INTRODUCTION

This consultation aims to collect opinions on the functioning of the European Refugee Fund (ERF) 2011-2013 in your Country and more specifically the successes and the obstacles in the implementation of the national programmes.

Based on the Articles 49 and 50 of Decision No 2007/573/EC, the Commission shall carry out regular monitoring of the ERF in cooperation with the Member States.

The Fund shall be evaluated by the Commission in partnership with the Member States to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of actions in the light of the general objective of the Fund.

The evaluation will examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the ERF under the 2011-2013 annual programmes (shared management mode) and the Community actions under the Annual Work Programmes 2011-2013 (direct or joint management mode).

The evaluation is an important instrument to inform the European Parliament and the Council, the Member States, the research Community, the general public and other stakeholders about the achievements of the ERF actions for 2011-2013. It will also contribute to improve the implementation of ERF actions and to provide ground for the design of future programme.

The Commission services will develop an ex post evaluation report addressed to the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States.

The ex post evaluation will be carried out by the Commission Services supported by an independent expert and it will be developed on the basis of the national reports and the results of this consultation.

In order to collect public opinion on the functioning, achievements and impact of the ERF 2011-2013 actions, this public consultation is addressed to bodies and individuals who benefited from or implemented projects funded by the Fund.

The public consultation is published in English and its results will be made publicly available through dedicated page. The respondents are invited to reply in English to the possible extent, but replies in other languages will be accepted.

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2 The ERF 2011-2013 has been implemented through the annual national programmes (shared management – 93%) and Community actions (direct or joint management – 7%).
For more information on this consultation, please read the background document.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON THE PUBLICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions received from this survey will be published on the European Commission’s website. Do you agree on the publication of your contribution?

- Yes, my contribution may be published under my name (or the name of my organisation);
- Yes, my contribution may be published but should be kept anonymous (with no mention of the person/organisation);
- No, I do not want my contribution to be published. (NB. Your contribution will not be published, but it may be used internally within the Commission for statistical and analytical purposes).

PART I - IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDER OR EXPERT

You are responding as:

- An individual who was beneficiary of activities funded by the ERF 2011-2013;
- An individual, who is an asylum seeker, refugee or other displaced person present on the territory of the 27 EU Member States concerned (but who did not benefit from ERF co-funded activities);
- An independent expert;
- On behalf of a business/private company;
- On behalf of a non-profit organisation;
- On behalf of a public authority;
- On behalf of an academic/research institution;
- On behalf of a pan-European interest group;
- Other.

If you answered 'other' please specify.

50 character(s) maximum

Please specify your name and the name of the organisation you represent.

50 character(s) maximum

Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

- Yes
- No

3 For further information, please consult the privacy statement.
If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register here. Please notice that it is not compulsory to register to reply to this consultation. Citizens have a right to expect that European institutions interaction with citizens associations, NGOs, businesses, trade unions, think tanks, etc. is transparent and takes place in compliance with the law as well as in due respect of ethical principles, avoiding undue pressure, illegitimate or privileged access to information or to decision makers. The Transparency Register exists to provide citizens with direct and single access to information about who is engaged in activities aiming at influencing the EU decision-making process, which interests are being pursued and what level of resources are invested in these activities. Please help us enhancing transparency by registering.

Please indicate your Register ID-number

Please indicate your contact e-mail address

Please indicate your Country of residence\(^4\) or establishment:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

\(^4\) NB. Please be aware that the use of 'Country' in the following questions refers to your Country of residence/activity. When reference is made to your Country of origin it will be explicitly mentioned.
PART II – QUESTIONS

1. In your Country, do you consider that the implementation of the ERF during 2011-2013 affected positively the work of the public administrations dealing with asylum and the beneficiaries of EU asylum policy?

   o Generally yes, to a great extent;
   o Partially yes, but to limited extent;
   o Generally no, the implementation had poor impact on the administrations;
   o No, it was an obstacle to the implementation of the national policy on integration;
   o Other;
   o Don't know.

   If you replied 'other' please specify briefly your reasons.

   400 character(s) maximum

2. The general objective of the ERF is to support the efforts made by the Member States in receiving, and in bearing the consequences of receiving, refugees and displaced persons, taking account of Community legislation in this field. Based on your experience, did your Country achieve this result?

   o Mostly yes;
   o Partially yes;
   o No;
   o Don't know.

   If you did not answer 'yes' please describe briefly your reasons.

   400 character(s) maximum

3. Based on your experience, which of the following eligible actions funded by the ERF were achieved in your Country? (Multiple answers possible)

   o Reception conditions and asylum procedures;
   o Integration of stateless persons or third-country nationals in need of international protection whose stay is of a stable nature;
   o Resettlement and transfer activities of stateless persons or third-country nationals in need of international protection;
o Enhancement of Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies in line with the principles established by the Common European Asylum System;
o Practical cooperation activities among Member States.

4. To achieve EU common approach on asylum, the European Commission set priorities for the implementation of the ERF. In your experience, which one was the political priority of the government in your Country? (Multiple answers possible)

o The Common European Asylum System implemented in a consistent way and uniformly applied;
o The management of legal migration flows in line with the labour market needs;
o The promotion of integration activities for non-EU nationals;
o The development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess the quality of procedures related to claims for international protection;
o The improvement of the cooperation among Member States;
o The sharing of responsibility between Member States and third Countries.

5. As a general principle, Member States implement their annual programmes following the general objective and the Community eligible actions. Based on your experience, were the financed projects consistent with the above objectives and actions in your Country?

o Yes;
o Generally yes, but to limited extent;
o Generally no, but with some exceptions;
o No;
o Don't know.

Please add any comments that you would like to share.

400 character(s) maximum

6. Based on your experience, which one(s) of the following activities funded by the ERF was implemented in your Country? (Multiple answers possible):

o Measures to increase the cooperation among Member States (e.g. transnational cooperation networks, transnational awareness-raising campaigns, translational pilot projects);
o Measures to expand networks linking non-governmental organisations assisting refugees and asylum seekers and which are present in at least 10 Member States;
o Measures to support the exchange of information and good practices among national administrations working on asylum;
o Development of indicators, evaluation methods and further measures in order to evaluate actions on asylum;
o Emergency measures to address massive and sudden arrivals of large number of persons some of which in need of international protection;
If you answered 'other' please describe briefly what kind of activity has been implemented in your Country.

400 character(s) maximum

7. In order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and improve the Common European Asylum System, based on your experience, did your Country intensify its cooperation with European Member States?

- Yes;
- Mostly yes, but with some problems;
- Generally no, although good practices were exchanged in some cases;
- No;
- Don’t know.

Please feel free to provide details on your experience.

400 character(s) maximum

8. Were the activities funded by the ERF implemented in compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as Community legislation in this field?

- Yes;
- Generally yes, but only some of the activities;
- No;
- Don’t Know.

If you did not reply 'yes' please describe briefly your reasons.

400 character(s) maximum

9. In order to ensure the functioning of the asylum policy it is essential that the Member States adopt common principles and common measures. In your experience, did you notice any difference among the Member States in the way they apply the EU asylum/integration policy standards?

- Yes, very large differences;
- Yes, but the differences are small;
- No differences;
- Don’t know.
If you answered 'yes' please specify why and which common standards haven't been applied.

400 character(s) maximum

PART III – EVALUATION

The Commission services aim at evaluating the implementation of the Fund also in respect of the common criteria.

Theme 1 Relevance

10. In your opinion, did the projects and the activities funded by the ERF in your Country address the needs of the potential beneficiaries?

   o Yes;
   o Generally yes, but with some problems;
   o Generally no, although with some successes;
   o No;
   o Don’t know.

If you did not reply 'yes' please describe briefly your reasons.

400 character(s) maximum

Theme 2 Effectiveness

11. Which were the objectives achieved by the actions implemented in your Country? (Multiple answers possible)

   o Measures aiming to improve the reception conditions and asylum procedures;
   o Measures aiming to promote the integration of stateless persons or third-country nationals in need of international protection;
   o The enhancement of Member States' capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the asylum policies in line with the principles established by the Common European Asylum System;
   o Measures contributing to the resettlement of stateless persons or third-country nationals in need of international protection;
   o Measures contributing to the transfer of stateless persons or third-country nationals in need of international protection;
   o Other;
   o Don’t know.

If you replied 'other' please provide details below.

400 character(s) maximum
Theme 3 Efficiency

12. In your Country, were the effects of the ERF actions achieved at a reasonable cost in terms of financial and human resources deployed?

- Yes;
- Generally yes, but with some problems;
- Generally no, although with some successes;
- No;
- Don’t know.

If you did not reply 'yes' please describe briefly your reasons.

400 character(s) maximum

Theme 4 Sustainability

13. Projects funded by the ERF are expected to produce positive effects. Would you say that improved services and procedures (achieved also through the ERF) will continue without the EU financial support?

- Yes;
- Generally yes, although with some problems;
- Generally no, although with some initial successes;
- No;
- Don’t know.

If you did not reply 'yes' please briefly describe your reasons.

400 character(s) maximum

Theme 5 Coherence and Complementarity

14. Projects and actions funded by the ERF are expected to be coherent with and complementary to other actions in the same field funded by the EU financial instruments and national resources of the Member States. Based on your experience, was this achieved?

- Yes, the actions were coherent with and complementary to other actions;
- Yes, but only few actions were coherent with and complementary to other actions;
- Generally no, although some of the actions were similar to other actions financed by EU financial instruments and by resources of my Country;
- No;
Theme 6 EU Added Value

15. Based on your experience, would you say that the contribution of the ERF was crucial to implement the EU policies in the field of asylum in your Country?

- Yes, it made a huge difference;
- Yes, but to limited extent;
- Probably no;
- No;
- Don’t know.

Please feel free to provide details on your experience.

400 character(s) maximum

16. If you are a beneficiary of the activities funded by ERF, in which one of the following projects did you participate?

- Accommodation facilities;
- Services and training courses related to asylum procedures;
- Legal and social assistance for asylum seekers or refugees;
- Courses for the acquisition of technical skills;
- Language courses;
- Resettlement operations;
- Relocation operations;
- Other;
- Don't know.

Please feel free to provide details on your experience.

400 character(s) maximum
17. If you are a beneficiary of the ERF, please describe briefly the services you benefited from and its relevance for your integration in your Country of residence (Open question).

500 character(s) maximum

18. Do you have any publication (flyer, study, handbook etc.) concerning the ERF that you would like to share with us?

If so, please upload it here. If it takes up more than 1MB, please email it to HOME-FUNDS-EVALUATIONS@ec.europa.eu

List the publication(s) as follows:
Title:
Date of publication (YYYY-MM):
Author:
Full URL link to the site where the publication is posted (if it is online).