



# G R E E C E

## **EVALUATION REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS CO-FINANCED BY THE EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND**

(Report set out in Article **52(2) (a)** of Decision **No 574/2007/EC**)



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CO-FINANCED BY THE EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND**

(Report set out in Article 52(2) (a) of Decision No 574/2007/EC)

Report submitted by the Responsible Authority of: **GREECE**

Date: **08-10-2010**

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

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

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

Yes.

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

The external recourse concerns the parts I-VII of the evaluation report. However, the final text of the report was completed and finalised by the Responsible Authority.

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

\* External evaluation expertise:

The present evaluation is based on the ex post evaluation method, concerning the annual programs 2007 and 2008 and on the ex ante one, including the ongoing implementation results, for the 2009 annual program. Were, also, used methods and tools for the quantitative and qualitative measurement of the implemented actions, using the results of the Responsible Authority's conducted ex ante evaluations for all Annual Programs.

The gathered data were taken by the external expertise team, via on spot visits on the places of the implemented actions and also using the national statistical data for the areas concerned.

**EVALUATION REPORT ON THE RESULTS AND IMPACTS OF ACTIONS  
CO-FINANCED BY THE EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND**

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## **Part I**

### **Summary of the Multiannual Programme 2007-2013**

#### **ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS IN THE MEMBER STATE AND STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES**

##### **1. ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS IN THE MEMBER STATE**

###### **- The requirements in the Member State in relation to the baseline situation**

The following requirements presented in Chapter 2.1. of the M.A.P. were set by Greece in order to achieve a more effective management of the External Borders and consular affairs:

- (1) Maximum possible control and surveillance of the external land and maritime borders, locating illegal immigrants and arrest their facilitators,
- (2) rescue of persons in danger at sea, especially illegal immigrants,
- (3) more effective and rationalistic management of resources, and more effective cooperation and coordination among the different levels of management of the national authorities,
- (4) more effective cooperation and coordination among the national and other EU Member States Authorities and implementation of the obligations arising from the Convention implementing the SCHENGEN Agreement,
- (5) risk analysis aiming to the identification and evaluation of all threats regarding the external borders management,
- (6) interconnection and interoperability of the National Coordination Centre (NCC) with the operation centres of all national authorities,
- (7) best possible exploitation of the Network of Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs) and adaptation of Consular practices to the new facts created in the Schengen area, using the best results regarding the operation of the VIS System,
- (8) management of visa issues effectively, upgrade the quality of services offered to visa-applicants, and improvement of knowledge of consular personnel.

###### **- The operational objectives of the Member State designed to meet its requirements**

- (1) More effective control in the BCPs and the land and maritime borders using the appropriate equipment and patrol operational means, such as police vehicles, helicopters, motorcycles, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Coastal Patrol Vessels, High Speed Coastal Patrol Vessels, devices for the detection of false – falsified documents and thermal cameras,
- (2) more effective surveillance of the territorial waters as well as the adjacent high seas by surveillance – reporting systems,
- (3) training – further training of the police personnel, who are dealing with the control of the BCPs and the external land borders management, as well as training of HCG and consular personnel in matters of external borders management,

- (4) create/upgrade the infrastructure of the Hellenic Police services and the technical equipment and means of the HCG Operations Centre,
- (5) render infrastructures and systems of visa-issuing compatible to the demands of Common Consular Instructions (VIS System).

## 2. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

### **Priority 1: Support for the gradual establishment of the common integrated border management system as regards checks on persons and the surveillance of the external borders**

- **OBJECTIVE 1: *Buildings infrastructures at the external land borders*** → **K.A.:** The construction of the Borders Guard Station and Police Station of Konitsa at Ioannina.
- **OBJECTIVE 2: *Equipment to detect and check if travel documents and papers and other documents are forged / genuine*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of Full Page Readers, live fingerprint detectors [Live Scans (2)], high-precision digital cameras and live fingerprint detectors [Live Scans (10)].
- **OBJECTIVE 3: *Organisation and operation of structures analysis for criminological information for the organised crime of illegal immigration in Greece from third countries*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of software licenses to analyze criminological information and support the prosecuting authorities in effectively combating international gangs and individual groups smuggling immigrants.
- **OBJECTIVE 4: *Detection, identification and intervention on borders and in the hinterland*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of operational means, such as helicopters, police vehicles, high speed boat for the surveillance of the external land borders area and for detecting illegal immigrants.
- **OBJECTIVE 5: *Technical equipment for the detection of illegal immigrants and their facilitators*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of: (a) thermal cameras, (b) long distance day goggles and (c) night vision goggles
- **OBJECTIVE 6: *Equipment for the transportation of the Police Personnel and the Border Guards in the areas of realization of operations*** → **K.A.:** The purchases of personnel transport vehicles (buses), vehicles closed type (VAN) and lorries of open type (rural).
- **OBJECTIVE 7: *More effective control at ports, more effective control and surveillance of the territorial waters as well as more frequent surveillance of the high seas by operational means*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of devices for the detection of false – falsified documents, of Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPVs), of High Speed CPVs, of Very High Speed CPVs, of Off – Road Vehicles, of Motorcycles and of Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV).
- **OBJECTIVE 8: *Installation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) infrastructure*** → **K.A.:** The purchase and the installation of three AIS receivers.
- **OBJECTIVE 9: *Purchase of appropriate technical equipment to locate illegal immigrants and their facilitators in transportation means or at land close to the coastline*** → **K.A.:** Purchase of Special Vehicles transporting HCG personnel, purchase of CO2 detection devices, purchase of thermal cameras, night vision goggles and endoscopes.
- **OBJECTIVE 10: *Purchase of technical – electronic systems and equipment for the HCG Operations Centre*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of the technical – electronic systems and other IT equipment for the HCG Operations Centre.
- **OBJECTIVE 11: *Upgrading of the HCG Airplanes' and Helicopters' central bases*** → **K.A.:** Construction of hangars for the protection of the HCG Airplanes and Helicopters

- OBJECTIVE 12: *Purchase of main engines, electric engines, gear boxes as well as propulsion systems of HCG vessels*
- OBJECTIVE 13: *Purchase of crypto – devices for the transmission of classified information* → K.A.: The purchase of several crypto – devices for the Port Authorities.
- OBJECTIVE 14: *Participation of HCG operational means in joint operations at bilateral and EU level* → K.A.: The purchase of an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) and Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPVs).
- OBJECTIVE 15: *Purchase and installation of radio – communication and electro – maritime equipment*

**Priority 2: Support for the development and implementation of the national components of a European Surveillance System for the external borders and of a permanent European Patrol Network at the southern maritime borders of the EU Member States**

- OBJECTIVE 1: *Set up and operation of a National Coordination Centre* → K.A.: The preparation of study relating to the establishment and operation of the National Coordination Centre and purchase of the necessary technical equipment and means.
- OBJECTIVE 2: *Interoperability of National Coordination Centre with similar centres in other Member States* → K.A.: The purchase of the appropriate equipment which will be used for the interoperability of the NCC and the trainings of the personnel needed.
- OBJECTIVE 3: *Establishment and installation of a surveillance system of the external maritime borders of the North Aegean Sea – Conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of the system* → K.A.: Conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of the surveillance system and establishment and installation of the surveillance system of the external maritime borders of the North Aegean Sea.

**Priority 3: Support for the issuing of visas and the tackling of illegal immigration, including the detection of false or falsified documents by enhancing the activities organised by the consular and other services of the Member States in third countries**

- OBJECTIVE 1: *Development of a complete network of Police Contacts (ILOs)* → K.A.: The purchase of the equipment that will meet the most important needs of the Police Contacts (20 Laptops, 20 Multi machines and 2 Servers with the appropriate software).
- OBJECTIVE 2: *Computerise and standardize procedures for Visa issuing* → K.A.: The efficient management and the cost effective consular services' performance.

**Priority 4: Support for the establishment of IT systems required for the implementation of the Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas**

- OBJECTIVE 1: *Rendering systems of visa issuing compatible to the demands of the VIS Regulation* → K.A.: Establish a feasibility study which will define the technical parameters for installing and operating the whole VIS project.



- **OBJECTIVE 2: *Installing telecommunication infrastructure for operating VIS, supplying with appropriate technical equipment and building facilities for hosting VIS infrastructure*** → **K.A.:** The establishment of the appropriate telecommunications infrastructures, in order to develop the international NETVIS network, the renovation of the existing facilities or form new ones in the Consular Authorities, the purchase of 134 servers, 344 workstations, 174 barcode readers, 233 fingerprint scanners and 233 digital cameras and the setting up of two data centres.
- **OBJECTIVE 3: *Promoting the installation of the N-VIS, implement and render it interoperable with other National Systems and Services*** → **K.A.:** The supply, installation and operation of the essential IT and biometric equipment for a secure system of checks for the non EU citizens.
- **OBJECTIVE 4: *Support to the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the SCHENGEN Information System (SIS) with the upgrading of the existing network of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, the Aegean and Island Policy and the purchase of appropriate hardware (desktops and laptops) as well as software*** → **K.A.:** The setting of computerised and networking equipment of the HCG, the upgrading of the existing network connections between the central service and the Port Authorities by purchase, instalment and setting up of 233 routers, 231 network switches, one network management system, one firewall system and one intrusion detection and prevention system.
- **OBJECTIVE 5: *Training of HCG personnel on the computerized applications of Schengen Information System (SIS) and national database*** → **K.A.:** The training of 420 HCG personnel in order to become more familiar with the computerized applications of SIS II.

### **Priority 5: Support for effective and efficient application of relevant Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas, in particular the Schengen Borders Code and the European Code on Visas**

- **OBJECTIVE 1: *Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel*** → **K.A.:** (a) Incorporation of the Common Core Curriculum for the border Guard training Model to the Hellenic Police educational system, (b) linguistic training via the Foreigner Languages Department (School), (c) training of National Control Centre and Borders' Surveillance executives, (d) training of Regional Control Centres and Borders' Surveillance executives, (e) drafting of study concerning best practices for the know-how transmission, in the field of external borders' management, to third countries and (f) drafting a study for the training of the Police Liaison Officers concerning the field of illegal immigration, authenticity checks on forged travel documents and investigation of cross-border crime.
- **OBJECTIVE 2: *Necessary technological equipment for the trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel*** → **K.A.:** The purchase of training equipment such as digital video cameras, system for projecting training material on to a giant screen, translation equipment systems and portable computers.
- **OBJECTIVE 3: *Application of a common training program on visa policy issues and technical aspects of visa management*** → **K.A.:** The establishment of a task force, constituted by a pool of six persons, three of whom will visit a selected Consular Authority once every six months.
- **OBJECTIVE 4: *Training of HCG personnel on external maritime borders management issues*** → **K.A.:** Training on implementation of Community Law, in particularly the SCHENGEN Borders Code and Practical Guide for border guards, distribution to HGG

personnel of copies of the Schengen Borders Code and the practical handbook for border guards, training on interrogation and debriefing tactics, training of HCG personnel in the use of devices detecting forged/falsified documents, training of HCG personnel participating in inspection boarding parties of HCG Off Shore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) and crews of HCG vessels as regards approaching Boarding suspect Ships, training on linguistic grounding of the HCG personnel, training on checks – searches at transportation means for the location of hidden illegal immigrants, training on management of illegal immigrants and their facilitators, training on self – protection and self – defence, training on epidemiologic matters and training on the side approach of merchant vessels sailing at sea by crews of HCG boats for special operations as well as the pursuit and immobilization of speedboats with illegal immigrants on board.

- **OBJECTIVE 5: Purchase of a simulator and the appropriate software** → **K.A.:** The use of the simulator for the support of the implementation of the training on the side approach of merchant vessels sailing at sea by crews of HCG boats for special operations as well as the pursuit and immobilization of speedboats with illegal immigrants on board.

### **Indicators and quantified/qualitative targets, broken down by Priority:**

#### *Priority 1*

- 1) Number of equipment and means of transport purchased, replaced and/or upgraded**  
Targets: Increased border security by arresting or discouraging the entrance of illegal immigrants in comparison with the previous years.
- 2) Number of persons / vehicles controlled at border crossing points** Targets: Increased number of border crossing points adapted to needs of border guards and travelers and clearer picture of conditions and activities along the EU external borders.
- 3) Number of laboratory equipment and equipment for detection of false / falsified documents acquired or upgraded** Targets: Number and quality of available equipment for border guards increased and improvement of the borders surveillance.
- 4) Number of infrastructures developed or upgraded** Targets: Better accommodation of persons kept in the areas or centers and better working conditions for border guards.
- 5) Number of surveillance equipment / detection tools acquired or upgraded** Targets: Actual use of equipment and means of transport increased and sufficient state-of-the-art equipment provided

#### *Priority 2*

- 1) Establishment of a national co-ordination centre for border control (checks and surveillance), which supports real-time local, regional and national decision-making among all involved national services by using surveillance, reporting and intelligence data.** Targets: Enhanced information exchange and co-operation between authorities involved in border control and increased border security
- 2) Number and scope of systems upgraded to be compatible with systems of other MS**  
Targets: Enhanced sharing of information, co-ordination and/or co-operation between MS in securing EU external borders

#### *Priority 3*

- 1) **Number of Police contacts (ILO's) connected with the central base and provided with I.T. equipment.** Targets: Effective management – exploitation of the relative information gathered concerning the illegal immigration flows.
- 2) **Improvement of the process of Visa issuing.** Targets: Successful financial operation of 134 points of consulate representation abroad, contributing into a more efficient, targeted, qualitative and cost effective services' performance, concerning Visa issuing.

#### *Priority 4*

- 1) **Number of consular offices connected to the national VIS system.** Targets: Identification of those encountered in the Schengen area not having any documentation to indicate their status, reduction of visa shopping;
- 2) **Number of external border crossing points connected to the national VIS system.** Targets: Identification of persons at the external border presenting visas which were not issued them.
- 3) **Proportion of Schengen visa holders undergoing biometric verification at the external border.** Targets: Identification of those who previously applied for a visa, but arrive at the border without documents.

#### *Priority 5*

- 1) **Number and range of courses organized.** Targets: More coherent application of EU rules and standards in border control.
- 2) **Number and share of the staff in jobs which benefit from the core curriculum educated and trained.** Targets: Number of common standards used by border guards and improved image of the Community.
- 3) **Number and scope of courses organized and number of participants.** Targets: Good knowledge of the applicable rules by border guards and better implementation of common visa policy.

## Part II

### SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES 2007\*, 2008\* AND 2009

(excluding Technical Assistance measures and Information and Publicity)

1. Summary of actions under **Priority 1** in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

Actions to be implemented under the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable*

Actions to be implemented under the “executing body” method

#### **2007**

Purchase of 1600, 1800 cc and other cubism and types patrol passenger vehicles and motorcycles, purchase of equipment to detect and check if travel documents and papers are forged / genuine and organisation and operation of Structures for Analysis of Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration.

#### **2008**

Purchase of thermal cameras, night vision and long distance day goggles, and purchase of 1600 and 2000 cc patrol passenger vehicles, construction and upgrade of border infrastructure at the external land borders with Albania and enhancement of the detention capacity for the illegal immigrants apprehended at the external borders.

#### **2009**

Purchase of: (a) software licenses for the organisation and Operation of Structures for Analysis of Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration, (b) 1600 (S/W), 1800 cc and other cubism and type jeeps (Off-Road) patrol passenger vehicles, (c) one helicopter, (d) equipment to detect and check if travel documents, papers and other documents are forged / genuine and (e) Coastal Patrol Vessels, (f) pairs of encryption devices and (g) radio-communications and electro-maritime equipment. Upgrading of the: (a) HCG Central Airplanes and Helicopters Base and (b) HCG vessels and establishment of AIS Infrastructure.

(\*) Revised Programs

2. Summary of actions under **Priority 2** in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

Actions to be implemented under the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable*

Actions to be implemented under the “executing body” method

**2007**

No actions proposed.

**2008**

Improvement of drafting the technical specifications of modern technology operational means for the effective protection of the external land borders.

**2009**

Purchase of the appropriate equipments for the operation of the National Coordination Centre and conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of a surveillance system in north Aegean Sea.

3. Summary of actions under **Priority 3** in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009

Actions to be implemented under the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable*

Actions to be implemented under the “executing body” method

**2007**

Improving communications between Greece and the other Member States, and modernization of Management of Consular Functions.

**2008**

No actions proposed.

**2009**

Modernisation of the management of consular functions.

4. Summary of actions under **Priority 4** in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009

Actions to be implemented under the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable*

Actions to be implemented under the “executing body” method

**2007**

Support for establishment of NET-VIS IT and Network Systems required for implementation of the Community Legal Instruments in the field of external borders and Visas.

**2008**

Implementation of the 2nd Generation of SCHENGEN Information System (SIS II) – Purchase of desktops and laptops to conduct checks in the framework of SCHENGEN obligations and training of HCG personnel in the specific computerised applications of the SIS II.

**2009**

Support for establishment of NET-VIS IT and Network Systems required for implementation of the Community Legal Instruments in the field of external borders and Visas, the development of the 2nd Generation of SCHENGEN Information System (SIS II) and upgrading of the existing network of the HCG and the purchase of appropriate hardware and training of HCG personnel in this specific computerised applications.

5. Summary of actions under **Priority 5** in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009

Actions to be implemented under the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable*

Actions to be implemented under the “executing body” method

**2007**

The incorporation of the common training standard for the country’s police personnel and the purchase of relevant training equipment.

**2008**

Trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel on issues concerning checks and examinations of forged/genuine travel documents and other papers and trainings of the HCG personnel in matters of external borders management.

## **2009**

The incorporation of the common training standard for the country's police personnel, the linguistic training of the Hellenic Police personnel, via the Foreigner Languages Departments (Schools), the in situ training on Visa policy issues for the consular personnel and the training of HCG personnel in matters of external borders management.

### 6. Any significant change to the actions of the programmes concerned (revisions of annual programmes and revisions of the financial breakdown lower than 10%)

The Annual Programs 2007 and 2008 have already been revised due to the delays in the procurement process which have arisen during the implementation of the actions.

Specifically for the 2007 AP, it was decided to be replaced the actions which could not be implemented on time (i.e. the purchase of the 50-seat buses, the long distance day goggles, the thermal cameras, the night vision goggles, the 2200 cc vans etc.) with other actions either previously included under the 2008 annual programme (such as the software licenses for the organisation and operation of Structures for Analysis of criminal intelligence on organised crime concerning illegal Immigration) and already completed within the eligibility period for the 2007 annual programme or completed and financed from national budget (such as the purchase of patrol passenger vehicles and motorcycles).

For the 2008 AP, it was decided to be implemented: (a) the mature actions, which had been initially presented in the 2007 AP (i.e. the purchase of thermal cameras, night vision goggles etc), (b) some new actions which turned up during the implementation period (i.e. the enhancement of the detention capacity for the illegal immigrants apprehended at the external borders) and (c) some actions which were completed and financed already by the national budget (such as the purchase of patrol passenger vehicles).

The actions concerning the 2009 AP, have not been revised yet and the financial breakdowns for all programs do not concern money transfers between the actions of each program, but lower amounts, concerning the initial budgets, which were resulted from the award procurement procedures (auctions).

**Part III**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES IN THE “AWARDING  
BODY” METHOD**

Did you implement the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes in the “awarding body” method (as defined in Article 7 (2) of Commission Decision 2008/456/EC of 5.3.2008 - the External Borders Fund Implementing Rules), at least for part of the programmes?

No.



**Part IV**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES IN THE “EXECUTING  
BODY” METHOD**

Did you implement the 2007, 2008 and 2009 programmes in the “executing body” method (as defined in Article 8 of Commission Decision 2008/456/EC of 5.3.2008 - the External Borders Fund Implementing Rules), at least for part of the programmes?

Yes.

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

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

- Programme 2007:                    **75 %** of the EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance)
  
- Programme 2008:                    **75 %** of the EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance)
  
- Programme 2009:                    **75 %** of the EU contribution to the programme (excluding the EU contribution for technical assistance)

## **IV.2 Calls for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method**

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

**- Programme 2007:** The responsible Authority, initially, sent a letter (call for proposals) to the competent national authorities (Hellenic Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Coast Guard), which implements the actions and asked for update of the actions which had already been included in the Multiannual Program or for submission of new proposals, depending on the needs of each Service. The competent Authorities responded to the RA, after the authorization of the proposed actions by the respective national instrument, which is competent for the approval of each Authority’s proposals.

During the monitoring of the actions’ implementation, the RA prompted the national Authorities, through a new letter (new call for proposals), to revise some of their projects, which could not be implemented on time. The national Services sent their new proposals to the Responsible Authority in order to be examined and included in the Revised 2007 AP.

**- Programme 2008:** The responsible Authority, initially, sent a letter (call for proposals) to the national authorities (Hellenic Police, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Coast Guard), which implements the actions and asked for update of the actions which had already been included in the Multiannual Program or for submission of new proposals, depending on the needs of each Service. The competent Authorities responded to the RA, after the authorization of the proposed actions by the respective national instrument, which is competent for the approval of each Authority’s proposals. During the monitoring of the actions’ implementation, the RA prompted the national Authorities, through a new letter (new call for proposals), to revise some of their projects, which could not be implemented on time. The national Services sent their new proposals to the Responsible Authority in order to be examined and included in the Revised 2008 AP.

**- Programme 2009:** The responsible Authority, sent a letter (call for proposals) to the competent national authorities (Hellenic Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hellenic Coast Guard), which implements the actions and asked for update of the actions which had already been included in the Multiannual Program or for submission of new proposals, depending on the needs of each

Service. The competent Authorities responded to the RA, after the authorization of the proposed actions by the respective national instrument, which is competent for the approval of each Authority's proposals.

#### **IV.3 Proposals received, selected and funded after calls for expression of interest, call for proposals or similar selection method in the “executing body method”**

Number of ...	Programme 2007	Programme 2008	Programme 2009	TOTAL 2007-2009
Proposals received	22	26	25	73
Projects selected	20	25	24	69
Projects funded	13	15	24	52

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

Yes.

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

Projects funded in the “executing body” method without a call for expression of interest or for proposals or similar selection method	<i>Programme 2007</i>	<i>Programme 2008</i>	<i>Programme 2009</i>	<i>TOTAL 2007-2009</i>
Number	0	0	0	0

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

Number of ...	Programme 2007	Programme 2008	Programme 2009	TOTAL 2007-2009
Projects funded after calls for expression of interest, calls for proposals, or similar selection method (see table IV.3)	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>52</i>
Projects funded without such calls (see table IV.4)	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
TOTAL Projects funded in the “executing body” method	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>52</i>

**Part V**  
**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECTS\* FUNDED**  
**IN THE “AWARDING BODY” METHOD AND**  
**IN THE “EXECUTING BODY” METHOD**  
**2007 - 2009**

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

In the “awarding body” method

Not applicable.

In the “executing body” method

**2007**

Purchase of : **(a)** three hundred twenty two (322) 1600 cc and one hundred six (106) 1800 cc patrol passenger vehicles, **(b)** one hundred thirty eight (138) motorcycles, **(c)** fourteen (14) high-precision digital cameras and seven (7) portable apparatus for detection of forgery of travel documents equipment to detect and check if travel documents and papers are forged/genuine and **(d)** The purchase of licenses of use packages of software analysis for the organisation and operation of Structures for Analysis of Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration as follows: 78 ‘Analysis Note Book’, 77 iBase User, 26 iBase Designer, 37 Text Chart Reader, 25 Pattern Tracer and relevant technological equipment (93 PCs, 19 plotters and 42 printers).

**2008**

Purchase of : **(a)** twenty (20) portable thermal cameras, **(b)** fifty (50) night vision goggles and one hundred (100) binoculars of day observation, **(c)** one hundred sixty one (161) 1600 and 2000 cc patrol passenger vehicles and **(d)** one hundred seventy (170) 1800 cc patrol passenger vehicles. Financing of the hotels’ rental costs for the detention of the illegal immigrants, who are apprehended at the external borders. Construction of one building for the police Service at Konitsa – Ioannina and upgrade of the respective one at Delvinaki - Ioannina, both dealing with the borders control at the external land borders with Albania and enhancement of their detention capacity for the illegal immigrants apprehended at the external borders.

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\*The nature of the selected actions, which have been included in the 2007-2009 Annual Programs and the general objectives of the External Borders Fund, led the Responsible Authority to comprise actions which, most of the times, fit in with the projects themselves.

## **2009**

Purchase of: **(a)** 14 licenses of use packages of software analysis ‘‘Analysis Note Book’’, 14 use licenses Software packages of analysis iBase and roughly 5 iBase Designer use licenses Software packages of analysis software for the organisation and Operation of Structures for Analysis of Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration, **(b)** equipment to detect and check if travel documents, papers and other documents are forged / genuine as follows: 191 devices for reading a full page of travel documents and security documents, 52 devices for live fingerprint detection (2) and 5 high-precision digital cameras, **(c)** forty (40) 1600 cc, one hundred (100) 1800 cc and one hundred two (102) type jeep (Off-Road) patrol passenger vehicles, **(d)** one helicopter, **(e)** four (4) Coastal Patrol Vessels, **(f)** twenty four (24) pairs of encryption devices and **(g)** three hundred sixty (360) of several types radio-communications and electro-maritime equipment.

Upgrading of the: **(a)** HCG Central Airplanes and Helicopters Base and **(b)** HCG vessels as follows: eight (08) main engines, twenty (20) electric engines, two (02) gear boxes and eleven (11) propulsion systems.

Establishment of Automatic Identification System (AIS) Infrastructure by purchase of three (03) AIS receivers with the appropriate hardware.

## **2. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 2 in the ‘‘executing body’’ method in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009**

### In the ‘‘awarding body’’ method

Not applicable.

### In the ‘‘executing body’’ method

## **2007**

No projects implemented.

## **2008**

Improvement of drafting the technical specifications of modern technology operational means for the effective protection of the external land borders, by financed the employment of a technical adviser (expert), who attended the Technical Division of the H.P.H.Q. with the determination, in terms of technical specifications, of the kinds and the types of the appropriate modern operational means (i.e. X-RAYS Van, radar systems), necessary for the surveillance of the external borders.

## **2009**

Purchase of the appropriate equipments for the operation of the National Coordination Centre, such as equipment of telematics, external devices for reception and transmission of

information, wireless communication equipment, satellite antennas and telecommunications equipment.

Conduct of a feasibility study for the establishment of a surveillance system in north Aegean Sea, including the purchase and installation of 3 radar stations and appropriate equipment in selected areas in Alexandroupoli, Samothraki Island and Limnos Island.

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

#### In the “awarding body” method

Not applicable.

#### In the “executing body” method

##### **2007**

The first project concerns the improvement of the Immigration Liaison Officers (ILOs) communication network, by the purchase of: (a) Twenty five (25) Laptops, with the appropriate software, (b) Twenty (20) Multi machines (printers, scanners, fax), (c) (3) Three Servers with the appropriate software (for the connection of the ILOs with the Central Service), (d) Eighteen (18) Personal Computers (towers) (for the support of the connection between the ILOs and the Central Service) with the appropriate software and the same number of UPS, (e) One (1) Firewall - Router (for the security of the connection network between the ILOs and the Central Service), (f) Seven (7) Monitors for the support of the Servers and the Registry Office of the competent Division of the H.P.H.Q., (g) (1) One (1) N.A.S. (Storage Server), (h) One (1) Printer (Laser) and (i) Nineteen (19) UPS.

Other project refers to the modernization of the management of the consular functions, using the appropriate software application to the eligible consular authorities. This application is a software programme used on a pilot basis to modernize the management of consular instruments (including Schengen visas) and manage accounting functions, standard deposits, expenses and treatment fees, the materials ledger and stocks of valuables transported (including standard entry visa vignettes).

##### **2008**

No projects implemented.

##### **2009**

The only project financed, concerns the modernisation of the management of consular functions using the appropriate software application to the eligible consular authorities. This project is a continuation of the 2007 Annual Program, in order (the above application) to be expanded to more consular services.

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

##### In the “awarding body” method

Not applicable.

##### In the “executing body” method

###### **2007**

The project concerns the construction of a server room in Athens and a disaster recovery site in Thessaloniki, for the purposes of implementing the N-VIS and NET-VIS applications both in order to enhance security and to guarantee the smooth and uninterrupted operation of the above systems.

###### **2008**

The three projects concern the implementation of the second Generation of Schengen Information System (SIS II), by the purchase of fifty seven (57) desktops and fifty seven (57) laptops to conduct checks in the framework of the above system obligations, as well as and the training of 40 HCG personnel from Port Authorities in the specific computerised applications of the SIS II.

###### **2009**

The first project refers to the establishment of the N-VIS, concerning the implementation of the new National Visa information system and the NET-VIS IT for the communication part (network) between Greek Consulate Authorities abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The second project describes the installation and adjustment of Routers, Network Switches, one Network Management System, one Firewall System and one Intrusion, Detection and Prevention System as well as the appropriate hardware (desk tops, lap tops, scanners and printers) which will make the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) fully operational and give access of the system to all HCG Authorities.

The third project concerns the training of 70 HCG personnel from Divisions of the Central Service of the Ministry of Citizen Protection/HCG and, in particular, from local services (Port Authorities), in computer applications of SIS II, for the familiarisation as users with these applications, making SIS II fully useable by them.

#### **5. Summary description of the projects funded under Priority 5 in the annual programmes, 2007 through 2009**



## In the “awarding body” method

Not applicable.

## In the “executing body” method

### 2007

The projects, which come under the action “Incorporation of the common training standard for the country’s police personnel”, refer to several expenditures relating to the implementation of these trainings, such as the allowances, the accommodation and the travel expenses of the trainees, the compensations of the teachers and the books and rest educational material needed.

The last project concerns the purchase of the appropriate training equipment for the training of police officers and border guards in matters relating generally to the management of migration flows. The equipment is constituted from (2) digital video cameras, (9) system for projecting training material on to a giant screen, (4) printers (coloured), (20) portable computers (laptops) and (40) flooring layers (for the practical training of the border guards and the rest police personnel who are dealing with the External Borders surveillance).

### 2008

The first project refers to the trainings of sixty two (62) Hellenic Police personnel on issues concerning checks and examinations of forged/genuine travel documents of, **non E.U.** passengers, in order to be increased the capability of the police personnel to identify illegal immigrants with false documents.

The rest projects, come under the action “Trainings of the HCG personnel in matters of external borders management” and concern : (a) Training of 10 HCG personnel in tactics for interrogation/debriefing of third country nationals apprehended at illegal crossings of the borders, (b) Training of 10 crews of HCG OPVs and HCG personnel to undertake inspections on ships/craft in the context of actions against illegal immigration, (c) Training of 10 captains and those in charge of HCG vessels to undertake inspections on ships/craft and (d) Training of 10 HCG personnel in detecting forged/falsified documents.

### 2009

The projects, which come under the action “Incorporation of the common training standard for the country’s police personnel”, refer to several expenditures relating to the implementation of these trainings, such as the allowances, the accommodation and the travel expenses of the trainees, the compensations of the teachers and the books and rest educational material needed.

The other project of the HP, it is sought, accordingly with the list of best practices for the management of external borders and the readmission of Schengen M/S, training of 80 border guards, in languages of neighboring to Greece countries, from where emanates or even

goes through, the legal or illegal immigration to Greece, so that the frontier circulation and the frontier authorities, more generally, are facilitated to operate controls, in cases of illegal passage of external borders. The languages included to be developed, in this program, are English, Turkish, Albanian, Russian and Arabic.

The training project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, refers to the in situ training, for the consular personnel abroad, on Visa policy issues and other issues depending on each country of accreditation (preventing illegal immigrants and organised crime, facilitating the flow of foreign visitors to Greece etc.).

The last projects come under the action ‘‘Trainings of the HCG personnel in matters of external borders management’’ and concern: (a) The distribution to the HCG personnel of five hundred (500) practical user-friendly copies, in both printed and electronic format, of the Schengen Borders Code and the Practical Handbook for Border Guards, (b) The training of 400 HCG personnel to Community Law and especially to the Schengen Borders Code and the Practical Handbook for Border Guards, (c) The training of five (05) HCG personnel in tactics for interrogation/debriefing of third country nationals, (d) The training on linguistic grounding to thirty six (36) HCG personnel, (e) The training of six (06) HCG personnel on checks – searches at transportation means for the location of hidden illegal immigrants, (f) The training of fifteen (15) crews of HCG OPVs and HCG personnel to undertake inspections on ships/craft in the context of actions against illegal immigration, (g) The training of fifteen (15) captains and those in charge of HCG vessels to undertake inspections on ships/craft, (h) The training of twenty (20) HCG personnel on management of illegal immigrants and their facilitators, (i) The training of 40 HCG personnel in detecting forged/falsified documents and (j) The training of 200 HCG personnel of Special Units, aiming to the provision of basic knowledge on the self – protection of the trainees, when dealing with immigrants or facilitators having a dangerous behaviour.

**6. Summary description of the projects funded in the ‘‘awarding body’’ method without a call for proposals, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009**

*Not applicable.*

**7. Summary description of the projects funded in the ‘‘executing body’’ method without a call for expression of interest, a call for proposals or similar selection method, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009**

*Not applicable.*

**8. Explain any significant change to the distribution of the projects funded in the ‘‘awarding body’’ method, by Priority and by Specific Priority, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009**

*Not applicable.*

**9. Explain any significant change to the distribution of the projects funded in the “executing body” method, by Priority and by Specific Priority, in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009**

The distribution of the projects funded under the revised 2007 annual program hasn't been changed, because the revision of the whole Program took place at the end of its eligibility period.

The distribution of the 2008 Annual Program's projects hasn't been changed. The only thing which has been changed is the budget of the implemented actions due to the weakness in the implementation of the actions 3.1.4. – 3.1.6. and their transfer to the imminent revised 2009 Annual Program.

Until now has not been made any change to the distribution in projects funded by the 2009 Annual Program. But, this will happen with the imminent revision of the 209 AP, because some actions couldn't be implemented, due to the deadline of the eligibility period and will be continued to the next Annual Program.

Comparing the three Annual Programs (2007, 2008 and 2009), the share of projects which has been distributed in each Program differs, because the implementation of the actions is different. For example, the 2007 and 2008 APs' actions have been mutually changed, so the project's distribution is similar, in the basis of each priority. However, the change of the distribution of the 2009 Annual Program's actions has differences, because the revision of the Program hasn't been done yet. When the revision takes place, will include some continuing actions from the 2007 and 2008 APs and some *new* actions, which will be implemented until the end of the eligibility period.

**10. Highlight any significant change (other than the distribution referred to under points 8 and 9) to the projects funded in the “awarding body” and “executing body” method in the annual programmes 2007 through 2009**

In the “awarding body” method

*Not applicable.*

In the “executing body” method

None.

## **11. Important projects funded in the annual programmes 2007 to 2009**

### **2007 annual programme**

One of the most important projects of the 2007 AP, is the purchase of the Software licenses and the technological equipment (hardware), for the function of organized structures for Analysis of Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration. The specific project concerns the support of the services' capacity, responsible for border control, to reduce the incidences of illegal entry and irregular migration, using the appropriate equipment for the analysis of the data and the information gathered relating to criminal organisation trafficking and smuggling human beings into the Schengen area. The purchase of the specific licenses, can be considered as an innovative application, for the country's standards, because the use of them gives the opportunity to correlate the gathered information from the whole country, concerning the crossing of illegal immigrants from the external borders, in order to be facilitated the work of the authorities in the localisation of the illegal (trafficking) organizations.

Another interesting and very efficient implemented project, is '*The incorporation of the common training standard for the country's police personnel* ', concerning trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel, which took place both in Athens and Beroia. The training schedule, contained all the necessary information, which the Border Guards and the rest police personnel, have to know for the matters of borders' surveillance and protection, in accordance with the EU policies and the Frontex agency's practices. The added value of this action is that, for the first time, was taught to the police forces' personnel, a comprehensive, uniform and tested tool, common for all EU police officers, aiming at a the more secure EU area.

### **2008 annual programme**

The implementation of the second generation of SCHENGEN Information System (SIS II), in terms of the maritime borders, can be considered as an important action, especially because the application of the system constitutes one very important EU priority in the field of the secure free movement of the EU citizens. The purchase of the necessary technological equipment contributes to the timely and more effective conduct of police checks required under the Schengen Borders Code by the HCG personnel, within the framework of implementation of SIS II in Greece.

Furthermore, the five days trainings of the HCG personnel in computer applications of SIS II, contributes to the completion of the above system application, by the familiarisation of the trainees - users with these applications, making SIS II fully useable by them as regards the capabilities it offers and, as a result, more effective in its operation.

### **2009 annual programme**

The project which is vital for both the common EU area and for our country is the application of the new VIS. The project (3.4.1.) of the 2009 AP, supports the implementation of the European commitment for a secure Schengen area, because the new VIS aims to harmonize the procedures followed and the systems used to issue visas with Greece's statutory commitments to the European Union and its obligations as a signatory to the Schengen Convention.

## **12. Description of one “success story”, among all the projects funded in the annual programmes 2007 to 2009**

As a success story can be characterised the timely and fully implemented action of the purchased software licenses for the analysis of the Criminal Intelligence on Organised Crime concerning Illegal Immigration, because it was completed even earlier from the initial implementation timeframe. At the beginning the action was included in the 2008 Annual Program and it was transferred to the 2007 AP, because of its quick and direct implementation. The reasons which led to that result are: (a) the good knowledge of the operational needs that the competent services had, so the description of the technical specifications was very clear and (b) the successive negotiations of the competent procurement service of the HP with the contractor, concerning the timely delivery.

## **13. Description of one “failure”, among all the projects funded in the annual programmes 2007 to 2009**

The failure story, refers to the implementation of the actions (=projects) concerning the selection and implementation of very innovative undertakings, for which the competent authorities do not possess the necessary experience both in terms of drafting the technical specifications (or needs) and recording the strategic steps for the realization of any kind of action or project. The unfortunate result is that these projects are continuously postponed to the next Annual Programs, because it is impossible to be implemented on time and within the eligibility period. Sometimes, the reasons of the cancellations concern the inefficient technical specifications and some other times refer to the weakness of drafting the architecture of an idea in order to become reality.

The ‘lessons’ which have been taken from these weaknesses are that, during the selection processes of the Annual Programs’ projects, the RA will only choose to implement actions or projects, which are mature and there is a big possibility to be implemented, based on the experience which each competent Service (final beneficiary) has, from previous similar projects. Another ‘lesson’ which has been resulted through the process of the cancellations, is the need for preparing the background of a very innovative project which is going to be implemented in the future. For example, a very efficient technique, which was learned, is the financing from the Annual Program N-1, of a feasibility study or the employment of an expert for the upcoming project, which is going to be implemented in the Annual Program N.

**Part VI**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY**

**1. Technical assistance**

The projects which come under the technical assistance facilitate the Responsible Authority's functions. Until now, from the three Annual Programs, have been financed the educational and further – educational courses of the RA's personnel, their travel expenses, accommodations and the rest allowances for the meetings with the European Commission as well as with other EU member states, in the framework of bilateral meetings and the technological equipment and consumables for the Responsible Authority's function. Other categories of expenditures are related with the translations of the several programmes (Greek to English and vice versa) and of course with the information activities which are taking place, during the implementation period of the actions and the employment of experts of consultant companies for the support of the RA's works.

The rest projects concern the compensation of the auditors from the on spot checks and the contribution to the financing of the technological equipment and consumables of the Audit and the Certifying Authority.

**2. Information and Publicity**

- Information and publicity activities by the Responsible Authority

The Responsible Authority, using casually the technical assistance, implements the publicity and information obligations, by published all the programs, the data of the RA's personnel and relevant information of the External Borders Fund objectives in the official web site ([www.astynomia.gr](http://www.astynomia.gr) with the reference to the EBF). Additionally, the RA publishes pictures from purchased equipment in the official website and makes references to the financing of those by the External Borders Fund and puts the appropriate stickers on the technological equipment which has been bought by the technical assistance, with the reference to the 75% of the European Union contribution.

## - Information and publicity activities by the final beneficiaries

The Responsible Authority operates, exclusively, with the executing body method, so is a final beneficiary too. However, the information and publicity activities have been done in cooperation with the competent services which implement the projects, such as the affixing of the stickers or the signs on the equipment which is financed from any Annual Program, with the reference to the 75% of the European Union contribution.

## Part VII

### ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES 2007, 2008 AND 2009

#### **VII.1. Assessment of the implementation of the 2007 Annual Programme**

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

The 2007 Annual Program has not been implemented as originally planned, due to the delays which were arisen, during the implementation period of some of its projects and the late adoption of the Program concerned. Specifically, the programming and the selection process for the specific Program, was based in a two years implementation period, but the inexperience of the competent Services, who implement the projects, on the coordination of the necessary administrative processes led to the cancellation of many actions, especially those concerning the Hellenic Coast Guard.

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

The problems which were encountered on the implementation of the 2007 annual programme concerned the above mentioned issues, which are connected mainly with the delays due to the necessary administrative processes and the inflexible deadlines of the national procurement legislation. The measures which have been taken, concerned mainly the transfer of the mature actions, from the 2008 Annual Program and their financing from the 2007 Annual Program, because they have been implemented within its eligibility period. The taken measures couldn't include any structural changes concerning the revision of the actions and the projects, because of the lack of time until the end of the eligible implementation period.

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

The revision of the above Program was necessary, because the initially approved Program contained actions which were unfeasible to be implemented in time and the absorption of the 2007 AP's funds would be extremely low, due to the above described problems. The main changes, which were done, referred to the replacement of the actions which were considered ineligible in the frame of the annual programme of 2007, with other actions either previously included in the 2008 annual programme and already completed within the eligibility period for the 2007 annual programme or completed and financed from national budget. Especially the second method, has been proved as an extremely helpful



instrument and efficient for the Responsible Authority, because with this way was achieved both the financing of eligible equipment, which is necessary for the border control services and the absorption of the funds.

The revision of the 2007 Annual Program involved changes in Priorities “1” and “5”.

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

Almost all the actions of the revised 2007 Annual Program were fully implemented, with the only exception the technical assistance’s funds, which they couldn’t be fully absorbed, due to the big amount of money which has been determined after the revision of the Program.

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

Most of the quantitative and qualitative indicators, which had been set, during the selection process of the 2007 revised programme, have been achieved, taking into account the measurable factors of each action and project and so the results presented at the end of the implementation period showed the effectiveness of the selected actions. Especially the results of some implemented actions (i.e. the trainings of the Hellenic Police personnel, the purchase of the police vehicles), were very clear and obvious just some months after the completion of the actions concerned.

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

The distribution of the funding, between the actions, which have been proposed in the initial 2007 AP, has been effective enough. Concerning the revised Program, although it contained, only, funding of the Hellenic Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actions, the distribution of them could be considered appropriate due to the fact that the funds were almost fully absorbed, taking into consideration that all the actions of the Hellenic Coast Guard were cancelled.

The selected actions submitted to the Commission were appropriate, because they were based on the needs of the relevant authorities implementing actions under EBF and on the priorities of the leadership of the three main final beneficiaries (Hellenic Police, Hellenic Coast Guard and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in combination with the eligibility rules and the eligible actions that are determined in the legal basis of the External Borders Fund.

## **VII.2. Assessment of the implementation of the 2008 Annual Programme**

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

The 2007 Annual Program has not been implemented as originally planned, due to the changes which took place, between the 2007 and 2008 Annual Programs. The implementation procedures of the above two Annual Program's actions, led the Responsible Authority to transfer projects, from the 2008 AP to the revised 2007 AP and vice versa, with result the initially planned actions to be revised.

However, most of the actions, which were finally included in the revised 2008 Annual Program, have been completed according to the described program's time schedule.

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

The problems which have been encountered, concerning the implementation of the 2008 Annual Program, are connected with: (a) the actions' transfers between the two programs, which created a programming gap in the 2008 AP and (b) the delays in the implementation process of the actions that finally were financed by the program concerned.

The decisions which were taken for the 2008 annual program, concerning the transfer of the mature actions to the 2007 AP, had two dimensions, because on the one hand helped the absorption of the 2007 funds, but on the other hand reduced the respective absorption of the 2008 funds. So, the measures which were finally taken, concerned the acceleration of the administrative procedures, in regard to the procurement processes.

### **3. Has a revision of the 2008 programme by the Commission been necessary? If so, what were the main changes?**

The 2008 has been revised, with the initiative of the Responsible Authority, due to the above mentioned problems which were occurred during the implementation period. The main changes referred to the financing of actions, in the final revised 2008 AP, which had already been completed and financed from national budget.

The main changes concerned the differentiation of the of the implemented actions budget allocation due to the weakness in the implementation of the actions 3.1.4. – 3.1.6. and their transfer to the imminent revised 2009 Annual Program.

The revision of the 2008 Annual Program involved changes in **all** Priorities.

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

Almost all the actions of the revised Annual Program 2008 have been implemented, with the exception of the actions 3.1.4. – 3.1.6. which they will be finally financed by the

imminent 2009 Annual Program. As for the initial approved program, the actions of the Hellenic Police which have not been implemented and they were not included in the revised version, will be also financed by the imminent 2009 Annual Program.

Concerning the actions of the Hellenic Coast Guard, which was initially included in the Annual Program 2008, most of them were cancelled with the exception of the trainings of the HCG personnel (actions 3.4.1.-3.4.3.).

The respective actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which were initially included in the Annual Program 2008, were all cancelled and they were not included in the revised 2008 Annual Program.

**5. Have the expected quantitative and qualitative results of the 2008 programme - as set out in the programme / revised programme approved by the Commission - been achieved at the end of this programme?**

Most of the quantitative and qualitative indicators, which had been set, during the selection process of the 2008 revised programme, have been achieved, taking into account the measurable factors of each action and project and so the results presented at the end of the implementation period showed the effectiveness of the selected actions.

As for the immediate and obvious results of some actions, the building infrastructures in Konitsa, had a very positive reaction in the border guards' effectiveness.

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

The distribution of the funding, between the actions, which have been proposed in the initial 2008 AP, has been effective enough. Concerning the revised Program, although it contained, only, funding of the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard actions, the distribution of the funding could be considered appropriate due to the fact that the funds were absorbed at 65% approximately, taking into consideration that all the actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were cancelled.

The selected actions submitted to the Commission were appropriate, because they were based on the needs of the relevant authorities implementing actions under EBF and on the priorities of the leadership of the three main final beneficiaries (Hellenic Police, Hellenic Coast Guard and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in combination with the eligibility rules and the eligible actions that are determined in the legal basis of the External Borders Fund.

### **VII.3. Assessment of the implementation of the 2009 Annual Programme**

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

The 2009 AP is still being implemented, but some of its actions have been changed, mainly due to the differentiations of the original planned actions of the two previous Annual Programs. So, the current 2009 AP isn't in the line of the initially programmed schedule.

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

The problems which have arisen, during the implementation of the 2009 AP, are focused on the need for financing the actions which couldn't be implemented in time by the previous Annual Programs. So the problems of the 2009 AP are not really problems resulting from the implementation of the 2009 AP itself, but from the need for financing the ongoing projects, initially included in the previous Annual Programs.

- 3. Has a revision of the 2009 programme by the Commission been necessary? If so, what were the main changes?**

The 2009 AP has not been revised yet; however a revision is going to take place due to the above mentioned arisen problems, with the main changes to be limited in the financing of the ongoing actions and the proposal of some new one.

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

The 2009 AP is still being implemented, but a revision of that program is going to be submitted to the Commission until the end of the year. Nevertheless, the implementation of the actions that will be included under the revised version have already been started, in order to gain valuable time concerning the inflexible time schedule of the procurement processes.

- 5. Have the expected quantitative and qualitative results of the 2009 programme - as set out in the programme / revised programme approved by the Commission - been achieved at the end of this programme?**

The actions of the 2009 AP, weren't implemented yet, so there are no quantitative and qualitative results to gather in order to be evaluated the effectiveness of the actions proposed.

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

The distribution of the funding, between the actions, which have been proposed in the 2009 AP, has been effective enough.

The selected actions submitted to the Commission were appropriate, because they were based on the needs of the relevant authorities implementing actions under EBF and on the priorities of the leadership of the three main final beneficiaries (Hellenic Police, Hellenic Coast Guard and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in combination with the eligibility rules and the eligible actions that are determined in the legal basis of the External Borders Fund.

#### **VII.4. The Management and Control System for the Fund and the implementation of the Annual Programme 2007 through 2009**

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

The designed Management and Control system in general, is still in the line with the Responsible Authority's operation. However, there are some parts which have been noticed as weaknesses for the system's operation and are scheduled to be revised, so that all the involved Authorities can operate with clear and specific roles. So, the main points of the system remain functional for the implementation of the actions and at the same time, the competent authorities have already begun to redraft some parts of it, including the necessary changes which will be proposed to the European Commission. Besides, the results of the conducted, by the Audit Authority, audits, show that the Management and Control System is functional and the involved services are complying with the obligations concerned.

##### **2. Please list any changes you have made in the Management and Control System of the External Borders Fund which you designed in 2007-8, bearing in mind the experiences gained/ lessons learned during the implementation of the annual programmes 2007 – 2009 and/or any comments from the Commission and/or audits**

One institutional change, which is referring to the function of the competent services, is the establishment of the Ministry of Citizen Protection. According to Presidential Decree no. 184/2009 (Government Gazette 213 A'/7-10-2009), the Ministry of Citizen Protection was established, comprising, among others, the Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard and their Services.

The Coast Guard previously belonging to the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, the Aegean and Island Policy, has been transferred to the Ministry of Citizen Protection.

The changes in the MCS, which have been already scheduled to take place, concern mainly the function of the Responsible Authority and the relation between the Responsible Authority and the three main beneficiaries (Hellenic Police, Hellenic coast Guard and Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

According to the current description of the MCS, the Responsible Authority signs written agreements (*memorandum of understandings*), with the competent representative of each of the three bodies, which are equivalent to the grant agreements. The responsible Authority is now designing the new templates of the regular *grant agreements*, in order to be signed by the respective representative of each body. These agreements will be more detailed and will have legal power, in relation to the memorandum of understandings and will state all the obligations relating to the performance of the duties which are being delegated to those services. Indicatively, these obligations concern the monitoring and the timetable of the implementing actions via periodical reports (monthly – quarterly) which will be submitted to the R.A. by the competent Services. It will be clear that in case of any incompliance by the delegated authorities, concerning the obligations foreseen in the above mentioned grant agreements, the RA will cancel the action and will redistribute the allocation of the respective program.

## **Part VIII**

### **OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES 2007 - 2009**

#### **VIII.1. What is your overall assessment of the implementation of the External Borders Fund in your Member State from 2007 to 2009?**

The Responsible Authority, acting with the executing body method exclusively, faced many problems in the implementation of the 2007 – 2009 Annual Programs, mainly due to the lack of any previous experience in the field of the shared management method.

Furthermore, the existing inflexible administrative structures and the legal framework of the judicial protection, concerning the public procurement procedures, enhanced the weakness of the timely implementation of the actions concerned.

Moreover, due to the governmental changes, which took place after the 2009 elections, the structure of the Hellenic Coast Guard was modified. This modification influenced the capability of its competent services to implement successfully a significant part of the approved actions, under the revised 2007 and 2008 Annual Programs.

Finally, the late adoption of the Multiannual Program and the 2007 and 2008 Annual Programs, worsened the ability for the successful implementation of all the actions within the strict eligibility period, due to the late start of the procurement procedures.

However, during the same period it was achieved a significant absorption of a big part of the 2007 and 2008 funds by the Hellenic Police, through the effective implementation of its actions.

Concerning the 2009 Annual Program, the ongoing implementation process shows a successful implementation of the respective projects, although a revision for this program will be inevitable.

**VIII. 2 Taking into account the overall implementation of the External Borders Fund in your Member State from 2007 to 2009, what is your preliminary assessment in relation to the following aspects of the External Borders Fund on the following aspects?**

**1. Relevance of the programme's priorities and actions to the national situation**

**Please describe how relevant the programme's objectives are overall to the problems and needs identified in the field of external border control and visa policy. Has there been an evolution which required a reshaping of the intervention?**

The three Annual Programs have been in the line of the needs and the problems that the competent services revealed, at the time of drafting each of them. Thus, although the two Programs have, already, been revised, at the time of the internal consultations for the determination of the Services' proposals, the content of the initial programs was reflected the requirements of the country in the field of the borders security.

The evolutions which took place during the actions' implementation concerned mainly delays in the procurement procedures phases and by the submission of the revisions requests, these delays were absorbed by introducing other (new or transferred from other Annual Programs) actions.

**2. Effectiveness of the programme**

**Please highlight the key results of the programme overall and the extent to which the desired results and objectives (as set out in the multiannual programme strategy) been attained. Are the effects resulting from the intervention consistent with its objectives?**

The general results of the actions' implementation, show that the objectives, which have been determined in the multiannual programme strategy, have been attained in a very satisfying degree, especially if we consider that the two of them have already been revised. This conclusion can be verified by the quantitative and qualitative data, which showed the positive correspondence of the implemented projects, to the border guard services and the consular authorities, by the increased borders' security level.

**3. Efficiency of the programme**

**Please estimate the cost of the management of the External Borders Fund so far and whether in your opinion the programme's objectives are being developed in accordance with the original planning and at a reasonable cost.**



The cost of the management of the External Borders Fund, can be considered as a reasonable balance between the needs of our country in this specific thematic policy and the actions and projects which took place to satisfy the concerned requirements.

In additional, we have to take into consideration, that the Responsible Authority's staff and main operational costs covered only by the national budget, fact that enhance the programs' cost effectiveness.

Also, if we compare the huge problems, that our country faces, relating to the illegal immigration routes and the positive results which are gained by the implementation of the co financed actions using the funds provided, we can definitely say that the objectives have been developed with a very balanced cost.

Furthermore, the Responsible Authority's cost – benefit analysis, showed that the actions' cost for the achievement of the objectives, was reasonable and according to the initial planning, because it was strictly followed the procurement procedures framework which is based on the lowest bid offers.

#### **4. Complementarity**

**Please indicate any issues you have had with establishing the complementarity and/or synergies with other programmes and/or EC financial instruments such as the other Funds of the General Programme, the Thematic Programme on Asylum and Migration and/or the Structural Funds.**

The Responsible Authority did not face any problems, concerning the complementarity of the Annual Program's actions and the rest National or European Programs, because they were taken into account, from the beginning of drafting the EBF proposals, the contents of other programs and the potential synergies.

Besides, were taken into consideration, for drafting the 2007 - 2009 annual programs, 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 2007-2011.

#### **5. Added value**

**Please indicate how you perceive the programme's added value in comparison with existing national programmes/policies at national, regional and local level, and in relation to the national budget in the area of intervention of the External Borders Fund.**

The added value of the programs is focused on the actions' funding, which supports the efforts of the national competent services to combat the illegal immigration phenomenon in all its dimensions. This happens because the objectives of the EBF basic act, contain a big

range of eligible actions, given so the opportunity to the member states to choose and implement the suitable actions, for the confrontation of their problems.

Furthermore, the very important added value of the EBF programs is located in the fact that, these credits give the opportunity to the member states to implement actions and innovative projects, which otherwise it wouldn't be possible to do so from their national budgets. Especially, the recent developments in the field of the public financial management, have created an extremely instable environment, which reduces the investment capabilities of our country, including the field of the immigration flows management. So, at this time period, the EU funds have the most added values, for the national services which are dealing with the management of the borders security, because they reinforce, in a big degree, the national efforts for preventing and protecting the external borders effectively.

**VIII.3. Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in the regulatory framework (basic act and implementing rules) and the Commission guidance documents which would help you to streamline and improve the annual programming exercise in general?**

No suggestions proposed.

**VIII.4. Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in the regulatory framework (basic act and implementing rules) and the Commission guidance documents which would help you to streamline and improve the implementation of the actions / projects and the control mechanisms on the actions/ projects?**

No suggestions proposed.

**VIII. 5. Any suggestions / recommendations for improvements in terms of the guidance and support by the Commission to the Member States on the implementation of the programming exercise and the management and control system?**

No suggestions proposed.

*End of the report*

