

Dear Mr Bauer,

Thank you for your request for access to information regarding projects financed under the SOLID Funds, in particular the Return Fund.

The Return Fund is implemented mainly through shared management which means that each Member State implements the Fund through national annual programmes on the basis of multiannual programming. These programmes are prepared, implemented, monitored and evaluated by Member States in partnership with other designated authorities and bodies. The annual programmes, containing the priorities and actions to be addressed are published on the website of the authority responsible for managing the Fund in each of the Member States.

In order to have more information on specific projects, you will therefore need to contact the national authority for the list of their projects co-financed under the Funds. The Responsible Authority should publish annually, at least on a website, the list of final beneficiaries, the names of the projects and the amount of public and Community funding allocated to them.

On the Commission website, see link below, in the Funding map, you can see how much funding each participating Member State has received through the Return Fund (or under the other SOLID Funds): http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/mapping-funds/index_en.htm If you click on a Fund you can see who is the entity who is managing it, the so-called 'Responsible Authority'. So for Austria Return Fund it is: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Department II/3/d, Minoritenplatz 9, AT-1014 Wien. There is also the link to their web page.

It is worth mentioning that a smaller part of the Return Fund, up to 7% of the total amount, was used at the Commission's initiative, to finance transnational actions or actions of interest to the EU as a whole. For your easier reference, you will be able to access the lists of projects co-financed between 2009 and 2013 at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/return-fund/transnational-actions/index_en.htm.

In your e-mail you refer to this link where there is a project database: ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/projects/index_en.htm#/c

I would like to clarify that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list. They are just a few examples of some projects which have been co-financed by the Fund.

With best regards,

DG Migration and Home Affairs, Unit E2

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Bauer [<mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 9:16 AM

To: HOME ACCESS DOCUMENTS

Subject: access to information request - Recipients of the Return Fund

Dear Migration and Home Affairs,

Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001, I am requesting documents which contain the following information:

All recipient projects of the Return Fund (2008-2013) including unique project numbers, project descriptions, start and end dates, recipients (if possible including

NUTS3 localization) and money awarded. If possible also send evaluation reports of the projects.

I am aware that there is a project database here:

ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/projects/index_en.htm#/c_

however the database seems incomplete, since Austria claims to have received money from the return fund, but no projects in Austria can be found in the above mentioned database.

http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI_Fonds/eu_foerderungen/rueckkehr/start.aspx

Yours faithfully,

Michael Bauer