

2011 ANNUAL PROGRAMME

MEMBER STATE:	Republic of Latvia
FUND:	External Borders Fund
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Ministry of the Interior, Čiekurkalna 1.līnija 1, k-2 Rīga, LV 1026
YEAR COVERED:	2011

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

1.1. General principles for selection of projects

As a general principle, the projects can be selected and implemented in two methods:

- **Responsible Authority acting as awarding body.** In this case open call for proposals will be organised, where project applicants compete equally for application approval and financing assignment;
- **Responsible Authority acting as executing body.** In this case the amount of financing allocated to action and the Competent Authority for the implementation of the respective action is known beforehand. This information is determined by the Management Committee while developing planning documents of the fund. In the framework of the executing body implementation method the Competent Authorities are responsible for preparation and submission of the project application to the Responsible Authority for the evaluation and approval. The Responsible Authority will approve and finance all of the project applications of the Competent Authorities that correspond to the evaluation criteria and will sign the agreement with the Competent Authorities, which will be similar to the grant agreement.

For evaluation of submitted project applications within both implementation methods – the awarding body and the executing body – similar evaluation procedure will be applied. Submitted project applications will be evaluated against predefined criteria by the Project applications' Evaluation Commission (established by the Responsible Authority) in the framework of the executing body implementation method. In the framework of the awarding body implementation method the submitted project applications will be evaluated not only by the Project applications' Evaluation Commission, but also by the Management Committee of the Fund. The evaluation criteria of the submitted project applications are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia and fully comply with the minimum selection criteria defined in the basic act.

The 2011 annual programme was developed in accordance with 5 Priorities presented in European Commission's (hereafter – EC) 18 October 2010 letter "Setting priorities for the use of the External Borders Fund and ensuring adequate control".

- It is planned to implement actions within the framework of all 5 actions: SIS II project (2011 – 2013);
- VIS roll – out (2012 – 2013);
- Consular co – operation programmes (2011-2013);
- European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) (2012);
- State of the art of technology (2013).

Priority: VIS roll-out:

1) Ministry of foreign Affairs: According to the VIS roll-out determining the first regions for the start of operations of the Visa Information System and the exchange of data between Member States on short stay visas (including photographs and fingerprint data), Latvia has two Embassies in the regions – in Egypt and Israel. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia has equipped the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Egypt and Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Israel

with the necessary equipment to issue biometric visas. The equipment to capture the fingerprints will be examined as soon as possible according to the VIS implementation time schedule.

At the same time a wireless network will be installed at Karsava, Indra, Grebneva, Silene,

2) *The State Border Guard*: Assessing the travel intensity of nationals of countries from regions determined in VIS roll-out, it is concluded that starting of verification of biometric data in the VIS there is an urgent need for its only at the border control point (BCP) of Riga Airport, but for the 2nd region it is necessary to take a number of technical upgrading of the existing border control process (technology) in support of road and rail BCP.

Therefore, in 2011 the emphasis is placed on:

- software implementation for ensuring border control regarding alphanumeric and biometric data verification (the software will be ready in June 2011, implementation is scheduled in July 2011,
- minimum equipping of border check points – 1st line work locations will be equipped with 1-finger scanners according to the number of place of work by July 2011;
- issue of visas at BCP (19) – 4-finger scanners will be installed until July 2011, it is planned with use of scanners to ensure 2nd line checks.

Latvia will start checking the VIS based on the alphanumeric data 20 days after the VIS goes live. Latvia has made the necessary preparations for this purpose. Furthermore it is necessary to provide 17 items of equipment, the purchase of 12 items has been applied for within the framework of another project, as well as Immigration units (18 items of equipment) with 4-finger scanners to comply with existing and future requirements laid down in regulations (SBC and VIS)

In addition, it is planned to buy 20 1-finger scanners. Funding planned for 23 4-finger devices and 20 1-finger devices within the framework of the activity “Purchase of fingerprint scanners to ensure identification of persons at 2nd lines and in the territory of state” is **200 000 EUR**.

Currently the border checks at rail BCP (Zilupe, Kārsava, Indra) are carrying out with use of mobile devices and– it is planned to use similar technology at road BCP purchasing of 78 mobile devices. The purchased mobile devices will be allocated at road, rail BCP (Indra, Grebņeva, Silene, Pāternieki).

Paternieki BCP's, as well as Zilupe BCP will be expanded. In addition to the use of mobile devices and wireless network for verification of biometric data in the VIS the rebuilding of the mentioned BCP's and changes of border check process would be required. To ensure checks within the territory of state it is planned to develop the software. The planned funding for the activity “VIS roll-out at BCP's (Kārsava, Zilupe, Indra, Grebņeva, Silene, Pāternieki)” is **1 030 000 EUR**.

3) *Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs*:

Latvia continues to update National Visa Information System (NVIS) according to the technical specification (version 1.87.) drafted by European Commission, and will ensure connection between NVIS and Central Visa Information System (CVIS) in accordance with the time schedule determined by European Commission.

After VIS go-life the development of NVIS will be continued, e.g. carried out modifications in NVIS code table and software, on the basis of VIS technical specification and document of 31 March 2010 drafted by European Commission “Future updates of the Visa Information System”.

In order to ensure qualitative work with the updated NVIS, in the nearest future there will be carried out trainings of NVIS users; in total 120 employees from the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, the State Border Guards and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will acquire knowledge and practical skills in the work with NVIS and CVIS. The training courses will be organized as “training of trainers” and in case of necessity every involved institution will be able to teach other employees.

In the framework of the Activity 4.1. of 2008 and 2009 annual programmes of the External Border Fund (EBF) there is ensured necessary technical equipment for work with NVIS (biometric equipment, electronic machine-readable travel document (e-MRTD) readers, photographing

equipment, etc.). Thus, in the sense of acquired technical equipment Latvia is ready to ensure the first regions for the start of operation of VIS according to the VIS roll-out plan.

In the framework of EBF 2009 annual programme, in the nearest future Latvia will acquire technical equipment for 25 work places for the needs of diplomatic and consular representations of the Republic of Latvia abroad (biometric data acquisition equipment, e-MRTD readers, software, etc.). Taking into consideration the first regions set out in the VIS roll-out plan, the consulates of the Republic of Latvia in the first region (Egypt) and in the second region (Israel), (in the third region Latvia has no consulate), are already ensured with necessary technical equipment for work with CVIS.

In the framework of EBF 2008 and 2009 programmes, Latvia has already acquired and soon will acquire more necessary equipment for the needs of the State Border Guards:

- 1) Acquired 20 sets of photographing equipment (cameras, stands, background screens);
- 2) Will acquire 38 sets for equipping working places (biometric data acquisition equipment, e-MRTD readers, software, etc.).

Thus, the fourth region mentioned in the VIS roll-out plan – Schengen border-crossing points – will be fully ensured with appropriate technical equipment for work with CVIS.

In the national level there is developed VIS Mail I which will be launched together with CVIS. At the moment experts from Latvia take part in the European Commission VIS Mail II working group and, after adoption of the final version of the technical specification, with the support of EBF Latvia is ready to begin development and implementation of VIS Mail II.

Since the maintenance of NVIS in Latvia is the obligation of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, then it is necessary to develop and improve work organization of NVIS management team, in order to ensure effective supervision of NVIS processes at the national level. In future it is foreseen to improve business continuity plan (instructions, notification schemes, etc.), as well as to acquire necessary technical equipment and develop NVIS secondary site.

Priority: European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR)

1) The State Border Guard: The main task of border surveillance technical system "UNIFORM" (hereinafter - System) is to reinforce surveillance of the Latvian - Russian and Latvian - Belarus borders, to detect the illegal movement of persons across state border and movement of prohibited goods across state border.

The system includes:

- GPS tracking system for border patrols;
- border surveillance technical means;
- hardware (main server, stationary and portable work stations);
- software that manages the system work in general.

System functions:

- obtaining of information on the situation at the border;
- detection of human and vehicle presence at state border, insurance of guarding of objects, buildings and facilities which are in the possession of the State Border Guard;
- planning and coordination of service of border guard shifts at the state border;
- summing up and transmission of received information on the situation at the border;
- drawing up of reports.

System is installed at the Border Guard units of the Operational Management divisions of Viļaka, Ludza and Daugavpils boards of SBG, as well as on off-road vehicles. In order to improve the Latvian - Russian and Latvian - Belarus border surveillance and control, especially in a dark time, when smugglers and illegal immigrants become more active, as well as do not threaten the quality

of border surveillance and state border security as a whole, it is necessary to perform mutual integration of System component parts (integration of border surveillance technical means into the joint System), namely, night-vision cameras and day-vision cameras mounted on the observation towers, systems for detecting the presence - infrared, magnetic and seismic sensors, electromagnetic cable, etc. Developing and integrating the System as a whole the efficiency of the use of border surveillance technical means will be increased, as well as the number of staff and workload will be optimized.

By the order of the Ministry of the Interior Nr.335 of 1 March, 2011 "On EUROSUR Implementation Plan 2011-2013" was approved EUROSUR Implementation Plan for the years 2011-2013 (hereinafter - EUROSUR plan). According to the EUROSUR plan the EUROSUR updated complex of concrete measures was set for EUROSUR implementation at the national level. The State Border Guard is designated as the body responsible for the establishment of the national coordination centre and realization of key purposes within the framework of EUROSUR. EUROSUR plan describes procedures for realization of measures and fixes the dates for completion of measures up to the end of 2013. According to the EUROSUR plan also it is foreseen to integrate the UNIFORM system into the joint system.

Within the framework of EUROSUR plan it is planned to use the Maritime Operations and Coordination Center of the Ventspils Board of the State Border Guard for the needs of EUROSUR project, on the basis of which to create the national coordination centre, taking into account the existing communications and information network of the Maritime Surveillance System of the State Border Guard. Relevant activity, namely, the elaboration of technical specification of equipment, devices and means of communication for the national coordination centre was included into the list of EUROSUR plan measures. EUROSUR measures implementation plan must be elaborated by 1st June, 2012. After its elaboration it will be possible to identify the necessary financial resources for further implementation of the measures.

Estimated funding is **400 000 EUR**.

In view of past experience of the State Border Guard on problems and volume of similar systems creation, we can conclude that implementation of measures requires the substantial financial resources. Currently identification of specific volumes is not possible without a serious study of situation in the system.

EUROSUR measures implementation plan must be elaborated by 1st June, 2012.

After its elaboration it will be possible to identify the necessary financial resources for further implementation of the measures. Estimated funding is **322 000 EUR**.

Priority: Consular Cooperation programmes (according to Visa code articles 40 & 41): 1)

Ministry of foreign Affairs: Latvia cooperates with other Member States within the framework of local Schengen cooperation. Currently Latvia has no experience in introducing limited representation or common centres for collecting biometric data, but we see such possibility in the future. Latvia may seek limited representation in the third countries where Latvia has limited capacity (for example only one Mission) and a visa applicant has to travel long distances to submit the application in person.

At the same time Latvia sees an opportunity to expand cooperation among the Member States by establishing co-location or a common application centres in accordance with Article 41 of the Visa Code.

Priority: SIS II Project:

1) *Information Centre*: Information Centre had signed development contract that covers both implementation of ICD/DTS 3.0 on N.SIS II and relevant registers and a Compliance testing of those systems in 4th quarter of year 2011 . Contract is signed till the end of year 2011 with the possibility of prolongation if additional works are needed. It is planned to sign another technical support contract in summer 2011 that will cover development and support of N.SIS II till SIS II “Go Live” dates or at least the next 2 years (2012 – 2013).

Latvia has applied for CTE Group 4. Work breakdown in above mentioned development contract for this year aims exactly for reaching such a goal – prepare national systems for Compliance testing till October 2011. Taking into account our previous experience in development of N.SIS it might be possible that communication and DB part of NS are to be ready before this period giving possibility to move to previous CTE group. Exact information can be provided at the end of August 2011.

Priority: State-of –the –art technology (integrated border management concept):

1) *The State Borderguard*: Due to significant increase in passenger movement, the State Border Guard should increase capacity of border crossing process. FRONTEX guideline (the Airports Council International and the European Commission have joined to it) is that the automated border crossing systems improves border crossing processes. ABC is a tool for improvement of work capacity of personnel carrying out border checks and capacity of border crossing points. Under the circumstances of increase in passenger flow it will enable more effective border control, without increasing staff numbers. The use of e-gate will enable more efficient (as well as more mobile) management of available human resources, if necessary, redirecting them to tightened second line checks on persons, performance of risk analysis and profiling. Currently in the European Union countries, such as Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during border checks, carrying out on holders of e-passports and other equivalent documents, ABC system is used with good results. ABC system is approved also outside the European Union. Taking into account **the positive experience of other countries, as well as consequent increase in passenger flow of airport “Riga”**, the State Border Guard plans to install 2 e-gates within the framework of pilot project until the end of 2014. .

The use of SIS II for the purpose of border checks will increase security at the European Union and the Latvian external borders, will prevent possibilities to move for persons using another identity and who are in the field of attention of law enforcement bodies. In order to create the best possible quality connections between the national Entry/Exit System and SIS II (through communication to National SIS II), evaluating the technical specifications of two systems, the technical project will be developed in February, 2012. On the base of the technical project the changes will be made in national Entry/Exit system until the end of 2013, namely, verification of person's identity using biometric data, inclusion of new alarm types, and other related to SIS II changes. Thus the precondition will be fulfilled in order in the fourth quarter of 2013 a linking-up of the national Entry/Exit System and the Schengen Information System (SISII) will be implemented at the State Border Guard. Planned financing for the development of technical project in program for 2010 is **20 000 EUR** and for linking-up implementation in program for 2011 is **195 000 EUR**.

1.2. Specific issues of the Fund

Considering the fact that all actions of the External Borders Fund (hereafter – Fund) can be implemented only by a limited number of the state authorities who have *de jure* monopoly rights on

implementation of these actions due to their specific features and connection to national security matters, all the actions will be implemented by the executing body implementation method.

1.3. Timeline of selection and approval of projects

Regarding actions to be implemented under the 2011 annual programme the Responsible Authority will send out invitations to the Competent Authorities to submit project applications in the 1st quarter of year 2011.

Afterwards project evaluation will take place and it is foreseen that evaluation of the submitted projects will last approximately 3 months, and if project applications will correspond to evaluation criteria, projects will be approved and grant agreements will be signed. The eligibility period for project implementation is from 1st January 2011, the end date – at the latest 30 June 2013.

1.4. Procurement issues

The Competent Authorities will be responsible for implementation of the approved projects, including organisation of procurement procedures and signing contracts with contractors according to the national legislation and the Article 11 of the implementing rules of the Fund. Public bodies are obliged to comply with the rules of the Public procurement law, which states that the minimum threshold for carrying out public procurement procedure in Latvia for services and products is 3 000 lats (~ 4 269 euro) and for construction works 10 000 (~ 14 228 euro). If the value of the planned contract is less than the abovementioned threshold, simplified procedure of public procurement has to be carried out having regard of the basic requirements for the public procurement principles (value for money principle, clearly defined criteria for the selection of the best offer, etc.).

1.5. Visibility of EC funding

By implementing projects within the framework of the Fund, the Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of the projects will be under obligation to provide information regarding use of the Fund financing in accordance with the guidelines for publicity and visual identity measures. This includes requirements for the Competent Authorities on publicity and visual identity measures to be taken depending on specifics of the project. As the main examples of the visual identity and publicity measures to be applicable during the implementation of the projects can be mentioned the following:

Information boards at the project implementation site – regarding the implementation of project related to the development of the infrastructure object whose total budget exceeds 100 000 EUR.

Labels on the acquired equipment – regarding the implementation of project related to the acquisition of any kind of equipment.

Posters in the training premises and Funds logo on the **training materials** – regarding the implementation of project related to organising trainings.

Information and communication material – publications (such as newsletters, booklets, brochures, handout materials produced for the organization of trainings), data basis and audiovisual materials the front page will have to contain the information about the use of Funds financing in the production of the respective materials.

Information events (such as conferences and seminars) – on the documents and hand out materials used in such information events, the reference on the use of the Funds financing and logo of the Fund will have to be clearly visible.

Websites – the information given on the internet regarding the implementation of the project under implementation of the Fund will have to contain the reference on the use of the Funds financing and

also the hyperlink to other European Commission websites concerning the implementation of the Fund will have to be included.

Press releases – information in the national or local mass media on the implementation of the project under the implementation of the Fund will have to contain the reference on the use of the Funds financing within implementation of the project.

The guidelines for publicity and the visual identity measures will be attached to the agreements concluded between the Responsible Authority and the Competent Authorities.

According to the requirements of the Article 33 (2)(a) of the implementing rules the Responsible Authority will organise annual information activity with the participation of the representatives all of the institutions involved in the implementation of the Fund and other stakeholders. The aim is to give the information on the launch of the annual programme, the actions, the amount of financing allocated for the implementation of the actions. The expenditure related to the annual information activity will be covered from the financial means of the technical assistance.

The names of the Final beneficiaries of the Fund, the titles of the approved projects and information on the Union funding and public funding allocated for the implementation of the approved projects will be published in the official home page of the Responsible Authority (<http://www.iem.gov.lv>) according to the requirements of Article 33 (2) (b) of the Implementing rules.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

N/A

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

3.1. *Actions for implementation of the priorities chosen by the Republic of Latvia*

PRIORITY 1: Support for the further gradual establishment of the common integrated border management system as regards the checks on persons at and the surveillance of the external borders

Action 1.2. *“Equipping the border checkpoints on the railway between Zilupe, Indra and Karsava and state borders with the video surveillance system”*

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

Action 4.2. *“The integration of the national biometrics data processing system with the Integrated Information System of the Ministry of the Interior and SIS IP”*

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

Action 5.1. *“Providing the regional training for the consular officials about the common visa policy, in accordance with the requirements of the European Visa Code”*

<u>Action 1.2.</u>	Equipping the border checkpoints on the railway between Zilupe, Indra and Karsava and state borders with the video surveillance system
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1. Purpose and scope of the action

In order to ensure implementation of the Priority 1, the implementation of the action 1.2. was started within the framework of the annual programme 2009 and is continuing within the framework of the annual programme 2010.

Within the framework of the annual programme 2009 it was mentioned that in order to fulfil the case of Schengen Catalogue on the railway divisions between Zilupe, Indra and Karsava railway border checkpoints and state borders the State Border Guard proposed to begin the implementation of this action earlier than originally planned in multiannual programme.

The reason for above mentioned was that during last years the State Border Guard was facing sharp changes in realisation of the phenomenon of illegal immigration. The illegal immigrants from Asia for illegal penetration into the Schengen area more often use “green” border.

The aim of this action is to establish and use more effectively high technologies in order to reduce the possibility for illegal immigrants to enter the territory of the EU by crossing the external border of the EU, as well as to promote effective and operative exchange of the information among services involved in the control of the external border.

Taking into account the scope and the amount of works to be performed within the framework of the aforementioned action, it is a multiannual action.

Action set for the acquirement of co-financing of the Fund envisages establishment of the effective video surveillance systems of the border and frontier zone, equipping railway spans from the railway border control points to the state border with video surveillance systems. The benefit of these works is that by using video surveillance systems (video cameras) the number of cases, when illegal immigrants are detained, will increase.

Within the annual programme 2009 the technical project for establishment of 3 Border Control Points on the external border with the video surveillance systems will be elaborated.

Within annual programme 2010 the II stage – Karsava railway border checkpoint development will be performed.

Zilupe and Indra railway border checkpoints will be developed within future annual programmes. Karsava railway border checkpoint is crossed both by cargo trains and by passenger trains. Therefore it is considered to be the most important railway border checkpoint in terms of the risk of illegal border crossings. The biggest number of illegal border crossing was detected at Karsava railway border checkpoint.

At the moment the railway section from the state border to the Karsava railway border checkpoint is not in full view from the closest SBG structural units, as well as it is not covered with any technical devices.

2. Expected grant recipients

Taking into account the specifics of action set for the acquirement of co-financing of the Fund within the framework of the annual programme for year 2010, the action will be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as an executing body.

The only Competent Authority for the implementation of the action 1.2. set for the acquirement of co-financing of the Fund within the framework of the annual programme for year 2010 is the State Border Guard.

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

Chapter 13 of the Law of Border Guard defines the tasks of the Border Guard and one of the challenges is to prevent that persons and vehicles crossing the state border, the cargo and other goods are moved across the state border outside of this purpose in the places or other illegal means, to detect and arrest offenders of state borders, as well as to detect offenders of regime of the border, the border zone, border control points and border crossing.

4. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

In the framework of the annual programme 2010 it is planned to establish Video surveillance system establishment from state border to Kārsava railway BCP including:

- installation of fixed daylight cameras (every 50 m)
- turnable daylight cameras + night vision cameras with stabilization (every 1000m);
- setting of registration system and workstation;
- data transmission (optical cable) with infrastructure establishment, installation and other operations.

Results for AP 2010	Indicators			
	Output		Outcomes	
	Indicator according to MAP	Value for AP 2010	Indicator according to MAP	Value for AP 2010
Karsava railway border checkpoint development	Video surveillance systems is elaborated which has sensors and recording equipment for railway divisions from state border to Karsava railway BCP;	To ensure railway video surveillance system by establishing data transmission net connected to the technical surveillance device complex with the unified management and situation control system on the railway border control spots it is necessary to acquire: 1. fixed diurnal video surveillance cameras approx. every 50 m (approx. 90 units); 2. turning diurnal/night video cameras with stabilization approx. every 1000 m (approx. 5 units); 3. registration equipment and workstations at Karsava railway checkpoints; Data transmission net (optical cable) with infrastructure establishment (approx. 95 units) .	The possibilities to cross the border illegally have been reduced; The number of cases, when illegal immigrants are detained by State Border Guard, will increase	N° of the detected illegal crossings in year 2012 increased in comparison with years 2008-2009 N° of detentions during 2008-2009 is 60 illegal immigrants In year 2012 it is planned to detain 120 illegal immigrants

5. Visibility of EC funding

The project partners must always refer to the co-financing of this project from the Fund in communications about this project. The EU logo and the statement of the Fund must be displayed on written material. Labels on the acquired equipment must be attached to material objects acquired. When making the AP 2010 public, confidentiality may need to be ensured with regard to the location of the border surveillance systems.

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

The action set for co-financing of the Fund does not overlap with the actions financed by other EU financial instruments; instead it supplements the project commenced within the framework of the *Schengen Facility* programme thus ensuring the succession of financing.

With any other EC financial instruments (*PHARE Programme, Transition Facility, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and the Norwegian Financial Instrument*) the action set for the acquiring of co-financing of the Fund does not overlap.

7. Financial information

Financial means in amount of **1 442 871,44 EUR** are required for implementation of the action 1.2. within the framework of the annual programme for year 2010. Disposition of these funds is envisaged for establishment of the effective video surveillance system for railway divisions from state border to Kārsava railway BCP.

Type of allocation	EUR	%
Community contribution	1 082 153,58	75
Public allocation	360 717,86	25
TOTAL	1 442 871,44	100

<u>Action 4.2.</u>	The integration of the national biometrics data processing system with the Integrated Information System of the Ministry of the Interior and SIS II
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1. Purpose and scope of the action

The implementation of the action 4.2. was started within the framework of the annual programme 2010.

By taking into account the scope of works to be performed within the framework of the aforementioned action, it is considered to be a multiannual action, in accordance with the European Commission decision regarding the implementation rules for the Fund. Aim of this action is to ensure that at border control points and immigration offices border crossing persons biometrical data are processed adequately and that biometrical data are properly checked in order to ensure that border control procedures on the EU external border are in line with the standards and requirements of EU. In order to achieve the aforementioned aim, it is planned to integrate the National Biometrics Data processing system with the Schengen Information System II (SIS II) and the Integrated Interior Information System (IIIS).

Creating such an integrated solution would allow ensuring possibility to search for information concerning person biometrical data in on-line mode, and at the same time to receive information from the National Biometrics Data processing system and SIS II. Therefore efficiency of the border control procedures regarding checks of person identity at the EU external border in Latvia would improve. At the same time integration of the aforementioned systems would allow to add information on person biometrical data in SIS II from the IIIS and National Biometrics Data processing system. Therefore supplementing functioning of SIS II by providing new persons biometrical data in the system that are accessible to the respective services responsible for migration control and EU external border control in other EU member states.

It's foreseen that one of the primary such information users in the on-line mode should be Latvian and other EU Member States border guards (in particular at the EU external borders), taking into account that performing border control checks requires rapid (in order to minimize border crossing

time) processing of trustable person identity information from various sources. It should be underlined that other national and other EU Member States services will be among stakeholders of such a system – SIS II end-users (also using on-line mode) will greatly benefit from the implemented integrated solution that will allow person recognition (identification/verification) to be made more effectively.

Following the EC e-mail on 25 November 2010 “External Borders Fund – questionnaire on the SIS II financial needs”, the Responsible Authority submitted the Questionnaire to assess Member State`s financial needs for national SIS II – related developments and investments in the context of the External Borders Fund. In the document the Responsible Authority provided general description of national SIS II – related investments and work to be completed each year from 2011-2013.

The following activities are being planned under AP 2011:

- development of the software – necessary for the creation of the component for the data processing;
- development of local area networks needed for the integration of the National Biometrics Data processing system with SIS II and IIS – necessary for the ensuring of the data transmission among the information systems involved;
- testing of the integrated solution;

2. Expected grant recipients

Taking into account the specifics of action set for the acquirement of co-financing of the Fund within the framework of the annual programme for year 2011, the action will be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as an executing body.

The only Competent Authority for the implementation of the action 4.2. set for the acquirement of co-financing of the Fund within the framework of the annual programme for year 2011 is the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Latvia.

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

According to the law on the Biometrical Data Processing system (accepted by the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia on 21.05.2009.) elaboration and support of the National Biometrics Data Processing system is under jurisdiction of the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia. According to the law the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Schengen Information System.

4. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Information on expected quantified results within implementation of the action under the annual programme 2011 is presented in the table below, as well as the information on indicators to be used for measuring progress within the annual programme 2011 against the baseline situation. The table includes only those indicators that can be applied for the evaluation of the results of the project within the annual programme 2011.

Result for AP 2011	Indicators
The integration of the national biometrics data processing system with the Integrated Information System of the Ministry of the Interior and SIS II	
Software for ensuring integration of National Biometrics data processing system with SIS II and IIS elaborated	Standard interface for data exchange with other systems developed
Local area networks needed for integration of National Biometrics Data processing system	100% of the connection points, where the VPN system is needed to be set are provided with

with SIS II and IIS developed	VPN system
Testing of the integrated solution is provided and introduced into operation	The integrated solution for the data searching and biometrics data transfer from BDAS to SIS is implemented into the actual environment

5. Visibility of EC funding

The project partners must always refer to the co-financing of this project from the Fund in communications about this project. Information and communication material must contain the information about the EU logo and the statement of the Fund.

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

The action 4.2. envisages integration of the national Biometrics Data Processing System with the Integrated Information system of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia and the Schengen Information System II thus supplementing further development of the National Biometrics Data Processing System which is foreseen to be commenced by implementation of project “*Development of Biometrics Data Processing System*” under implementation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), wherein for development of the system for the programming year 2009 there have been allocated under operational programme “*Infrastructure and Services*” priority 2 measure 2.2. “*ICT infrastructure and Services*”. Within the implementation of the aforementioned project the National Biometrics Data Processing System will be developed, including elaboration of the technical project and implementation of the system. The elaboration of Schengen Information System II (SIS II) and respective decision is delayed. It was impossible to implement planned activities, because funding of the project ERDF was allocated to the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior only in year 2009.

The necessary information about the SIS II (data structure, data processing etc.) that is necessary for performing activities of national system integration with SIS II was not at the Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior service.

Therefore the implementation of the action 4.2. will be commenced within the framework of the AP 2010.

7. Financial information for implementation of the action 4.2.

Financial means of **1 287 646 EUR** are required for the implementation of the action 4.2. within the framework of the annual programme 2011. Disposition of these funds is envisaged for the following works (subcontracting):

- development of the software – necessary for the creation of the component for the data processing;
- development of local area networks needed for the integration of the National Biometrics Data processing system with SIS II and IIS – necessary for the ensuring of the data transmission among the information systems involved;

Type of allocation	EUR	%
Community contribution	965 734, 50	75
Public allocation	321 911, 50	25
TOTAL	1 287 646	100

<u>Action 5.1.</u>	Providing the regional training for the consular officials about the common visa policy, in accordance with the requirements of the
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1. Purpose and scope of the action

In order to ensure the implementation of the Priority 5, within the framework of the annual programme 2008 the implementation of the action 5.1. was commenced, by organizing the 1st round of the regional trainings for the consular officials. Trainings were organized in two parts – consular official’s trainings in the CIS region (Baku, Azerbaijan) and in other regions of the world (Budapest, Hungary). By taking into consideration the high level of staff rotation among Latvian diplomatic and consular representations abroad, with trained officials within the 1st round of the trainings will not be sufficient. Therefore, it is planned to organize such trainings within the framework of every annual programme starting from the annual programme 2008.

The 2st round of the regional trainings for the consular officials were organized in two parts – consular official’s trainings in the Schengen region (Berlin, Germany) and in non – Schengen region (Minsk, Belarus).

The main topics of the trainings will remain the same as in annual programme 2008, 2009 and 2010:

- latest amendments in legal basis regarding the processing of the visa applications and visa issuing and the effective application of the provisions of the legal basis regarding visa issuing;
- the effective use of different information systems concerning visa issuing;
- the practical aspects for the application of the provisions of legal basis and the information systems regarding visa issuing – during particular phase of training participants are trained in praxis on visa issuing in respective region.

Additionally it is foreseen to invite to the consular trainings also guest lecturers from Foreign ministries of the other Schengen member states in order to supplement the creation of an unified approach to application of provisions of the Community law regarding issuing of Schengen visas.

Therefore, within the framework of the annual programme 2011 the commenced regional trainings for the consular officials will be continued by implementing the 4rd round of trainings for the consular officials and by training approximately 30 consular officials in the Schengen region and approximately 40 consular officials in non – Schengen region.

2. Expected grant recipients

By taking into account the specifics of the action it will be implemented by the Responsible Authority acting as an executing body, implementing projects in cooperation with other Competent Authority and by concluding agreement with the Competent Authority, which will be similar to the grant agreement. The only authority that can be referred to be as the only possible Competent Authority that can implement the action 5.1. is the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia is competent to issue Schengen visas, and it is ensured by the network of the diplomatic and consular missions of Latvia, as well as to ensure the co-ordination function among such diplomatic and consular missions. By taking into account the specifics of the action set for the acquiring of co-financing of the Fund and its direct relation to operation of diplomatic and consular missions, the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia can be considered to be as the only possible Competent Authority that can implement the action 5.1.

4. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Results for AP 2011	Indicators
Providing the regional training for the consular officials about the policy of issuing the unified EU visas, in accordance with the requirements of the European Visa Code and Border Code	
To train during the 4 rd round of regional training of consular officials approximately 30 consular officials in Schengen region and approximately 40 consular officials in non – Schengen region	Number of the organised training courses - *
	Number of the trained consular officials - *

*The exact number will be defined in the approved project

5. Visibility of EC funding

The project partners must always refer to the co-financing of this project from the Fund in communications about this project. The EU logo and the statement of the Fund must be displayed on the written materials and documents used during the information events.

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

The action 5.1. envisages continuation of training for consular officials which has been commenced by the implementation of the project No. ĀM/5/5 “Consular officials at the embassies and consulates of the Republic of Latvia have all the necessary qualification for issuance of Schengen visas” under the implementation of Schengen Facility programme. Within implementation of the aforementioned project there were two sessions of the regional trainings for consular officials held.

7. Financial information

Financial means of approximately 165 000 EUR are required for implementation of action 5.1. within the framework of annual programme 2011. These costs comprise of the following:

- Travel expenses of participants of training;
- Accommodation expenses of participants of training;
- Involvement of a foreign expert;
- Preparation of training aids;
- Publicity.

Type of allocation	EUR	%
Community contribution	123 750	75
Public allocation	41 250	25
TOTAL	165 000	100

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1. Purpose of the technical assistance

In order to strengthen the administrative capacity of the institutions involved in management, control and supervision of the implementation of the fund (responsible authority, certifying

authority and audit authority), as well as to ensure qualitative and adequate fulfillment of their tasks, possible areas of application of the technical assistance financing are as follows:

Responsible authority:

- Salaries of employees involved in ensuring of fulfillment of functions of the Responsible Authority (expenditure will be covered in full amount from the financial means of technical assistance for the employees whose direct duties will be related only to implementation of the Fund);
- Expenses of the business trips related to the implementation of the Fund;
- Improvement of the professional qualification of the employees involved in ensuring of fulfillment of functions of the Responsible Authority by organizing training courses;
- Ensuring the realization of *on-the-spot* checks;
- Expert fees of experts forming project applications evaluation commission;
- Ensuring project and programme evaluation;
- Translation of the documents related to the implementation of the Fund (English – Latvian, Latvian – English);
- Ensuring the organization of the annual information activity.

Certifying authority:

- Salaries of the employees involved in ensuring of the fulfillment of functions of the Certifying Authority and expenses of business trips related to implementation of the Fund (expenditure will be covered in full amount from the financial means of the technical assistance for the employees whose direct duties will be related only to implementation of the Fund);

Audit authority:

- Drawing up of part C of an annual audit report to the European Commission about the annual programme – declaration assessing the validity of the request for payment or statement of reimbursement of the final balance and the legality and regularity of the expenditure concerned by the use of outsourcing;
- Expenses of business trips that are related to the implementation of the Fund (expenditure will be covered in full amount from the financial means of the technical assistance for the employees whose direct duties will be related to the implementation of the Fund);
- Improvement of the professional qualification of the employees involved in ensuring of the fulfillment of functions of the Audit Authority by organizing training courses.

Precise division of the technical assistance financing among the institutions involved in management, control and supervision of the implementation of the fund, as well as precise areas of application of this financing will be determined in agreement concluded between the Responsible authority and the recipient of the technical assistance financing.

4.2. Visibility of EC funding

By implementing the technical assistance projects within the framework of the Fund the authorities involved in management, control and supervision of the implementation of the Fund that will be receiving the technical assistance funding, will be under obligation to provide information regarding use of the Fund financing within the implementation of the project. Therefore, the Responsible Authority has drafted guidelines for publicity and visual identity measures, which will include requirements on publicity and visual identity measures to be taken. The nature of the guidelines is similar to those described in the section 3.1.5. (*Visibility of EC funding*) of this document.

The aforementioned guidelines for publicity and visual identity measures to be taken during the implementation of the technical assistance project will be attached as annex to the agreement

concluded between the Responsible Authority and the recipient of the technical assistance financing.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan								
Table 1 - Overview table								
Member State: [Republic of Latvia]								
Annual programme concerned: [2011]								
Fund: [External Borders 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)
Activity 1.2. Equipping the border checkpoints on the railway between Zilupe, Indra and Karsava and state borders with the video surveillance system	Priority 1	N/A	1 082 153,58	360 717,86	0	1 442 871,44	75,00%	47,82%
Activity 4.2. The integration of the National Biometrics Data Processing System with the Integrated Information System of the Ministry of the Interior and SIS II	Priority 4	N/A	965 734,50	321 911,50	0	1 287 646,00	75,00%	42,68%
Activity 5.1. Providing the regional training for the consular officials about the policy of issuing the unified EU visas, in accordance with the requirements of the European Visa Code and the Common Consular Instructions	Priority 5	N/A	123 750,00	41 250,00	0	165 000,00	75,00%	5,47%
Technical assistance	N/A	N/A	121 734,92	0	0	121 734,92	100,00%	4,03%
TOTAL	N/A	N/A	2 293 373,00	723 879,36	0	3 017 252,36	76,01%	100,00%

Head of Responsible Authority
State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior

I. Pētersone