

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

X revised version for other reasons: changes of the financial breakdown due to the results of the call for proposals

MEMBER STATE: The Netherlands

FUND: European Refugee Fund

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Director, Migration Policy Department in the Ministry of Security and Justice

YEAR COVERED: 2012

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

Two implementation methods are used for the European Refugee Fund. The implementation method is explained for each action in section 3.

A. Selection of projects in accordance with an open call for grant applications ('call for proposals')

1. An open call for grant applications has been opened from March 1st 2012 up to April 16 2012. The opening of the call for grant applications is announced in the Staatscourant (Netherlands Government Gazette). Notice of the call is also given by letter and email to various organisations which have registered as interested parties or which are known to be potential interested parties. The notice of the call includes a reference to the ERF webpage on the Government website (www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/europese-subsidies-voor-migratie). The European Funds Programme Secretariat has in due course published all relevant information concerning the 2012 call on this site (including the annual programme, the ERF implementation framework, the points system for selecting projects), where it is also possible to download forms.
- 2 The projects are selected on the basis of a points system. The points form was published when the call for proposals was opened. The projects were evaluated in each case on the basis of the following criteria:
 - content (does the project fit into national – and EU – policy, the ERF multi-annual programme 2008-2013, the 2012 annual programme),
 - chance of idea succeeding (to what extent are the objectives clear and the planning realistic, the quality of the project organisation and the partnerships and the existence of a sound strategy to deal with any risks),
 - innovative character,
 - durability,
 - how far the project results are distributed (dissemination),
 - involvements of the target group in the organisation (asylum seekers/refugees),
 - cost-effectiveness,
 - the organisation's experience of successfully carrying out funded projects.
- 3 The ERF steering group advises the responsible authority about the selection of project proposals. The steering group is made up of representatives from the Aliens Department and the European and International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Security and Justice, the Civic Integration Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On July 13th, 2012, the steering group agreed on the selection proposed in the e-mail. Based on this advice the responsible authority has taken a final decision on the selection of the project proposals on July 23th, 2012.
- 4 Projects which come under the specific subject priorities as described in section three may be eligible for a contribution of 75% from the ERF. The Responsible Authority is competent to determine for each case whether such a project is eligible for a higher percentage contribution from the ERF. When assessing whether a project is eligible for a higher contribution, the responsible authority also takes the following factors into consideration:
 - a) innovative content and added value of the project compared to existing national policy,

- b) applicability of the project, or its results, as a model or *best practice* in other countries, particularly in the EU.

A general determining factor in the assessment by the responsible authority to award co-financing of 75% from the Fund, which is in part unrelated to the individual qualities of a grant application, is the relationship between the number and the quality of the total annual grant applications, as each increase in the contribution from the EU means the available funds for that year are not spread as far.

If the party submitting an application which comes under one of the stated specific priorities wants to be eligible for a higher percentage contribution from the ERF, this must be stated expressly in the application, and detailed grounds must be given to show that the project complies with one or more of those factors. At the same time, the project organisation must indicate what the consequences will be for implementation and the results of the project if the responsible authority decides not to award more than a 50% grant from the ERF.

B. Selection of projects in which the responsible authority acts as executing body (method two)

As described in the multi-annual programme 2008-2013, *de jure* monopoly situations regarding the subjects covered by the ERF apply only to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) when implementation of the asylum procedure and the reception of asylum seekers are concerned. The Programme Secretariat has therefore asked these organisations on behalf of the responsible authority to supply project ideas for the 2012 annual programme. As a result of this 'call for interest', the project proposals 'Project for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)' and 'Optimisation of the document process' from the IND are included in the 2012 annual programme under action one. The project 'Improving the position of children in reception centres and local communities' from the COA is included in action two. The Responsible Authority of the ERF has agreed to the inclusion of these projects in the annual programme.

In February 2013 the IND has informed the Responsible Authority that they were not able to implement the 'project for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation'(FGM). After consulting the desk officer, the budget allocated to this project has been added to the budget of their other project 'Optimisation of the document process'.

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

This annual programme is based on the multi-annual programme European Refugee Fund 2008-2013. This multi-annual programme provides extensive information on these priorities and actions. The strategic guidelines are set out in the annexes to this multi-annual programme. The actions included in this multi-annual programme are:

1. Improvements in asylum procedure
2. Improvement of the reception of asylum seekers
3. Improvement of the integration of refugees
4. Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies and underpinning of administrative structures
5. Improvement of the resettlement programme.

The Responsible Authority's aim with the European Refugee Fund in the Netherlands is to finance innovative projects within the aforementioned actions. However, in view of the financial crisis and the measures which the government is taking to use its financial resources more efficiently, it is becoming increasingly difficult for (non-)public organisations to find additional resources to co-finance these innovative projects. The monopoly organisations in the Netherlands were first consulted with a view to arriving at this annual programme. There are two monopoly organisations for the ERF, namely the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), which is responsible for asylum procedures, and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), which is responsible for asylum reception. These organisations have submitted project descriptions, and the Responsible Authority has selected two project descriptions under action one and one project under action two. These project descriptions have been selected because they fit into the ERF framework and the national policy framework.

The Responsible Authority also wants to make ERF funds available for the open call for project applications in which public and non-public organisations can submit project applications. In this

annual programme, all actions will be drawn up during this open call for project applications. The amount available for the action in question will be explained for each action further on in this annual programme.

The SOLID document SOLID/2011/28 requested that attention should be focussed on three areas in 2012 and 2013, namely:

- More strategic focus on EU standards through the implementation of actions linked to the requirements of the different directives under the CEAS
- Improvement of the national capabilities through co-operation between Member States
- Increased development of resettlement/relocation activities

It can be said that the first two points come under priority 2 of the Netherlands' multi-annual programme. This priority is described as follows: 'Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States'. Up to now the Netherlands has had difficulty finding suitable projects which fit well into this action and for which the cost items can be financed from the ERF. However, most projects include an element of information-sharing with other European Member States, and this information-sharing shows positive results.

In addition, and this is encouraged by the Responsible Authority, organisations which have projects involving several European Member States should submit their project application to the European Commission in order to be eligible for financing from the Community part of the fund.

This annual programme gives special attention to the action 'Improvement of the resettlement programme' by opening it up during the open call for project applications. The national policy has been changed so that invited refugees are not received first at a central location in Amersfoort in the Netherlands. In the new policy, which has been in operation since January 2011, the invited refugees are located directly in the municipalities so that they can start to settle and integrate in the municipalities where they have settled, immediately after arrival. For this reason, action three is also opened up.

2.1. Actions to implement 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'

Action 1 Improvement of the asylum procedure

The following observations may be made regarding the information included in the SOLID/2011/28 document: the Netherlands has already achieved the minimum standards which follow from the European asylum directives and so, within the ERF, focuses as far as possible on vulnerable groups and optimisation of processes and implementation of the national policy, on top of the minimum standards laid down in the asylum directives.

A sum of EUR 1 million is being made available during the open call for project applications under this Action.

One project has been selected, a sum of 143.212,20 Euro was assigned to this project. Therefor a sum of EUR 856.788,00 remained, which was allocated to actions 2 and 3.

The project selected addresses the first of the measures listed under the specific priorities mentioned below.

The following measures may contribute to improving the asylum procedure in the Netherlands:

- measures to improve the provision of services to asylum seekers,
- measures which focus on simplifying (parts of) the asylum procedure, so that the asylum procedure runs quickly while remaining meticulous; in particular, these may be measures in connection with the proposals submitted in due course for improving and speeding up the asylum procedure,
- measures which focus on a uniform interpretation and application of European legislative tools.

In addition, the following measures may contribute to improving the asylum procedure in the Netherlands:

- measures to increase the capacity for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistics on asylum procedures,
- measures to increase the capacity for assessing asylum applications, including appeal procedures.

The Netherlands adopts the specific priorities from the Strategic Guidelines for the 2008-2013 period. This means that projects which address the following specific priorities may be eligible for a contribution of a maximum 75% from the ERF:

- measures aimed at taking into account the special needs of vulnerable people, notably unaccompanied minors, and more specifically measures aimed at improving the definitions and procedures applied by Member States to identify vulnerable asylum seekers and to provide an appropriate response to such needs;
- measures improving the identification of persons in need of international protection and/or the processing of their applications at the borders, notably by the development of specific training programmes.

Indicators:

- 3 methods aimed at taking into account the special needs of vulnerable people:
1 method for lawyers,
2 methods for COA, IND, the Dutch Refugee Council.
- 3 methods aimed at improving the definitions and procedures applied by Member States to identify vulnerable asylum seekers and 1 appropriate response to such needs:
1 method for lawyers,
2 methods for COA, IND, the Dutch Refugee Council,
1 Network of lawyers who are experts on the subject of LHBT.

Target group action 1

The measures within action 1 address:

- Article 6(c) of Council Decision ERF III: 'Any third-country national or stateless person who has applied for one of the forms of protection described in points (a) and (b).

Projects under action 1 which have been selected in accordance with the 'Responsible Authority as executing body' method:

In this annual programme, two projects under action 1 have been selected according to the 'Responsible Authority as executing body' method.

In February 2013 the IND has informed the Responsible Authority that they were not able to implement the 'project for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation'(FGM). After consulting the desk officer, the budget allocated to this project has been added to the budget of their other project 'Optimisation of the document process'.

Title	Optimisation of document process
Organisation	Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
Background	<p>Extension of the ERF 2010 Project ORIMA (Onderzoek Registratie- en Identificatie Middelen Asielaanvrager) [Research Registration and Identification Means of Asylum Seeker].</p> <p>The ERF 2010 ORIMA project was an extensive research project with numerous results. Firstly, it was necessary to clarify the current situation. Secondly, it was the desired situation with all the immigration partners was looked into. Some of the results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The risk of fraud with the current documents; - The process is too complicated; - Too many locations where the documents are issued; - Information on the document is not up to date; - The process of taking a document after leaving the country can be more effective; - Providing a document to Unaccompanied Minors during their stay in The Netherlands (the period after rejection of their application for asylum until

	<p>their 18th birthday);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too many document issues (in total 4 times during the asylum process and their stay in the Netherlands). <p>Most of the results are now included in other projects and programs. In this project, <i>Optimisation of document process</i> the following actions are combined for further in-depth research: to make the process more efficient, issue fewer documents and get more results. Besides the research there will be a pilot and implementation of a new third-country-national document in the asylum process. Most of the budgeted amount is for the pilot and implementation. The costs for developing and manufacturing of the documents are about € 900.000 (for 60.000 documents).</p> <p>Research showed that the innovative approach of designing a document containing modifiable data is not financial feasible nor does it lead towards the desired situation. However, the project ORIMA aims to conduct further study into the possibilities of bringing about <i>one</i> third-country-national document in the asylum process for the entire asylum process. The research will focus on a third-country-national document with a back office consisting of a database system in which information regarding the third country national can be found such as, if this person is allowed to work or not. In time INDiGO could function as the back office. A further understanding of the complexity is necessary and will be addressed in the research.</p>
Goal	To make the process more convenient for clients and reduce costs; with fewer different documents in use, the number of client contacts, and therefore the associated costs, are significantly reduced.
Subgoals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer client contacts • Fewer counter transactions • Fewer kinds of documents • Long-term use of the same documents
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6(c) of Council Decision ERF III: 'Any third-country national or stateless person who has applied for one of the forms of protection described in points (a) and (b).
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibilities of reducing the number of types of immigration documents are being examined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot in which new documents (Combining the W2 and W documents) are ordered and issued to asylum seekers • Evaluation of the pilot and (if necessary) adjusting the workflow • Changes in policy and implementation will be prepared and implemented where necessary.
Results (of this project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study results and recommendations are available concerning use of 1 alien's identity card • The W2 and W documents have been combined to form 1 new document • Changes in policy and implementing instructions have been carried out. • Approximately 10 000 fewer documents are produced on an annual basis (as a result of combining W and W2 documents) • The number of IND client contacts regarding the issue of documents has been (substantially) reduced. • The costs connected with client contacts regarding the issue documents have been (substantially) reduced.
Period	January 2012 up to and including June 2014
Budget	Total: EUR 1.392.900,00
ERF contribution	EUR 696.450,00: 50% of the eligible costs

Action 2 Improvement of the reception of asylum seekers

The following observations may be made regarding the information included in the SOLID/2011/28 document: the Netherlands has already achieved the minimum standards which follow from the European asylum directives and so, within the ERF, focuses as far as possible on vulnerable groups and optimisation of processes and implementation of the national policy, on top of the minimum standards laid down in the asylum directives.

A sum of EUR 1 241 443.35 is being made available during the open call for project applications for this Action.

Out of the applications received, 5 projects were selected. A total of EUR 1.458.294,89 was assigned to the projects selected in the open call for proposals. Additionally 1 project had been selected in accordance with the 'Responsible Authority as executing body' method. A sum of EUR € 567.917,53 was assigned to this project. This results in a total of EUR 350.798,42 over allocation. In SFC an amount of €1.892.265,55 is recorded.

Of the selected projects 1 addresses the first measure mentioned below, 1 project addresses both the 4th and 5th measures mentioned below.

The Netherlands has adopted one of the **specific priorities** under Priority 1 of the Strategic Guidelines for the period 2008-2013. If any action/project under Priority 1 exclusively aims at the specific priority mentioned below, this project 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 such as 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 focussing on safety, self-empowerment and welfare (such as facilities for disabled people, creative projects and projects on improving information for children),
- projects focussing on limiting specific risks (such as drownings, road traffic accidents),
- projects focussing on medical and/or psychological care.
- measures aimed at facilities for vulnerable groups. The Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers (Council Directive 2003/9/EC) states that Member States must 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.
- projects focussing on undertaking sporting activities or other forms of worthwhile daytime activities, with the aim of increasing the resilience and independence of children and combatting hospitalisation,

The other 2 projects are innovative projects which may contribute to the quality of residence in the reception facilities. They address improvement of the accessibility of public transport with OV chipcard for asylum seekers, respectively obtaining insight in possible savings on energy in reception locations and informing employees and asylum seekers on energy savings.

1 project addresses the first measure mentioned below.

The following measures may qualify for an ERF contribution of maximum 50%.

Measures with the aim of increasing the knowledge and skills of asylum seekers during their residence in the Netherlands, taking into account the uncertainty regarding the outcome of the procedure;

- measures focussing on the introduction of software packages in the Open Leercentra (OLC) [Open Training Centres] at the reception centres with the aim of improving the usability for children;
- measures aimed at increasing the local support for the reception of asylum seekers;
- other (innovative) projects which may contribute to the quality of residence in the reception facilities, but without conflicting with Dutch reception policy, in particular focussed on vulnerable groups;

Indicators:

- 120 people have taken part in projects in the field of knowledge acquisition and teaching of skills,
- 65% have successfully completed the 'training' (pass rate in final test),
- number of information meetings,
- the extent of the improvement in the local support for receiving asylum seekers,
- 1 project with regard to vulnerable groups,
- 830 people have taken part in the projects,
- the extent to which the safety, self-empowerment and welfare of asylum seekers have increased,
- the extent to which the medical and/or psychological well-being of asylum seekers has increased,
- the extent to which the appreciation of the daytime activities by (children of) asylum seekers has increased.

Target group of action 2:

- third-country nationals or stateless persons who have the status defined in the Geneva Convention and who have been granted permission to remain in one of the Member States as a refugee (in the Netherlands people who have refugee status under Article 29(1)(a) of the Aliens Act), who are still in reception facilities waiting for accommodation elsewhere,
- third-country nationals or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection as referred to in Directive 2004/83/EC (in the Netherlands this corresponds to people who have refugee status under Article 29(1)(b) of the Aliens Act), who are still in reception facilities waiting for accommodation elsewhere,
- third-country nationals or stateless persons who have applied for one of the forms of protection specified in points a) and b) and who are in reception facilities.

In this annual programme, one project under action 2 has been selected in accordance with the 'Responsible Authority as executing body' method:

Title	Improving the position of children in reception centres and local communities
Organisation	COA
Background	<p>A study of the position of children in reception centres in the Netherlands was carried out in 2008 and 2009. An important finding was that the children did not take part in many activities in and around the reception centres. The researchers and consultants stressed the need to focus on empowerment of children. The facilities for children have improved since 2010. More attention is now paid to their needs.</p> <p>This project focuses on improving the resilience of children and teaches them coping strategies for getting along in society. The activities are concentrated on the teaching of the safety rules at a reception centre, resilience training, swimming lessons and the development of appropriate leaflets for children and their parents. Local participants will also be involved so that all participants are aware of the special needs of children. Providing information on what local activities will be undertaken makes these activities accessible for these children. Each centre will organise an open day for interested parties, which will focus on children. COA staff will also be trained to recognise specific needs of children and to find solutions to their problems.</p>
Goal	Improving the position of children in the reception centres
Subgoals	Strengthening the position of children in centres and empowerment.
Target group	See above target group of Action 2 with particular emphasis on all children in reception centres, aged 0-18
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Activity for children <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Written information / facilitating parents / mentoring Empowerment training Swimming instruction Special day for safety, quality of life and control Activities with respect to the local area <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to the local social services for the reception centres Written information for the local area Open Day Activity for COA staff <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Training regarding children as a special target group Implementation plan

Results	<p>This project has many results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A large number of leaflets will be available at the end of the project. - Each reception centre has a guide on how to involve the local community and its stakeholders. - Each reception centre (45) has organised an 'Open Day'. - Training courses for children in various age groups have been set up and offered to the target group. - All results have been incorporated into the implementation plan. This ensures that the activities are structurally embedded into the organisation.
Period	1 January 2012 – 30 June 2013
Budget	EUR 757.223,37
ERF Contribution	EUR 567.917,53 : 75% of the eligible costs (In SFC EUR 433.970,65 is recorded)

Action 3: Improvement of the integration of refugees

The following observations may be made regarding the information included in the SOLID/2011/28 document: national policy has been changed so that invited refugees are not received first at a central location in Amersfoort in the Netherlands. In the new policy, which has been in operation since January 2011, the invited refugees are located directly in the municipalities so that immediately after arrival they can start to become established and integrate in the municipalities where they have settled. For this reason, action five 'Improvement of the resettlement programme' is also opened up.

A sum of EUR 838 409.55 is being made available during the open call for project applications for this Action.

5 projects have been selected from the project applications, a total of EUR 2.092.505,74 has been assigned to these projects. This results in sum of EUR 1.215.695,59 over allocation. In SFC an amount of EUR 1.996.216,45 was recorded.

4 of the projects selected address the first of the measures mentioned below, 1 project addresses the 3th of the measures mentioned below.

As part of this annual programme, the following three measures will be backed under this action:

- 1a Participation as a tool for civic integration
- 1b Intercultural dialogue at local or district level aimed at establishing lasting contacts
- 1c Stimulating empowerment and promoting emancipation so that refugees are in a better position to take advantage of what is offered in the fields of work, education, accommodation and care.

In this annual programme, projects which come under these sub-priorities are given preference if development and implementation of the plan involve cooperation between refugees' interest groups, refugees' self-help organisations and mainstream bodies (including local authorities, CWI [Centre for Work and Income], GGZ [Mental Health Care], Jeugdzorg [Youth Care] etc.).

Measure 1a: Participation as a tool for civic integration

- measures focussing on the development of more and improved dual integration programmes tailored to refugees; increasing the chance of passing a civic integration examination and improving the *output* of civic integration programmes. Special attention should be given here to women and young people.
- the development of more and improved programmes for *language coaches*¹ aimed specifically at refugees, where possible based on 'good practices' and making use of materials already developed with regard to language coaches.

Indicators:

- 3 civic integration programmes developed which are tailored to refugees and pilot projects implemented in this field, and the extent of the increase in the effectiveness of these programmes;
- 1 language-coach programme developed which is aimed specifically at refugees, and the extent of the increase in the effectiveness of this programme.

No projects were selected addressing measure 1b: Intercultural dialogue at local or district level aimed at establishing lasting contacts.

1 of the projects selected addresses the 1st measure, mentioned below.

Measure 1c: Stimulating empowerment and promoting emancipation

- measures to improve the connection between the needs of (higher skilled) refugees in the fields of work, education, accommodation, care, and art and culture, on the one hand, and what is offered by mainstream bodies and institutions in these fields, on the other hand;
- measures to prevent phenomena such as honour-related violence, polarisation and radicalisation.

Specific target:

- increase in participation in education and labour market among (higher skilled and older) refugees,

Indicator:

- 5 programmes aimed at further developing talents of (higher skilled and older) refugees and at directing them towards educational and work programmes,
- .

Expected target group of action 3:

- a) third-country nationals or stateless persons who have the status defined in the Geneva Convention and who have been granted permission to remain in one of the Member States as a refugee (in the Netherlands people who have refugee status under Article 29(1)(a) of the Aliens Act),
- b) third-country nationals or stateless persons who enjoy a form of subsidiary protection as referred to in Directive 2004/83/EC (in the Netherlands this corresponds to people who have refugee status under Article 29(1)(b) of the Aliens Act).

2.2 Actions to implement priority 2: 'Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States'

Action 4: Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies and underpinning of administrative structures

The following observations may be made regarding the information included in the SOLID/2011/28 document: up to now the Netherlands has had difficulty finding suitable projects which fit well into this action and for which the cost items can be financed from the ERF. However, most projects include an element of information-sharing with other European Member States, and this information-sharing shows positive results.

In addition, and this is encouraged by the Responsible Authority, organisations which have projects involving several European Member States should submit their project application to the European Commission in order to be eligible for financing from the Community part of the fund.

A sum of EUR 200 000 is being made available during the open call for project applications for this Action.

No project applications were made under action 4, therefore a sum of EUR 200.000 remained, which was allocated to actions 2 and 3 .

2.3 Actions to implement priority 3: 'Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries'

Action 5: Improvement of the resettlement programme

The following observations may be made regarding the information included in the SOLID/2011/28 document: national policy has been changed so that invited refugees are not received first at a central location in Amersfoort in the Netherlands. In the new policy, which has been in operation since January 2011, the invited refugees are located directly in the municipalities so that immediately after arrival they can start to become established and integrate in the municipalities where they have settled. For this reason, action three 'Integration of refugees' is also opened up.

A sum of EUR 279 469.85 is being made available during the open call for project applications for this Action.

1 application addressed action 5 but was rejected because it was in conflict with national policy. Therefor a sum of EUR 279.469,85 remained which was allocated to action 2 and 3.

2.4 Visibility of EU funding for actions 1 to 5

All communications from or about the programme, both by the responsible authority and also by project organisations, include a reference in words and by means of the EU logo to the co-financing from the ERF. In addition, the ERF slogan ('Room for innovative projects') will be indicated. The project organisations will inform the participants in projects of the co-funding of the project by the ERF. The obligations of the project organisations regarding communication about the fund will be included in the grant decision, either directly or by means of a reference to the conditions in the Implementing Framework. In addition, the programme secretariat will communicate actively with project proposers regarding this obligation in response to information in progress reports and final reports. Compliance will be examined during visits by the programme secretariat to project supervisors.

2.5 Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU tools for actions 1 to 5

The actions conform to and are complementary to relevant policy, laws and regulations at national and EU level. The Responsible Authority and the strategic partners guarantee such conformity and complementarity on a permanent basis and together have the necessary know-how to fulfil this function.

The target group of this Fund is described in precise terms in the ERF III multi-annual programme and is ring-fenced from the target groups of the European Fund for the integration of third-country nationals (EIF). The responsible authorities of the ERF and other departments concerned with other EU funds of national, municipal and regional significance are members of the Steering Group whose job is also to ensure separation and complementarity between the ERF and other EU funds.

The Responsible Authority is also primarily responsible for development and execution of the policy on asylum procedures, reception and resettlement in the Netherlands and guarantees that this strategy is examined for compatibility with this. Structural discussions and consultation with strategic partners in the field provide further assurance of compliance with policy and regulations in the course of implementation.

The available funds will be used particularly for innovative and/or supplementary activities by the competent authorities and organisations in the field. In all cases, the activities for which the ERF funds are used must fit into the Multi-annual Programme and the Annual Programme. Further particulars relating to complementarity are set out below for each action, where applicable.

Action 1 Improvement of the asylum procedure

- The projects should be in keeping with the planned changes in the asylum procedure under the coalition agreement.
- Activities which are not carried out by the services which are officially responsible for them should be carried out in cooperation with or following coordination with those services.
- Activities and measures must have added value for the asylum procedure. In particular, measures to promote a rapid and careful asylum procedure, progressive harmonisation with regard to asylum and practical cooperation with other Member States are in keeping with the ERF.

Action 2: Improvement of the reception for asylum-seekers

- Activities which are not carried out by the services which are officially responsible for them should be carried out in cooperation with or following coordination with those services.

Action 3: Improvement of the integration of refugees

- Project proposals should be in keeping in with the integration policy being pursued. Projects which receive a grant from the ERF may apply for the remaining funding from, for example, the existing grant schemes Room for Contact and Scheme to stimulate initiatives by third parties regarding the integration of ethnic groups. The costs subsidised by the Civic Integration Department cannot be presented to the ERF for grants.

Action 4:

- There are no further particulars for this action.

Action 5: Improvement of the resettlement programme

- Activities which are not carried out by the services which are officially responsible for them should be carried out in cooperation with or following coordination with those services. This does not include integration activities which are undertaken after relocation into the municipalities from the Amersfoort asylum-seekers centre.

2.6 Financial information

See section 5 'Draft Financing Plan'.

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

3.1 Purpose of the technical assistance

In the Netherlands, the four migration funds are managed by the European Funds Programme Secretariat (PEF), which acts as delegated authority. The technical assistance for the four funds is combined. It is responsible for all expenditure relating to the management of the funds, such as the salaries of PEF staff, external evaluations, external audits, costs for publicity and dissemination, travel costs connected with project visits, participation in the SOLID Committee and the ERF Committee and informal consultations on fund management between the Netherlands and other Member States, etc. Where such costs relate unambiguously to one fund, they are allocated to the technical assistance available for that fund. Costs which do not relate unambiguously to one fund are allocated to the technical assistance for all funds on the basis of an apportionment scale. This scale is based on the available funds for the year in question and the fund in question.

A multi-annual forecast has been drawn up for expenditure on technical assistance, as the reduction in the percentage of technical assistance as of 2010 has also been taken into account. At the same time, this multi-annual forecast also allows for an expansion of the PEF because of the anticipated increase in the work and incorporates a contingency reserve and the possibility of declining available funds as a result of the distribution of resources across the Member States.

3.2 Expected quantified results

The main expenditure item for technical assistance in 2012 is formed by the salaries of the staff of the European Funds Programme Secretariat.

Other quantifiable expenditure items are travel and accommodation costs connected with project visits (approximately 40 times), information meeting, the SOLID Committee (approximately twice), the ERF Committee (approximately twice), the informal consultations (approximately twice).

In addition, promotional material may be produced for information meetings, steering group meetings and such like. Such material includes, among other things, stickers, note pads, ball point pens, cardboard folders and the European flag.

Finally, the costs of opening calls for proposals (e.g. advertising costs) have to be taken into account. One tender will be opened for the ERF in 2012.

3.3 Visibility of EU funding

The website of the four migration funds includes a reference to the EU funding and also shows the European flag. The European flag is also shown on the forms and other products. The EU funding is reported in information material, and the European flag is shown on promotional material. The EU character of the funds is also addressed at the annual information meeting.

4. OTHER ACTIONS

For 2012 the Netherlands claimed a 'fixed amount' in connection with resettlement of 240 people from the designated vulnerable groups:

- People from a country or region with a Regional Protection Programme: 120
- Unaccompanied minors: 10
- 'At risk' women and children: 50
- People with medical needs who can only be treated by means of resettlement: 60

The total 'fixed amount' is EUR 960 000 because 240 persons will be resettled during the calendar year 2012.

For the time being, the Netherlands has planned resettlement missions to the following countries in 2012: Kenya, Thailand, Colombians from Ecuador, Eastern Sudan, Iraqis from Lebanon. The planning has not yet been finalised.

Refugees are selected on the recommendation of the UNHCR during the missions. About one fifth are admitted on the basis of dossier selection, with information supplied by the UNHCR. The main conditions for inviting a refugee are that they are recognised as a refugee by the UNHCR and can be admitted under the Dutch Aliens Act 2000. The assessment is made by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. The invited refugees are awarded refugee status as laid down in Article 2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC or a status which gives them the same rights and duties as under national and Community law.

For refugees who come to the Netherlands in groups, the COA provides a three-day orientation programme before the refugees relocate to the Netherlands so that the refugees get a realistic picture of the Netherlands. The IOM provides the orientation course to those invited on a dossier basis. The IOM looks after the actual transfer to the Netherlands for both groups. Since January 2011 the invited refugees have been received directly into the municipality and no longer first at a central location.

The reason for changing the reception model is that invited refugees can start to integrate and become established immediately after arrival, based on the municipality where they are living. As a result of the system of municipal responsibilities, invited refugees (and also other qualifying beneficiaries) are always housed in accommodation spread throughout the Netherlands.

The Delta Plan for Civic Integration has been in force since 2007. It is aimed primarily at improving the quality of civic integration and simplifying regulations. A municipality is obliged to offer every refugee admitted a programme geared to the individual. In addition, there are various projects by the public authorities or NGOs – sometimes specifically for (invited) refugees – which focus on improving the educational and labour market position of migrants.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Member State: The Netherlands Annual programme concerned: 2012 Fund: European Refugee Fund								
<i>(all figures in EUR)</i>	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority	EU contribution (a)	Public allocation (b)	Private allocation (c)	TOTAL (d =a+b+c)	% EU (e = a/d)	
Action 1: [...]	1	X	839.662,00	744.187,33		1.583.849,33	53%	15,69%
Action 2: [...]	1	X	1.892.265,55	1.436.047,72		3.328.313,27	57%	32,98%
Action 3: [...]	1		1.996.216,45	1.996.439,10		3.992.655,55	50%	39,56%
Action 4: [...]	2	X	0,00	0,00		0,00	0	0,00
Action 5: [...]	3		0,00	0,00		0,00	0	0,00
Action ...: [...]								
Action N: [...]								
Technical assistance			228.256,00			228.256,00	100%	2,26 %
Resettlement			960.000,00			960.000,00	100%	9,51%
TOTAL			5.916.400,00	4.176.674,15		10.093.074,15	59%	100.00%

SIGNATURE

Director Migration Policy Department

Responsible Authority European Refugee Fund