

**EVALUATION REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS
CO FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE INTEGRATION OF
THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS**

(Report set out in Article 48, 2 (a) of Council Decision 2007/435/EC)

Report submitted by the Responsible Authority of: (Member State)

Republic of Slovenija
Ministry of the Interior

Date:

30.6.2010

Name, Signature (authorised representative of the Responsible Authority):

Matej UREK
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND
PURCHASING OFFICE
SECRETARY

Name of the contact person (and contact details) for this report in the Member State

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GENERAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY ON EVALUATION EXPERTISE AND ON METHODOLOGY

1. Did you have recourse to an evaluation expertise to prepare this report?

Yes/ No: No.

- If *Yes*, for what part(s) of this report?

- Please explain what kind of evaluation expertise you had recourse to:

* In-house evaluation expertise (for instance, Evaluation department of the Ministry, etc.): (please describe)

* External evaluation expertise: (please describe)

2. Brief description of the methodology used by the evaluation expertise:

- The report was prepared by the Responsible body
- Basis for the report were reports about implementation of the projects, prepared by intermediate bodies
- Using data from application for managing information relating projects - MIGRA
- Using of all information the Responsible Authority gained in the implementation of programmes
- Additional interviews with project managers and contact persons

Important remark

Any evaluation expertise must be obliged by the Responsible Authority to:

- use this template, exclusively;
- fully comply with any instruction, methodological note, maximum length, etc. set out in this template.

EVALUATION REPORT ON THE RESULTS AND IMPACTS OF ACTIONS CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

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**Part I: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2007, 2008 AND 2009
ANNUAL PROGRAMMES IN THE “AWARDING BODY” METHOD**

Reference documents to be used for this part:

- *Your Annual Programmes 2007, 2008 and 2009 as approved by the Commission, in particular the description of actions;*
- *All information on implementation available to the Responsible Authority;*
- *The information on the projects funded available to the Responsible Authority (description of each project to be found in the grant agreement);*
- *Any external evaluation of relevance to the items addressed below, if available.*

Did you implement any of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes in the “awarding body” method (as defined in Article 7 (2) of Commission Decision 2008/457/EC of 5.3.2008 - the European Integration Fund Implementing Rules), at least for part of the programme(s)?

Yes/No: Yes.

- If *Yes*, fill in Part I, pages 8 to 13.

- If *No*, do not fill in Part I, but go directly to Part II (Implementation of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes in the “executing body” method) on page 14.

I.1 - Share of the overall EU contribution to the programmes granted in the “awarding body” method from 2007 to 2009

For each annual programme from 2007 to 2009, enter the share of the overall EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance) which was granted in the “awarding body” method (in percentage, no decimal).

- Programme 2007: 22,93 % of the EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance) granted in the “awarding body” method
- Programme 2008: 16,07 %
- Programme 2009: / * %

I.2 - Calls for proposals

For each annual programme from 2007 to 2009, please provide the number of calls for proposals organised for the implementation of the annual EIF programmes in the “awarding body” method.

- Programme 2007: 1 (number of calls for proposals)
- Programme 2008: 1 (number of calls for proposals)
- Programme 2009: / * (number of calls for proposals)

***note: at the time of reporting the activities for the AP 2009 have not yet begun to implement.**

I.3 - Proposals received, selected and funded after calls for proposals

Number of ...	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>TOTAL 2007-2009</i>
Proposals received	2	1	-	3
Projects selected	2	1	-	3
Projects funded	2	1	-	3

Have all projects selected for funding after calls for proposals been funded?

Yes/No: Yes.

- If *No*, explain why:

I.4 - Projects funded in the “awarding body” method without a call for proposals

In duly justified cases, grants may be awarded in the “awarding body” method without a call for proposals (Article 7 (2) of Commission Decision 2008/457/EC of 5.3.2008 - the European Integration Fund Implementing Rules -, third paragraph).

The continuation of multiannual projects which were selected after a previous call for proposals should not be taken into account. Neither should Technical Assistance measures, since they are not considered as “projects”.

Please indicate the number of projects funded (*see definition on page 8*) in the “awarding body” method without a call for proposals.

Projects funded in the “awarding body” method without a call for proposals	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>TOTAL Programmes 2007-2009</i>
Number	-	-	-	-

I.5 - Total number of projects funded in the “awarding body” method in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes

Number of ...	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>TOTAL Programmes 2007-2009</i>
Projects funded after calls for proposals (see table I.3)	2	1	-	3
Projects funded without a call for proposals (see table I.4)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL number of projects funded in the “awarding body” method	2	1	-	3

I.6 - Distribution of projects funded in the “awarding body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

By Priority

- Only for projects funded, only number of projects in each case
- Priority: each of the four Priorities defined in the Strategic Guidelines of the Commission (Commission Decision C(2007)3926)
- No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two Priorities)

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “awarding body” method →	2	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Priority ...			
Priority 1	1	1	
Priority 2	1		
Priority 3			
Priority 4			

I.7 - Distribution of projects funded in the “awarding body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

By Category of Actions

- Only for projects funded, only number of projects in each case
- Category of Actions: each of the four Categories, from a) to d), set out in Article 3 of the EIF Council decision (Decision 2007/435/EC)
- No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two Categories)

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “awarding body” method →	2	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Category of Actions ...			
Category a)			
Category b)	1	1	
Category c)	1		
Category d)			

I.8 - Distribution of projects funded in the “awarding body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

Specific Priorities

- Only for projects funded, only number of projects in each case
- *Specific Priorities: the five Specific Priorities defined in the Strategic Guidelines of the Commission (Commission Decision C(2007)3926)*
- No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two of the headings listed below)

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “awarding body” method →	2	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Specific Priority....			
Specific Priority 1 only			
Specific Priority 2 only			
Specific Priority 3 only			
Specific Priority 4 only	1	1	
Specific Priority 5 only			
Projects belonging to several Specific Priorities			
Projects not belonging to any Specific Priority	1		

<p style="text-align: center;">Part II: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2007, 2008 AND 2009 ANNUAL PROGRAMMES IN THE “EXECUTING BODY” METHOD</p>

Reference documents to be used for this part:

- *Your Annual Programmes 2007, 2008 and 2009 as approved by the Commission, in particular the description of Actions*
- *All information on implementation available to the Responsible Authority*
- *The information on the projects funded available to the Responsible Authority (description of each project to be found in the grant agreement)*
- *Any external evaluation of relevance to the items addressed below, if available*

Did you implement any of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes in the “executing body” method (as defined in Article 8 of Commission Decision 2008/457/EC of 5.3.2008 - the European Integration Fund Implementing Rules), at least for part of the programme(s)?

Yes/No: Yes.

- If *Yes*, fill in Part II, pages 15 to 20.
- If *No*, do not fill in Part II, but go directly to Part III (Summary description of the projects funded in the “awarding body” method and in the “executing body” method, 2007 through 2009) on page 21.

II.1 - Share of the overall EU contribution to the programmes granted in the “executing body” method from 2007 to 2009

For each annual programme from 2007 to 2009, enter the share of the overall EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance) which was granted in the “executing body” method (in percentage, no decimal).

- Programme 2007: 77,07 % of the EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance) granted in the “executing body” method
- Programme 2008: 83,93 %
- Programme 2009: / * %

***note: at the time of reporting the activities for the AP 2009 have not yet begun to implement.**

II.2 - Calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method

For each annual programme from 2007 to 2009, please provide the number of calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar organised for the implementation of the yearly EIF programmes in the “executing body” method

- Programme 2007: - (number of calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method)
- Programme 2008: - (number of calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method)
- Programme 2009: - (number of calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method)

II.3 - Proposals received, selected and funded after calls for expression of interest, calls for proposals, consultation with potential beneficiaries or similar selection method in the “executing body” method

Definitions:

- If more than one call for expression of interest, call for proposals or similar was organised for a given annual programme, provide in the table below, for that annual programme, figures combining all of that programme's calls.

- Project funded = a contract, a grant agreement or any equivalent form of legal instrument has been signed with the beneficiary

- If multiannual projects have been funded, they should be counted only in the first programme year they were received, selected and funded

Definition of a multiannual project: According to the legal basis, the end of the eligibility period for projects under the 2007 Programme is 31st December 2009. For the 2008 and 2009 Programmes the end of the eligibility period for projects is 30th June 2010 and 30th June 2011, respectively. A multiannual project is a project approved for EIF funding under any of the programmes mentioned above, whose eligibility period extends later than the eligibility period for projects of the annual programme under which it was selected and funded.

Number of ...	Programme 2007	Programme 2008	Programme 2009	TOTAL Programmes 2007-2009
Proposals received	-	-	-	-
Projects selected	-	-	-	-
Projects funded	-	-	-	-

** note: for the project 3.1.2. "Preparation and distribution of an information brochure containing selected information required by third country nationals" 4 procurement procedures were carried: for printing and distribution brochures, to establish a website and two for translation of texts – a total 11 contract concluded.*

Have all projects selected for funding after calls for expression of interest, calls for proposals, or similar selection method been funded?

Yes/No: Yes.

- If No, explain why:

II.4 - Projects funded in the “executing body” method without a call for expression of interest or for proposals or similar

Please indicate the number of projects funded (see definition on page 15) in the “executing body” method without a call for expression of interest, a call for proposals, or similar selection method, e.g. direct negotiation.

The continuation of multiannual projects which were selected after a previous call should not be taken into account. Neither should Technical Assistance measures, since they are not considered as “projects”.

Projects funded in the “executing body” method without a call for expression of interest/ for proposals/ similar selection method	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>TOTAL Programmes 2007-2009</i>
Number	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	-	<i>2</i>

II.5 - Total number of projects funded in the “executing body” method in the programmes 2007, 2008 and 2009

Number of ...	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>Total Prog. 2007-2009</i>
Projects funded after calls for interest, calls for proposals, or similar selection method (see table II.3)	-	-	-	-
Projects funded without such calls (see table II.4)	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	-	<i>2</i>
TOTAL number of projects funded in the “executing body” method	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	-	<i>2</i>

II.6 - Distribution of projects funded in the “executing body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

By Priority

- Only for projects funded, only number of projects in each case
- Priority: each of the four Priorities defined in the Strategic Guidelines of the Commission (Commission Decision C(2007)3926)
- No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two Priorities)

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “executing body” method →	1	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Priority ...			
Priority 1	1	1	
Priority 2			
Priority 3			
Priority 4			

II.7 - Distribution of projects funded in the “executing body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

By Category of Actions

- Only for projects funded, only number of projects in each case
- Category of Actions: each of the four Categories, from a) to d), set out in Article 3 of the EIF Council decision (Decision 2007/435/EC)
- No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two Categories)

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “executing body” method →	1	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Category of Actions ...			
Category a)			
Category b)	1	1	
Category c)			
Category d)			

II.8 - Distribution of projects funded in the “executing body” method - 2007, 2008 and 2009

Specific Priorities

- Only for projects funded, only *number* of projects in each case
- *Specific Priorities: the five Specific Priorities defined in the Strategic Guidelines of the Commission (Commission Decision C(2007)3926)*
- *No project may be counted twice in the table below (i.e. under two headings listed below)*

	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>
Total number of projects funded in the “executing body” method →	1	1	-
Of which: Number of Projects belonging to Specific Priority....			
Specific Priority 1 only			
Specific Priority 2 only			
Specific Priority 3 only			
Specific Priority 4 only			
Specific Priority 5 only			
Projects belonging to several Specific Priorities			
Projects not belonging to any Specific Priority	1	1	

**Part III: SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECTS FUNDED
IN THE “AWARDING BODY” METHOD AND
IN THE “EXECUTING BODY” METHOD
2007 THROUGH 2009**

Reference documents to be used for this part:

- *The information on the projects funded available to the Responsible Authority (description of each project to be found in the grant agreement);*
- *All information on implementation available to the Responsible Authority;*
- *Any external evaluation of relevance to the items addressed below, if available.*

III.1. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 1 in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

In the “awarding body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

Projects were implemented under the measure ‘Programmes for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue’. The primary purpose was to raise the awareness on the importance of integration of third country nationals in different social spheres, and the recognition that integration is a two-way process of mutual adaptation by both immigrants and citizens. Four other projects were carried out under AP2007: ‘Developing diversity in intercultural interaction’, ‘Who are I?’, ‘Promotion of the intercultural dialogue by studying migrations’, and ‘Together in Diversity - intercultural dialogue in Bela Krajina’. Two projects were carried out within AP 2008: ‘Promoting intercultural dialogue’ in Celje, and ‘Promoting intercultural dialogue’ in major Slovenian towns.

In the “executing body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

Nationals of third countries with a residence permit are entitled to a free first exam of the Slovenian language at elementary level, which is a condition to obtain the Slovenian citizenship. The Ministry of the Interior has financed the organisation of the Slovenian language exam at elementary level.

The project 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals' was carried out within the framework of AP2008. Its purpose was to provide fundamental knowledge required for a successful integration, and, consequently, to support the implementation of the common basic principles for the integration of the third country nationals. Although the courses should have started already in 2008 (AP2007), they actually began to be implemented only in 2009 (through AP2008) due to the late adoption of the Rules on the Programmes for the Integration of Foreigners.

Another project that was implemented had the title 'Production and distribution of a brochure with information for third country nationals'; it was upgraded with website information (11 contracts have been signed for this project). The aim was to provide information which the foreigners need in order to integrate into the Slovenian society, particularly with respect to their rights and duties, and opportunities for their personal and social development. Information in brochures and folders is available in 9 languages. The web site with information for foreigners is upgraded from printed information and covers all the important facts on the entry and residence in the Republic of Slovenia: schooling, social and health insurance, programmes of learning the language and familiarising with the Slovenian history, culture and constitutional order; organizations and societies carrying out integration programs, and lots of other useful information. The site is available in six languages.

III.2. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 2 in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

In the "awarding body" method

Maximum length: 15 lines

Two projects - studies were implemented under the Annual Programme 2007 within the measure 'Implementation of studies concerning the associations of third-country nationals. As until 2009, Slovenia did not systematically and comprehensively implement any support measures for the integration of third country nationals, the studies should present integration systems in comparable EU countries and analyse the current situation which would serve as a basis for the RS to provide efficient integration of third country nationals. Two studies were elaborated within two projects: "Integration of third country nationals in

Slovenia - ITCNS", and "Comparative analysis of policies of integration of third country nationals in selected Member States".

In the “executing body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

N/A.

III.3. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 3 in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

In the “awarding body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

N/A.

In the “executing body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

N/A.

III.4. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 4 in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

In the “awarding body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

N/A.

In the “executing body” method

Maximum length: 15 lines

N/A.

III.5. Summary description of the projects funded in the “awarding body” method without a call for proposals, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009

Maximum length: 15 lines

Please refer to Table I.4., excluding the continuation of multiannual projects which were selected after a previous call for proposals. Technical Assistance measures should not be taken into account, since they are not considered as “projects”.

N/A.

III.6. Summary description of the projects funded in the “executing body” method without a call for expression of interest, a call for proposals or similar, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009

Maximum length: 15 lines

Please refer to Table II.4., excluding the continuation of multiannual projects which were selected after a previous call for expression of interest, a call for proposals or similar. Technical Assistance measures should not be taken into account, since they are not considered as “projects”.

N/A.

III.7. Referring to Tables I-6, I-7 and I-8, explain any significant change to the distribution of the projects funded in the “awarding body” method, by Priority, by Category of Actions and by Specific Priority, over the period from 2007 to 2009

Maximum length: half a page

No changes were made.

III.8. Referring to Tables II-6, II-7 and II-8, explain any significant change to the distribution of the projects funded in the “executing body” method, by Priority, by Category of Actions and by Specific Priority, over the period from 2007 to 2009

Maximum length: half a page

No changes were made.

III.9. Highlight any other significant change (other than the distribution referred to under points 7 and 8) to the projects funded in the “awarding body” method and in the “executing body” method over the period from 2007 to 2009

Maximum length: half a page

In the “awarding body” method

In the “executing body” method

The fact is that because of a late adoption of the 'Rules on Programmes for Integration of Foreigners' defining the contents of teaching programmes, the programme 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals' was not launched in 2008 based on the Annual Programme 2007, as was planned, but only in 2009 based on the Annual Programme 2008. Some funds remained unused due to the above stated reasons.

Not a change, just a note: the project 3.1.2. 'Manufacture and distribution of brochures with information for third country nationals' under Annual Programme 2008 was upgraded within the planned funding not only by brochures and leaflets, but also by a web site, which is not specifically stated as an indicator in the programme.

III.10. Description of two “success stories”, among all the projects funded in the annual programmes over the period from 2007 to 2009

Maximum length: half a page

In the context of the measure 'Programmes of promoting inter-cultural dialogue', the project "Who am I?" was very successfully implemented. The project objectives were fully realized, as the project was implemented at the

local level, and the problems of integrating the minority population were well-detected. They indicated methods for removing the problems and empowering third country nationals to take a more active approach. It was observed as successful also because of its extensive content, implementation at the local level, active involvement of participants, their international composition, inclusion of third country nationals and the local population, clearly set out objectives, and a good media coverage.

We believe that the project 'Production and distribution of a brochure with information for the third country nationals' was also very well conceived and implemented. The web site with information for foreigners (www.infotujci.si; www.infoforeigners.si) is an upgrade of printed information and covers all the important information on the entry and residence in the Republic of Slovenia, schooling, social and health insurance, language training programmes and familiarization with the Slovenian history, culture and constitutional order, organizations and societies carrying out integration programs, and lots of other useful information. The site is available in six languages. The purpose of establishing the site is to become key source of information for foreigners. It is crucial that the site becomes a focal point for all those who need or provide information related to the integration of foreigners in the Slovenian society.

III.11. Description of one "failure", among all the projects funded in the annual programmes over the period from 2007 to 2009

Maximum length: half a page

All programs have been successful. During implementation we are faced with problems as they were late public procurement procedures and, consequently the late signing of contracts or such a small number of participants in some programs. However, no project as such was not the "failure".

Part IV: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Reference documents to be used for this part:

- *The information on technical assistance and on information and publicity available to the Responsible Authority;*
- *Any relevant national document and information available to the Responsible Authority in these matters;*
- *Any independent evaluation of the items addressed below, if available.*

IV.1. Technical assistance

15 lines maximum

In accordance with annual programs for EIF only issue invitations to tender in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, the translation of texts (eg, annual programs from Slovene into English language) and training in public procurement were funded.

Considering that the eligibility of fund for technical assistance is longer, we think that some provided matters will be realized.

IV.2. Information and Publicity

- Information and publicity activities by the Responsible Authority

Maximum 15 lines

The co-financing of the Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals is transparent as regards all the activities related to the projects co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.

The Responsible authority for the meetings (e.g. The Monitoring Committee, The Intergovernmental Working Group) equips all invitations, materials and minutes with the EU emblem.

The website of the Responsible authority is: <http://www.mnz.gov.si>. It publishes all documents and news on all four Funds. After the completion of each annual programme, news will be posted concerning the completion and the achievements of the programme.

The Responsible body is also planning a presentation of current activities within the framework of regular annual presentations in line with Article 33 of the Implementation Rules. In 2009, the presentation was organised in 'Center Evropa' in Ljubljana on October 23. All four funds were presented in general, while the Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals and the European Refugee Fund were later on presented in more detail. The presentation was attended by 33 participants, mostly coming from non-governmental organizations.

- Information and publicity activities by the final beneficiaries

Maximum 15 lines

Intermediary bodies must inform the Responsible authority twice a year on the information and dissemination activities. All these activities are thus described in more detail and included in these reports and the joint report drafted by the Responsible authority.

Let us mention just a few activities:

Migration and Integration Directorate carried out the following activities: press releases, conference of the minister, consultation with administrative units, information to NGOs, immigrant associations, and the project presentation at the conference "Migrants in Slovenia between Integration and Alienation" in April 2009.

The implementation of some inter-cultural dialogue projects was published in newspapers, on local radio stations and the national radio, there were programmes on the regional TV, publications on online portals, invitations to workshops were announced, posters displayed for workshops, invitations and posters for cultural events were also designed. A virtual exhibition was organised with a presentation of study outcome to policy makers.

**Part V: BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EIF
FOR THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES 2007, 2008 AND 2009**

Based on the Commission Decision approving each annual programme and on the information available to the Responsible Authority on the budget implementation of the programmes, please fill in the table below:

Annual Programme	Total EIF contribution to the programme as set in the Commission Decision approving the annual programme Amount (1)	Total EIF contribution <u>committed</u> by the Responsible Authority for the programme as a whole, as of 30 June 2010 Amount (2)	EIF budget implementation rate (EIF Committed/ EIF Available) Percentage (3) = (2) / (1)
Programme 2007	638.252,58	584.986,92	91,7
Programme 2008	690.437,89	586.625,66	85
Programme 2009	807.830,42	0	0
TOTAL 2007-2009	2.136.520,89	1.173.664,58	54,9

<p style="text-align: center;">Part VI: ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES 2007, 2008 AND 2009</p>
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Based on:

- *All information available to the Responsible Authority on the implementation of each Annual Programme;*
- *Any external evaluation available to the Responsible Authority.*

VI.1. Assessment of the implementation of the 2007 Annual Programme

1. Has the 2007 programme been implemented as originally planned and broadly in line with the programme schedule?

15 lines maximum

The Annual Programme 2007 was carried out as planned. There was only one problem related to the project 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals' due to the late adoption of the Rules on the Programmes for the Integration of Foreigners (published in April 2009), and the consequent late implementation of the public contract. Because of time constraints, the training courses could not be carried out in their entirety, so they were realized within the Annual Programme 2008.

Actually, only the Slovenian language exams at elementary level were implemented under this project. They were carried out by authorized institutions. The exam is a prerequisite to obtain the citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia.

Other projects were implemented according to plans. Some were attended by less participants than it was planned.

2. Have you encountered problems on implementation of the 2007 annual programme? If so, what measures did you take?

15 lines maximum

As mentioned above, time constraints prevented the implementation of courses under the project 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals'. The courses therefore started only within the Annual Programme 2008. In order to make as many beneficiaries as possible register for the courses, Directorate of Migration and Integration included more information for the needs of the target group. A website was launched under the 2008 Annual Programme, and brochures were issued for better informing the public.

3. Has a revision of the 2007 programme by the Commission been necessary? If so, what were the main changes?

15 lines maximum

No.

4. Have you implemented the 2007 programme (the case being, the revised programme) fully? (= all or nearly all actions set out in the programme approved by the Commission, or in the revised programme approved by the Commission, could be implemented by the end of this programme)

15 lines maximum

No. Explanation under item 1.

5. Have the expected quantitative and qualitative results of the 2007 programme - as set out in the programme / revised programme approved by the Commission - been achieved at the end of this programme?

15 lines maximum

As regards the number of participants, the targets were not fully attained.

The reasons for the project ‘Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals’ are stated under point 1. These activities were planned to obtain the largest share of financial resources.

In carrying out projects aimed at fostering inter-cultural dialogue, the activities of one project were carried out in smaller numbers due to time constraints. The contractor should have established specific sites and a network of participants at the beginning of the project for the actual implementation of the project.

6. In the light of the implementation of the 2007 programme, do you consider that the distribution of EIF funding between the Actions was appropriate? Were the actions set out in the programme you submitted to the Commission appropriate?

15 lines maximum

We believe that the distribution of funds among individual measures was appropriate, and that the programmes were appropriate.

The fact is, however, that the courses within the ‘Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals’ could not be carried out due to the late adoption of the Rules on Programmes for Integration of Foreigners (published in April 2009), and the consequent late implementation of the public tender.

It is also important to note that regardless of the fact that although in line with the Decree on Aliens Integration, third-country nationals are entitled to free learning of the Slovenian language and familiarisation with the history, culture and constitutional order, if they are residing in the RS based on a permanent residence permit for uniting with their family members, or if they have been residing in Slovenia for at least two years based on the temporary residence permit for family union, it is not certain that they are interested in courses, and that they will actually attend them. The funds were provided depending on the actual number of beneficiaries.

VI.2. Assessment of the implementation of the 2008 Annual Programme

- 1. Has the 2008 programme been implemented as originally planned and broadly in line with the programme schedule?**

15 lines maximum

The Annual Programme 2008 is implemented as planned in terms of contents. Activities have been performed and contracts signed with respect to all measures.

- 2. Have you encountered problems on implementation of the 2008 annual programme? If so, what measures did you take?**

15 lines maximum

There were no specific problems related to the implementation of the Annual Programme 2008.

As in the annual programme 2007, the realization within the 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals' will depend on the number of participants at courses. The Slovenian language courses are well attended, but there was a little less interest for the course of familiarisation with the Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order.

Since the information is very important in this context, we believe that it is crucial to implement the project 'Production and distribution of a brochure with information for the third country nationals' with a website as an upgrade carried out under this annual programme.

- 3. Has a revision of the 2008 programme by the Commission been necessary, or will it be necessary? If so, what were/are the main changes?**

15 lines maximum

No.

- 4. Have you implemented the 2008 programme (the case being, the revised programme) fully? (= all or nearly all actions set out in the programme approved by the Commission, or in the revised programme approved/to be approved by the Commission, could be implemented by the end of this programme)**

15 lines maximum

As to the contents, the programme will be carried out almost in its entirety. In carrying out programmes aimed at promoting the inter-cultural dialogue, two projects were selected which cover contents-wise all the major Slovenia towns. The programmes will not be completed entirely because of the scarce number of the interested target group - foreigners. Workshops, seminars and round tables are also carried out on a smaller scale than anticipated.

As regards the Slovenian language courses and programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order, the reasons have already been stated above (point 2).

- 5. Do you expect the expected quantitative and qualitative results of the 2008 programme - as set out in the programme / revised programme approved by the Commission - to be achieved at the end of this programme?**

15 lines maximum

The programme will not be realized in its entirety due to a small number of participants at courses within the 'Drafting and implementation of Slovenian language learning programmes and of programmes for learning about Slovenian history, culture and the constitutional order of third country nationals' and a lower participation at workshops within projects of promoting inter-cultural dialogue. Based on these results, the focus in the next few years will be primarily on promoting integration measures and projects co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.

- 6. In the light of the implementation of the 2008 programme, do you consider that the distribution of EIF funding between the Actions was appropriate? Were the actions set out in the programme you submitted to the Commission appropriate?**

15 lines maximum

We believe that the distribution of funds among individual measures was suitable, and that the programs were appropriate.

The same applies here as in the case of Annual Programme 2007: it is important to note that regardless of the fact that, although third-country nationals are eligible, in accordance with the Decree on Aliens Integration, to free learning of the Slovenian language and familiarisation with the history, culture and the constitutional order if they are residing in the RS based on a permanent residence permit aimed at uniting with their family members, or if they have been residing in Slovenia for at least two years based on the temporary residence permit for family union, it is not certain that they are interested in courses and will actually attend them. The funds were provided depending on the actual number of beneficiaries.

VI.3. Assessment of the implementation of the 2009 Annual Programme

1. Has the 2009 programme been implemented as originally planned and broadly in line with the programme schedule?

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

2. Have you encountered problems on implementation of the 2009 annual programme? If so, what measures did you take?

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

3. Has a revision of the 2009 programme by the Commission been necessary, or will it be necessary? If so, what are the main changes?

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

- 4. Do you expect to fully implement the 2009 programme (the case being, the revised programme)? (= all or nearly all actions set out in the programme approved by the Commission, or in the revised programme to be approved by the Commission, could be implemented by the end of this programme)**

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

- 5. Do you expect the expected quantitative and qualitative results of the 2009 programme - as set out in the programme / revised programme approved by the Commission – to be achieved at the end of this programme?**

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

- 6. In the light of the implementation of the 2009 programme to date, do you consider that the distribution of EIF funding between the Actions was appropriate? Were the actions set out in the programme you submitted to the Commission appropriate?**

15 lines maximum

Not known by June 2010.

VI.4. The Management and Control System of the EIF programmes and the implementation of the Annual Programmes 2007 through 2009

Based on:

- All information available to the Responsible Authority on the implementation of each Annual Programme 2007 through 2009;*
- The Management and Control system of the EIF in your Member State;*
- Any external evaluation available to the Responsible Authority.*

1. Has the Management and Control System of the EIF, which you designed in 2007-8, been efficient for the implementation of the annual programmes so far?

Half a page maximum

We believe that the system of management and control which was established and is common to all four funds is appropriate and allows efficient and transparent implementation of the programmes.

It allows separation of functions of the Responsible authority, the Audit authority, and the Certifying authority. The RS Government appointed the Ministry of the Interior as the Responsible authority, the Ministry of Finance - Department for the Management of EU funds as the Certifying authority, and the Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia (BSO) as the Audit authority. A financial agreement is signed between the Certifying authority and the Responsible authority, setting out their mutual relationships. The Ministry of the Interior has concluded an operational management agreement with each ministry acting as intermediate body for individual funds, defining in detail their duties and responsibilities.

2. Please list the changes you have made in the Management and Control System of the European Integration Fund which you designed in 2007-8, bearing in mind the experiences gained/ lessons learned during the implementation of the annual programmes 2007 - 2009

Half a page maximum

The Management and control system which is common to all four funds was completed with a new intermediate body (Ministry of Justice), which joined the implementation of the 2010 Annual Programme with its project of the Return Fund. It was corrected and upgraded with minor changes or detailed descriptions of certain tasks defined and proposed by the supervisor of Audit authority. We also corrected and adjusted some titles and names of departments which had been changed after reorganizations. A new version of the system description will be sent to the EC later this year.

**Part VII: OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE
AUTHORITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EIF
PROGRAMMES, 2007 THROUGH 2009**

In case you had recourse to an external expertise for other parts of this report:

This part must always be filled in by the Responsible Authority itself

VII.1. What is your overall assessment of the EIF implementation in your Member State from 2007 to 2009?

1 page maximum

We estimate that the implementation of the Fund programmes was held as planned. Good programmes were prepared which complement the measures of integration. It has to be noted that the drawing was not done according to plans because of the late adoption of the legal basis for the Slovenian language learning programmes and familiarisation with the Slovenian culture and history, which received the largest share of financial resources. Equally, the participation of target groups in some projects was not as it anticipated. We believe that with respect to all projects, it is very important to provide information to both the target groups and the general public. We therefore welcome the excellently performed project 'Production and distribution of the brochure with information for third country nationals', with a website as upgraded information within the Annual Programme 2008, offering extensive information to foreigners and other interested public. The intermediate body, Directorate of Migration and Integration, will also take measures to encourage and raise the attention of the target group on the available projects.

VII.2. On the basis of the information available to you by 30 June 2010, please provide your preliminary assessment in relation to the following aspects of the European Integration Fund in your Member State from 2007 to 2009

* Relevance of the EIF programme's priorities and actions to your national situation

15 lines maximum

See explanation under Section VII.1. In principle, the implementation was good, and we are satisfied with the selected projects. The problem is the late start of language courses and poor participation of the target group.

* Effectiveness of the programme

15 lines maximum

The programme set in the multi-annual programme was reached in its entirety. The Fund resources co-financed the projects of learning the Slovenian language, and the familiarisation with the Slovenian history and culture. We also enabled the performance of exams in the Slovenian language, which is a prerequisite to obtain the Slovenian citizenship. In accordance with plans, the projects of intercultural dialogue were carried out, and two studies on associations of third country nationals were carried out. We also realized a project which will be of great help in better informing the third country nationals and the general public.

* Efficiency of the programme

15 lines maximum

The Project Unit for European Funds was established under the Ministry of Interior for managing the funds. It performs the tasks of the Responsible authority for all four Funds (EIF, EBF, ERF, IF). We believe that this is a rational and a reasonable decision. The costs of most unit employees are covered from the technical assistance fund. This fund covers also the costs of employees at the Audit authority, and the funds for the increased scope of work of the existing staff and the Certifying authority, where no additional employees have been hired.

As regards the programmes, the estimated amount was not used completely due to late start of some projects and scarce participation of target groups

* Complementarity

15 lines maximum

The Monitoring Committee is preventing double financing. It is a coordinating body representing all the ministries/bodies entitled to participate in the

implementation of funds. It also includes members of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs running the ESS programmes.

The EIF and ERF programmes complement each other well, but they concern different target groups, so the projects are substantially similar but divided by target groups covered by the two funds.

Equally, we complement well with the ESF in terms of contents, as the support in employing the foreigners is among very important integration measures in Slovenia.

* Added value

15 lines maximum

The EIF added value is primarily in funding numerous projects implemented by NGOs and other organizations, because the RS provides the remaining 25%, so that the projects of NGOs and other organizations can be financed up to 100%.

As regards their substance, the projects complement and implement the Slovenian policy and measures in the field of integration, based on the Aliens Act and the Regulation on the Integration of Foreigners (adopted in 2008).

VII.3. Your suggestions and recommendations for improvement

Under this item please specify in particular:

* Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in the regulatory framework (EIF basic act and implementing rules) and the Commission guidance documents which would help you to streamline and improve the annual programming exercise in general?

Half a page maximum

It would be useful, if the Commission with the cooperation of Member States could prepared guidance document which would help us to streamline and improve the implementation of the actions / projects and the control mechanisms on the actions/ projects.

We were also very pleased with granted access to CIRCA Solid group but are lacking the access to the documents that Commission sends to individual member states as a result to their questions about the eligibility of certain expenditure. As a result, we are often accidentally finding out that some member state has faced the same dilemma or question a few months ago and already received detailed answer by the Commission. If there would be one database of answers to questions divided by general topics on-line (e.g. CIRCA) we would look there first and potentially find suitable answer there and would not separately write to the Commission regarding the same topic.

* Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in the regulatory framework (EIF basic act and implementing rules) and the Commission guidance documents which would help you to streamline and improve the implementation of the actions / projects and the control mechanisms on the actions/ projects?

Half a page maximum

We have no specific proposals.

We would only wish to be able to implement investment projects within this Fund, so that it would be possible to purchase the equipment eligible for full financing, not only in terms of depreciation costs (as in the case of EBF).

* Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in terms of the guidance and support by the Commission to the Member States on the implementation of the programming exercise and the management and control system?

Half a page maximum

We would welcome some general training programmes - for the management bodies and the groups interested in drawing these funds (e.g. NGO).

Perhaps it would be reasonable to establish a single web site for each individual fund publishing all the applicable laws and bills, and the approved programmes of all Member States.

End of the report