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ANNEX

European Refugee Fund 2008-2013 Community actions

Work Programme for 2011

1. POLICY CONTEXT

Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 established the European Refugee Fund (ERF III) for the period 2008 to 2013 to support and encourage Member States' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons¹.

The objective of the ERF III is to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving, and in bearing the consequences of receiving, refugees and displaced persons, taking account of EU legislation on those matters.

The Commission may use up to 4% of the Fund's available resources to finance "transnational actions or actions of interest to the Community as a whole concerning asylum policy and measures applicable to the target groups referred to in Article 6"².

On the basis of the above considerations and of the objectives given in the legal base of the European Refugee Fund, the indicative distribution of budget is the following:

- for grants (implemented in direct centralised management): 3.753.031,56 €
- for procurement (implemented in direct centralised management): 200.000,00 €.

Legal Basis

Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 established the European Refugee Fund (ERF III) for the period 2008 to 2013 to support and encourage Member States' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons.

Budgetary line

18 03 03

2. GRANTS

The budgetary envelope reserved in 2011 for grants amounts to 3.753.031,56 €.

2.1. Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and foreseen results

Priorities for 2011

The following priorities are pursued by the Commission in 2011:

1. Improving the quality of asylum decision-making and the continuing development of the capacity of stakeholders, including Member State authorities, UNHCR and non-governmental actors, in the asylum field.
2. Improving the efficiency and the fairness of the Dublin system.

¹ OJ L 144, 6.6.2007, p. 1.

² In accordance with Article 4 of Decision No 573/2007/EC, amended by Article 1 of Decision No 458/2010/EU

3. Enhancing solidarity mechanisms between the Member States and in particular assist those Member States which are faced with particular pressures on their national asylum systems.
4. Promoting common measures to address specific needs of vulnerable groups among asylum seekers and persons benefiting from international protection, in particular of those who are unaccompanied minors, with a view to implement the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors³.
5. Promoting the integration of refugees, taking into account the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees.
6. Support Member States in the event of duly substantiated emergency situations requiring urgent action.

Objectives for 2011

1. Exchange of information and development of best practice on the implementation of EU law between National asylum authorities, between them and other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations and international organisations, and between the latter, including through training, research, monitoring, discussion fora and the preparation of resource materials.
2. Development of best practices on the implementation of the family unity criteria and on improvement of transfer procedures under the Dublin Regulation in order to enhance efficiency while at the same time ensure that needs of asylum seekers, in particular vulnerable ones, are taken into account.
3.
 - a) Facilitation of intra-EU relocation, on a voluntary basis, of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection from one Member State to another Member State in cases of particular asylum pressure.
 - b) Any type of support to national asylum authorities of a Member State under particular pressure on its system.
4. Exchange of information and development of best practice between national asylum authorities, between them and other stakeholders (such as non-governmental organisations and international organisations) and between the latter, in addressing the needs of vulnerable persons, in particular minors, unaccompanied minors (with a view to implement the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors), victims of violence and torture, pregnant women, elderly people, disabled people, single parents, as well as people kept in prolonged detention, and people with serious medical needs, when implementing EU legislation and preparing for higher and more convergent standards of protection.
5. Exchange of information and development of best practice between national asylum authorities, between them and other stakeholders (such as non-governmental

³ COM (2010) 213 FINAL

organisations and international organisations) and between the latter on issues related to new approaches on integration of beneficiaries of international protection.

6. Support Member States in the event of duly substantiated emergency situations requiring urgent action (e.g. logistic and transport, reception and accommodation, resettlement operations, etc.).

Foreseen results

The available budget for grants should allow up to 12 projects to be co-financed depending on the individual grant amounts. The projects that are selected must enable progress to be made in the attainment of one or more of the objectives mentioned above and must represent good value for money.

2.2. Implementation

The actions will be implemented directly by DG HOME through awarded grants pursuant to an open call for proposals.

For objective No 6, grants should be awarded without a call for proposals. In these cases, provisions of the Article 112(1) of Financial Regulation⁴ and of the Article 168(1)(b) of its Implementing Rules may be applied.

2.3. Timetable of the call for proposals

Publication of call for proposals:	Q2 2011
Deadline for submission of proposals:	Q3 2011
Evaluation of projects:	Q3 2011
Award decision:	Q3 2011
Commitments and grant agreements:	as from Q4 2011

2.4. Maximum possible rate of co-financing

90% of the eligible costs

2.5. Essential exclusion and eligibility criteria

Exclusion criteria

The applicant organisation involved in the project must not be in one of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of Financial Regulation.

Eligibility criteria

⁴ Council Regulation No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the budget of the European Union, OJ L 248 of 16.09.2002, p.1.

In addition to meeting all technical requirements which will be detailed in the call for proposals, projects must meet the following criteria:

- Applications must be submitted within the deadline mentioned in the call for proposals.
- Actions should be designed, developed and implemented in at least two participating Member States.

The eligibility criteria specified above will not be applicable for grants awarded without a call for proposals. In this case, an application for funding must be sent to the Commission; applicants must be Member States and/or International Organisations.

2.6. Essential selection and award criteria

Selection criteria

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. They must have the technical competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action or work programme and have expertise in the field of immigration and integration.

Award criteria

The Commission will select the proposals achieving the highest score following evaluation according to the award criteria set out in the call for proposals, the essential award criteria being the added value, the quality, the overall effectiveness of the proposed action and its value for money.

In case of grants awarded without a call for proposals, the award criteria will be the relevance of the proposal and the estimated impact on the crisis situation of the proposed activities.

2.7. Form of the grant and value

Grants shall be covered by a written agreement.

The necessary co-financing must be confirmed at the date of the application. EU co-financing per project will not exceed 2.000.000 € if the applicant is a National Authority or the UNHCR and 750.000 € for other applicants and not be less than 300.000 € for any applicant. The duration of projects should not exceed 18 months. The grant agreement with an applicant to whom the EC-UN financial and administrative framework agreement applies may take this fact into account.

The amounts listed above do not apply for grants awarded to support Member States in the event of duly substantiated emergency situations requiring urgent actions.

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved in 2011 for the procurement contracts amounts to 200 000 €.

Legal Basis

Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 established the European Refugee Fund (ERF III) for the period 2008 to 2013 to support and encourage Member States' efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons

Budgetary line

18 03 03

Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

Studies: 1

Subject of the contracts envisaged

- Study on the feasibility of developing Eurodac into a supporting tool for the entire Common European Asylum System.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure

Study: Q2 2011 – Q3 2011

