

Annex 2

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2008

MEMBER STATE:	GREECE
FUND:	EUROPEAN RETURN FUND
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR/ HELLENIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS/FINANCE DIVISION
YEAR COVERED:	2008

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

1.1. INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION METHODS TO BE USED

The method, which have been chosen for implementing the actions of the Annual Program of 2008, correspond to the function of the responsible authority only as an *executing body* (Articles 7 and 8 of the E 2008/796/EC implementing rules decision).

The reasons, which led the Responsible Authority to operate according to the mentioned selected method, has to do with the nature of the selected actions described in the multiannual programme of the European Return Fund and the exclusive statutory powers of the below **public authority (national authority)**, which participate in the implementation of the program. Additionally, reasons which are connected with the exclusive competences of the Hellenic Police concerning the return area, create a legal monopoly for the specific law enforcement authority, apart from the action which concerns the implementation of the voluntary returns.

According to article 8 of the 2008/796/EC implementing rules decision, the two authorities **(the responsible authority and the audit authority) have totally distinct roles** because they belong to different ministries with completely separate functions. This ensures separation of the functions and the independence of the two authorities and favours unimpaired execution of the authorities' tasks.

The implementation of the projects will start right after the approval of the Multiannual and the 2008 annual Programme by the European Commission.

With a view to strengthening the system of management and control and in order to be facilitated the tasks of the Responsible Authority concerning the monitoring of the appropriate arrangements, the Responsible Authority will sign **written agreements (memorandum of understanding)**, equivalent to the grant agreement, with the competent services of the Hellenic Police Headquarters. These agreements will state all the details relating to the performance of the duties and obligations which are being delegated to the competent Divisions of the HPHQ, such as the monitoring and development of the actions implementation via periodical reports (monthly – quarterly) which will be submitted to the R.A. by the competent body.

Furthermore, the RA will have access in all files, which the competent Services keep concerning the implementation of the actions in order the RA can implement verifications of provided elements, after controls on the spot in application of article 27 of the Basic Act.

This will facilitate the work of the responsible authority, which will have the final responsibility for the implementation of the multiannual programme.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION OF THE EXECUTING BODY METHOD

Under Law 2800/2000 (Government Gazette I 41/29.02.2000), "Restructuring of departments of the Ministry of Public Order, establishment of the Hellenic Police HQ, and other provisions" and Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001), **the Hellenic Police is responsible for the issues relating to the entry, residence and, in cooperation with the rest competent national authorities, employment of foreign nationals in Greece, except in areas under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard and for the returns of the arrested illegal immigrants in the whole land.**

According to the contents of the decision on the European Return Fund, the entire territory of Greece is an eligible area for financial assistance through the Fund. So the actions, describing in the annual programme of 2008 will be implemented only by the competent Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, under the surveillance and the guidance of the Responsible Authority. So the **Responsible Authority will implement the projects of the actions of the annual programs jointly (*indirectly*):**

- With **Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters**, because of the technical expertise, high degree of specialization and administrative powers of the services per category of actions.

1.3. DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE SELECTION PROCEDURES APPLIED

The competent national services of the Ministry of Interior/**Hellenic Police Headquarters** which have been involved both to the drafting of the **annual program 2008** and will **implement the decided actions**, is the Aliens Division and the Training Division of the HPHQ.

The process followed by the Finance Division of the HPHQ for the selection of the projects, refers to a call for proposals to the Aliens Division of the HPHQ. This call is a document, which refers to the eligible actions, the strategic guidelines (priorities – specific priorities) and the Community actions of the European Return Fund (**article 5, 6, and 18 of the 575/2007/EC of 23 May 2007 Decision**) and prompts the above Division to submit relevant proposals for potential actions. After the response of the competent Division, were taken into account the proposed actions and were described in the Annual Programme.

The actions concerning the Annual Programs have been chosen exclusively from the sum of actions that has been described in the M.A.P. of the European Return Fund.

1.4. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Regarding the procedures for the implementation of actions , the Responsible Authority will apply the national legislation about the public accounting (Law of 2362/95 Government Gazette 247/A - 27-11-1995 and others) which is in compliance with article 11 of the implementing rules (Decision 2008/458/EC), with the exception of the different provisions on the thresholds determining the kind of procedures to be followed, such as regular procurement

procedure (open or restricted) or concise process (direct entrusting, makeshift or negotiated).

The majority of the proposed actions concern the provision of services and not procurement procedures. According to the above mentioned Law and the relevant ministerial decisions, all the procedures concerning the provision of services for public bodies are implemented by the own public service of our country. Thus, the Responsible Authority will commit, via the signature of memorandum of understanding, to a service of the HPHQ competent for each action, the implementation of all procedures either concerning procurement or the provisions of services.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (if appropriate)

Law 3613/07 appointing the responsible authority has been passed and published (Government Gazette 263/Volume A/23.11.2007) and it is expected, until 20-12-2008, the publication of the common ministerial decision, concerning the organization and the operation of the Responsible Authority of the R.F., by authorization of art.28 par.10 (g) Law 3613/2007.

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

3.1. Actions implementing priority 1

3.1.1. The improvement of the information provided to potential returnees , by the employment of interpreters and translators of their languages

3.1.1.1. Purpose and scope of the action

A large number of illegal immigrants come mainly from countries of Asia and Africa and they do not speak any language except their native language. Therefore, their communication with the Greek authorities is very difficult. In order to facilitate this communication the existence of interpreters is necessary. Their duties are focused on:

- The translation and explanation, to the potential returnees, of their rights, the reasons of their arrest and the return to their countries of origin.
- The verification of the nationality which the returnee has declared.

The interpreters will cover a wide network of nationalities, languages and dialects (e.g. Farsi, Urdu, Pashtu, and Arabic). Their total will reach **35** interpreters, who will be allocated as follows:

- 5 in Athens (Aliens' Directorate of Attica)

- 5 in the Police Directorate of Orestias
- 5 in the Police Directorate of Lesvos
- 5 in the Police Directorate of Samos
- 5 in the Police Directorate of Chios
- 5 in the Police Directorate of Dodecanese
- 5 in the Police Directorate of Achaia

3.1.1.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.1.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.1.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results from the implementation of the said action will be the following:

- the reduction of the problems caused by the arrested illegal immigrants to be returned, as they will understand their rights, the reasons why they are in detention and the procedures of their return;
- the respect of human rights;
- a quicker dispatch of the various cases and
- the upgrading of the services provided by the Hellenic Police to the persons to be returned.

3.1.1.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of interpreters' employment.

Outcome: Upgrade of the provided services to the potential returnees. Faster procedures for return management.

Impact: Development of the return management's effective application.

3.1.1.6. Visibility of EC funding (Pertinent for all proposed actions in the Annual Programme 2008)

The annual programme will be published on the official website of the Ministry of Interior as and when it is approved.

Publication of the objectives and instruments of the European Return Fund is designed to:

- inform public opinion in general about the role played by the European Union and the Greek authorities in the programme and the results of its implementation;
- inform the public in general at central and regional level about the objectives, aims, priorities and actions of the Fund and the level of EC co financing through a selection of communication and promotional actions;
- guarantee actions under the programme are visible by providing a full range of information for all social agencies.

Consequently, the aim of valid and prompt information and publication is to achieve transparent and effective management of national and Community resources.

For the purposes of information and publicity measures concerning the Fund, the responsible authority set up under law 3613/07 (Government Gazette 263/I/23.11.2007) will publish, according to the above mentioned procedure, notices of each scheduled competition in the daily Greek press and in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Each communication action will include clear information on the participation of the EU (mainly in the form of a reference to the contribution of the EU and the percentage of assistance for the actions being promoted) and the European emblem/logo will appear alongside every national emblem/logo.

Information plaques or stickers will be attached to all types of equipment for co financed actions, depending on the type of equipment. One part of the plaque or sticker will be used to advertise the EU contribution (and specifically the External Borders Fund) by including a description in words and the Greek flag and the EU emblem/logo, as stipulated in Article 35 of Commission decision no. E (2008) 796/5-3-2008 on the implementation rules for Decision 575/2007/EC establishing the European Return Fund.

The regulatory framework governing information and publicity of actions under the programme is set out in the above Commission decision (Articles 31-35) and is concerning only the Responsible authority, because **the RA will act only as an executing body**. The visibility guidelines, which the RA will follow, refer to Chapter 5 of the implementing rules, and will be absolutely followed by the competent unit of the Responsible Authority (**Unit 4**).

The Monitoring Committee will, among other duties, supervise the implementation of the visibility obligations, according to articles 31-35 of the implementing rules.

In addition, the Responsible Authority already has experience from the application of Community programmes which have been and which are being implemented under which it was/is the grant recipient.

3.1.1.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate (*Pertinent for all proposed actions in the Annual Programme 2008*)

All the objectives described under the priorities that are planned to be implemented under the Fund, follow on from national actions taken for the same reasons at central, regional and local level.

The actions to be implemented complement and follow on from actions taken under the national ordinary budget of the Hellenic Police as well as under Community Programmes which have been and are being implemented under the European Refugee Fund II, regarding the implementation of voluntary returns. The knowledge and experience gained from implementing operational programmes under the 3rd Community Support Framework, INTERREG II and III, EQUAL and ARGO were also applied. Particular attention was paid when drafting the multiannual programme to the results of the implemented actions in the framework of the Community Initiative EQUAL and of the joint European operations, programmed and coordinated by Frontex, in the field of the integrated return management.

Specifically, via the Community Initiative EQUAL has been financed the printing of handy booklets in six (6) languages, which describe the process of asylum and the applicant asylum's rights.

The preparation and the finalisation of the booklets' text in the applicant asylum's basic languages (Greek, English, French, Turkish, Iranian, Arabic), have been drafted with the collaboration of the Hellenic Police and the UNHCR.

These booklets were printed out by the Printing-house of the Hellenic Police in 75.000 copies and were distributed in the Services of the Hellenic Police in order to be covered the needs of the particular target group (asylum seekers).

Hellenic Police Headquarters has also been implementing various projects co-financed from operational programmes under the 2nd and 3rd Community Support Frameworks since 1995 and particular attention was therefore paid when preparing the multiannual and annual programmes to applying the knowledge and experience gained in order to include the best practices developed when planning the programmes.

As such, and given that the application of the provisions of the European Return Fund depends on cohesion with projects defined mainly in Objectives of the European Social Fund, the strategy developed within the framework of the European Return Fund is compatible with the objectives of the European Union Structural Funds (mainly of the European Social Fund), being pursued through sectoral and regional operational programmes in the 2007-2013 financial period.

In order to be ensured the above mentioned complementarity were taken into consideration, for drafting the multiannual program, the general axes of the approved European programs in Greece in the framework of the Structural Funds, which describe the fields of their actions and interventions, which will be implemented during the period 2007-2013.

3.1.1.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 1, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **450.000,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **150.000,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **600.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of

Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.1.2. Setting up and operating a special office for the implementation of the readmission agreements

3.1.2.1. Purpose and scope of the action

Our country, within the framework of an effective and complete management of returns, has signed re-admission agreements with third countries, such as Turkey and Albania. Purpose of the settings up and operation of a special re-admission office (R.A.Q.) is the Monitoring of the Readmission Agreements regarding their observation and implementation by contracted countries selections of information and co-operation with the regional police authorities. The special re-admission office cooperates with the regional police authorities and selects data proving the country of origin or the country of transit. In case that an agreement has been signed either with the country of origin or the country of transit, the office informs the foreign authorities in order to start and facilitate the return procedure.

For a better cooperation and communication between the regional police authorities and the readmission office, a quicker selection of information and a reliable exchange of information, in the context of the implementation of readmission agreements, it is necessary to be equipped with modern and operational devices, as follows:

- 14 computers, PCs with the proper software
- 14 multi-machines (Scanners, printers, fax, and photocopiers)
- 1 printers, laser type

The above equipment will be allocated as follows:

R.A.O

- Hellenic Police Headquarters / Alliens' Division
 - 4 computers
 - 4 multidevices
 - 1 printers

10 POLICE DIRECTORATES WITH 1 COMPUTER AND 1 MULTIMACHINE, AS FOLLOWS:

- Police Directorate of Orestias
- Police Directorate of Dodecanese
- Police Directorate of Chios
- Police Directorate of Samos
- Police Directorate of Lesvus
- Police Directorate of Alexandroupolis
- Police Directorate of Argolis
- Police Directorate of Cyclades

- Police Directorate of Euboea
- Police Directorate of Heraklion

3.1.2.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.2.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.2.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results from the development and implementation of the abovementioned action will be the monitoring, the facilitation and the quicker implementation of readmission agreements by the contracting counties, and a more effective co-operation between regional police authorities and R.A.O..

3.1.2.5. Indicators to be used

Output : The number of purchased p.cs, multi machines and printers for the efficient communication between the regional services and the R.A.O..

Outcome: Increased ability of more efficient and quicker communication between the Central Service (Hellenic Police Headquarters – Readmission Agreements Office) and the Regional Services, for the implementation of the Readmission Agreements.

Impact: Enhanced information exchange and cooperation between the R.A.O. (Hellenic Police Headquarters) and the competent Regional Services.

3.1.2.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.2.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.2.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 1, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **16.500,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **5.500,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **22.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.1.3. The improvement of the provision of psychological support and legal services to potential returnees by employing social workers/psychologists and legal advisers (lawyers)

3.1.3.1. Purpose and scope of the action

The provision of psychological support and legal advice to potential returnees as well as the information on the political and financial situation in the countries of origin will be carried out by social workers, psychologists and legal counselors. Their services are meant for:

- all arrested illegal immigrants,
- arrested illegal immigrants, who stay in special host places, until the legal status regarding their return is clarified (e.g. political asylum application until its approval or its rejection) and
- vulnerable persons, such as minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled and elderly persons, pregnant women and persons who have suffered psychological, physical or sexual violence.

It is expected that 35 social workers / psychologists and 35 legal counselors (lawyers) will be engaged in this work and they will be allocated as follows (the allocation will be the same for both specialties):

- 5 in Athens (Aliens Division of Attica)
- 5 in the Orestiada Police Directorate
- 5 in the Lesbos Police Directorate
- 5 in the Samos Police Directorate
- 5 in the Chios Police Directorate
- 5 in the Dodecanese Police Directorate
- 5 in the Achaia Police Directorate

3.1.3.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.3.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co-financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.3.4. Expected quantified results

The development and the materialization of the afore-mentioned action will contribute to the upgrading of the provided services by police authorities to arrested illegal immigrants, who are going to be sent back, and to the promotion of the respect for their human rights, in order that return procedures may be more effectively materialized.

3.1.3.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of social workers or psychologists and legal advisers (lawyers) employment.

Outcome: Upgrade of the provided services to the arrested illegal immigrants-returnees. Implementation of the obligations arising from the new Directive of the European Parliament and the Council concerning common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third country nationals.

Impact: Development of the return management's effective application.

3.1.3.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.3.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.3.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 3, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **900.000,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **300.000,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **1.200.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.1.4. Bilateral meetings with migration authorities of the partner third countries

3.1.4.1. Purpose and scope of the action

In many cases the immediate materialization of return decisions gets delayed, having as a consequence the long detention of illegal immigrants under return and the possible cancellation of their return to their countries of origin or to another country, where they get accepted, on the basis of readmission agreements.

The above problems are mainly due to the lack of cooperation on the part of some countries' Consular Authorities. Namely, many times Consular Authorities delay the issuance of travel documents for their nationals under return. This situation in connection with the inability of Consular Authorities to identify the illegal immigrants as nationals of the country in question, obstructs the work of the competent Hellenic Police Services.

Moreover, some countries (e.g. Turkey), which have signed readmission agreements, do not enforce them. Also, a large number of illegal immigrants come from third countries of Asia (e.g. Afghanistan and Pakistan) and from African countries (e.g. Somalia and Nigeria), with which readmission agreements have not been signed, a fact that creates problems regarding the return of their nationals.

The bilateral meetings between Greek experts and corresponding experts from third countries aim at:

- the more effective enforcement of readmission agreements,
- the signing of readmission agreements with countries, which present large outflow of illegal immigrants,
- the amelioration of the cooperation with the Consular Authorities, with the view of having their nationals' (illegal immigrants) travel documents issued in time.

For 2008, a bilateral meeting has already been fixed in Turkey with the participation of 5 experts from the Aliens Division / Hellenic Police Headquarters, for the purpose of considering the materialization of the already existing readmission agreement and of pointing out and solving the problems arising from its enforcement.

3.1.4.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.4.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or

authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.4.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results from the development and the materialization of the afore-mentioned action may be the following:

- the prompt materialization of return decisions by means of solving the problems arising from the enforcement of readmission agreements,
- the achievement of a more effective cooperation with the Consular Authorities, which are responsible for the timely issuance of travel documents for their nationals, who are illegal immigrants,
- the signing of readmission agreements with new countries.

3.1.4.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of immigration services or other competent, for the readmission agreements, services with which communication channels and working methods are established. Number of immigration services or other competent, for the readmission agreements, services with which cooperation is deepened and strengthened.

Outcome: Improved quality of service. Strengthened cooperation with third country consular, immigration or other competent, for the readmission agreements, services.

Impact: More effective return policy. Enhanced credibility of migration policy. Reduced costs of return.

3.1.4.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.4.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.4.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 3, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **7.500,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **2.500,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **10.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.1.5. Bilateral meetings with the Consular Authorities of the third countries

3.1.5.1. Purpose and scope of the action

A large number of illegal immigrants, coming from countries such as Somalia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, enter our country. During the return procedure regarding arrested illegal immigrants, many problems arise, which may significantly delay or even, in some cases, cancel the return to the country of origin, for the following reasons:

- the lack of consular representation by some countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Somalia and Bangladesh) in Greece;
- non-recognition of the travel documents of the arrested immigrants, as nationals of the aforementioned countries;
- long delays in the issuance of travel documents for immigrants from the aforementioned countries who should be returned.

In order to deal with this situation and the problems arising during the return procedure, new methods of cooperation with the consular authorities of the countries that are not represented in Greece will be developed. To this purpose, bilateral meetings with consular representatives of the countries that are not represented in Greece but are based in other countries will be held in Greece. The objective is to verify the nationality of illegal immigrants from the aforementioned countries who should be returned and to proceed to the immediate issuance of their travel documents.

More specifically, twelve (12) five-day bilateral meetings with the Consul and two representatives of the following consular authorities will be held in Greece:

- the consular authority of Afghanistan in Brussels (4 meetings per year),
- the consular authority of Bangladesh in Rome (4 meetings per year),
- officials from Somalia (4 meetings per year).

3.1.5.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.5.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the

Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.5.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results of the development and implementation of the aforementioned action are the following:

- the development of new methods of cooperation with consular authorities not represented in Greece;
- the establishment of a more efficient cooperation with consular authorities as regards the timely issuance of travel documents for their nationals who are illegal immigrants;
- the reduction in detention time for illegal immigrants and the acceleration of their return to their countries of origin.

3.1.5.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of consular services with which communication channels and working methods are established. Number of consular services with which cooperation is deepened and strengthened.

Outcome: Improved quality of service. Strengthened cooperation with third country consular services.

Impact: More efficient return policy. Enhanced credibility of migration policy. Reduced costs of return.

3.1.5.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.5.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.5.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 3, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **75.000,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **25.000,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **100.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.1.6. Enforced/assisted returns of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfill the conditions for entry and stay

3.1.6.1. Purpose and scope of the action

Nationals of third countries who do not meet the conditions for their stay in the Greek territory or their presence pose direct threat against the public order or the national security or their removal is ordered after a decision taken by Administrative or Judicial authorities, they are compulsorily removed from the national territory, observing in any case the rules provided for in the international conventions.

The removal of persons who do not cause specific problems is carried out voluntarily without an escort, by road, by air (regular flights) or by sea.

The financial aspects of the above actions will cover expenditures relating to the implementation of enforced/ assisted returns, such as the issuance of travel documents, the purchase of tickets or chartering of planes, the accommodation and food for returnees during the return operations as well as the expenditures related to police escorts accompanying the returnees during the return operations (tickets, food and accommodation in the third country).

However, there are special cases which need special management by the services responsible for their return, since during the process of the forced returns several problems arise impeding the returns and finally, leading to their annulment.

Such cases are:

- 1) Non – existence of communal or bilateral re-admission agreements with third countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, e.t.c. causing serious problem in co-operation in the field of returns.
- 2) The illegal aliens who cause problems during the return process to their countries and their removal is to be carried out by air with police escort.
- 3) Lack of co-operation with consulates of some states in our country, which do not issue travel documents or do not show the necessary interest for co-operation in order to issue the necessary travel documents within a reasonable time.
- 4) Lack of direct air connections with countries of origin of illegal immigrations.

As a result of the above, the immigrants under return are detained for a long period and, finally, the return is cancelled in some cases.

Our country, in order to solve the above problems and carry out the scheduled returns will hold flights by hiring aircrafts also for countries which have not signed re-admission agreements in order to increase the execution rates of the issued return decisions.

It is scheduled to carry out about five (5) flights with hired aircrafts, so that the illegal immigrants to be transported to their countries of origin, mainly Egypt, Pakistan and Iraq, eventually to other countries. It should be noted that from those five (5), two (2) flights have been already carried out to Egypt in 2008.

3.1.6.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.1.6.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.1.6.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results from the development – implementation of the said action, according to its description, will be the following:

- Increase of the rates of the illegal immigrants who return to their countries of origin and decrease of the illegal immigrants in our country and, by extension, in the E.U. countries.
- Return of illegal immigrants in the countries of origin with which there are not direct air connections.
- Reduction of expenses spent for the return of illegal immigrants and their escorts, due to the decrease of their detention period and the less number of escorts who will be needed in relation to the solely escorted return.

3.1.6.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of enforced returns simplified and implemented.

Outcome: Enhanced credibility and integrity of immigration policies. Reduced custody period of persons waiting for forced removal.

Impact: More efficient return policy.

3.1.6.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.6.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.1.6.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 1, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **3.660.892,57**) and 25 % from

national resources (EURO **1.220.297,52** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **4.881.190,09**. The national contribution must be covered by the ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure for the implementation of the specific action, will be followed according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.2. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTING PRIORITY 2

NO ACTIONS PROPOSED

3.3 ACTIONS IMPLEMENTING PRIORITY 3

3.3.1. The capacity building on voluntary returns carried out by the means of bilateral meetings with and study visits to other Member States

3.3.1.1. Purpose and scope of the action

This action will allow building the expertise of the Aliens Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters and of the Responsible Authority as regards the organization and the implementation of voluntary return operations. The capacity building will take the form, among others, of study visits to other Member States having more extensive expertise as regards voluntary returns. For 2008, it is programmed to be implemented two bilateral meetings in different Member – States. This action will allow introducing and establishing a mechanism for voluntary return in Greece in the future.

3.3.1.2. Expected grant recipients

The Aliens Division of the HPHQ and the Responsible Authority will be the grant recipients of this action.

3.3.1.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division and Aliens Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.3.1.4. Expected quantified results

The expected results of the development and implementation of the aforementioned action are the following:

- the acquisition of know-how of the other Member – States' voluntary returns implementation;
- the establishment of a more efficient cooperation with the Member – States' competent authorities;
- a longer-term, this will lead to the effective implementation of voluntary returns and the increased number of the immigrants (legal or not) return to their countries of origin.

3.3.1.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of bilateral meetings with other Member – States' competent authorities.

Outcome: a mechanism on voluntary return developed on the basis of best practices from other Member States.

Impact: More effective return policy. Increased credibility and integrity of return policy.

3.3.1.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.3.1.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.3.1.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 3, will receive 75% financing from Community resources (EURO **15.000,00**) and 25 % from national resources (EURO **5.000,00** from the state budget), bringing public spending on this project to EURO **20.000,00**. The national contribution must be covered by the ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure for the implementation of the specific action, will be followed according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

3.4 ACTIONS IMPLEMENTING PRIORITY 4

3.4.1. Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel

3.4.1.1. Purpose and scope of the action

The training and the information of police personnel in all regional services on issues regarding the management of illegal immigrants' returns are deemed necessary. The key to successful returns is to hold seminars and implement practices of common training for police personnel as regards the legal and practical aspects of return operations for arrested aliens to be returned.

This action includes the following trainings:

- **Trainings on return procedures of the illegal immigrants.**

These trainings aim at the training and the continuous education of police personnel from all regional services on issues regarding the procedure of return of illegal immigrants arrested in our country. The trainings will cover the whole return procedure, from the issuance of the return decision to the accomplishment of the return of the illegal immigrant to his/her country of origin and will be in line with national and community law.

A two-day training in Athens and Thessaloniki for 200 persons from various co-competent police authorities has been scheduled for 2008.

- **Trainings on escorted return procedures of the arrested illegal immigrants.**

The aforementioned trainings aim at:

- the training and information of police personnel on issues regarding escorted return procedures;
- the dealing with and the remedy of problems arising during the return procedure;
- the modernization of methods and practices used during the return procedure.

A two-day training in Athens and Thessaloniki for 50 persons from various co-competent police authorities has been scheduled for 2008.

- **Trainings on readmission procedures**

The mentioned training aims at training the police personnel involved in the implementation of the readmission agreements. More specifically, information and training will be provided on the existing agreements, the problems arising during their implementation and the ways of resolving them, while at the same time training will be provided on the implementation of efficient practices for their realization.

For the year 2008, 50 persons from various co-competent police authorities will be trained in Athens in a two-day course.

- **Training on the issues related to the protection of potential returnees' human rights**

The training of police personnel on guaranteeing and respecting the human rights of the immigrants in detention is of highest importance. On the one hand, our country will be harmonized with the Community legislation, on the other hand the established right of each person and more specifically of the immigrants in detention as to the safeguarding and protection of their rights will be guaranteed. These training courses will provide for the information of the police personnel in charge of guarding the arrested

persons and the illegal immigrants to be returned, on issues of their obligations arising from national and community legislation.

For the year 2008, a two-day training of 250 persons from various co-competent police authorities in Athens, Salonika, Patras, Ioannina and Alexandroupoli has been scheduled.

- **Trainings on the treatment of vulnerable potential returnees**

The specific training aims at the best possible treatment of the vulnerable groups as for example elderly people, pregnant women, disabled persons, etc. by guaranteeing and protecting their human rights at the same time.

The a-m problems are foreseen to be accomplished through trainings which will improve and modernize the existing methods concerning the treatment of the vulnerable groups.

For the year 2008, the training of 240 persons from various co-competent police authorities in Athens, Salonika, Dodecanese, Samos and Lesvos will be provided in a two-day course.

3.4.1.2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority will be the grant recipient of this action and will assign some of her obligations to the appropriate Divisions of the Hellenic Police Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior.

3.4.1.3. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

The Ministry of Interior (Finance Division at Hellenic Police Headquarters) may act as the executing body of projects co financed by the European Return Fund where the project comes under its exclusive authority as the national public body and cannot be allocated to another agency or authority. According to our national legislation [articles 8, 11 and 15 of the Presidential Decree 14/2001 (Government Gazette I 12/31.01.2001)], the Ministry of Interior / Hellenic Police Headquarters / Finance Division , Aliens Division and Training Division can implement the above-mentioned action.

3.4.1.4. Expected quantified results

The results regarding the a-m action being developed and realized are expected to be the following:

- The efficient training of the police personnel on issues of returns, adapted to the needs and the standards defined by the European legislation.
- The efficient performance of the police personnel duties on return issues.
- The integrated management of returns.

3.4.1.5. Indicators to be used

Output: Number of and type of training seminars organized. Number and type of authorities trained. Number and types of topics covered. Number of participants

Outcome: Increased knowledge of international standards regarding return. Enhanced capacity of competent authorities to deliver high quality decisions. Changes in national legislation and practices as a result of knowledge gained in the trainings.

Impact: Effective and uniform application of common standards on return. Decrease in allegations of human rights violations in the area of return.

3.4.1.6. Visibility of EC funding

As described in point 6 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.4.1.7. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

As described in point 7 of action 3.1.1. of Priority 1.

3.4.1.8. Financial Information

This specific project, which comes under priority 4, will receive 75% financing from Community resources and 25 % from national resources. The national contribution must be covered by the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the Public Investment Programme (and hence the ordinary budget) and the procedure, which will be followed for the implementation of the specific action according to our national legislation and the article 11 of the implementing rules.

For every action is foreseen the below financial information:

- **Trainings on return procedures of the illegal immigrants**

-75% financing from Community resources: 37.500,00 €

-25 % from national resources: 12.500,00 €

- TOTAL (1): 50.000,00 €

- **Trainings on escorted return procedures of the arrested illegal immigrants**

-75% financing from Community resources: 9.750,00 €

-25 % from national resources: 3.250,00 €

- TOTAL (2): 13.000,00 €

- **Trainings on readmission procedures**

-75% financing from Community resources: 9.750,00 €

-25 % from national resources: 3.250,00 €

- TOTAL (3): 13.000,00 €

- **Trainings on issues related to the protection of potential returnees' human rights**

-75% financing from Community resources: 45.000,00 €

-25 % from national resources: 15.000,00 €

- TOTAL (4): 60.000,00 €

- **Trainings on the treatment of vulnerable potential returnees**

-75% financing from Community resources: 52.500,00 €

-25 % from national resources: 17.500,00 €

- TOTAL (5): 70.000,00 €

TOTAL (1+2+3+4+5): **206.000,00 €**

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance is a valuable tool and is vital if the projects described above are to be developed/implemented effectively. It focuses mainly on the organisation of the Responsible Authority and on the programming, design, preparation, evaluation, management, monitoring, publicity, application and control of the actions integrated under the European Return Fund and co-financed from Community and national resources.

The Technical Assistance will finance measures of publicity, such as preparation of the Responsible Authority's web site and publication of relevant data, the preparation of the procedure manuals by a consultant company, translations of programmes (Greek to English and vice versa) by authorized private offices, trainings of the Responsible Authority's personnel, on spot checks by Unit C of the Responsible Authority and the Audit Authority, travelling expenditures of the personnel of all the designated authorities (Responsible Authority, Certifying and Audit Authority) and purchase of electronic computers (p.cs), relevant technical equipment and consumables for the designated authorities (Responsible Authority, Certifying and Audit Authority).

The Technical assistance has been calculated to be financed **only** (100% EC Contribution) under the Community contribution, giving the sum of **EUR 100.000,00** for 2008.

4.2 EXPECTED QUANTIFIED RESULTS

The results expected from the use of Technical Assistance are faster implementation of the actions planned and a better standard of management, monitoring and implementation, in order to make the best possible use of Community and national resources. This will be achieved by improving the administrative and technical capacity of those involved in the management, monitoring and control system at all stages of design, programming, evaluation, management, selection, monitoring, publicity, application and control.

4.3. VISIBILITY OF EC FUNDING

As described in point 3.1.1.6.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme – Draft Financial Plan
Table 1 – Overview table

Member State: GREECE

Annual programme concerned: 2008

Fund: EUROPEAN RETURN FUND

(all figures in euro)

	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Community Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (f=d/total d)
Action 3.1.1.: <i>The improvement of the information provided to potential returnees , by the employment of interpreters and translators of their languages</i>	1		450.000,00	150.000,00	-----	600.000,00	75 %	8,40%
Action 3.1.2.: <i>Setting up and operating of a special office for the implementation of the readmission agreements</i>	1		16.500,00	5.500,00	-----	22.000,00	75%	0,31%
Action 3.1.3.: <i>The improvement of the provision of psychological support and legal services to potential returnees by employing social workers/psychologists and legal advisers (lawyers) .</i>	1		900.000,00	300.000,00	-----	1.200.000,00	75%	16,81%
Action 3.1.4.: <i>Bilateral meetings with migration authorities of the partner third countries</i>	1		7.500,00	2.500,00	-----	10.000,00	75%	0,14%
Action 3.1.5.: <i>Bilateral meetings with the Consular Authorities of the third countries</i>	1		75.000,00	25.000,00	-----	100.000,00	75%	1,40%
Action 3.1.6.: <i>Enforced/assisted returns of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfill the conditions for entry and stay</i>	1		3.660.892,57	1.220.297,52		4.881.190,09	75%	68,37 %
Action 3.3.1.: <i>3.3.1. The capacity building on voluntary returns carried out by the means of bilateral meetings with and study visits to other Member States</i>	3		15.000,00	5.000,00		20.000,00	75%	0,28 %
Action 3.4.1.: <i>Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel</i>	4		154.500,00	51.500,00	-----	206.000,00	75%	2,89%
Technical assistance			100.000,00	0,00	-----	100.000,00	100%	1,40%
TOTAL			5.379.392,57	1.759.797,52	-----	7.139.190,09	75,35%	100,00%

THE DIRECTOR OF THE FINANCE DIVISION- HEAD OF THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
ANASTASIOS KANTZILIERIS - POLICE BRIGADIER GENERAL