

## STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

### 1. Basic information

1.1.	Desiree number:	RO-0006**13
1.2.	Title:	AGRICULTURAL AND REGIONAL STATISTICS
1.3.	Sector:	Administration and Public Institutions (AD)
1.4.	Twinning component:	RO2000/IB/OT/02 Compliance of Agriculture Statistics with the norms and standards of the European Statistical System
1.5.	Implementing Authority:	National Commission for Statistics (NCS)
1.6.	Location:	Romania

### 2. Objectives

#### 1.1.2.1. Wider objectives

The main objectives of the programme are:

- To create the basis for a sustainable agricultural statistics and for regional statistics in compliance with the Community statistical system. The project aims at establishing the necessary solid structures of agriculture statistics and of regional statistics set up in the frame of a co-ordinated and coherent institutional framework implying the NCS on one side and the two corresponding institutions MAF and NARD (National Agency for Regional Development) as well as the RDAs (Regional Development Agencies), on the other side;
- To improve the provision of appropriate statistics to policy and decision makers (central government and regional agencies, private operators) by enabling the statistical system to meet the needs in the two areas with accurate reliable and timely data in the context of accession negotiations and furthermore. Thus through approaching agriculture and regional statistics within this programme, the entire spectrum of the main domains of Romanian statistics will meet by the end of the programme the requirements of being in a fully compliance with EU statistical norms and standards.

#### 1.2.2.2. Immediate objectives

This programme aims at following immediate objectives:

##### **Agriculture statistics**

- Improvement of the methods and practices of the Romanian agricultural statistics system based on introduction of EU norms and standards into the main agricultural surveys. Facilitating the integration of the Romanian agriculture statistics into the European statistical system, and supporting accession negotiations on agriculture, through ensuring provision of a stock of reliable and comprehensive statistical data while also satisfying needs of national users of agricultural statistical data;
- Ensuring the necessary background for carrying out the General Agricultural Census (2002) as a essential point of reference for definition of national agricultural policy in line with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) The General Agricultural Census will

also serve as the basis for a more complete and coherent range of statistical agricultural surveys to be carried out in future, whose methodology will be elaborated under the support provided through the current project;

- To promote modern statistical methods on land use statistics based on remote sensing by using services of CRUTA (*Centre Roumain pour l'utilisation de la Teledetection en agriculture*), taking particular account of systems established through previous Phare support;
- To ensure the sustainability of the system of agriculture statistics and data produced by the two responsible institutions through training the NCS and MAF staff;

### **Regional statistics**

- Developing the methods and practical ways to collect, process and disseminate regional statistical data needed for policy decision on regional development;
- Organising regional units and provide the required IT infrastructure elements. The designed architecture should integrate with already existent territorial NCS IT system (at county – NUTS 3- level) providing the background for producing and processing the required statistical regional indicators;
- Identifying of statistical data sources (through special statistical services and using administrative records) and their aggregation at regional NUTS 2 level;
- Creating of statistical data base at each regional statistical unit linked with the central statistical data base of the NCS and based on a system of indicators in compliance with the EU norms and standards;
- Ensuring the presentation and dissemination of regional statistical data to satisfy the internal users primarily NARD and regional agencies for development as well as other bodies with regional vocation and the Commission bodies;

## **1.3.2.3. Accession partnership and NPAA priority**

### **Agriculture statistics**

The development of agricultural statistics and market oriented agricultural information systems originates from the overall NPAA objective in the field of agriculture to substantially increase the institutional capacity and competence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food at central and decentralised levels. It is a priority for the Ministry to develop and implement strategies and programmes required for the development of agricultural economy in the context of the Acquis, and to initiate the development of capacity for CAP implementation. The Romanian National Commission for Statistics must contribute to the implementation of overall and sub-sectoral institutional strategies by developing agricultural statistics in a framework of co-operation with the MAF.

Agriculture is also defined as a strategic priority for Romania in the National Development Plan adopted by the Government of Romania in OCTOBER 1999.

Likewise, in the Accession Partnership, agricultural development is established as a medium-term priority in the internal market chapter. The strengthening of statistics with a view to reaching compliance with EU norms and standards dealt with in the chapter of reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity, including capacity to manage and control EU funds.

In the National Programme for Romania Accession to the EU the necessity to develop and implement strategies and programmes required for the development of the agricultural economy in the context of the Acquis, and to initiate development of capacities required for CAP implementation, is clearly stated. The development of agricultural statistics and market information systems is an essential aspect of increasing the institutional capacity and competence of the Ministry of Agriculture in these areas. (chapters: 3.4.2 & 3.3.3).

### **Regional statistics**

- The European Union through Phare programmes supports Romanian Government in the establishment of a coherent and efficient national regional policy with a view to prepare the ground for accession negotiations in the field of regional development. Taking into account the need of accurate and reliable statistics for regional development policy as well as for assisting properly with statistical information the newly established National Board and the National Agency for Regional Development, the creation of an adequate statistical infrastructure became indispensable.
- The latest version of the '99 National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) was submitted to the EC Commission in the last autumn. The NPAA shows that the accession process is a priority for all sectors and that the further transposition of the acquis is a top priority. The NPAA clearly demonstrate the strong commitment of the Government to continue its efforts towards Romania's accession to the EU.
- Starting with 2000, two new pre-accession instruments (ISPA and SAPARD) become operational and the Phare interventions will be closely co-ordinate with the two new programmes, 75% of the PHARE programme being focused on investment.
- Therefore, Phare Programme will support, according to the Accession Partnership, the reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity including capacity to manage and control EU funds. This Accession Partnership priority regard also the strengthening of the regional strategic thinking in order to further elaborate the National Development Plan.
- Also, one of the medium term Accession Partnership priorities is explicitly related to the Economic and social cohesion: "develop national policy for economic and social cohesion in the view of reducing GDP/cap gap with the EU average as well as addressing internal disparities; preparing for the implementation of regional programmes as well as Community initiatives; improving interministerial co-ordination for structural funds on a regular basis and establishing a budgetary system and its procedures allowing for pluri-annual commitments and organising its management according to structural funds standards, including appraisal and evaluation".

The Project would answer to the specific NPAA priority of developing the institutional capacity of RDAs and NARD in order that they can register constant progress in achieving the regional development objectives.

## **3. Description**

### **3.1 Background and justification**

#### **Agriculture statistics**

Before 1990, the agriculture in Romania was characterised by a high degree of concentration. Practically the entire agriculture land was divided between state farms and

agricultural co-operatives. Only a very small share of the land surface was available to the private sector, primarily for the purpose of animal production. Under these circumstances, statistics were based on exhaustive collection of observational data, through records provided by the productive units and sent to regional statistical offices and the central body, and concomitantly to the MAF. In practise the regional statistical offices had a major role in developing the statistical data.

The last general agricultural census was carried out just after World War II, i.e. in 1948. Since then, besides statistical records of the state farms and agricultural co-operatives, yearly censuses covering animal sector have been organised to measure the population of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, and occasionally poultry and to define animal meat production.

After 1990, the Romanian agriculture has been subject to significant changes, both in the structure of land-use and in ownership, which have led to a dramatic increase in the number of the agricultural holdings.

Under these circumstances, the statistics system has been unable to adapt with sufficient rapidity to meet the needs of internal policy makers, as well as international users of agricultural statistics. While the National Commission for Statistics has put in place some statistical surveys based on sampling methods in order to develop the key statistical information on land use, cultivated area, vegetal and animal production by, within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food practically no statistical data have been gathered except those related to the observation of the evolution of the crop production process.

The development of agricultural statistics, particularly by adapting this sector to the EU norms and standards, is the legal responsibility of the National Commission for Statistics, which has taken a number of steps to align the system with the required standards. However, the screening exercises have demonstrated, the level attained in the field of agricultural statistics is not only far below that in other statistical sectors, but also it does not at present meet the objective of compliance with the EU norms and standards in this sector.

NCS and MAF collaborate in setting up of the agricultural statistic system requirements. NCS is responsible for the development of data collection methodology, nomenclature of statistical units, statistical tools for data collection, computing of statistical indicators and data dissemination in the field of agricultural statistics. MAF participates in the data collecting and checking and also in elaborating some technical report and analyses, and establishes the priorities for development of agricultural statistics in the light of the priorities of the accession process in the agricultural sector.

### **Regional statistics**

The first step towards creating the basis for a sustainable regional development policy was taken in Romania during the period 1996-1998. In this respect through a Phare project an important document the “Green Paper on Regional Development” has been produced. It outlines potential framework for the Government of Romania to introduce and observe regional development programme actions. Through accepting the recommendations contained in the Green Paper of the Government of Romania, the EU express the willingness to sustain the process of implementing those recommendations and further provide assistance in the field of regional development.

The law 151/1998 specify the establishment of the development regions for regional development policy purposes; Regional Development Boards at development regional level; Regional Development Agencies at development regional level; a Regional Development Fund in each development region; a National Board for Regional Development; a National Agency for Regional Development; a National Regional Development Fund.

The Phare Regional Development institution Building Programme was designed to assist the Romanian authorities to establish the necessary structures through which to practice regional development and in this respect the National Board for Regional Development (NBRD) and the National Agency for Regional Development (NARD) were considered crucial. Thus NARD was set up in the end of December 1998 through a Government Decision. In the context of the same institutional framework and the provisions of the above mentioned law, the 8 Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have been set up in each of the “capitals” of the 8 development regions (1. North– East; 2. South- East; 3. South– Muntenia; 4. South– West- Oltenia; 5. West; 6. North- West; 7. Central; 8. Bucharest), all of them having legal status based on the approval of their Regional Development Boards (RDBs). While RDBs act as decision bodies at the regional level, RDAs are the professional secretariats for RDBs so to say executive bodies. They suppose to undertake research and analysis to support the development strategies, initiatives, policy instruments, programmes and projects and to pursue those activities.

Phare is contributing towards the establishing this strategic approach to regional development support through a number of related projects (1997 Regional Development Institution Building Programme, 1998 Regional Development Support Project, 1998 Training Strategy and Structures Project). However, the actual requirements of the Phare 2000 investment funding calls for a variety of new reliable information provided at regional level.

That’s why the regional statistics is one of the fundamental tools to facilitate the fulfilment of all the activities to be carried out in order to meet the objectives and tasks of all the above bodies. As far as the regional statistics is concerned it has to be stressed that the main regional breakdown was based in the past on ‘judetz’ (NUTS 3 level which correspond to administrative level) and the same approach is still in use. Experimental data collection, processing and researches recently started within the NCS when studies have been undertaken to compile regional indicators at NUTS 2 level. This has been done within a project initiated by Eurostat in 1996 when normally the established statistical regions did not match to the development regions set up afterwards. The real regional statistical activities being oriented towards defining regional indicators and establishing the frame for data collection, aggregation and dissemination of regional statistics according to the legally established regions is to be done within an on-going project under the 1997 Phare Programme RO- 9703 *STATISTICS*. However, the objectives and the activities under this Programme did not cover the objective of creating the necessary infrastructure for ensuring the gathering and provision of statistical data to the regional development bodies according to their needs. At present, the NCS has implemented its IT system architecture according to a general data flow and functional model at two organisational levels: the headquarters located in Bucharest and 42 territorial statistical offices located in 42 administrative district centres.

A characteristic of the statistical and IT system is that it lacks support at the regional level. Thus the regions at both administrative and statistical organisational level are not provided with the required infrastructure to ensure a proper information system based on users key data needs aim at preparing the accession negotiation process and afterwards follow up process.

Besides the corresponding infrastructure in the form of available small institution units with adequate means, such an approach will need the development of statistical tools, primarily to enlarge the sampling frame of the present statistical surveys to cope with regional representativeness that ensures reliability and accuracy of data.

### **3.2. Linked activities**

## **Agriculture statistics**

- A framework for co-operation was laid down between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with the European Commission related bodies consisting of a technology and know-how transfer referring to some improvement of agricultural statistics within the Ministry focussing especially on crop production estimations and crop production forecasting.
- In 1992 and 1993 a Phare grant to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food provided for testing and installation of a crop vegetation monitoring system based on satellite imagery. This programme led to the setting up of an unit called CRUTA (*Centre Roumain pour l'Utilisation de la Teledetection en Agriculture*). Unfortunately, the services that CRUTA was designed to offer have not so far been integrated into the national agricultural statistics system.
- The US Department of Agriculture during 1995-1997 offered limited technical assistance to Romania aiming at developing capabilities in the field of agriculture statistics mainly addressed to the NCS. The US support resulted essentially in setting up a regular sample survey for measuring the livestock. This survey is to a certain extent compatible with the EU norms in this area.
- Throughout all the period starting with 1992, Romanian agricultural statistics benefited from some inputs within the framework of Phare multi-country co-operation programmes jointly used by the NCS and MAF statistical staff. These permitted Romanian representatives to attend Eurostat meetings and to receive assistance on a bilateral basis from the national statistical institutions of some EU Member States . However this programme is restricted to limited know-how transfer. Under 1997 Phare support to the National Commission for Statistics, limited assistance (80,000 EUR) on agriculture statistics is now being provided. This assistance aims at ensuring the participation of Romanian experts again upon the case both from NCS and MAF at Eurostat working groups. It also provides technical support in areas such as: i) establishing a sampling frame for surveys on agricultural holdings; ii) the definition of the agricultural holding as a unit of statistical observation; and iii) building a sample of agricultural holdings. All these activities represent an indispensable prerequisite for setting-up the required system of statistical surveys in agriculture in compliance with the EU norms and standards

## **Regional statistics**

- In 1997 the Phare Regional Development Institution Building Programme provided technical assistance to the Government of Romania to set up core institutions for regional development purposes.
- The Phare 1998 National Programme built up and developed the adopted by the EU approach that ensure investment funds to finance strategic projects of regional importance as well as for the RDAs' staff.
- In 1994, a Phare financing under the project RO 9403 for upgrading the IT infrastructure of the NCS and 42 district statistical offices, was granted. The project provided several components such as: equipment and software supply for the 42 district statistical offices; training for IT developers and IT users form 42 district statistical offices.
- The 1997 programme RO 9703 Statistics that started early in 1999 has one of its component related to promotion of the development of reliable regional statistics in the various departments of the NCS and to gather regional indicators in a central

database. Under the same programme, it was provided that at a later stage to create statistical units at NUTS 2 level.

### **Co-ordination of Phare intervention in statistics**

Eurostat, as a responsible Directorate General for the statistical acquis co-ordinates the multi-beneficiary and national statistical programme of a candidate country for statistics and takes utmost care in maintaining coherence of both of the programmes with the findings from the enlargement process. In this way there has been no overlapping of the projects and of the objectives. Synergy of the projects contributes to timely compliance with the goals set in relevant documents and thus better results.

## **3.3 Results**

### **Agriculture statistics**

The results expected for the end of the period:

- An appropriate and comprehensive set of statistical tools and methodologies will have been defined, allowing for regular and timely preparation of key agricultural statistics, in line with the needs of Romania's preparation for accession to the EU, and to provide a basis for development and implementation of agricultural policies.
- A review will have been conducted of the roles and responsibilities of institutions participating in the Romanian agricultural statistics system, particularly NCS and MAF, in order to define sustainable and cost-effective arrangements for providing and regularly updating the necessary statistics. Specific strategic recommendations on any needed modifications in roles and responsibilities will be prepared for consideration by the competent national authorities, taking account of the overall competencies of the National Commission for Statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and other concerned bodies. In this context the financial and human resource needs of an effective system of agricultural statistics will be assessed, and appropriate recommendations prepared.
- Training and institutional development measures will be undertaken supporting implementation of the required statistical tools and methodologies. The training provided will facilitate the implementation of improved institutional arrangements, involving the staff at central and regional levels from both the NCS and MAF.
- Improved policy formation on Romanian agriculture will be possible, on the basis of quality, reliable and accurate statistics;
- Romanian agricultural statistics will have a higher degree of compliance with the EU norms and standards;
- Accession negotiations on agriculture sector will be facilitated, through the availability to both parties of statistics on Romanian agriculture both easy to interpret and in compliance with the EU norms and standards;
- A system of statistical surveys in agriculture will be in force and its sustainability will be ensured;
- First concrete results of agro-statistical surveys will be available;
- A sustainable data collection system for the agriculture ensuring the implementation of the processing and management of the agricultural data (harmonisation, integration, processing, and dissemination) will be in place.

By the end of the project the conditions for compliance with the UE norms and standards in statistics are set for the main agricultural surveys.

### **Regional statistics**

- Support of policy decisions on Romanian regional development at different level will be possible, to be taken on the basis of quality, reliable and accurate statistics;
- Romanian regional statistics will have a higher degree of compliance with the EU norms and standards;
- Accession negotiations on regional development sector based on comparable statistics will be easy to interpret when assessing by the Commission the status of Romanian regional policy;
- The creation of statistical infrastructure (small statistical unit of 4-5 employees with the appropriate computing facilities inter-connected at central level with the NCS HQS and with the district statistical offices and other bodies providing regional statistics based on administrative records);
- First concrete results -based on pilot projects- will offer regional data on: small and medium enterprises; goods transport by road statistics and social statistics (living conditions);

A sustainable data collection system for the regional statistics ensuring the implementation of the processing and management of the regional data – at central and local level (harmonisation, integration, processing, and dissemination) will be in place.

## **3.4 Activities**

### **Agriculture statistics**

The activities and inputs covered by this project will be provided through a twinning and training package with one Pre-Accession-Adviser (PAA), as well as a series of specialist short-term advisers (STAs). A team from Member States would be envisaged to provide the twinning and training package, which should focus on assisting NCS and MAF on achieving the results listed above in section 3.3.

The PAA shall also ensure smooth co-ordination between NCS and MAF, taking account of the needs of both organisations. He/she shall also co-ordinate the activities of the STAs. A summary of the indicative inputs is given in the following table; these are intended only as a guide, the exact schedule of inputs, their duration and technical specifications will be determined during preparation of the twinning covenant.

<b>Indicative inputs for the different surveys</b>				
<b>Activities and budget</b>	<b>PAA (months)</b>	<b>STA's (days)</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Indicative budget share (MEUR)</b>
Farm structure survey	8	20	✓	0.75
Land use survey (CRUTA)	6	10	✓	0



Vegetal production survey (combined budget with land use)	4	15	✓	0.7
Animal production survey	4	15	✓	0.75
Agricultural price statistics	2	10	✓	0.3
Equipment (investment component)				0.3
Estimated cost of PAA, STA's, training and Review of institutional roles and responsibilities for strengthening national agricultural statistics system				1.2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>4.0</b>

\* Printing and supply of questionnaires, training staff, etc; detailed costing below.

Short term assistance takes the form of EU experts' missions and study- visits in order to see comparable solutions.

### **Profile of PAA and STAs**

The PAA will be responsible for co-ordination of the activities on-site and the inputs of the STAs; therefore s/he should have experience in project management and excellent interpersonal skills. He/she could originate either from a EU Member State national statistical office or from a EU MS ministry of agriculture having appropriate tasks in the field of agriculture statistics. Both theoretical background and practical skills in the field of agriculture statistics and management of projects in general and particular with those connected with agriculture and statistics is to be considered as important. The PAA should be familiar in general terms with the EU norms and standards in agriculture statistics. As far as his/her skills is concerned, upon the case, priority will be given to management skills taking into account his/her capability of defining the role, institutional building and structure when assessing the relation between the NCS and MAF in a co-ordinated and concerted efforts towards the most sustainable, reliable and cost- effectiveness approach of agricultural statistical system. The PAA will work directly with the management and staff of the NCS and the MAF, being located on the NCS premises (as a member of a created within the NCS management unit). For this purpose he/she is to be supported by a management unit composed from 4 staff members from which 3 persons (included the head of unit) from the NCS, and one from the MAF. The last will have the role of floating among the two institutions to keep them permanently in contact with the development of the project (the representatives of the NCS and MAF are to be paid by the two institutions). While English as compulsory and French as additional will be required, the proposal for PAA will envisage as well to have some basic knowledge of Romanian language. Otherwise, prior to the start of activities with providing a course of 2-3 weeks for him/her to learn the basic knowledge of Romanian. The PAA should have a direct or indirect current link with the institution he/she originates from or with both Statistical Institute or Ministry of Agriculture in his/her country to grant that the approach he/she is to implement are currently fitting with that of a EU corresponding body.

The tasks of the PAA will consist of:

- designing jointly with the management unit the most adequate institutional structures to ensure that the required agriculture statistics is compiled according to the EU norms and standards in a sustainable and reliable manner;
- advising the two institutions leadership of the NCS and MAF on the most appropriate alternatives to adopt, solutions for implementing the project according to the TORs and EU rules;

- closely and currently co-operating with the management unit and project teams within the NCS/ MAF when elaborating management and technical approaches for the implementation of statistical surveys and establishing the organisation structures and monitoring tools for the implementation;
- recruiting together with the management unit of EU short term experts and implementing their missions as well as supporting the NCS management unit for organising study-tours of Romanian experts in the corresponding EU bodies;
- organising with the support of the management unit training courses (seminars) for central and regional local staff in the field of agriculture statistics and project management, where the case;
- maintaining close relations with Eurostat and EU Member States staff involved in agriculture statistics to maintain the up to date state-of-arts integrated in the frame of the project;
- reporting on a monthly basis to Commission bodies (DG1A, Eurostat, EC Delegation in Romania) as well as other bodies concerned about the status and progress made during the period and of solutions to be adopted in order to overcome certain delays, difficulties or gaps in implementing the projects;
- The content of the programme and that of the PAA included is to make recommendations regarding the improvement and definitions of the responsibilities of NCS and MAF. This is referring to the collection and processing of agriculture statistics by kind of categories of statistical indicators and/or other profiles of statistics gathered and to make recommendations of possible improvements in definition of respective tasks of the two institutions. This is to be done by keeping the co-ordinating role of the NCS from methodological point of view according to the provisions of the Romanian Statistical Law, while keeping the two bodies (NCS and MAF) involved particularly for operating procedures (data collection) using their central and regional units. When setting up the most appropriate institutional structures for compiling agriculture statistics it should be taken into account the comparative advantage of the two bodies in agriculture statistics both from their competencies and cost effectiveness. Likewise, the programme aims at redesigning the complete agricultural survey system as to make it in compliance with the EU norms and standards. This touches the following sample surveys:
  - Farm structure survey: a sample of 60.000 holdings has to be covered with a long and complicated questionnaire. Estimated cost is 12 EUR (plus overhead cost) per unit including pre- and post-treatment.
  - Land use survey and vegetal production survey: both surveys are intimately linked and benefit from an economy of scale effect in combining them. Approximately 100.000 questionnaires with a unit cost of 7 EUR will be required.
  - Animal production survey (building on existing livestock statistics): this survey will have to cover 120.000 observation units with a cost of 6 EUR per unit, comprising some organisational issues additionally.
  - Agricultural price survey: Details of the survey design still have to be settled, the number of localities to be observed is approximately 150, the prices will need to be enquired from 3.000 industrial units as purchasers of agricultural products as well. Total cost is estimated at 0.3 MEUR.
  - Equipment purchase: In order to establish a renewed regional/local observation force, equipment required is estimated at 150 computers with an estimated unit cost of 2000 EUR.

The new survey system will mainly concern the NCS and MAF requirements, providing in the same time a larger flexibility towards meeting the domestic user's needs and the EU requests.

The programme will provide the funding for the pilot surveys to be done for the agricultural households. Foreign technical assistance will also be granted in defining the survey scheme, the questionnaires and processing systems.

Support provided in specific technical areas (Farm structure survey; Land-use survey etc.) will be made available not only for the improvement of statistical tools and methodologies, but also for ensuring the integration of the tools and methodologies into a sustainable institutional framework. Thus the sustainability of the results of the programme will be reached.

Training, both at national level and to appropriate bodies at regional and judet level, will be provided to institutions involved in collection and processing of statistical data.

### **Regional statistics**

The content of the programme will consist of:

- Creating the premises of providing EU bodies, governmental institutions and regional domestic bodies, as well as the society at large with reliable, accurate, general and punctual statistical information needed for policy making in the field of regional development as well for making the project transparent and visible;
- Assisting the creation of the regional statistical offices (8) to support regional development in general and regional development agencies at national and regional level with required statistical information; in order to facilitate the communication and co-ordination between the RSOs and their main regional beneficiaries - the RDAs - the RSOs will be located in the same cities as the RDAs headquarters;
- Initiating and developing three concrete statistical surveys which are to be developed by the NCS by consulting and involving NARD and RDAs when defining the scope and the kind of statistics to be collected and processed. The surveys will be:
  - **demography of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).** This project is oriented mainly towards preparing the necessary infrastructure for building up enterprises statistics at regional level. Three surveys will be carried out as follows: in 2001, a survey for the newly created enterprises in the regions during 1998-2000- sampling size: 12,000 economic units; in 2002, a yearly survey comprising newly created enterprises in the previous year with a sample of app. 4,000 units; a survey on "survival" in 2002 having as sample the enterprises interviewed in 2001 which succeeded to continue their activities. The surveys will be coordinated by the NCS involving newly created RSOs as executive bodies for field operations the existing Judetz general direction of statistics. The estimated costs will cover app. 22,000 units (10 EUR/questionnaire); The survey is to be based on the implemented through Eurostat aegis within the Phare Horizontal Programme of the pilot projects at the national level on PANEL of newly created enterprises and DOSME (Demography of Small and Medium Enterprises) in which Romania participated.
  - **goods transport by road.** The survey is to be based on the methodology of the pilot project carried out at the national level on the road transport of goods. To ensure representativity of regional data the sample for one region (South – East region is provisionally envisaged) is to be of 4000 observation units per year (15 EUR/

questionnaire). Further more is foreseen according to the RDAs request for other regions such surveys or similar to be developed in the frame of sustainability.

- **Social statistics (living conditions).** The survey will cover the general and particular aspects of living conditions including poverty aspects in a defined region (as a pilot project). The region to be selected will preferably go towards one of having characteristics of comprising unfavouring zones (preliminary a mining zone, South – West Oltenia and North-East ). The survey envisages to extend the present sample of the survey at national level consisting app. of 11,000 households in order to obtain more detailed information at region level by reaching about 6,000 – 7,000 households per region to be interviewed.(2 regions x 6500 households x 20 EUR/ household).
- Data collection and storing in regional data bases by the RSOs with a rather limited number of personnel (no more than 5 per region to be appointed by the Romanian Government);
- Provision of the information gathered from the statistical information system available at the county statistical divisions and/or at the NCS HQS to the different categories of users of regional statistical data on both national and international levels;
- Training of the personnel in acquiring skills on statistical matters in general and those of regional profile in particular as well as those regarding managerial skills.

The activities and inputs covered by this project are to be ensured through short-term expertise which supposes both EU experts' missions in Romania (at central and regional level) and study visits of Romanian experts at the headquarters and/or regions in the EU Member States in order to see and take advantage of comparable solutions. These forms of activity will support the transfer of the know-how and acquiring by the local Romanian experts of the theoretical background and practical skills to deal with statistical regional indicators and particularly with regional data base structure. Short-term assistance envisages periods of training of usually no more than 5 working days being missions or study-visits. From STA could benefit limited number of personnel from RSOs and statistical experts from the county statistical divisions that are linked with the concerned RSOs. In order to support the future co-operation and establish a commune perspective on the regional statistics, a limited number of personnel from the NARD and RDAs will be involved in the training activities and/or study-visits.

The second form of acquiring statistical skills is to be foreseen under a distinct contract for training of the personnel that will be hired in the RSOs in EU Member States or in-country with the a relative long period (2-3 weeks).

One of the main components of the project is the procurement of the equipment needed for each individual office (practically at the same size and kind) and adequate furniture.

<b>Activities and budget</b>	<b>STA's (days)</b>	<b>Indicative budget share (MEUR)</b>
Demography of SMEs	25	<b>0.22</b>
Road transport of goods	15	<b>0.06</b>
Living conditions survey (incl. Poverty aspects)	40	<b>0.25</b>
Equipment (investment component)		<b>0.55</b>
- lot 1 PC workstations, servers and networking equipment		0.15
- lot 2 internet services		0.05
- lot 3 printing and fax equipment		0.05
- lot 4 groupware, intranet and Web site soft		0.08
- lot 5 DMSB and client software		0.1
- lot 6 furniture and office accessories		0.12
Training and STAs and set up of the 8 RSOs		<b>0.92</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2.0</b>

#### **4. Institutional Framework**

The National Commission for Statistics, the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the National Agency for Regional Development and Regional Development Agencies are the main bodies responsible for the overall management of the project.

The national Commission for Statistics is the Implementation Authority for both components.

The main pillars of the common mechanism will be:

- **The Steering Committees (SCs)**

Two steering committees will be set up, one for agriculture statistics and the other one for regional statistics.

The SCs will be responsible for the technical co-ordination between the programme and the other activities undertaken under the Phare horizontal programme and other possible donors in the field of agriculture and regional statistics. The SCs will endorse proposals made for preparing, organising and conducting all aspects of the work under this programme, and in particular for the management of the surveys. The SCs will ensure through working groups a proper co-ordination among the various services of the NCS on one side and those of the MAF and NARD and RDAs involved in the Programme on the other side, as well as a systematic information of all parties on the work achieved .

The Steering Committee on agriculture statistics will consist of the following members:

- National Commission for Statistics;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- Ministry of Finances;
- Ministry of Water, Forestry and Environmental Protection;
- CRUTA;

- National Cadastre Office;
- The representatives of other bodies linked with statistical agriculture business.

The chairmanship of this SC will be ensured on a rotation base upon agreement by the high level representatives of the responsible institutions (the president of the NCS and the deputy minister of the MAF).

The **Steering Committee on regional statistics** will consist of the following members:

- National Commission for Statistics;
- National Agency for Regional Development (NARD);
- Representatives of the eight regional development agencies;
- Other bodies with regional vocation (Ministry of Labour and Social protection; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Industry and Commerce).

The chairmanship of this SC will be ensured by the NCS representative.

The technical secretariat of the two above mentioned Steering Committees will be assured by the NCS. The secretariat will include one representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as stated above.

- **The Working Groups (WGs)**

The WGs established by the SC and chaired by the NCS and/or MAF head of departments (or project leaders) will consist of both representatives from the NCS and of the MAF and NARD and RDAs, upon the case. The leadership of the working groups will belong to the institutions better positioned from the character of the activity to be carried on, as follows:

For the agriculture statistics component:

- organisational matters – NCS and/or MAF when co-ordinating and implying their own human central and regional resources;
- technical statistical logistics (statistical instruments for surveys) - NCS in co-operation with MAF;
- field operations within surveys – NCS as co-ordinator together with MAF;
- RUTA services within land use survey – MAF with NCS support for co-ordinating and coherence of survey logistics;
- preparation of the documentation (work programmes, organising meetings, tender dossiers, reports, etc.) – NCS and MAF; The two bodies will ensure both to have available documents;
- procurement of equipment – NCS;
- training – NCS through the NCS' premises of the Training Centre set-up under the Phare programme 9703. Both NCS and MAF staff will benefit from training facilities at central and regional level.

For regional statistics component:

Distinct working groups will be created for all statistical surveys to be carried out under this component. The working groups will be composed of the members similar to the composition of the SC and will be led in all cases by the NCS representatives.

- **Agreements**

Co-operation between NCS on one side and MAF and NARD and RDAs on the other for the development, improvement and updating the agricultural statistics and regional statistics to the EU requirements will be achieved based on an agreement signed bilaterally by the involved institutions.

Terms of Reference and the twinning covenant for activities under this programme will be jointly approved by NCS and MAF. For the regional statistics component, NARD will assume a consultative role in the elaboration of Terms of Reference and other procedures, as well as in the implementation of the Regional Statistics Component of the project. On their turn, the heads of the new set up, Regional Statistical Offices, will participate as observers at the corresponding meetings of the Regional Development Boards.

At the end of the Programme, the final recommendations providing proposals for new institutional structures for ensuring a sustainable agricultural statistics as well as an appropriate system to statistically gather general regional statistics and to investigate punctual phenomena characteristic for each individual region that are to be promoted for Governmental Decision will be signed jointly by the NCS , MAF and NARD respectively.

- **Other provisions** to ensure the proper institutional framework are provided under the chapter 3.4 activities (see page 5 to 7).

## 5. Detailed Budget

	Phare Support					
	<b>Investment Support</b>	<b>Institution Building</b>	Total Phare (=I+IB)	National Co-financing*	IFI*	TOTAL
<b>Contract 1</b> (survey operations and local secretarial support )		<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>Personnel of NCS and MAF</b>		<b>3.2</b>
<b>Contract 2</b> (twinning, STA and training)		<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Office and equipment provision</b>		<b>2.0</b>
<b>Contract 3</b> (procurement)	<b>0.8</b>		<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.27</b>		<b>1.07</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.27</b>		<b>6.27</b>

The beneficiary will co-finance 25% of the procurement contract i.e 270,000 EUR against 0.80 MEUR that is proposed to be supported by Phare. Meanwhile the beneficiary will ensure the project by providing suitable facilities (offices, computers, communication) for PAA, appointing officials to follow-up the activities of the PAA and EU ST experts. The Government will later provide the necessary means to

sustain the operations. For the component *regional statistics* the RDAs will provide location and other office facilities for the 8 regional statistical offices while the NCS will provide the personnel for the corresponding offices (5 persons per region = 40 staff members) – the staff being additionally included by the Government to the NCS staff at the start of activities.

## **6. Implementation Arrangements**

### **4.16.1 Implementing Agency**

The CFCU is responsible for contracting and accounting of the project. Responsibility for technical preparation, control and management of the PAA/STAs under twinning will remain with the beneficiary, the National Commission for Statistics (NCS).

PAO: Mircea Ionut COSTEA, Deputy Minister of Finance, address: Appolodor Street 17, Bucharest, telephone:(401) 4106805, fax: (401) 3122011.

Deputy PAO: Daniela GHEORGHE, Director General of CFCU, 36-38 Mendeleev Street, telephone (401) 3136628, fax (401) 3153536.

PO: Victor DINCULESCU, the president of the national Commission for Statistics, 16, Libertatii Av, sector 5, Bucharest, telephone: (40-1) 312 4875; fax no: (40 1) 312 4873;

**Contact persons for twinning** and the Deputies PO:

Stefan PETE, Secretary of State in the MAF (for the agriculture statistics component) 24, Carol 1 Av., Bucharest

Constantin CHIRCA, vice-president of the NCS, 16, Libertatii Av., sector 5, Bucharest, telephone: (40-1) 311 3309; fax no: (40 1) 312 4873 for both agriculture statistics and regional statistics components.

### **4.26.2 Twinning**

Beneficiary institutions are the NCS and the Ministry of Agriculture. Appropriate persons will be selected from a call for interest directed to both types of institutions inside the Member States.

### **4.36.3 Non-standard aspects**

No non-standard aspects are envisaged. The DIS Manual will strictly be followed.

### **4.46.4 Contracts**

There will be three contracts in this project:

Value of Twinning Covenant including STA and training: 2.0 MEUR

Value of survey operations (can be combined with twinning covenant): 3.2 MEUR

Value of procurement tender: 0.80 MEUR.

## **7. Implementation Schedule**

### **Agriculture statistics**

Start of Twinning/Tendering: 4Q/2000

Start of Project Activity: 4Q/2001



Project Completion: 4Q/2003

### **Regional statistics**

Start of Twinning/Tendering: 4Q/2000

Start of Project Activity: 4Q/2001

Project Completion: 4Q/2003

## **7. Equal Opportunity**

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the Project will be guaranteed. As of 1 January 1999, NCS counted 78 per cent of women out of the total number of employees, whereas women in statistical offices of counties, cities and districts accounted for 79 per cent. Vacancies are equally open to both genders; women are represented at all levels of management.

## **8. Environment**

Not applicable.

## **9. Rates of return**

The NCS is a public institution, financed from the budget and generation of revenue from activities is not the goal. However, the quality of information, statistical information system, databases and registers will contribute to the budget funding indirectly as accessible for policy and decision-makers. Quality of data will also allow the remunerated dissemination to interested parties.

## **10. Investment Criteria**

- The project is based upon the criteria, findings and gaps identified in multilateral and bilateral Screening meetings in October 1998 and April 1999 as well as different Eurostat missions, including visit of the Director General of Eurostat in July 1999, followed by recommendations that statistics should benefit from Phare assistance.
- The project presents an investment in the state institution and human resources, thus no element of competition is envisaged. It is catalytic in terms of stimulation of bridging the gaps identified and modernisation of accession driven activities, indispensable in the accession period. Co-ordination of activities with the concerned ministry is foreseen as an integral part of the project

## **11. Conditionality and Sequencing**

The project is highly dependent on the ensuring by the Romanian Government the capacity of the NCS in terms of human resources as well as by providing financial resources that will ensure the adequate wage level of the NCS staff to be maintained within the institution after being trained and qualified to implement during the programme and afterwards the activities provided by the programme. This kind of conditions was stressed very often within the previous statistical projects

and in the frame of evaluation and assessment reports made by Eurostat, OMAS Consortium and Court of Audit as well as by other donor organisation like IMF, World Bank and UN Statistical Division.

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.

Projects to be implemented through twinning require the full commitment and participation of the senior management of the beneficiary institution. In addition to providing the twinning partner with adequate staff and other resources to operate effectively, the senior management must be fully involved in the development and implementation of the policies and institutional change required delivering the project results

### **Annexes to Project Fiche**

1. Logframe Matrix
2. Detailed Implementation Chart.
3. Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project (MEUR)
4. Reference to Feasibility/Pre-Feasibility Studies
5. List of Relevant Laws and Regulations
6. Reference to Relevant Government Strategic Plans and Studies
- A. Relation with the Previous Phare activities and projects from other sources.
- B. Agreement on cooperation between the MoAF and the NCS



## Logframe Matrix

## Annex 1

<i>Project Title</i> <b>Compliance of agricultural and regional statistics with European statistical system</b>	<b>Project Number:</b> <del>RO-0006.13</del> <del>RO-2000-X-XX</del>		<b>Date of Drafting:</b> March 2000	
	<b>Contracting Period Expires:</b> <del>3Q/2003</del> <del>30.11.2002</del>		<b>Disbursement Period Expires:</b> <del>4Q/2003</del> <del>30.11.2003</del>	
	<b>Total Budget:</b> 6. <del>2700</del> MEUR		<b>Phare Contribution:</b> 6.00 MEUR	
Wider Objective	Indicators of Achievement		Sources of Information	Assumptions and Risks
<b>- To create the basis for a sustainable agriculture statistics and for regional statistics in compliance with the Community statistical systems</b> <b>-To set up institutional framework to ensure the co-ordination between NCS, MAF and NARD respectively to ensure qualitative statistics in the field of agriculture and regional development</b> <b>- To improve the provision of appropriate statistics to policy and decision makers as well as for accession negotiation and furthermore</b>	System of agricultural surveys redesigned Stable and robust information system established Link with operations of the MAF fully co-ordinated, notably the CRUTA system Support for policy decision on regional development through qualitative and reliable statistics ensured		<b>Data collected and published by Statistics Romania and line ministries</b> <b>Statistical surveys and previous administrative sources</b>	<b>Government commitment to EU integration; Completion of land restitution; Support of the required judetz and regional structures</b>
Immediate Objectives	Indicators of Achievement		Sources of Information	Assumptions and Risks
<b>- Improve agriculture data and indicators to comply with EU standards and norms;</b> <b>- Ensure institutional strengthening by establishing a stable survey system in rural areas.</b> <b>- To undertake statistical surveys at regional level</b> <b>- To create regional statistics offices and to provide them with infrastructure elements</b>	<b>Romanian data on animal, vegetal production, land use, prices and farm structure published</b> <b>Sufficient Coverage ensured after land reform</b> <b>Regional statistical surveys in business and social areas have been conducted</b> <b>RSOs established and regional database operational</b>		<b>Statistical reports &amp; surveys</b> <b>Inter-institutional co-operation with Ministries, notably MAF</b>	<b>Government commitment to EU integration; Availability of funds for additional staff, hardware and software, as far as required;</b>
Outputs	Indicators of Achievement		Sources of Information	Assumptions and Risks
<b>Conformity with EU norms &amp; standards, improved quality of statistical data collection &amp; processing in the following areas:</b> <b>Agricultural structures, animal and vegetal production, land use, agricultural prices,</b> <b>Efficient and stable survey system in agriculture, based on local structures</b> <b>8 regional statistics offices trained staff and adequate equipment installed</b> <b>RSOs ready to provide required data on regional aspects</b> <b>Conformity with EU norms &amp; standards, improved quality of statistical data collection &amp; processing at regional NUTS 2 level</b>	<b>Data comparable internationally</b> <b>National and regional publications</b> <b>Trained staff, developed methodology and capacity to carry out further surveys</b> <b>Dissemination of achieved results from agriculture and regional surveys</b> <b>8 regional statistical offices</b>		<b>Publications</b> <b>EU directives and regulations, international recommendations</b>	<b>Government commitment to EU integration; Adequate staffing of CNS; Availability of experienced consultants and experts</b>

<i>Project Title</i> <b>Compliance of agricultural and regional statistics with European statistical system</b>	Project Number: <del>RO-0006.13</del> <del>RO-2000-X-XX</del>	Date of Drafting: March 2000
	Contracting Period Expires: <del>3Q/2003</del> <b>30.11.2002</b>	Disbursement Period Expires: <del>4Q/2003</del> <b>30.11.2003</b>
	Total Budget: 6. <del>2700</del> MEUR	Phare Contribution: 6.00 MEUR
Inputs		
General directives from the Government; Specific directives of CNS; directives from and conventions with MAF, Results from preceding studies; Sector reports; Co-operation with other institutions (European Union, Ministries, local Institutions, Universities) Training of personnel & study visits, Experts' consultations introduction of external expertise, Familiarisation with relevant methodology in the EU, Local expertise to ensure sustainability Acquisition and development of equipment Training of survey staff, Additional staff employed as necessary, Methodological material and expertise		

# Detailed Implementation Chart for the Project number: RO-0006.13

Annex 2

Year	2000			2001												2002												2003											
Detailed Project Implementation	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	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S			
<i>Launch Twinning Request to Member States (after Management Committee meeting)</i>																																							
<i>Selection of Member State for Twinning</i>	X																																						
<i>Elaboration of Twinning Covenant</i>	X	X	X																																				
<i>Submit Twinning Covenant to the Commission &amp; Steering Committee for Approval</i>			X	X																																			
<i>Twinning Package Commences</i>				X																																			
<b>1. Farm Structure Survey</b>	X													X																									
<b>2. Land use, vegetal production, CRUTA</b>				X												X																							
<b>3. Animal production</b>														X														X											
<b>4. Agricultural prices</b>																		X																			X		
<b>5. Investment</b>															X											X													
<i>Create RSOs</i>				X	X	X																																	
<i>Demography on SMEs survey (reg)</i>									X					X															X										
<i>Goods transport by road (reg)</i>													X																										
<b>Living conditions (reg) survey</b>																						X							X										



## Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule

### Project: Agricultural and regional statistics (6.0 MEUR)

#### Cumulative Quarterly Contracting Schedule (MEUR)

Project	4Q/00	1Q/01	2Q/01	3Q/01	4Q/01	1Q/02	2Q/02	3Q/02	4Q/02	Total
<b>Twinning</b>		<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	2.00
<b>Survey operations</b>			<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	3.20
<b>Procurement</b>				<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	0.80
<b>Total</b>			<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>	6.00

#### Cumulative Quarterly Disbursement Schedule (MEUR)

Project	4Q/00	1Q/01	2Q/01	3Q/01	4Q/01	1Q/02	2Q/02	3Q/02	4Q/02	1Q/03	2Q/03	3Q/03	<u>4Q/03</u>	Total	
<b>Twinning</b>				<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<u>2.00</u>	2.00	
<b>Survey operations</b>			<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<u>3.20</u>	3.20	
<b>Procurement</b>					<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<u>0.80</u>	0.80	
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.30</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<u>6.00</u>	6.00	



## Reference to Feasibility/Pre-Feasibility Studies

- **Mr Yves Franchet (general director of Eurostat) on the occasion of July mission in Bucharest stated that “on the way towards a modern statistical system, there is much interest in land based statistics like agriculture, especially for observing the impact of land reform”.**
- **At the Sub-Committee no.8 meeting in July 1999 (Brussels), it was stated that a new National Phare component in the budget year 2000 is necessary in order to cope with the remaining deficiencies in the statistical system. Agricultural statistics was mentioned to be far behind the EU norms and standards.**
- **In the screening report after the meeting April 1999, agriculture and regional statistics were identified as fields with the lowest level of compliance with the Acquis communautaire.**
- **When analysing the Romanian National Regional Development Plan, the corresponding Commission’s DGs expressed their awareness the quality of regional statistics, their comprehensiveness and reliability and recommended to undertake necessary steps for improving regional statistics.**

### *List of Relevant Laws and Regulations*

- Law- Decree no 42. /1990 on certain measures on the incentives system for farmers
- Law no.18/ 1991 on lands
- Law no.1 / 2000 for the restitution of the property rights upon agriculture and forest land
- Law no. 42/ 1999 concerning measures for the development of agricultural producers
- Law No.151/1998 on Regional Development in Romania
- Government Decision No 634/1998 approving the methodological norms for application of the Law No.151/1998 concerning Regional Development in Romania and the framework Regulations for the organisation and operation of the Regional Development Councils. The art. 16, Annex 1 is rectified by the Rectification No. 634/24.09.1998.
- Government Decision No 978/1998 concerning the organisation and functioning of National Agency for Regional Development
- Government Decision No 979/1998 for designation the members of the Government representatives in the National Board for Regional Development
- Government Decision No. 749/1999 regarding the elaboration of the National Plan for Development for 2000 - 2002 (OJ 453/ 17.09.1999)

A very large number of EU regulations and directives stipulate the collection of very detailed information on all agricultural and regional statistics areas.

## Reference to Relevant Government Strategic Plans and Studies

- Strategy for agriculture development up to 2010
- National Plan for Development
- National Plan for agriculture and rural development
- Annual Programme for statistical surveys for 2000
- Medium term strategy for the Romania's economy development – March 20, 2000

<b>Summary of previous Phare activities and projects financed from other sources</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total budget (EURO)</b>	<b>Project title / number Duration of the Programme</b>	<b>Short Description of projects/sub-projects</b>
1992	2,501,000	RO-9105 Upgrading the IT infrastructure of NCS	Computer hardware and software for NCS Central Headquarters and one District Statistical Office Programme management Preparation of RO 9403 PHARE Programme
1994	4,600,000	RO-9403 Upgrading the IT infrastructure of NCS and 42 District Statistical Offices	Programme Management Equipment and software supply for central office and 42 District Statistical Offices Service contracts for pilot software applications development Training for IT developers and IT users from 42 District Statistical Offices Preparing the RO-9703 PHARE programme
1999	6,000,000	RO-9703 Statistics	Technical Assistance for statistical projects with the objective of reaching compliance with EU norms and standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Statistics</li> <li>- Industry Statistics</li> <li>- National Accounts Statistics</li> <li>- Environment Statistics</li> <li>- Regional Statistics</li> <li>- Agriculture Statistics</li> <li>- Compliance with the Acquis Communautaire and institutional building:</li> <li>- Training Centre for Statisticians</li> <li>- Library and Documentation infrastructure</li> <li>- Statistical Dissemination infrastructure</li> <li>- Development of administrative sources</li> <li>- Improving the statistical legal framework</li> </ul> Upgrading the computer equipment and dissemination infrastructure  Running local operations for the support of the statistical survey system in the domains mentioned above and institutional building.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR STATISTICS

## **AGREEMENT**

**We, the undersigned, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the President of the National Commission for Statistics agreed upon the attached project "Compliance of Agriculture Statistics with the norms and standards of the European Statistical System".**

**The two parties have jointly worked out the project fiche commonly agreeing the wider and immediate objectives, activities, institutional framework, budget structure and all the other implementation arrangements and mechanisms, including annexes.**

**The two parties decided to promote the fiche as it stands for the inclusion of the project in the 2000 Phare Programme.**

**By accepting this, the National Commission for Statistics is taking the role of Implementation Authority.**

**Apart from the above role attached to the National Commission for Statistics, the two bodies decided on their co-operation alongside the whole lifetime of the project and afterwards. This co-operation will be oriented towards ensuring a sustainable framework suitable to a comprehensive, reliable, and qualitative agriculture statistics harmonised with the European Union norms and standards in this very important field.**

**The two bodies agreed that each of them will have equal opportunity of benefiting from the activities to be implemented and of expected results according to the project and that they will mobilise their resources to ensure a successful implementation of the project.**

**To this end the two bodies will both be involved in the selection of the EU project assisting adviser (PAA) through twinning covenant, in defining his/her responsibilities and tasks and will co-operate in the frame of the activities of the Steering Committee, working groups and in other issues of organisation and technical nature.**

Ioan Avram MURESAN

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD**

Victor DINCULESCU

**PRESIDENT OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
STATISTICS**

**Bucharest 30 March 2000**