

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2009

MEMBER STATE:	Ireland
FUND:	European Return Fund
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Repatriation Unit, Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service
YEAR COVERED:	2009

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

The allocation for Ireland under the Annual Programme 2009 will be allocated by the Responsible Authority to projects under Priorities 1, 2 and 3 as outlined in the Multi Annual Programme.

Priority 1

Actions proposed under Priority 1, Objective 1 (targeting Operational Objective 1), are in accordance with the strategy set out by Ireland in its multiannual programme 2008–2013, i.e. to increase the range of voluntary return programmes and promote voluntary return as an alternative to forced removal. Such actions are designed to result in annual increases in the numbers availing of the voluntary return option.

Actions under this Priority will be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as the awarding body. A call for proposals will be published in national newspapers and on the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform's website. Grant agreements will be entered into by the Responsible Authority for each project. Funding applications will undergo a series of stages during the determination process, i.e. applications will be acknowledged, appraisal criteria made available to applicants, applications will be scored across the stated criteria. Applications that score most highly will be approved by an appraisal sub-committee for funding, subject to the level of funding available. Unsuccessful applicants will be entitled to appeal the decision.

It is anticipated that the call for proposals will be made in September '09 and the selection of projects will be completed by year-end.

Under this Priority, Ireland, in collaboration with other entities (such as international organisations or NGO's), intends to increase the range of voluntary return programmes available and promote the voluntary return option as an alternative to forced removal. There will be a strong emphasis on programmes focused on Nigeria, China and Brazil.

Priority 2

Actions proposed under Priority 2, Objective 1 (targeting Operational Objective 4), are in accordance with the strategy set out in Ireland's multiannual programme 2008-2013, which provides for annual increases in the number of returns effected through the use of charter operations, and increased participation by Ireland in charter operations organised through FRONTEX.

Actions under Priority 2 will be implemented by the Responsibility Authority acting as the executing body in conjunction with Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) which is the only entity with the powers to carry out forced return operations under Irish law. Projects will be developed by GNIB, in consultation with Repatriation Unit, and will focus on the countries of return that have been identified as priority countries, i.e. Nigeria, China, Brazil.

The selection of projects by way of the executing body method is expected to be completed in September '09 and agreements entered into with the selected beneficiary (i.e. GNIB) shortly thereafter.

Priority 3

Actions proposed under Priority 3, Objective 1 (targeting Operational Objective 5) are in accordance with the strategy for Ireland set out in the multiannual programme 2008-2013. This proposed strategy makes provision for the training of removals personnel focussing on best practices for effective removal operations, counselling of potential returnees, provision of information on country of return etc.

Actions under Priority 3 will be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as either the awarding body in the case of voluntary returns, or as the executing body in conjunction with GNIB in the case of forced returns. The selection process for projects will be as outlined in respect of Priority 1 and 2 above, as appropriate.

Actions under this Priority will provide for training in return management for personnel working in the field of both voluntary and forced return. Eligible projects may provide *inter alia* for attendance at EU training courses and participation in study visits focusing on best practices for effective removal operations, counselling of potential returnees, the provision of information on country of return etc.

For actions under each of the these three priorities, the Responsible Authority will examine each project proposal to ensure that:

- the capacity to implement the project is in place
- it is relevant to Ireland's repatriation needs
- it meets the priorities of the Fund
- co-funding is available
- value for money is achieved.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Not applicable

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

3.1. Actions implementing Priority 1: Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by Member States

Action: Voluntary Return Activities	
Method of Implementation	This action shall be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as awarding body. Projects will be selected for funding following an open call for proposals.
Purpose and Scope of the Action	<p>The purpose of this action is to increase the range of voluntary return programmes available and promote the voluntary return option as an alternative to forced removal.</p> <p>There will be a strong emphasis on programmes focused on Nigeria, China and Brazil. The promotion of voluntary return through publicity and information campaigns will be an important aspect of selected projects.</p> <p>Outcomes from projects supported under this Priority will be considered when framing Ireland's future AVR policy</p>
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional assisted voluntary return programmes, and complementary activities in preparation for return- The development of a range of intensive, targeted and timely promotional campaigns highlighting the benefits of voluntary return- Information and awareness raising activities promoting a sustainable return process- Assisted voluntary return

	<p>programmes targeting, in particular, Nigeria, China and Brazil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research programmes for specific groups/countries (Nigeria, China, Brazil).
Expected Grant Recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Organisations - NGOs
Expected quantified results and indicators to be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased range of assisted voluntary return programmes available - Greater participation in VR programmes - Information readily available in respect of targeted countries of return - Improved take-up of voluntary return option by Nigerians, Chinese and Brazilians
Cost of Action	<p>The total amount being allocated to this action is €508 350.65. 50% of the cost will be funded under the Return Fund with the balance being funded from private/public sector co-financing (D/JELR)</p>
Visibility of EC Funding	<p>The Responsible Authority will ensure that details of the actions to be undertaken are made available to the media (through a press release) at the time of their delivery. In addition, at the end of the annual programming period, details of the outcome of the programme, including the amounts of co-financing provided under the RF, will be made available to the media and published on the website www.justice.ie</p>
Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate	<p>Prior to approval, proposed projects will be examined to ensure that they complement and build upon actions undertaken in the field of voluntary and forced return with the support of “Return Preparatory Actions” programme and ERF II</p>

3.2. Actions implementing Priority 2: Support for the cooperation between Member States in return management

Action: Forced Return Activities	
Method of Implementation	<p>This action shall be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as executing body, in collaboration with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). GNIB is the only entity with the powers to carry out forced return operations under Irish law.</p>
Purpose and Scope of the Action	<p>The purpose of this action is to maximise the number of forced returns effected by the Irish authorities, where the voluntary return option has not been availed of.</p> <p>Funding will be directed towards the costs associated with charter flights for the removal of third country nationals who are not entitled to be present in the State.</p> <p>While the key activities will be a repeat of those to be undertaken in accordance with the 2008 AP (i.e. charter flights for forced returns), at the time of drafting the 2009 AP, the '08 actions had not yet commenced and so it was not possible to provide information on achievements under the earlier programme. However, the community contribution for these activities under the 2009 AP represents a significant reduction on the allocation under 2008 AP (down from €19 855.13 to €254 175,33) and therefore approval for either one, or possibly two, charter operations will depend on the costings associated with the proposed operations.</p> <p>Nigeria, China and Brazil have been identified as priority countries of return and therefore available resources will, in the main, be directed at returns to these three countries. Projects which focus on returns to other countries may also be considered.</p> <p>The target group of this action will be the</p>

	group indicated in Article 7.1(d) of the basic act.
Key activities	Joint charter operations (including FRONTEX operations). Ireland will take the lead role in such operations and may also participate in flights operated by other Member States. The number of charter operations to be undertaken during the programming period will depend on the costs of the proposed operations.
Expected Grant Recipients	The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform will be the funding partner for projects submitted by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). GNIB will be the final recipient of funding under the RF
Expected quantified results and indicators to be used	One (possibly two) charter operations to be undertaken during the 2009 programming period. It is difficult to estimate the number of returns effected, or the number of Member States that will participate in these operations. However, it is expected that the opportunity to effect returns to the selected countries will be availed of to the greatest extent possible.
Cost of Action	<p>The total amount being allocated to this action is €508 350.66. 50% of the cost will be funded under the Return Fund with the balance being funded from public sector co-financing (i.e. D/JELR)</p> <p>Costs to be funded include flight costs for returnees and escorts, staff costs (including overtime) for escorts directly involved in the removals, subsistence of escorts (if required), etc.</p>
Visibility of EC Funding	The Responsible Authority will ensure that details of the specific actions to be undertaken are made available to the media (through a press release) at the time of their delivery. In addition, at the end of the annual programming period, details of the outcome of the programme, including the amounts of co-financing provided under the RF, will be made available to the media and published on

	the website www.justice.ie
Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate	The joint charter projects will build on FRONTEX facilitated actions undertaken in the field of forced return.

3.3. Actions implementing Priority 3: Support for specific innovative (inter)national tools for return management

Action: Training for removals personnel	
Method of Implementation	This action shall be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as either the awarding body in the case of voluntary returns, or as the executing body in conjunction with GNIB in the case of forced return.
Purpose and Scope of the Action	<p>The purpose of this action is to provide additional training for Ireland's removals personnel in best practices and procedures across the EU. The action shall apply to removals personnel involved in both forced and voluntary return.</p> <p>Projects approved for support under the RF will be required to provide for actions such as attendance at EU training courses and participation in study visits focusing on best practices for effective removal operations. Other aspects may include counselling of potential returnees, the provision of up-to-date information on country of return etc.</p>
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and seminars for personnel working in the field of forced and voluntary return, with a strong emphasis on counselling and the provision of return information. - Exchanges of information with other Member States on best practices in return management. - Research studies in Member States with common interests, i.e. similar

	profile of illegals, difficulty in return etc.
Expected Grant Recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform will be the funding partner for projects submitted by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). GNIB will be the final recipient of funding under the RF - International Organisations - NGOs
Expected quantified results and indicators to be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in best practices delivered to a significant number of personnel working in the field of both voluntary and forced return - Potential returnees counselled and provided with relevant and timely return information
Cost of Action	The total amount being allocated to this action is €120 000.00. 50% of the cost will be funded under the Return Fund with the balance being funded from private/public sector co-financing (possibly D/JELR)
Visibility of EC Funding	The Responsible Authority will ensure that details of the specific actions to be undertaken are made available to the media (through a press release) at the time of their delivery. In addition, at the end of the annual programming period, details of the outcome of the programme, including the amounts of co-financing provided under the RF, will be made available to the media and published on the website www.justice.ie
Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate	Prior to approval, proposed projects will be examined to ensure that they complement and build upon actions undertaken in the field of voluntary and forced return with the support of “Return Preparatory Actions” programme and ERF II

3.4. Actions implementing Priority 4: Support for Community standards and best practices on return management

No actions are foreseen under this priority for the duration of the programme (2008 – 2013)

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Purpose of the technical assistance

An external independent evaluation will be carried out on the completion of the 2008 programme. Tenders will be sought from independent contractors to carry out the evaluation in accordance with normal public procurement practices. The Responsible Authority will undertake an information and publicity activity in 2009 which will highlight the achievements of the 2008 annual programme based on the findings in the evaluation. The evaluation will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation and management of the programme which can be used to ensure continuing improvements in performance.

4.2 Expected quantified results

One external evaluation will be produced with the technical assistance allocation. In addition a publicity activity will also be organised to highlight the achievements of the 2008 programme and to present the approved AP 2009.

4.3 Visibility of EC funding

Reference to technical assistance will be made in any publicity activity undertaken by the RA. Furthermore, reference to the Fund will be made on the website of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, including utilisation of technical assistance for the external evaluation.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual programme – Draft Financial Plan								
Table 1								
Overview table								
Member State:			Ireland					
Annual programme concerned:			2009					
Fund:			Return Fund					
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>	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 1:								
Activities of voluntary return	1		254 175,32	254 175,32		508 350,65	50%	44.33%
Action 2:								
Activities of forced return	2		254 175,33	254 175,33		508 350,66	50%	44.33%
Action 3:								
Training	3		60 000,00	60 000,00		120 000,00	50%	10.46%
Technical assistance			10 000,00			10 000,00	100%	.88%
Other operations								
TOTAL			578 350,65	568 350,65		1 146 701,30	50.43%	100%

(1) if appropriate

(2) if appropriate