

STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin

1. Basic Information

CRIS Number 2002/000-624-04

Title **Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin**

Sector: EN

Location Bulgaria – *South West Region – Blagoevgrad District*

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall Objective(s):

- To promote co-operation between the EU and the Phare countries;
- To promote co-operation between the affected border regions and thereby to contribute to the establishing of co-operation networks among counterpart organisations and entities on both sides of the border;
- To assist the border regions to overcome specific development problems stemming from their position in the national economy, in the interest of the local population and in a manner compatible with the protection of environment;

2.2. Purpose of the project:

- Preparation of Study For Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin. This Study will serve a basis for developing a Draft Master Plan. for both sides B and G, that should involve multi-purpose and multi-objective planning and management principles, in consideration of both structural and non-structural alternatives. The MP should conclude in presenting an Action programme setting the guidelines for the integrated management of Nestos /Mesta river basin, such guidelines should adhere to the following principles:
- To assist participating countries / Bulgaria and Greece / in the development, conservation and use of the Nestos/Mesta Basin water resources in an integrated and sustainable manner through basin-wide co-operation for the benefit of all.
- After appraisal of the relevant authorities in Bulgaria, the complete (sides B and G) study will be also used as a basis in the process of the preparation of a National Management Plan of the waters of Mesta River Basin

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA priority:

- Accession Partnership Medium -Term Priority
- Complete transposition and implementation of framework and sectoral legislation according to pre-defined timetable.
- Integrate sustainable development principles into the definition and implementation of all other sectoral policies.
- Accession Partnership Short Term Priority
- Continue transposition of framework legislation in the water, air and waste sectors, prepare and implement detailed directive specific approximation programmes; strengthen implementation structures, particularly at the regional level.

2.4. Contribution to National Development Plan:

NA

2.5. Cross Border Impact:

Mesta River is a transboundary River, which starts in Bulgaria and continues into Greece. This requires fulfilment of the commitments resulting from the Convention for protection and use of the transboundary water currents and the international lakes (1992). By improving the water quality in Mesta River, a contribution to the water quality both in Bulgaria and Greece will be achieved. In this way, an alleviation of some of the problems of cross-border friction and pollution will be also achieved.

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification:

The new Water Framework Directive is only recently adopted and there is yet no substantial practical experience even within the Member States relating to the implementation of the requirements of the Directive. The harmonisation process is doing well in Bulgaria, but the implementation is a distant goal. Bulgaria is a future MSs of the EU and aims at the implementation of the acquis

As Mesta/Nestos is a transboundary river, the Directive requires creation of a integrated water management plan. This study aims at collection and analysis of all the necessary information in order to allow development of the water management plan for Mesta river basin.

This project was included in the BG9803 programme, but the tender failed as there was no financially compliant offer. This is important project for both Bulgaria and Greece so it is proposed again to be included in this programme.

The final product of the study should be a report that will be part of the basis of the Draft master plan preparation for integrated management of the waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin. The fieldwork will be implemented from each side separately for the corresponding geographical /acquisition, evaluation and treatment of data/. The Bulgarian part of the study like the similar Greek part of the study will be part of the General draft master plan for integrated management of the waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin after adoption from the government (required from Bulgarian Water Act concerning River basins water management plans). The following activities listed below should be undertaken in order to prepare this report.

3.2. Linked activities:.

- Provision of a Waste Water Treatment Plant for Razlog
- Feasibility study for identification of sensitive areas in Mesta River basin.

3.3. Results:

- Collection and analysis of all the necessary information in order to allow development of the water management plan for Mesta river basin
- Action Program

3.4. Activities:

- Study For Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
- Development of Action Program in order to be integrated into the National water Master plans

4. Institutional Framework

The studies included in this proposal should be in relevance and comply with the European Standards according to EC water directives including water Framework directive and the Helsinki Convention for transboundaring water countries.

The Ministry of Environment and Water and the newly established River Basin Management Directorate in Blagoevgrad are the beneficiaries of the project.

5. Detailed Budget, in MEUR

	Phare Support					
Component	Investment Support (I)	Institution Building (IB)	Total Phare (=I+IB)	National Co-financing *	IFI*	TOTAL
Preparation of Environmental Project (Study)	0	0.4	0.4	0	0	0.4
Total	0	0.4	0.4	0	0	0.4

(*) State Budget

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The Project shall be managed under the PRAG. The Implementing Agency (IA) is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW).

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), Phare CBC IA will be responsible for:

- Preparation of Tender Documents;
- Organisation of the Tender Procedures;
- Financial management of contracts.

Ministry of Environment and water /MOEW/ will be responsible for:

- Preparation of ToR;
- Participation in Tender evaluation procedures;
- Technical management of contract in close co-operation with Phare CBC.

6.2. Non-standard aspects

The Practical Guide will be strictly followed.

6.3. Contracts:

I. One (1) Service Contract

7. Implementation Schedule

Start of tendering	Start of project activities	Completion
November 2002	May 2003	March 2004

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity for men and women to participate in all the components of the project will be ensured.

9. Environment

Report for Environmental: No /Part of the output of the project/

Major Environmental Effect: Reduction of cross-border rivers pollution

10. Rates of return

Not applicable

11. Investment criteria

11.1. Catalytic effect:

Bulgaria and Greece according to their geographical position share common river basins. The preparation of such environmental projects with major importance for both countries is extremely important to reduce environmental pollution. This also leads to environmental improvement, cross-boundary fellowship and to development of project financial management skills.

11.2. Co-financing:

No

11.3. Additionality:

For the preparation of such environmental projects concerning the common rivers basins only PHARE funding is being sought or utilised. No other funding agencies are contributing to the Project.

11.5. Sustainability:

The Southern Border Region is acknowledged to be very sensitive in the management of its water basins. Phare Programme provides all necessary funding for the above mentioned purpose

11.6. Compliance

It is confirmed that all aspects of the above mentioned studies is open to competitive tender within the European Union and PHARE recipient countries, and all PHARE procedures regarding competition and transparency are fully complied with.

12. Conditionality and sequencing

- The performance of the studies should comply with the European Standards according to Water Framework Directive and co-ordinated with the European Pilot Project Scheme for the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive.
- The ToRs for the project should be agreed with the relevant Greek authorities and ensured that the work in this present project complements rather than duplicates previous work

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement
4. Reference to feasibility /pre-feasibility studies

Annex 1 : Logframe Matrix for project:		Contracting period expires 30/11/2004	Disbursement period expires : 30/11/2005
Integrated Management of the waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin		Total budget : 0.4 MEUR	Phare budget : 0.4 MEUR
Overall objective	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote co-operation between the EU and the Phare countries; • To promote co-operation between the affected border regions and thereby to contribute to the establishing of co-operation networks among counterpart organisations and entities on both sides of the border; • To assist the border regions to overcome specific development problems stemming from their position in the national economy, in the interest of the local population and in a manner compatible with the protection of environment; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased GDP regional share • Increased Greek and foreign investment in the region 	Governmental and international statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic growth in other sectors • Bulgarian Government continues its current commitment to reform and to accession to the European Union
Project purpose	Indicators of Achievements	Sources of Information	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Study For Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin. This Study will serve a basis for developing a Draft Master Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared Study • Leading to environment improvement, crossboundary fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IA and independent reports • EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate financing • Adequate trained staff for implementation • Approval of the Work Programmes

Results	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study For Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos / Mesta River Basin • Development of Action Program and its integration into National water Master plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant progress and final reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the Implementing agency
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Phare financing ➤ Project team – IA /MRDPW/, Phare CBO and MOEW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.4 M€contracted and disbursed • team adequately staffed with qualified full-time experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from MRDPW, IA, Delegation and Consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuity of staff and policy in the IA enabling implementation of the project without delay • capable Consultants

Annex 2 – Detailed implementation chart																												
Provision of a Study for Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin																												
Components	2002				2003								2004								2005							
	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	O
1. Tendering/Contracting Services					T	T	T	T	T																			
2. Contracting										C																		
3. Implementation												I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I								
T =Tendering C = Contracting I = Implementation/works R = Review/evaluation																												

Annex 3 – Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter															
Provision of a Study for Integrated Management of the Waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin															
Components	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)														Total Phare Allocation
	2002		2003				2004				2005				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Environmental project preparation				0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total contracting:				0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Components	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)														Total Phare Allocation
	2002		2003				2004				2005				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Environmental project preparation					0.120	0.167	0.214	0.261	0.308	0.335	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.4
Total disbursement:					0.120	0.167	0.214	0.261	0.308	0.335	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.4

Annex 4. Integrated Management of the waters of Nestos/Mesta River Basin