Fund. Explanations of the implementation method selected for each action are given in Chapter 3.

A. Selection of projects under a public call for proposals.

1. Every year a call for subsidy proposals will be made. This will be published in the State Gazette. The call will also be notified by post and e-mail to various organisations which have registered their interest, or who are known to be potentially interested. The publication of the call for proposals will refer to the website of the ERF on the Ministry of Justice's external website (www.justitie.nl/europesemigratiefondsen). The European Funds Programme Secretariat will publish all information about the 2008 tender on this site (including the annual programme, the ERF's implementation framework, the project scoring), and will also allow the forms to be downloaded.
2. Projects will be selected on the basis of a points system. The points formula will be made known when the call for proposals is published. Projects will be assessed on a case-by-case basis according to the following criteria:
 - contents (does the project fit in with national and Community policy, the ERF multiannual programme 2008-2013, the 2008 annual programme?),
 - the idea's chance of success (clarity of objectives, realism of planning, project organisation quality, collaborating associations and the presence of a detailed risk strategy),
 - innovation,
 - sustainability,
 - the extent to which the project results are disseminated,
 - target group's (asylum seekers/refugees) involvement in the organisation,
 - cost effectiveness,
 - the organisation's experience in the successful implementation of subsidised projects.
3. The ERF steering group advises the responsible authority on the selection of project proposals. The steering group consists of representatives of the Aliens Policy Department and the European and International Affairs Office at the Ministry of Justice, the Citizenship and Integration Office of the Ministry of Housing, Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of

Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of National Health, Fitness and Sport, and the Foreign Ministry. The responsible authority will make the final decision on the selection of project proposals.

- 4 Projects which come under the specific priorities as described in Chapter Three will be considered for a maximum of 75% of the ERF. The Responsible Authority has the power to decide whether such projects might be considered for a higher ERF contribution level on a case-by-case basis. When considering whether a project may be eligible for a higher contribution, the responsible authority takes the following factors into account:
 - a) innovation and added value of the project in comparison with existing national policy
 - b) the suitability of the project or its outcome as a model or best practice in other countries, particularly within the EU.

A general factor in the considerations by the responsible authority for more than 50% cofinancing from the Fund, which is partly distinct from the individual qualities of an application for a subsidy, is the relationship between the number and the quality of total annual subsidy requests. Any increase in contributions from the EC, however, means less spread of the available funds for the year.

If an applicant submitting an application coming under one of the specific priorities wishes to be considered for a higher ERF contribution percentage, this should expressly be stated in the application, with more detailed explanation of whether the project satisfies more than one of these factors. The project organisation should also state how the implementation and the results of the project would be affected if the responsible authority decides not to allocate more than the 50% ERF subsidy.

B. Selection of projects where the responsible authority is the implementing body (method two)

As was described in the multiannual programme 2008-2013, a *de jure* a monopoly situation as regards the ERF exists only with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) and the Central Asylum Seekers Reception Authority (COA) as regards the implementation of asylum procedures and the reception of asylum seekers. For this reason, the Programme Secretariat has therefore asked these organisations, on behalf of the responsible authority, to deliver project concepts for the 2008 programme year. This call for interest resulted in a project proposal entitled "Promoting customer-friendliness, service provision and information provision for asylum seekers in the asylum procedure" and has been incorporated by the IND in the annual programme for 2008. The ERF steering group approved the project's incorporation into the annual programme.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEM (if applicable)

Not applicable.

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

3.1. Actions implementing priority 1: "Application of the principles and measures formulated in the *acquis communautaire* in the field of asylum, including those that affect the aims of integration"

Action 1. Improving the asylum procedures

The following measures in particular can contribute towards improving the asylum procedure in the Netherlands:

- measures to improve the provision of services aimed at asylum seekers,
- measures aimed at facilitating the asylum procedures, or parts thereof, enabling them to proceed quickly and with due care; in this particular area, consideration can be given to measures in the proposals previously submitted on improving and speeding up the asylum process,
- measures aimed at the uniform interpretation and adaptation of European legislative instruments.

The following measures can also contribute towards improving the asylum procedure in the Netherlands:

- measures to enhance the capacity for gathering, analysing and distributing asylum procedure statistics,
- measures to increase the capacity for assessing asylum applications, including appeals.

The Netherlands is taking on the specific priorities from the Strategic Guidelines for the period 2008-2013. This involves considering whether projects tailored towards the following specific priorities are eligible for a maximum 75% ERF contribution:

- measures to take into account the special needs of vulnerable persons, particularly unaccompanied minors, and in particular measures to improve the definitions and procedures of Member States for recognising vulnerable asylum seekers and to adequately anticipate their needs;
- measures to improve recognition of persons requiring international protection and/or the processing of their application at the border, particularly through the development of specific policy programmes.

Indicators:

- 2 brochures and supplementary material about the new asylum procedure have been designed in the 10 major languages and in Dutch,
- 2 information films to be used during asylum procedures,
- 1 recommendation for the use of videoconferencing in the asylum procedure,
- 500 employees of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) who deal with asylum matters trained in service provision and customer orientation,
- A 20 percent improvement in asylum seekers' satisfaction with the service provided by the IND, to be assessed by a performance assessment,
- 1 measure implemented to reduce the average asylum processing time,
- 1 methodology developed aimed at the uniform application of legislation and regulations in individual asylum cases and in the extension thereof; 1 method aimed at the exchange of information and experience among asylum workers,
- 1 method or project enhancing the capacity for gathering asylum procedure statistics,
- 1 measure to take into account the special needs of vulnerable persons, particularly unaccompanied minors, and in particular to improve the definitions and procedures of Member States for recognising vulnerable asylum seekers and to adequately anticipate their needs;
- 1 measure to improve the recognition of persons requiring international protection and/or processing their application at the border, particularly through the development of specific policy programmes.

The above measures will be selected via a public call for proposals. The following project was selected using the “Responsible Authority as implementing body” method:

Heading	Promoting customer-friendliness, service provision and the provision of information for asylum seekers in the asylum procedure.
Organisation	Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
Background	Arose from “IND In Time”, the IND’s renewal programme to enable it to function in a more suitable, efficient and customer-oriented way.
Purpose	To increase customer-friendliness, service provision and the provision of information for asylum seekers in the asylum procedure.
Subordinate aims	To speed up asylum processing times.
Target group	Article 6(c) of Council Resolution ERF III: “Citizens of third countries and stateless persons who have submitted an application for one of the forms of protection described in points a) and b).
Activities	<p>To promote customer-friendliness, service provision and the provision of information for asylum seekers in the asylum procedure, the IND will carry out the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Renewing information material on asylum procedures</u> In accordance with Article 10(1) of the European Procedure Directive (2005/83/EC), an asylum seeker should be informed of his rights and obligations in the course of the asylum procedure. Because the asylum procedure in the Netherlands is undergoing adjustment it will be necessary to entirely review existing brochures and fact sheets and have them translated again. <u>Procedures for informational films about the asylum procedure</u> Specially designed for people who are unable to read, or who do not have a good knowledge of the languages used, a film is being produced to explain the asylum procedure without using language. Following this, a film will be made for the Ter Apel reception centre on the provisions in the area of operational support (e.g. “what to do in case of fire”). This initiative is the result of a visit of the Nederlands Algemene Inspectie to the Reporting Centre in Ter Apel, which found that more should be done to inform asylum seekers on the site. <u>Videoconferencing Pilot</u> Getting together all actors (asylum seekers, officials, translators, caseworkers) at a particular stage of the asylum procedure in one place at the same time is often not easy. It results in delays in the procedures, and the various actors have to travel to one particular place. For this reason the IND will investigate whether a videoconferencing system could simplify communication, and how. <u>Training in service provision and customer orientation</u> To give IND employees further guidance in service provision and customer orientation towards asylum seekers, this question will be considered during unit consultations. This will be done by showing a special information film. An external partner will provide further training and facilitation.
Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two brochures and supplementary material about the new asylum procedure have been designed in the 10 major languages and in Dutch; Two information films to be used in asylum procedures; A recommendation for the use of videoconferencing during the asylum procedure, 500 IND employees dealing with asylum matters have been trained in

	service provision and customer orientation,
Duration	April 2008 – June 2010
Budget	approximately EUR 475 000
ERF contribution	50% of subsidisable costs

As IND is *de jure* responsible for conducting the asylum procedure, it was decided to include the above project in the annual programme.

Expected recipients

The action 1 measures are based on:

- Article 6(c) of Council Decision ERF III: “Citizens of third countries and stateless persons who have submitted an application for one of the forms of protection described in points a) and b).”

Action 2. Improving asylum seeker reception

- measures aimed at widening the knowledge and skills of asylum seekers during their stay in the Netherlands, taking into account the uncertainty of the outcome of the procedure,
- measures aimed at introducing software packages in the reception centre Open Learning Centres (OLCs) with the aim of improving and/or establishing links between the asylum seeker and his country of origin, helping them to keep updated about the situation in their country of origin,
- measures aimed at broadening local public support for the reception of asylum seekers,
- measures aiming to provide for vulnerable groups. The Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in Member States (Directive 2003/9/EC of the Council) stipulates that Member States should take into account 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.
 - (follow-up) projects aimed at safety, self-reliance and welfare (such as provision for the disabled, expression projects for children),
 - projects aimed at providing sports activities or other pastimes: with the aim of countering hospitalisation and improving the morale and independence of children,
 - projects aimed at limiting specific risks (e.g. drowning and road accidents),
 - projects aimed at providing medical and/or psychological care.
- other innovative projects that could contribute to the quality of life in reception, without contradicting Dutch reception policy.

Indicators:

- 3 developed training routes aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of asylum seekers during their stay in the Netherlands,
- 150 persons who have participated in knowledge and skills development projects,
- 100 persons successfully completing educational courses,
- 1 software package developed,
- 2500 persons using the software packages,
- 5 information events about reception centres/asylum seekers for local communities,
- a 20% improvement in local public support for the reception of asylum seekers, to be assessed by performance measurements,
- 4 projects regarding vulnerable groups,

- 400 persons participating in projects on vulnerable groups,
- a 20% improvement in the safety, self-reliance and welfare of asylum seekers, to be assessed by performance measurements,
- a 20% improvement in the medical and/or mental welfare of asylum seekers, to be assessed by performance measurements,
- a 20% improvement in the provision of daytime activities for asylum seekers, to be assessed by performance measurements.

Expected beneficiaries of action 2:

- a) citizens of third countries or stateless persons who have the status of refugees under the Geneva Convention, and who have been permitted to remain in one of the Member States (in the Netherlands they are people with refugee status based on Article 29(1)(a) of the Aliens Law), and who are still at reception centres waiting to be housed elsewhere,
- b) citizens of third countries or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2004/83/EC (in the Netherlands they are persons with refugee status based on Article 29(1)(b) of the Aliens Law), and who are still at reception centres waiting to be housed elsewhere,
- c) citizens of third countries or stateless persons residing in reception facilities who have submitted an application for one of the forms of protection described in points a) and b).

Action 3: Improving integration

The following 3 measures will be implemented within the scope of the European Refugee Fund:

- 1a Participation as a tool for citizenship
- 1b Intercultural dialogue at local or regional level aimed at establishing lasting contacts
- 1c Stimulating empowerment and promoting emancipation so that refugees are able to make better use of job, education, housing and welfare opportunities.

The situation in the Netherlands is that projects coming under these sub-priorities are given priority if the drafting and implementation of the plans addresses collaboration between organisations supporting the interests of refugees, refugee organisations and regular authorities (such as the municipalities, CWI [Centres for Work and Income], Mental Health Care [GGZ], Youth Care, etc.

Measure 1a: Participation as a tool for citizenship

- measures aimed at developing more and improved dual citizenship programmes for refugees; increasing the chances of passing citizenship examinations and improving the output of citizenship programmes, with special emphasis on women and young people.
- developing more and improved *language coaches*¹ specifically for refugees, based where possible on “good practice” and making use of existing material relating to language coaches.

Indicators:

- 1 citizenship programme designed and tested and/or implemented pilot project, and a 20% increase in their effectiveness,
- 1 language coach programme designed and tested and/or implemented pilot project, and a 20% increase in their effectiveness,

¹ These programmes involve a language coach supporting a citizenship tutor by teaching practical Dutch language through, amongst others, joint involvement in activities in sports or culture, for instance.

Measure 1b: Intercultural dialogue at local or district level with the aim of establishing lasting contacts

- measures to reduce social and cultural gaps between refugees and natives,
- measures to encourage intercultural dialogue and interaction at local/municipal level with the involvement of refugee organisations,
- measures to provide methods and/or pilot projects to provide lasting joint activities between refugees and locals.

Preference will be given to actions encompassing several districts, involving both local government and social establishments such as businesses, residential organisations, refugee self-help organisations and housing associations.

Indicators:

- 1 project designed and tested and/or implemented with the aim of promoting contacts between refugees and the Dutch community; and a 20% improvement and intensification of these contacts,
- 5 meetings at local/municipal level between locals and refugees and refugee organisations,
- 1 developed and tested method and/or pilot projects to provide lasting joint activities between refugees and locals.

Measure 1c: Stimulating empowerment and promoting emancipation

- measures to improve the involvement of refugees with higher education in employment, education, housing, care, art and culture on the one hand, and the offer of regular occasions and events in these fields on the other.
- measures to prevent phenomena such as domestic violence, polarisation and radicalisation.

Specific aims:

- self-help organisations should have a larger proportion of female and young staff,
- greater participation by refugees in the management and running of the social and cultural milieu,
- increasing the willingness of refugees to report domestic, marital and sexual violence,
- more knowledge among refugees on how to find care and support authorities,
- increased participation in education and the jobs market among refugees, particularly older and more educated refugees,
- improved knowledge and expertise among professionals at regular institutions of the treatment of trauma and/or psychosomatic problems among refugees, coupled with an improvement of accessibility of such institutions by refugee groups,
- emancipation of male adult and youth refugees,
- raising the taboo on discussing homosexuality in refugee circles.

Indicators:

- 1 methodology developed aiming to increase the number of female and young refugees on the staff of self-help organisations,
- 1 developed method and/or pilot project aiming to involve refugees in the management of organisations,
- 1 developed programme and/or pilot project to promote knowledge among the professional levels of care and support organisations, particularly to increase the protection and personal development of potential victims of domestic, marital and sexual violence,

- 1 developed programme and/or pilot project to improve the guidance of female and young refugees towards care and support organisations,
- 1 programme aimed at developing the talents of older and more educated refugees, and putting them on courses for education and work opportunities,
- 1 method and/or pilot project aimed at the emancipation of male refugees,
- 1 developed method and/or pilot project to raise taboos on discussing homosexuality in refugee circles,

Expected beneficiaries of action 3:

- a) citizens of third countries or stateless persons who have the status of refugees under the Geneva Convention, and who have been permitted to remain in one of the Member States (in the Netherlands they are people with refugee status based on Article 29(1)(a) of the Law on Aliens),
- b) citizens of third countries or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection within the meaning of Directive 2004/83/EC (in the Netherlands they are people with refugee status based on Article 29(1)(b) of the Law on Aliens),
- c) citizens of third countries and stateless persons who have submitted an application for one of the forms of protection described in points a) and b).

3.2. Actions implementing priority 2: “Development of reference tools and evaluation methods to test and improve the quality of procedures for dealing with international claims for asylum, and to strengthen the administrative structures in order to incorporate the results of more intensive practical collaboration with other Member States”

Action 4: Development of reference tools and evaluation methods and strengthening administrative structures

The following measures in particular can contribute towards action 4:

- measures aimed towards the joint gathering and sharing of information with other Member States, about countries of origin, for example,
- measures to facilitate more intensive practical collaboration with other Member States.

The following measures can also contribute towards action 4:

- measures to develop instruments for improving the quality of the asylum application claims processing procedure,
- measures aimed at investigating the quality of asylum systems in the European Union Member States.

Indicators:

- 1 measure aimed at the joint gathering and sharing of information, for instance, about countries of origin and the extent to which international information collection about countries of origin is increasing,
- 1 method aimed at facilitating practical collaboration with other Member States and the extent to which practical collaboration is increasing,
- 1 measure to develop instruments for improving the quality of the asylum procedure, and the extent to which these instruments are effective,
- 1 qualitative investigation of the asylum systems in the EU Member States and the number of “best practices” formulated.

Projects which are aimed at the following specific priority are eligible for an ERF contribution of up to 75%:

- 1 measure to enhance the capacity of national asylum services for collaboration with those in other Member States, in particular regarding the collation, analysis and evaluation of information about countries of origin for the purpose of exchanging it with other Member States

Expected beneficiaries of action 4:

The measures set out in Action 1 are based on Article 6(c) of Council Decision ERF III: "Citizens of third countries and stateless persons who have submitted an application for one of the forms of protection described in points a) and b)."

3.3. Actions implementing priority 3: "Measures leading to greater shared responsibility among Member States and third countries"

Action 5: Improving the resettlement programme

The following measure has the highest priority within this action:

- measures for social integration and social involvement of invited refugees, particularly aimed at developing language skills, guidance in the education and jobs market, towards care and support provision, meeting local people and the formation of networks.

The following measures in particular can further contribute towards action 5:

- projects to improve or intensify the information provided to invited refugees, both in the Netherlands and in refugee camps,
- projects aimed at supporting traumatised refugees and the development of programmes to raise awareness among professionals at regular support and care organisations.

The following measures have been continuously considered and can contribute towards action 5:

- (innovative) projects to improve the reception of invited refugees,
- (innovative) projects to improve the resettlement programme and its implementation within the scope of policy and current policy.

Indicators:

- 100 invited refugees participating in social integration and public participation projects, improvement of social integration and public participation,
- 50 invited refugees taking part on courses preparing them for arrival in the Netherlands, or gathering information themselves,
- 60 invited refugees participating in projects aimed at assisting traumatised refugees and a 20% improvement in their well-being, to be assessed on the basis of a performance measurement,
- 1 programme to promote expertise among professionals in regular support and care establishments, and an improvement in their expertise by 20%, to be determined by performance measurement,
- 1 innovative project to improve the settlement programme,
- 60 invited refugees involved in programmes to improve their reception,
- 5 measures to improve the conformity of reception with the requirements of invited refugees.

Activities that are not carried out by the agencies formally assigned to do so should be implemented in cooperation with or after consultation with those services. This does not affect integration activities following placement in the communities from the asylum camp in Amersfoort.

Expected beneficiaries of action 5:

The measures set out in Action 1 are based on Article 6(e) of Council Decision ERF III: "subjects of third countries or stateless persons who are or have been re-settled in a Member State."

3.4. Visibility of community funding for Actions 1-5

All communications relating to the programme include a statement regarding ERF cofinancing together with an EU logo, both by the responsible authority and the project organisations. The ERF's slogan ("Room for innovative projects") is also displayed. Project organisations have to inform participants in the project about ERF cofunding of the project. The project organisations' obligations relating to communication about the fund must be included in the approval notice. The secretariat of the programme will actively communicate this obligation to those submitting projects when receiving progress and final reports. Project managers will be reminded of this obligation during visits by the programme secretariat.

3.5. Complementarity with analogous actions funded by other Community instruments for Actions 1-5

The actions conform with and are complementary to the relevant policy, legislation and regulation at national and Community level. The Responsible Authority and the strategic partners will continuously guarantee this conformity and complementarity. Together they have the knowledge needed to fulfil this function.

The Fund's target group has been precisely described in the ERF III multi-annual programme, and demarcated from that of the European Integration Fund (EIF). The responsible levels of the ERF and other departments sit on the Steering Group, whose functions include ensuring delineation and complementarity between the ERF and other Community funds on a national, community and regional level. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice who are affected by the ERF also sit on the policy commission and the National Thematic Network of Equal.

The Responsible Authority also has the main responsibility for developing and implementing policy relating to asylum procedures, reception and resettlement in the Netherlands, and guarantees that the strategy will be tested against this. Structural consultation with strategic partners in the field ensures close compliance with policy and regulation at implementation level.

The available funds should go specifically towards 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 should fit into the Multi-annual Programme and the Annual Programme. If applicable, further details relating to complementarity will be reported for each Action.

Action 1. Improving the asylum procedure

- The projects should be incorporated into the planned changes in the asylum procedure within the scope of the coalition agreement.
- Activities that are not carried out by the agencies formally assigned to do so should be implemented in cooperation with or after consultation with those services.

- Activities and measures should add value to the asylum procedure. Particularly relevant to the ERF are measures to promote a fast and careful asylum procedure, enhancing harmonisation in asylum, and practical collaboration with other Member States.

Action 3: Improving integration

- Project proposals should fit in with current integration policy. Projects receiving ERF grants may be eligible for supplementary third-party grants under the existing third-party Ruimte voor Contact and the Stimuleringsregling Initiatieven subsidy regulations for the integration of ethnic groups. The costs subsidised by the Directie Inburgering en Integratie [citizenship and integration department] are not eligible for ERF subsidies.

Action 5: Improving the resettlement programme

- Activities that are not carried out by the agencies formally assigned to do so should be implemented in cooperation with or after consultation with those services. This excludes integration activities following placement in the communities from the asylum camp in Amersfoort.

3.6 Financial information

See chapter 5.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Aim of the technical assistance

In the Netherlands, the four migration funds are managed by the European Funds Programme Secretariat (PEF), which functions as the delegated authority. Technical assistance from the four funds is amalgamated. It is used for all of the funds' operating costs, such as PEF staff salaries, external evaluations, external audits, publicity and publication costs, costs of travel for project visits, participation in the SOLID committee and the ERF committee, informal consultation on funding policy between the Netherlands and seven other Member States, and so forth. Where the costs relate clearly to one fund, they will be allocated to the technical assistance available from that fund. Costs which do not clearly relate to one fund will be allocated to the technical assistance of all funds on the basis of an allocation key. The allocation key is based on the funding available for the year in question and the relevant funds.

A multi-annual estimate is made for the allocation of technical assistance so that the lowering of the rate of technical assistance in 2010 can also be taken into account. The multi-annual estimate also incorporates an expansion of the PEF because of the anticipated expansion of this work, with a built-in contingency reserve, and the possibility of a reimbursement of the available funding as a result of its distribution among the Member States.

4.2 Expected quantified results

The main cost item for technical assistance in 2008 consists of the salaries of PEF staff (4.8 FTE).

Other quantifiable expenses are travel and accommodation costs relating to project visits (approximately 60), information meetings (approximately 5), the SOLID committee (approx. 3), the ERF Committee (approx. 2), and informal consultation (approx. 2).

In addition, promotional material will be prepared for the information meetings, steering group meetings, etc. This includes among other things stickers (1000), notepads (250), pens (1000), card folders (625) and the EU flag.

Finally, the costs of publishing calls to tender (e.g. advertising costs) should be taken into account. In 2008 two tenders will be prepared for the ERF (2008 and 2009).

4.3 Visibility of EC funding.

The website of the four migration funds mentions Community funding, and also shows the European flag. Forms and similar documents also depict the European flag. Information material also states Community financing, and promotional material depicts the European flag. At information meetings extensive mention is made of the Community nature of the Fund.

5. OTHER OPERATIONS

In 2008, the Netherlands have claimed a fixed amount for 145 persons to be resettled, belonging to the indicated vulnerable groups:

- Persons from a country or region designated for the implementation of Regional Protection Programme: 5
- Unaccompanied minors: 20
- Children or women at risk: 80
- Persons with serious medical needs that can only be addressed through resettlement: 40

Together, the fixed amount is € 580.000,-.

In 2008, there will be resettlement missions to the following countries: Nepal, Tanzania, Jordan and Thailand. Refugees who are nominated by the UNHCR are selected during these missions. About one fifth of the quota of – at average – 500 a year, are admitted based on case selection on the strength of the information supplied by the UNCHR. The most important condition for inviting a refugee is that he is recognised as a refugee by the UNHCR and that admission according to the Vw 2000 is possible. The assessment is carried out by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. The COA provides a three-day orientation programme before the refugees come to the Netherlands. This way, the refugees get a realistic picture of the country. The IOM takes care of the flight to the Netherlands. The invited refugees are being received centrally upon arrival in a special asylum centre for invited refugees in Amersfoort. The advantage of this is that the refugees can quickly come to the Netherlands bearing in mind independent accommodation is not always available. Groups of refugees are placed within local authorities from the asylum centre in Amersfoort after a few months. The COA offers a language and orientation programme in the asylum centre in Amersfoort. Due to the system of municipal terms of reference, invited refugees (and also other status holders) are always housed in various parts of the Netherlands. Invited refugees are placed with the municipalities in groups of 15 to 20 persons where language and orientation programmes are continued within the normal naturalisation processes. The Integration Master Plan came into effect into 2007. It mainly concentrates on improving the quality of naturalisation and simplification of the rules. The local authorities are obliged to offer a programme geared to the person concerned to every refugee who is admitted. There are also various projects from the Government or NGOs – some specifically for (invited refugees) that concentrate on improving aliens' education and chances of finding employment.

6. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual programme – Draft financing plan									
Table 1 – Summary table									
Member State: Netherlands									
Annual programme: 2008									
Fund: European Refugee Fund									
(all figures in euro)	Ref. priority	Ref. Specific priority (2)	EC contribution (a)	Government funding (b)	Private funding (c)	TOTAL (d = a+b+c)	% EC (e = a/d)	(Share of the total) (d/total d)	
Action 1: [...]	1		€ 173.634,00	€ 173.634,00	€ 0,00	€ 347.268,00	50,00%	6,91%	
Action 2: [...]	1		€ 1.152.351,00	€ 362.727,00	€ 134.945,00	€ 1.650.023,00	69,84%	32,81%	
Action 3: [...]	1		€ 792.622,00	€ 330.770,00	€ 398.082,00	€ 1.521.474,00	52,10%	30,25%	
Action 4: [...]	2		€ 131.653,04	€ 100.000,00	€ 100.000,00	€ 331.653,04	39,70%	6,59%	
Action 5: [...]	3		€ 191.277,00	€ 107.852,00	€ 83.425,00	€ 382.554,00	50,00%	7,61%	
Action ...: [...]									
Action N: [...]									
Technical assistance			€ 216.029,66			€ 216.029,66	100,00%	4,30%	
Other activities (1)			€ 580.000,00			€ 580.000,00	100,00%	11,53%	
TOTAL			€ 3.237.566,70	€ 1.074.983,00	€ 716.452,00	€ 5.029.001,70	64,38%	100,00%	

(1) Resettlement monies allocated to the Netherlands in 2008, € 580 000,00).

The public and private cofinancing figures are based on estimates. The proportion of these sums depends on the applications for subsidies, and may therefore diverge upwards or downwards. The Community Contribution percentage is also an application-dependent estimate, and may be increased in the case of a decision by the Responsible Authority to do so.

(2) As required for specific measures described in the basic disposition and for contingency measures.

[signature] of the responsible person/Actions of the FSU.

