

Summary of Funds

European Refugee Fund ERF 3 (2008 – 2013)

The text of Decision No573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 6 June, 2007 (L144 Volume 50). The decision establishes the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008-2013 as part of the General programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows. Please consult the website of the Official Journal:

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:144:SOM:EN:HTML>

General Objective of the Fund (Article 2)

The general objective of the Fund is to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving refugees and displaced persons.

Target Groups (Article 6)

Refugees, asylum seekers, subsidiary protection, programme refugees

Eligible actions in the Member States (Article 3)

1. The Fund shall support actions in Member States relating to one or more of the following:

- (a) **reception** conditions and asylum procedures;
- (b) **integration** of persons referred to in Article 6 whose stay in the Member State is of a lasting and stable nature;
- (c) **enhancement of the Member State's capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies** in light of their obligations under existing and future Community legislation relating to the Common European Asylum System, in particular with a view to engaging in practical cooperation activities between Member States.
- (d) **resettlement** of persons referred to in Article 6 (e).For the purposes of this decision resettlement means the process whereby, on a request from UNHCR based on a person's need for international protection, third country nationals or stateless persons are transferred from a third country to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with one of the following statuses
 - (i) Refugee status within the meaning of Article 2 (d) of Directive2004/83/EC
 - or
 - (ii) a status which offers the same rights and benefits under National and Community Law as the refugee status;
- (e) **transfer** of persons falling under the categories referred to in Article 6(a) and (b) from the Member State which granted them international protection to another Member State where they will be granted similar protection and of persons falling within the category referred to in Article 6 (c) to another Member State where their applications for international protection will be examined.

European Fund for the Integration of Third Country nationals (EIF).

The European Fund for the Integration of third Country nationals for the period 2007-2013 is part of the General Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows". Interested persons should consult Decision No 2007/435/EC published in the Official Journal on 28 June, 2007 (L 168/18).

Scope of the Integration Fund (Article 1)

There is no definition of the target group per se in the text. However, the measure is targeted primarily at third country nationals who are newly arrived and in that context reference could be made to Council Directive 2003/109/EC which refers to the period of five years with which third country nationals have to comply to qualify for long term residence.

General Objective of the Fund (Article 2)

The general objective of the Fund is to support the efforts made by Member states in enabling third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies.

The Fund will contribute to the development and implementation of national integration strategies for third-country nationals in all aspects of society in particular **taking into account the principle that integration is a two-way dynamic process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States** and in particular concrete measures for implementing the Common Basic Principles for Integration of the Council of the European Union (Appendix1).

Key elements of the integration process include access to employment, education, language training, access to institutions and services and inter-cultural dialogue.

Specific Objectives (Article 3)

The Fund will contribute to

- (a) Facilitation of the development and implementation of admission procedures relevant to and supportive of the integration process of third country nationals;
- (b) Development and implementation of the integration process of newly-arrived third country nationals in Member States;
- (c) Increase of the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and measures for the integration of third country nationals;
- (d) Exchange of information, best practices and co-operation in and between Member States in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and measures for the integration of third country nationals.