



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY
Directorate B
Unit B/4: Financial solidarity for asylum, immigration and borders

SOLID/2008/05

**Committee
General Programme
Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows
15 February 2008**

Subject: Presentation of the intervention logic for the European Return Fund

Summary:

The Commission presented MIGRAPOL 160 (Monitoring and evaluation framework for the national programmes under the General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows) and its annexes (including a first draft of the intervention logic for the External Borders Fund) at the meeting of the Committee on Immigration and Asylum (CIA) of March 2007.

At the meeting of the SOLID Committee held on 20 September 2007 the Commission presented the draft intervention logic for the Integration Fund and the revised draft intervention logic for the External Borders Fund.

The purpose of this document is to provide a first draft of the intervention logic for the European Return Fund.

Action to be taken:

Member States are invited to examine the draft intervention logic in the annex and to send observations in writing to silvena.pestas@ec.europa.eu by **7 March 2008**.

There will be a short presentation of the document during the meeting.

The purpose of the intervention logic

The purpose of the intervention logic is to provide guidance and suggestions to Member States relevant to the programming, monitoring and evaluation of actions under the multiannual programme.

The document could be used by the Member States' staff as a guidance document when

- developing the draft multiannual programme (definition of types of 'examples of actions', definition of indicators);
- planning the annual programme in the light of the multiannual programmes (definition of concrete actions and projects, with indicators);
- preparing the progress and final reports (checking the progress in the implementation of the actions by applying the indicators to the projects selected)
- preparing the evaluation reports on the actions (2010) and on the results and impact of the actions (2012 and 2015)

The document could also be used by the staff of (potential) final beneficiaries as a guidance document when

- defining the indicators for projects and communicating them to the responsible authority
- presenting input to the responsible authority on the progress in the implementation of the actions by applying the indicators to the projects

The intervention logic is simply a guidance document and therefore it is not binding. It merely serves to illustrate and assist Member States' staff and (potential) final beneficiaries by way of example and cannot be considered as an exhaustive interpretation of the possibilities for the programming, monitoring and evaluation of actions under the basic acts establishing the Funds and the strategic guidelines.

In particular its purpose would be

1. to illustrate with examples which actions can be developed to achieve the priorities and/or specific priorities identified in the strategic guidelines (presentation of the intervention logic: i.e. the organisation of actions according to each priority in the strategic guidelines);
2. to provide guidance and suggestions to Member States for defining examples of key actions in the MAP (formulation in the first column of 'examples of key actions' which are to be presented under section 3 ('strategy to achieve the objectives') in the model multiannual programme) and the annual programme (section 3 of the model annual programme);
3. to underline how these examples reflect the list of actions / specific objectives set out in the basic acts establishing the Funds, taking into account also the coherence between the basic acts and the strategic guidelines (reference in the second column to provisions in the basic act); and
4. to provide examples of output, outcome and impact indicators for these actions (definition in columns 3 -5 of 'indicators' which are to be presented under section 3 'strategy to achieve the objectives' in the model multiannual programme and section 3 of the model annual programme)

Therefore this information will enable Member States to develop an evaluation system as an integral part of the programming exercise from the onset and can contribute to laying the conceptual foundations for an adequate monitoring from day one of the implementation of the multiannual programme at all appropriate levels.

**INTERVENTION LOGIC AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/ RETURN FUND
PRIORITY 1 DRAFT**

Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by the Member States

Key possible actions	Cross reference basic act	Indicators for the key possible action		
		Output	Outcomes	Impact
Elaborating comprehensive assessments of the situation in the MS and in the relevant countries of origin, in cooperation with key stakeholders, as a pre-condition for integrated return plans	General objective: Art. 2.1. improving the management of return in all its dimensions Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated return plans	Main immigration trends, target groups and target issues identified (such as those related to obtaining travel documents and other practical obstacles to return), along the lines of the relevant existing caseload.	Improved cooperation between relevant authorities and partners	Comprehensive background for the elaboration of integrated return plans
Developing integrated return plans (including operational challenges, return assessments, time-tables, counselling, travel arrangements, provisions for incentives for return etc) for particular countries of return	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated return plans	Mechanism (working groups/ committees) established for the development of return plans Number of integrated return plans developed Number and type of bodies (authorities, IOM, UNHCR, NGO etc.) participating in the designing of return plans	More effective and co-ordinated return policy in MS Increased credibility and integrity of return policy in MS	Integrated approach in the management of return
Implementing integrated return plans (including operational challenges, return assessments, time-tables, counselling, travel	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated		Increased number of voluntary returns Reduced number of enforced returns	More effective and co-ordinated return policy in MS Increased credibility and

arrangements, provision of incentives for return etc) for particular countries of return	return plans		Decrease in unsuccessful return operations	integrity of return policy in MS
<p>Developing integrated return plans supporting the return of third country nationals or stateless persons not covered under community readmission agreements or national bilateral readmission agreements to countries of origin, former residence or transit with which the co-operation in the field of return is particularly difficult</p> <p><u>[Specific priority 1.3: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated return plans</p>	Number of return plans to countries where the implementation of return is difficult developed	Number of safe and dignified returns to the "difficult countries"	<p>Better co-operation with regard to the challenging return destinations</p> <p>Enhanced management of return migration to difficult countries</p> <p>Decrease of illegal migrants waiting for return</p>
<p>Implementing integrated return plans supporting the return of third country nationals or stateless persons not covered under community readmission agreements or national bilateral readmission agreements to countries of origin, former residence or transit with which the co-operation in the field of return is particularly difficult</p> <p><u>[Specific priority 1.3: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated return plans</p>	Number of implemented return plans to countries where the implementation of return is difficult	Number of safe and dignified returns to the "difficult countries"	<p>Better co-operation with regard to challenging return destinations</p> <p>Enhanced management of return migration to difficult countries</p> <p>Decrease in the number of illegal migrants waiting for return</p> <p>Decreased waiting time for illegal migrants to be returned</p>

<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, post-return assistance programmes with financial/material component for sustainable returns (e.g. accommodation, money, training, employment assistance provided upon return, etc.)</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 3.2. development of and implementation by the competent authorities of a MS of integrated return plans</p>	<p>Number and type of programmes developed providing incentives for return Amount of money/accommodation/training/employment assistance (etc.) provided</p>	<p>Increased number of voluntary returns with reintegration measures Increased number of jobs created for returnees Increased number of training events organised upon return</p>	<p>Increased sustainability of returns. Decreased number of secondary movements after return.</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, developing mechanism (working groups, committees, focal points etc.) for increased co-operation with the authorities of countries of return in question taking fully into account the restrictions imposed on the processing of personal data</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 3.1 (a) The introduction and improvement of the organisation and implementation of integrated return management Art 4.1. (a) Establishment or improvement of an effective, stable and lasting operational co-operation of Member States' authorities with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, with a view of obtaining travel documents</p>	<p>Type of co-operation mechanism established Number of institutional meetings/contacts organised</p>	<p>Number of problems solved, which had been caused by a lack of contact with authorities of countries of origin</p>	<p>More effective return policy increasing the credibility of EU migration and asylum policy</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, developing projects for the improved co-operation with the immigration services of relevant third countries to</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 4.1. (a) Establishment or improvement of an effective, stable and lasting operational co-operation of Member States'</p>	<p>Number and type of co-operation structures established Amount of contacts with third country immigration services</p>	<p>Increased number of returns with the help of established co-operation structures</p>	<p>More effective return policy</p>

speed up the return to particular countries	authorities with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries. With the view of obtaining travel documents			
Within the framework of an integrated return plan, developing modes of cooperation between different levels of national, regional, local, urban and other public authorities enabling officials to swiftly gain information on return experiences and practices elsewhere and, when possible, to pool resources	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.1.(d) developing modes of cooperation between different levels of national, regional, local, urban and other public authorities enabling officials to swiftly gain information on return experiences and practices elsewhere and, when possible, to pool resources;	Types and number of modes of cooperation developed	Swift information on return experiences and practices Shared resources	Enhanced MS capacity in the field of return Decrease of costs at MS level
Within the framework of an integrated return plan, developing co-operation with international organisations and non-governmental organisations for the assistance of dignified and sustainable return	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 3.1 (b) The introduction and improvement of the organisation and implementation of integrated return management	Mechanisms for post return follow up established	Decreased number of complaints/allegations on inhuman returns	More dignified and transparent return management
Within the framework of an integrated return plan, implementing assisted voluntary return programmes	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.1.(c)	Number of voluntary returns implemented Number of assisted voluntary return programmes	Increased effectiveness and sustainability of returns	More effective return policy

<p><u>[Specific priority 1.1: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>				
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, implementing special voluntary return programs for vulnerable persons (minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence) <u>[Specific priority 1.2: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.1. (c) the facilitation of voluntary returns Art. 5.1. / Art. 5.5. / Art. 5.8. / Art. 5.9.</p>	<p>Number of special projects established Number of benefiting vulnerable persons</p>	<p>Increased number of voluntary returns Increased number of sustainable returns Decrease in secondary movements after return</p>	<p>More dignified return policy for vulnerable returnees</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, implementing special measures (training, placement and employment assistance, counselling etc.), to address the specific situation of vulnerable returnees <u>[Specific priority 1.2: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.1. (c) the facilitation of voluntary returns Art. 5.1. / Art. 5.5. / Art. 5.8. / Art. 5.9.</p>	<p>Number of special projects established Number of benefiting vulnerable persons Number and types of special measures</p>	<p>Increased number of voluntary returns Increased number of sustainable returns Decrease in secondary movements after return</p>	<p>More dignified return policy for vulnerable returnees</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, simplifying and implementing enforced returns of third-</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.1.(e)</p>	<p>Number of enforced returns simplified and implemented</p>	<p>Enhanced credibility and integrity of immigration policies</p>	<p>More efficient return policy</p>

country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and stay, with a view to enhancing the credibility and integrity of immigration policies and reducing the period of custody of persons waiting for forced removal			Reduced custody period of persons waiting for forced removal	
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INTERVENTION LOGIC AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/ RETURN FUND/ PRIORITY 2/ DRAFT

Support for the co-operation between Member-States in return management

Key possible actions	Cross reference basic act	Indicators for the key possible action		
		Output	Outcomes	Impact
<p>Designing integrated return plans in co-operation with other Member States, and where appropriate, the FRONTEX agency, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, with the aim of pooling different skills, experiences and resources of the authorities of the Member States involved</p> <p><u>[Specific priority: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (c) design of joint integration plans and their implementation, including joint voluntary return programmes on specific countries or regions of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number and type of joint integrated return plans developed</p> <p>Types of resources, skills and experiences pooled</p>	<p>Number of migrants returned in the context of joint return plans</p> <p>Improved co-ordination and efficiency in EU return policies</p>	<p>Enhanced administrative capacity of MS in return policies</p> <p>Reduced cost at EU level and increased cost efficiency of return policies</p>
<p>Implementing integrated return plans in co-operation with other Member States, and where appropriate, the FRONTEX agency, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, with the aim of pooling different skills, experiences and resources of</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art. 4.2, (c) design of joint integration plans and their implementation, including joint voluntary return programmes on specific countries or regions of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number and type of joint integrated return plans implemented</p>	<p>Higher number of migrants returned in the context of joint return plans</p> <p>Improved co-ordination and efficiency in EU return policies</p> <p>Reduced cost at EU level</p>	<p>Enhanced administrative capacity of MS in return policies</p> <p>Reduced cost of return at EU level and increased cost efficiency</p>

<p>the authorities of the Member States involved</p> <p><u>[Specific priority: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>				
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, organising, in co-operation with FRONTEX and other Member States, joint return flights for specific countries (e.g. using/developing the ICONet)</p> <p><u>[linked to specific priority: co-financing up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (c) Design of joint integrated return plans and their implementation, including joint voluntary return programs on specific countries or regions of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number of joint flights for enforced returns</p>	<p>Number of returned migrants</p> <p>Amount of reduced financial costs</p>	<p>Increased efficiency and co-ordination at EU level in the field of return</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, developing joint country of origin information campaigns and/or counselling services for the potential returnees</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (a) co-operation in gathering and provision to potential returnees of information on the country of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number and type of campaigns carried out</p> <p>Amount and quality of information distributed</p> <p>Availability of and quality of counselling services</p>	<p>Increased awareness of country of origin among potential returnees</p> <p>Increased awareness and knowledge on the return process among potential returnees</p>	<p>Improved level of awareness on the country of origin, former residence or transit</p> <p>Improved level of preparedness for the return process</p>
<p>Within the framework of an integrated return plan, establishing mechanism/networks for the improved joint co-operation with the consular services of potential returnees to speed up the obtaining of travel documents</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1.</p> <p>Art 4.2. (b) Co-operation in developing effective, stable and lasting operational working relationships between Member States' authorities and consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, to facilitate consular assistance in obtaining travel documents for the return of third</p>	<p>Number and type of mechanisms/networks created</p> <p>Number of consular services involved</p>	<p>Amount and type of co-operation with consular services</p> <p>Number of services provided by embassies/consular representations</p> <p>Number of returns</p>	<p>Enhanced efficiency and co-operation among MS in the field of return improving the management of return in European migration management</p>

	country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals		resulting from joint initiatives	
Setting up, if appropriate in co-operation with international organisations or non-governmental organisations, joint voluntary return programs	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.2, (c) design of joint integrated return plans and their implementation, including joint voluntary return programmes on specific countries or regions of origin, former residence or transit	Number of voluntary return programmes organised among MS Number of migrants returning voluntarily	Number migrants returning under joint programmes	Enhanced management of voluntary return at EU level Reduced costs of return Efficient use of resources
Within the framework of an integrated return plan, establishing cooperation mechanisms between MS authorities for gathering and providing to potential returnees of information on the country of origin, former residence or transit	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.2.(a)	Amount of information gathered and provided Number of initiatives promoting the gathering and sharing of information among MS	Improved cooperation between responsible authorities in MS	Enhanced administrative capacity and cooperation in the field of return Reduced costs Efficient use of resources
Within the framework of an integrated return plan, establishing cooperation mechanisms for the development of effective, stable and lasting operational working relationships between authorities from more	General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.2.(b)	Number and types of cooperation mechanisms/agreements established Number of travel documents obtained and used for success removals	Improved cooperation between authorities responsible in MS and in the third countries concerned	Enhanced administrative capacity and cooperation in the field of return

<p>than one Member State, working together, and consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, to facilitate consular assistance in obtaining travel documents for the return of third-country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals</p>				
<p>Joint assessment/evaluation on the current situation and possibilities for enhanced administrative cooperation among Member States in the field of return as well as on the role of international and non-governmental organisations to be played in this context</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art. 4.2.(d)</p>	<p>Number of studies supported</p> <p>Number of initiatives taking place whose purpose is to analyse and assess possibilities for enhanced co-operation (e.g. meetings, etc)</p> <p>Number of policy recommendations accepted</p>	<p>Number of policy recommendations adopted and implemented</p>	<p>Improved co-ordination and efficiency in EU return policies</p> <p>Integrated approach in the EU return policies</p>
<p>Running joint initial reception facilities in the countries of origin, former residence or transit.</p>	<p>General objective, Art. 2.1. Art 4.2. (g) Joint measures enabling the reception of readmitted persons in countries of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number of supported joint initial reception facilities set up/established/etc.</p>	<p>Increased number of migrants arriving at the reception centers in the countries of origin, former residence or transit. Increased number of migrants participating in the activities (counselling/information sharing/training) of the centre</p>	<p>More human and sustainable return policy</p> <p>Facilitation of the process of reintegration in the country of origin, former residence or transit</p>

**INTERVENTION LOGIC AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/ RETURN FUND
PRIORITY 3/ DRAFT**

Support for specific innovative (inter)national tools for return management

Key possible actions	Cross reference basic act	Indicators for the key possible action		
		Output	Outcomes	Impact
<p>Creation/ development (either at national level or as joint actions with other MS) of innovative ways and means of informing/ counselling of potential returnees about the situation in their countries of return based on modern technology (country of origin info systems, fact sheets)</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art 4.1. (b) Promotion of ways and means to provide information on return as early possible in asylum and immigration procedures and to encourage individually third country nationals to make use of the possibility of voluntary return</p>	<p>Number and type of information campaigns (e.g. in reception centres)</p> <p>Number of leaflets/brochures distributed</p> <p>Number of return counsellors in return centres</p>	<p>Increased knowledge on different return options and incentives for voluntary return</p> <p>Improved procedures and channels of communications between authorities and potential returnees</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p> <p>Increase in the number of human and dignified returns</p>
<p>Creation of other innovative initiatives for increasing the number of voluntary returnees based on respect for the dignity of the individuals concerned (e.g. hotlines, info centres, helpdesks, etc)</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (c) Facilitation of voluntary returns of third country nationals, in particular through assisted voluntary return programmes, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of return</p>	<p>Number and type of innovative initiatives developed</p> <p>Number and type of returnees affected</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and incentives for voluntary return</p> <p>Improved procedures and channels of communication between authorities and potential returnees</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p> <p>Increase in voluntary returns</p> <p>Enhanced effectiveness and sustainability of</p>

				returns
<p>Setting up/ developing pilot projects/frameworks for new and more effective working methods to speed up the process of documenting returnees in cooperation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.2: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (a) The establishment or improvement of an effective, stable and lasting operational cooperation of Member States' authorities with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, with a view to obtaining travel documents for the return of third country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals</p> <p>Art. 4.3. (b) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to implement or enforce speedily removal decisions in full respect of human dignity and the relevant European security standards regarding such operations</p>	<p>Projects/ frameworks established</p> <p>Number of new consular authorities and immigration services with which communication channels, working relations are established</p> <p>Number of consular authorities and immigration services in third countries with which cooperation is deepened and strengthened</p>	<p>Decrease in processing times of travel documents for returnees</p> <p>Improved quality of service</p> <p>Strengthened cooperation with third country consular and immigration services</p>	<p>More effective return policy at both national and Community levels</p> <p>Enhanced credibility and integrity of migration and asylum policy</p> <p>Reduced costs of return</p>
<p>Implementing innovative measures to gain information on undocumented third country nationals or stateless persons</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.2: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (a) The establishment or improvement of an effective, stable and lasting operational cooperation of Member States' authorities with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, with a view to obtaining travel documents for the return of third country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals</p>	<p>Number and type of measures developed and implemented</p> <p>Number of undocumented third country nationals or stateless persons on whom information has been gained</p>	<p>Shortened and more effective procedures for documenting third country nationals</p> <p>Reduction in the overall administrative burden of national authorities</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p> <p>Improved sustainability of return migration</p> <p>Improved cost effectiveness of return operations</p>

<p>Setting up, if possible, in cooperation with FRONTEX, of innovative, development-oriented post return/reintegration assistance programmes (e.g. training, career advice, financial/material component for sustainable returns)</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (c) Facilitation of voluntary return of third country nationals, in particular through assisted voluntary return programmes, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of return</p>	<p>Number and type of post return assistance programmes developed</p> <p>Number of returnees benefiting from the innovative programmes</p> <p>Amount of material assistance provided (money/micro-credit/laptops/training, etc.)</p> <p>Number of training and reintegration seminars organised</p>	<p>Facilitated reintegration of returnees through development oriented post/return reintegration assistance programmes</p> <p>Increase in return programs with development aspects</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p> <p>Increase in sustainable returns</p> <p>Enhanced credibility and integrity of migration and asylum policy</p>
<p>Setting up, if appropriate with Embassies and/or consular services, international organisations and/or NGOs, of innovative mechanisms, for post return documenting/monitoring/assistance to verify safe and dignified return, and to provide support for sustainable return</p> <p><u>[specific priority 3.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art 4.1. (c) The facilitation of voluntary returns of third-country nationals, in particular through assisted voluntary return programmes, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of returns</p>	<p>Number and type of co-operation mechanism with third countries established</p> <p>Number of cases being monitored/assisted by the Embassies/ consular services in the country of origin</p> <p>Number of participating IOs and NGOs</p> <p>Number of returnees benefiting from programmes</p>	<p>Established/strengthened cooperation with third countries</p> <p>Lessons learnt from these programmes feed into the new cycle of activities</p> <p>Facilitated reintegration of returnees</p> <p>Increase in return programs with development aspects</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p> <p>Better reintegration of returned migrants in countries of origin</p> <p>Improved sustainability of return migration</p> <p>Enhanced credibility and integrity of migration and asylum policy</p> <p>Appropriate return environment built in the third countries</p>

				opening the way for larger and better managed returns
Developing , if appropriate in cooperation with international organisations and NGOs, databases or electronic platforms for country fact sheets , documented with local research and international reports, with information about countries of origin	Art. 2.1. General objective	Number and type of databases or electronic platforms developed Number of third countries covered Number of times the site was consulted by interested parties and feedback on its relevance from them	Increased up-to-date knowledge base on third countries in relation to the political, social and economic environment Facilitation of work for persons involved in the provision of information to returnees	Enhanced credibility and integrity of migration and asylum policy
Establishing risk assessment programmes for vulnerable groups to be undertaken before departure (with in-built means of acquiring assurances that adequate protection and assistance mechanisms are in place at the place of destination, e.g. provision of escorts, appropriate medical care, temporary shelters, food and clothing, family tracing, counselling)	Art. 2.1. General objective	Number of risk assessment programmes established Number of vulnerable groups covered Number of potential returnees covered by the programme	Adequate protection and assistance provided for returns of particularly vulnerable groups Minimisation of risks related to the return of vulnerable groups Enhanced response capacity of EU and third country governments to provide assistance in return of vulnerable groups	Improved organisation and implementation of return management of vulnerable groups Enhanced credibility and integrity of migration and asylum policy
Development of innovative frameworks (through seminars, participation in counselling sessions, or electronically) for returnees and other stakeholders of a country of origin	Art 4.1. (c) The facilitation of voluntary returns of third-country nationals, in particular through assisted voluntary return programmes, with a	Number of contacts established between past and potential returnees	Useful first-hand experience and practical information exchanged between past and potential returnees	Increased incentives for voluntary returns Improved reintegration process

<p>or transit to share their experience with potential returnees (both pros and cons)</p>	<p>view to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of returns</p>	<p>Number of contacts established between potential returnees and relevant stakeholders in the country of origin (IOs, NGOs, social services, career offices, etc.)</p>	<p>Useful contacts established which can facilitate the reintegration process of a potential returnee</p>	<p>More sustainable returns</p> <p>Appropriate return environment built in the third countries opening the way for larger and better managed returns</p>
<p>Developing of innovative cooperation channels and communication tools (e.g. electronic portals, working groups, etc.) between the different levels of national, regional, local, urban and other public authorities to facilitate information sharing and when possible pool resources</p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (d) Developing models of cooperation between different levels of national, regional, local, urban and other public authorities enabling officials to swiftly gain information on return experiences and practices elsewhere and, when possible, to pool resources</p>	<p>Number of tools and channels created facilitating information sharing and exchange</p> <p>Number of authorities involved in the cooperation</p> <p>Scope and range of information shared</p>	<p>Facilitation of information sharing on return experience and practices</p> <p>Enhanced capacities of all actors involved in return management in terms of information sharing</p> <p>Practical cooperation between all actors involved in return management enabled</p> <p>Pooling of resources enabled and facilitated, when appropriate</p>	<p>Improved organisation and implementation of return management</p>

**INTERVENTION LOGIC AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/ RETURN FUND
PRIORITY 4 / DRAFT**

Support for developing Community standards and best practices on return management

Key possible actions	Cross reference basic act	Indicators for the key possible action		
		Output	Outcomes	Impact
<p>Organising training seminars for national, regional and local authorities (judges, migration authorities, alien police, escorts etc.) on relevant international human rights standards on return (especially UN Convention Against Torture, European Convention of Human Rights, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture, Geneva 1951 Refugee Convention)</p> <p><u>[specific priority 4.2: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.3. (b) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to implement or enforce speedily removal decisions with full respect for human dignity and the relevant European security standards regarding such operations</p> <p>Art. 4.3. (d) Organisation of seminars and joint training for the staff of the competent national, regional, local, urban and other competent administrative, law enforcement and judicial bodies concerning legal and practical aspects of return operations</p>	<p>Number and type of training seminars organised</p> <p>Number and type of authorities trained</p> <p>Number and type of topics covered</p>	<p>Increased knowledge of international standards regarding return</p> <p>Enhanced capacity of competent authorities to deliver high quality decisions/ enforcement actions</p> <p>Changes in national legislation and practices as a result of knowledge gained in the training</p>	<p>Effective and uniform application of common standards on return</p> <p>Enhanced respect for the principle of non-refoulement</p> <p>Decrease in allegations of human rights violations in the area of return</p>
<p>Organising training seminars/workshops/expert meetings for migration authorities and judges on Community legislation in the area of return</p> <p><u>[specific priority 4.2: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.3.(c) Enhancement of capacity of judicial bodies to more quickly assess return decisions appealed</p> <p>Art. 4.3. (d) Organisation of seminars and joint training for the staff of the competent national, regional, local, urban and other</p>	<p>Number of training sessions organised</p> <p>Number and type of authorities trained</p> <p>Number and type of subjects covered</p>	<p>Increased knowledge of Community legislation in the area of return</p> <p>Changes in national legislation and practices as a result of knowledge gained in the training</p>	<p>Effective and uniform application of common standards on return</p> <p>Reduced number of cases pending in appeals procedure</p> <p>Shortened processing</p>

	competent administrative, law enforcement and judicial bodies concerning legal and practical aspects of return operations			times of return decisions
<p>Organising workshops/seminars, in cooperation with FRONTEX, for alien police on European best practices in the field of enforced and/or voluntary returns</p> <p>[specific priority 4.2: co-financing possible up to 75%]</p>	<p>Art. 4.3. (b) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to implement or enforce speedily removal decisions with full respect for human dignity and the relevant European security standards regarding such operations</p> <p>Art. 4.3 (e) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to effectively implement common agreements on mutual recognition and joint return operations, including the recommendations, operational standards and best practices defined by the Agency in the area of return</p>	<p>Number and type of workshops organised</p> <p>Number and type of authorities trained</p> <p>Number and type of subjects covered</p> <p>Number of best practices shared among administrative authorities</p>	<p>Enhanced capacity of competent administrative authorities in the field of enforced and/or voluntary return</p> <p>Changes in national legislation and practices as a result of knowledge gained in the training</p>	<p>Effective and uniform application of common standards on return</p> <p>Better management of return migration in full compliance with international standards</p> <p>Better cost efficiency in the management of return</p>
<p>Organising workshops/seminars/trainings for judicial bodies on international common practices in assessing appealed return decisions</p>	<p>Art. 4.3. (c) Enhancement of the capacity of judicial bodies to more quickly assess return decisions appealed</p>	<p>Number and type of workshops organised</p> <p>Number and type of participants</p> <p>Scope of topics covered</p>	<p>Enhanced capacity of competent administrative authorities in assessing appealed return decisions</p>	<p>Effective and uniform application of common standards in assessing appealed return decisions</p>
<p>Organisation of seminars for practitioners from several MS on best practices focusing on specific third</p>	<p>Art. 4.2. (e) Exchange of information and best practices, support and advice in dealing with the return of particularly</p>	<p>Number of seminars organised</p> <p>Number and type of</p>	<p>Increased knowledge about best practices in specific third countries/regions or the</p>	<p>Increase in dignified and humane returns of vulnerable groups</p>

<p>countries/regions or the return of particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. children, female headed households)</p>	<p>vulnerable groups</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (f) Organisation of seminars for practitioners on best practices, focusing on specific third countries and/or regions</p>	<p>practitioners participating in seminars</p> <p>Number of MS participating in the seminars</p> <p>Scope of topic covered</p>	<p>return of particularly vulnerable groups</p> <p>Increased capacity of relevant authorities to perform dignified and humane return of vulnerable groups</p> <p>Increased cooperation between MS both on theoretical and operational level</p>	<p>Strengthened credibility and integrity of EU migration and asylum policy</p>
<p>Establishing/developing mechanisms/tools/schemes, if possible in cooperation with international organisations or NGOs, for the evaluation of return policies (pre-return, return operations and post-return phase) in Member States</p> <p><u>[specific priority 4.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</u></p>	<p>Art. 4.3. (b) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to execute/ enforce speedily removal decisions in full respect of human dignity and the relevant European security standards regarding such operations</p>	<p>Number and type of evaluation mechanisms/tools/schemes developed</p> <p>Number and type of partnerships with IOs and NGOs developed</p> <p>Number and type of competent authorities introduced to the evaluation mechanisms</p>	<p>Increased understanding of the importance of performing evaluations and their value added and impact on the long terms sustainability and legitimacy of return operations</p>	<p>Evaluations built in as an integral part of the national return management programmes</p>
<p>Developing common indicators (outcome indicators, policy indicators) to monitor and evaluate voluntary and/or enforced return programs at national and Community levels</p>	<p>General objective</p>	<p>Number of common monitoring and evaluation indicators created</p>	<p>Enhanced knowledge base and methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of return management</p>	<p>Better application of Community standards and effectiveness and sustainability of return</p>
<p>Performing evaluations and missions to measure progress in return programmes, tools and</p>	<p>General objective</p>	<p>Number of evaluations carried out</p>	<p>Enhanced capacity of competent authorities for performing</p>	<p>Increased evidence based understanding on "what works in the</p>

<p>processes</p> <p>[specific priority 4.1: co-financing possible up to 75%]</p>		<p>Results of the evaluations analysed and fed into the next programming cycle of national return management plans</p>	<p>evaluations and feeding the result into their next programming cycles</p>	<p>field of return"</p> <p>More effective and efficient return management as a result of lessons learnt on the basis of the evaluations</p> <p>Increased transparency and accountability of European migration policy in the field of return</p>
<p>Setting up joint European fact finding missions, if possible with the participation of international organisations and NGOs, to selected countries of return to verify safe and dignified return conditions for sustainable return</p>	<p>Art. 4.2. (c) Design of joint integrated return plans and their implementation, including joint voluntary return programmes on specific countries or regions or origin, former residence or transit</p> <p>Art. 4.3. (b) Enhancement of the capacity of competent administrative authorities to execute/ enforce speedily removal decisions in full respect of human dignity and the relevant European security standards regarding such operations</p>	<p>Number of fact finding missions organised</p> <p>Number of participants in the fact finding missions</p> <p>Number of countries visited</p>	<p>Number of countries with conditions for safe and dignified return selected</p> <p>Recommendations, conclusions, observations regarding European return policy developed and shared among MS</p>	<p>Increased cooperation among MS</p> <p>Increased cooperation with third countries</p> <p>Increased cooperation with IOs and NGOs</p>
<p>Development and implementation of mechanisms for registering and sharing best practices on return management (e.g. peer review exercises with other Member States to showcase and learn from best practices,</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p>	<p>Number of projects incorporating best practice development and sharing</p> <p>Number of peer review exercises performed</p>	<p>Increase in best practice development and sharing</p> <p>Improved communication channels among</p>	<p>Improved, more effective and cost efficient return management at both MS and Community level</p>

migration capacity building facilities)		Number of best practices shared with other MS or introduced by the host MS as a result of shared experience	relevant authorities in MSs	
Application of existing and development of future common standards and the promotion of national/international best practices using the ICONET as a platform for information exchange for ILOs and an early warning system	Art. 2.1. General objective	Number of projects created and implemented Number of participants in the projects Number of ILOs involved	Increase in best practice development and sharing Improved communication channels among relevant authorities in MSs	Improved, more effective and cost effective sustainable return management at both MS and Community level
Development of communication tools and channels for best practice sharing and exchange (e.g. electronic portals, handbooks, common training manuals)	Art. 2.1. General objective	Number of tools and channels created facilitating the sharing and exchange of best practice Interest in and usage of these tools from other MSs	Increase in best practice development and sharing Improved communication channels among MSs	Improved, more effective and cost efficient return management at both MS and Community level
Conducting assessments, in cooperation with international organisations and NGOs, on the regulatory framework and the administrative practical constraints at national level of Member States leading to recommendations for potential amendments to the legal framework to facilitate more efficient and sustainable returns	Art. 4.2. (d) Studies on the current situation and possibilities for enhancing administrative cooperation among Member States in the field of return as well as on the role of international and non-governmental organisations to be played in this context	Number of assessments conducted Number of recommendations put forward Scope of dissemination of results Number of recommendations for legislative amendments which have been taken on	Better understanding of the legislative environment of a MS relating to return management Improved legislative environment thanks to recommendations of the feasibility study	Increased transparency and improved credibility and integrity of the return operations

		board by the MS		
<p>Conducting assessments, in cooperation with international organisations, NGOs, and partners from third countries, on the regulatory framework and the administrative practical constraints at national level of third countries to result in recommendations for potential amendments to the legal framework to facilitate more efficient and sustainable returns</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (d) Studies on the current situation and possibilities for enhancing administrative cooperation among Member States in the field of return as well as on the role of international and non-governmental organisations to be played in this context</p>	<p>Number of assessments conducted</p> <p>Number of recommendations put forward</p> <p>Scope of dissemination of results</p> <p>Number of recommendations for legislative amendments considered by the third country</p> <p>Number of third countries covered</p>	<p>Better understanding of the legislative environment of a third country related to return management</p> <p>Closer cooperation with third countries and IOs and NGOs</p> <p>Potential for improved legislative environment thanks to recommendations of the assessment taken on board by the third country</p>	<p>Increased transparency and improved credibility and integrity of the return operations</p>
<p>Development of country (region) specific best practices and guides (including contact information, methods of identification of nationals from that country, methods of obtaining travel documents, and practicalities of the physical return) for all countries of return.</p>	<p>Art. 4.1. (a) The establishment or improvement of an effective, stable and lasting operational cooperation of Member States' authorities with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries, with a view to obtaining travel documents for the return of third country nationals and ensuring speedy and successful removals</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (a) Co-operation in gathering and provision to potential returnees of information on the country of origin, former residence or transit</p>	<p>Number of country(region) specific best practices and/or guides developed</p> <p>Number of MS with whom this information has been shared</p>	<p>Improved knowledge on countries of return</p> <p>Improved working methods and faster procedures for return management</p>	<p>Development of effective and uniform application of common standards</p> <p>Facilitated returns</p>

<p>National data collection in the area of return (with particular attention on the appropriateness of the reference sources and the method of data collection with a view to improving the quality of data sources and the speed of data collection) and comparisons with other Member States</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p> <p>Art. 3.1. (c) The promotion of an effective and uniform application of common standards on return in line with policy developments in the field</p>	<p>Amount and type of data collected</p> <p>Appropriateness of data sources</p> <p>Appropriateness and speed of data collection methods</p> <p>Number of MS participating in the comparative analysis</p> <p>Number of MS to whom the gathered statistics have been disseminated</p>	<p>Knowledge base for return management policies expanded and deepened with statistics from the ground</p> <p>Improved quality of data sources</p> <p>Improved methods for reliable and speedy data gathering</p> <p>Cooperation between MS increased</p>	<p>Development of effective and uniform application of common standards on the basis of statistical data gathered and analysed</p> <p>Improved effective and uniform application of common standards</p>
<p>Studies, when possible in cooperation with international organisations or NGOs, on the impact of EU return management on relevant communities in the Member States and/or the European Union, and in third countries with relevant conclusions and recommendations drawn on the basis of the results</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p>	<p>Number of studies undertaken</p> <p>Number of communities studied</p> <p>Number and type of MS and third countries participating in the study</p> <p>Number and type of IOs and NGOs participating in the studies</p> <p>Number and scope of recommendations put forward as a result of the studies</p>	<p>Recommendations for improvements in EU return policies and management drawn on the basis of the results of the study</p> <p>Lessons learnt especially regarding the development aspect of EU return management</p> <p>Better knowledge and understanding of the impact of EU return management on relevant communities in the EU and third countries</p>	<p>More effective and efficient return management as a result of lessons learnt</p> <p>Improved development aspects and sustainability of returns</p> <p>Increased transparency and accountability of European migration policy in the field of return</p> <p>Strengthened credibility and integrity of EU migration and asylum policy</p>

<p>Research projects/studies regarding best practices in the field of voluntary and/or enforced return with the emphasis on particular immigration groups such as women, youth and children, the elderly, illiterate persons and people with disabilities</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p>	<p>Number of studies undertaken</p> <p>Number of immigration groups studied</p> <p>Number and scope of recommendations put forward as a result of the studies</p>	<p>Recommendations for improvements in EU return policies and management drawn on the basis of the results of the study</p>	<p>Increase in dignified and humane returns of vulnerable groups</p> <p>More effective and efficient return management as a result of lessons learnt</p> <p>Increased transparency and accountability of European migration policy in the field of return</p>
<p>Research projects/studies on the role of international organisations and NGOs in the field of return (pre-return, return, and post-return)</p>	<p>Art. 2.1. General objective</p> <p>Art. 4.2. (d) Studies on the current situation and possibilities for enhancing administrative cooperation among Member States in the field of return as well as on the role of international and non-governmental organisations to be played in this context</p>	<p>Number of research projects/studies conducted</p> <p>Number of recommendations put forward</p> <p>Scope of dissemination of results</p>	<p>Better understanding of the role of IOs and NGOs in the field of return</p>	<p>Actor mobilisation</p> <p>Maximisation of potential capacity of IOs and NGOs in the field of return</p>