

STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

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- 2.1 Désirée Number:** RO-0006.09
2.2 Title: **REINFORCEMENT OF AGRI-FOOD QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEMS**
2.3 Sector: Agriculture
2.4 Location: Romania, Bucharest, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MoAF)

2. Objectives

2.1 Wider Objective:

To accelerate preparation of Romanian administration and industry for integration into the EU internal market and to continue and improve alignment of food quality control procedures with EU acquis.

2.2 Immediate Objectives:

2.2.1 To reinforce Romanian food control administration and to promote effective co-operation between the Ministries and Agencies responsible for monitoring food quality compliance with legal requirements.
To adapt food quality control procedures to the requirements of the EU directives and to promote food industry quality control systems.

2.2.2 To equip 5 or 6 strategically located county (judet) laboratories to undertake to more extensive and demanding testing procedures required to align with EU standards.

2.3 Accession Partnership and National Plan for Accession to the European Union

2.3.1 Accession Partnership

This project aims at completing several of the objectives mentioned in the 1999 Accession Partnership for Romania:

- To reinforce the food control administration and continue to modernize the agrifood sector to meet European Standards (Medium-term objective concerning agriculture).
- To continue alignment and strengthen market surveillance and enforcement authorities (Medium-term objective concerning internal market/consumer protection).
- To continue efforts to improve conditions for the creation and development of private enterprises, with particular attention to small- and medium-sized enterprises (Medium-term objective concerning economic criteria).

2.3.2 Priorities of the National Plan for Accession to the European Union

This project aims also at completing several of the objectives mentioned in the 1999 National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis in Romania:

2.3.2.1 Accomplishment of economical criteria_(chapter 2.3., pag. 52)

- to increase the capacity to cope with new market forces and competitive environments in the EU, by increasing the quality of production services;
- to support the development of the production services for food in order to enlarge and diversify the offer;
- to give higher attention to the development of the infrastructure for quality and certification of foods conformity with the EU standards

2.3.2.2 Free circulation of the food products (chapter 3.1.2.4, pag. 72)

- to build an efficient national system for certification of product quality in the food sector;
- to achieve the legislation and institutional harmonization, leading to unrestricted and safe circulation of the food products
- to achieve an unitary legal framework for food control, in order to ensure improvement of quality and increase of competitiveness, allowing for a correct trade activity both on domestic and export markets
- to develop structures and implementing capacities for harmonization of food standards
- to enforce the application mechanisms for the harmonized legislation
- to improve the capacity of the main laboratories to offer high quality services (page 73).

2.3.3 Contribution to National Development Plan N/A.

2.3.4 Cross Border Impact N/A.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Controls and sampling to enforce food quality standards and compositional & technological rules and regulations for all food products and processing capacities are undertaken principally by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MoAF) Directorate for Food Industries (Food Inspectorates at county level) and the Sanitary Hygiene Inspection Service (SANVET) from the veterinary side (only for animal origin products). The Ministry of Health (MoH) also

exercises important responsibilities through the Sanitary Inspection Service Department for human food hygiene, contaminants and water potability. The Office of Consumers Protection (OCP) is responsible for control on the retail markets.

At present each group of Inspectors is supported by its own network of county laboratories which undertake tests which cannot be performed at the site of inspection. The range of tests with which the laboratories are equipped to perform falls short of the list required under the *acquis*.

Inter-Ministerial co-operation is well established with regular meetings of the Directors and senior field staff of the inspection and laboratory services. There is general agreement that it is neither technically or financially feasible to improve the capabilities of all, or even most of the existing laboratories to EU standards. The main parties have accepted that a unified network of regional laboratories should be established, starting with 5 or 6 county laboratories with good communications to neighboring judets, sound building structure and good quality staff. A written inter-Ministerial agreement, setting out the broad objectives of cooperation and the list of laboratories to be equipped, is currently under consideration by the inter-Ministerial committee concerned as is expected to be completed before Easter 2000.

Under these conditions and taking into account the Romanian objective to become a member of the European Union, the Romanian food control administration and the food processing industry need to adapt their structures and procedures in order to effectively enforce the EU legislation.

The needs for adaptation also concern the food analyses laboratories which have to be organized on a national basis in order to be able to conduct all the tests required from a future EU member States and to avoid duplication of activities and competencies.

During the existing Phare assistance (project Ro 9704- 01 regarding support to the ministries for harmonization of food standards) a data basis for 135 laboratories was created (the labs are belonging to the MoAF, MoH and CPO and few private laboratories). The data base includes the identification data and an evaluation of the existing endowment, current activities and competence area as well as the main areas where support is necessary.

During the evaluation procedures, it was clearly identified that the most food analysis laboratories are under-resourced, as far as information, technical assistance and particularly analysis equipment is concerned. The laboratories have expressed their strong commitment towards EU accreditation and integration within the European analysis laboratories network, in order to support unrestricted and safe trade with food products and to prevent food hazards. Interviewed laboratories confirmed that, if the national budget and international donors offer them support in equipment, will obtain local support (including from the local authorities), such as premises modernization and renovation, in order to meet the European accreditation criteria. There is than a strong possibility to develop a critical number of strong laboratories, able to provide the whole food industry and trade of Romania with quality tests at EU standards.

Based on selection criteria agreed with EU delegation, a ranking and selection of the most resourceful food analysis laboratories was produced. The project is providing technical assistance (including equipment) to 6 selected laboratories (those on the top of the selection list). The assistance budget of 180,000 EURO is far below their minimal needs¹. The project is also providing professional training (8 seminars/ 1-3 days each, addressed to quality managers, general managers and laboratory technical staff), aiming to transfer updated information to the involved operators regarding the necessary conditions for their future EU accreditation. The training sessions will be the pilot for the evaluation of the training and other support needs (internship, specific professional training, information) of the quality control laboratories at national level.

3.2 Linked activities

This project is directly linked and is a continuation of two previous Phare projects both under the Phare programme RO9704 for *Harmonization of standards for food products*.

Project RO970401 provides support to ministries and other public services for harmonizing the Romanian food legislation with the relevant EU acts and for initiating the reorganization of the enforcement mechanisms, including the upgrading and training pilot laboratories.

Project RO970402 is supporting food industry enterprises to cope with the new environment resulting from the enforcement of EU directives.

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Strengthening the inter-Ministry working co-operation to reinforce progress towards unification of responsibilities and procedures and enhancement of information exchange along the lines proposed in the Commission's White Paper on Food Safety.

3.3.2 Operational links created and reinforced between the different inspection and sampling agents in the field and with other local laboratories in the responsibility area of the beneficiary laboratories.

3.3.3 Training of relevant staff in order to establish standardized control and inspection procedures that meet the European directives criteria, in particular in areas of hygiene inspection, ante et post mortem surveys, HACCP-based audit of own-checks systems, control of the labeling and health marking requirements, execution of on site quick testing, statistical sampling of food, control at the import locations, recall and destruction of contaminated products, investigation in case of intoxication, consumers or others countries complaints, and linked matters regarding labs management.

3.3.4 A group of 6 of laboratories partly equipped and properly trained for

¹ The budget could only partly satisfy the needs of two laboratories (best equipped already). For the other of 4 laboratories, with much poorer endowment, the minimum estimated amount will exceed 2 million EUR.

equipment utilisation (training provided by the equipment suppliers) to perform and adequately record & report a wider range of food quality control tests, at EU standards.

- 3.3.5** Creation of or reinforce a professional organization representing the whole food industry and training that organization to able them to promote and disseminate information on the implementation of the HACCP system for the Romanian food industrial producers. This organization may be the embryo of a future national organization for the food quality control at national level. To assist a representative group of food companies, in different sub-sectors and in all regions of Romania, to implemented quality control systems.

3.4 Activities

Contract 1 (1.55 MEUR)

Promotion of effective co-operation between Public Institutions

As a normal follow-up of the Programme RO 9704, the staff of Ministries & other public services, co-ordinating the food quality control activities, will benefit of organizational support and technical assistance in order to achieve an effective co-operation and understand their clear responsibilities.

Training for Public Institution staff

The staff from Ministries, Agencies and other Public institutions will undergo a training programme, at awareness or in-depth level, as the case will be, for specific areas: harmonization of food quality policy, information management, EU legal provisions, consumers and environment protection.

Training for Laboratory staff

Meanwhile, the staff from national and territorial food quality control laboratories will receive technical assistance and training for: implementation methods for quality systems, upgrading scientific knowledge (mainly modern techniques), management of modern laboratories.

Supporting the laboratories for obtaining European accreditation requirements

The staff of the laboratories selected as relevant for the objectives of the Project will undertake a training and working programme in order to implement their quality system necessary for the obtaining of the EAL accreditation. The laboratories will be assisted to prepare and implement their own quality manuals and plans.

This activity will be co-ordinated with Contract 2 activities (below), but should not be restricted to the laboratories selected there.

Contract 2 (1MEUR)

Identification and selection of beneficiary laboratories

A critical number of laboratories (5 to 10), able to undertake a complete range of EU testing procedures, both for their own area and for other judets, will be selected, according to both competence and territorial coverage criteria.

Supply of equipment to selected food control laboratories

After identification and agreement of their needs for support, these laboratories will be assisted to upgrade and renew their existing endowment to the level required by the new tests introduced along with harmonization of legislation with the EU directives, for each main field of activities: microbiology, food chemistry and food residues. This activity will include a training component, on specific analysis methods for the above fields, to be provided both by the equipment suppliers and by the TA consultants.

4. Institutional Framework

The project will aim at reinforcing the food control administration and co-ordinating the operations between the Ministry of Agriculture- Directorate for Food Industries (Food Inspection) & the National Sanitary Veterinary Agency, the Ministry of Health-Sanitary Hygiene Inspection Service and the Office for Consumers Protection (OPC), and to optimize the role of each administration.

The project will operate according to the requirements of all relevant EU directives and specifically:

Directives 89/397/EEC and 93/99/EEC on the official control of foodstuffs;

Directive 97/78/EC laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries;

Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market;

The project will also stimulate the creation of a *Federation of the Romanian Food Industry*, effectively representing the whole Romanian Food sector in relationship with third parties, mainly with policy makers.

The TA contractor will prepare the ToRs (technical specifications) for the investment component which will consist of laboratory equipment to be purchased through the Implementing and Contracting parties and provided to laboratories selected by a committee of representatives of the above mentioned Romanian ministries and administrations, along with representatives of the European Commission and of the TA consultant.

The Directorate for Food Industry of the Ministry of Agriculture will have the main responsibility for implementing this component. The Director will have co-ordinate responsibility and be accountable for procurement of the laboratory equipment. However in the interests of operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness, purchases will be made on a call-off basis using a general procurement contract managed by the PIU, MoAF.

The owner of the purchased equipment will be MoAF. If a unified food control inspection network is agreed and established, then MoAF will transfer the necessary equipment supplied under this project to the ownership of the unified authority.

Further information on the contribution from linked projects, which will continue operating for the first half of the present proposal., is given in Sections 3.1. and 3.2. above.

5. Detailed Budget

	Phare Support					
	Investment Support	Technical Assistance	Total Phare (=I+IB)	National Cofinancing*	IFI*	TOTAL
Contract 1		1.55 MEUR	1.55 MEUR	0	0	1.55 MEUR
Contract 2	1 MEUR		1 MEUR	0.25	0	1.25 MEUR
Total	1 MEUR	1.55 MEUR	2.55 MEUR	0.25	0	2.80 MEUR

* In cases of co-financing only

Note: expenditure for equipment should be put under Investment

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency: CFCU Ministry of Finance

6.2 Implementing Authority

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF)
 Implementing officer in MAF: Mr Tudorel BALTA, Director
 Direction for Food Industry
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food
 24, Bvd. Carol I - Sector 3 - Bucharest;
 Tel. (+40.1) 313 50 89;

6.3 Twinning N/A

6.4 Non-standard aspects N/A

6.5 Contracts

Two contracts are expected, one TA contract of 1.55 MEUR and one investment of 1 MEUR (1.25 MEUR including Romanian co- financing).

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/ call for proposals

Call for proposals for TA project in November 2000.

Award of contract for TA project in February 2001.

7.2 Start of TA project activity

Commencement of TA contract in March 2001.

7.3 Project Completion

Last payment under last contract in January 2003.

The investment project will start within 4- 6 months after the TA project start.

8. Equal Opportunity

The ToRs will mention that participation in project by women are encouraged.

9. Environment N/A

10. Rates of return N/A.

11. Investment criteria N/A

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The condition to start this project is to establish a *Memorandum of Understanding* between all official Romanian counterparts concerned by this project, see point 4 above.

For all projects with the Ministry of Agriculture, Phare support is conditional on the Ministry of Agriculture providing sufficient qualified full-time personnel for project preparation and implementation. Prior to signature of the Phare 2000 Financing Memorandum the Ministry will provide information satisfactory to the EC Delegation in Bucharest concerning the allocation of appropriate human resources for the Programme Implementing Unit and the various specialised services concerned with specific Phare projects, and these staffing levels will be maintained throughout the duration of the programmes.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period)
4. Reference to feasibility /pre-feasibility studies. For all investment projects, the executive summary of the economic and financial appraisals, and the environmental impact assessment should be attached - A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS NOT RELEVANT IN THIS CASE SINCE THE INVESTMENT COMPONENTS CONSISTS OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT WHICH ROMANIA IS BOUND TO OWN TO CARRY ON THE TESTS REQUIRED BY THE EU DIRECTIVES.

Annex 1. LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX			Programme name: and number:	Date of drafting: 10.02.2000
<i>Reinforcement of agri-food quality control systems</i>			Contracting period expires: 30.11.2002	Disbursement period expires: 30.11.2003
<i>Project Number</i> RO-0006.09			Total Budget: (MEUR) 2.80	Phare contribution: (MEUR) 2.55
Wider Objective	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue and improve alignment of food quality control procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory practice compliant with EU accreditation and EU inspection procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPAA achievements annually reported by GoR to EU Commission ad hoc visits by Commission officials and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of GoR commitment to early Accession 	
Immediate Objectives	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote effective co-operation between the Ministries and agencies responsible for monitoring food quality train the staff of all involved parties (ministries, agencies, labs) for implementation and management system according EU acquis assist and support the relevant laboratories for EU accreditation conditionalities equip 6 judet laboratories to undertake EU testing procedures for their own area & other judets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular, effective joint management meetings of involved parties inter-Ministerial agreements on use and improvement of resources coverage and accuracy of tests undertaken number of personnel trained accreditation requirements achieved for selected labs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quarterly programme reports by MoAF to Delegation quarterly reports by Phare food quality experts from 1998 projects ad hoc visits by Commission officials and technical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoR Ministries and agencies continue to co-operate centrally and at local levels communication infrastructure adequate for increased volume of inter-judet sample exchanges and reporting results 	
Outputs	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators	Assumptions and Risks	

		Will Be Measured	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more efficient, network use of laboratories and inspectorates of Agriculture, Health and Consumer Protection • increased health and hygiene protection for public • closer alignment of laboratory capabilities with EU requirements • trained staff of all involved parties for implementation and management system according EU acquis • relevant laboratories prepared for accreditation to EAL (European Accreditation Laboratories) norms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular, effective joint management meetings • inter-Ministerial agreements on use and improvement of resources • public satisfaction with levels of protection for their rights • range and accuracy of tests undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as in proceeding section above • Annual/bi-annual Eurostat/NCI surveys of Romanian opinion on EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romanian public sufficiently aware of consumer protection rights and prepared to use where necessary
Inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance and support for all involved parties to create and/ or restructure the food quality control system; • Laboratory equipment and instruction in use/maintenance 			

* Must be **quantified** and **measurable**

Annex 2

DETAILED TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR PROJECT NUMBER RO-0006.09

REINFORCEMENT OF AGI-FOOD QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEMS

	2000					2001												2002											
calendar months	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
activities																													
Technical Assistance			D	D	D	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I						
Laboratory equipment *			D	D	D	C	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I															
						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*															
* to be purchased using MoAF central procurement contract managed by PIU	D = Design C = Contracting I = Implementation																												

Annex 3**REINFORCEMENT OF AGI-FOOD QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEMS****CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (MEURO 2.55)****DATE:** 14.4.2000

	31/03/01	30/06/01	30/09/01	31/12/01	31/03/02	30/06/02	30/09/02	31/12/02	31/03/03	30/06/03	30/09/03	31/12/03
CONTRACTED (TA and investment contracts)		2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55				
DISBURSEMENT		0.3	0.51	0.72	1.68	2.39	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55

NB: 1. *All contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and **must** be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM.*

2. *All disbursements **must** be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM.*