

Standard Project Fiche

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 CRIS Number (Yr 1):** 2004/016-940.01.01
- 1.2 Title:** Cross Border Co-operation between Romania and Hungary, Phare CBC / INTERREG IIIA
- 1.3 Sector (DAC code):** Integrated Regional Measures (43040)
- 1.4 Location:** Romanian-Hungarian Border region: Satu Mare; Bihor; Arad, and Timis Counties, Romania
- 1.5 Duration:** This multi-annual project fiche covers the three Phare CBC programming cycles 2004-2006

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective:

The overall aim of the RO-HU (and HU-SCG) CBC programme is :
"to bring the people, communities & economic actors of the border area closer to each other in order to establish a sound basis for balanced economic & social development, assuring optimal development opportunities for the three countries.

2.2 Project purpose:

The purpose of the project is to promote cross border development between RO & HU through two priorities:

Priority 1: Strengthening the spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity of the HU-RO cross-border area;

Priority 2: Promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence).

2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority

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Accession Partnership

The project has the potential to contribute to the fulfilment of the priorities identified in the following chapters of the Accession Partnership:

Social Policy and Employment Policy Chapter

- strengthen employment services at local level, notably by improving the co-operation between local services in the field of employment and social assistance.

Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments Chapter

- Strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity of the bodies in charge of programming and managing funds for cross-border co-operation in line with the Structural Funds approach.
- Develop the capacity to select, discuss and clarify development priorities at regional levels, and to identify, plan and prepare projects

- NPAA
- The multi-annual approach for the CBC programme should be consistent with the following permanent objectives identified in the NPAA (2002) for programming regional development in 2002-5:
 - Preparation of the institutional and legal framework for coordination and implementation of the Structural Instruments;
 - Implementation of national regional development strategy

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan (and/or Structural Funds Development Plan/SDP)

The overall project purpose and project objectives will, without doubt, help in the implementation of the NDP (2004-6) priorities. Promoting cross-border relations and good co-operation between the RO and HU border regions (NUTS III level) is a powerful tool for fostering economic and social development. Competitiveness in the border region will be reinforced by efficient cross-border cooperation in a range of fields including infrastructure, environmental protection and management, business development, tourism promotion and local development. In addition, human resource development in the border area will benefit from the international collaboration in education, training and labour market activities. Efficient management of environment in the border area requires good co-operation in the issues such as environment protection and regional infrastructure. Therefore, a linkage and complementarity between the regional development strategy and the cross-border co-operation strategy will be ensured, since the cross-border co-operation contributes to the integrated development of the border region. This can be described in more detail according to the current project priorities:

Priority 1: Strengthening spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity of the HU-RO cross-border area;

The environmental element of this priority will contribute to the achievement of the second NDP priority objective: “Improving and developing transport and energy infrastructure and ensuring environmental protection”.

The infrastructural integrity part of Priority 1 of this project will also contribute to fulfilment of one of the overall NDP objectives: “Improvement and Development of Infrastructure”.

Priority 2: Promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence).

Priority 2 of this project will contribute to parts of the following NDP priorities:

- First NDP Priority: Improving the competitiveness of the productive sector
- Third NDP Priority: Human resources development, increasing employability and, fighting social exclusion
- Fifth NDP Priority: Promoting a balanced participation of all Romania’s regions to the socio-economic development process

2.5 Cross Border Impact

This project fiche is in line with the priorities defined in the main Romania-Hungary CBC programming and planning documentation:

- a) CBC Hungary-Romania and Hungary-Serbia & Montenegro Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2004-2006, 16 April 2004 (Short Title: Community Initiative Programme - **CIP**);
- b) Programme Complement, Hungary-Romania and Hungary-Serbia & Montenegro Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2004-2006, draft of 18 May 2004 (Short Title: Programme Complement - **PC**).

The current project, as described in this fiche, aims to contribute to the strengthening of the physical and infrastructural integrity of the cross-border area and increasing the living standard and the attractiveness of areas on both sides of the RO-HU border. This will hopefully occur through concentrating on the two project priorities as follows:

- Priority 1: Strengthening the spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity of the HU-RO cross-border area

- Priority 2: Promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence).

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3. Description

3.1.1 Background and justification

The Romanian-Hungarian border region is characterised by differences in the level of infrastructure and economic development in that the Romanian border zone with Hungary is more developed than the average of Romania while the reverse is true in the case of Hungary. At the same time, the region has important resources, both human and natural, that can be tapped to promote growth in the border region.

Since the start of the CBC programme a wide range of activities have been supported in the areas of economic development, education, social and cultural activities. The cooperation envisaged under the programme – both past and present – should establish permanent economic inter-linkages and involve a wide range of organisations and individuals. The level of cross-border cooperation is improving and the building and strengthening of connections affects all sectors – including civil society organisations (such as NGOs – which can significantly to the social and economic cohesion of the population in the border region).

The current CBC project fiche builds on the results of ongoing joint programming efforts of the relevant Hungarian and Romanian authorities and various partners involved, represented in the joint Hungarian-Romanian (and Serbian) Task Force.

Although the proper representation of local, regional and national levels is ensured through the composition of the joint Task Force, further arrangements have been made in order to consult the wider partnership directly.

For the purpose of ensuring the balanced participation of the various actors and the regions involved, consultation meetings – as well as Task Force meetings – have been held in both countries. At these meetings, draft versions of the CBC Programme (the main planning document and process) have been presented to and discussed with participants representing various economic and social partners

including: Chambers of Commerce; municipalities; county and regional development agencies, and NGOs. Partnership has been extended via several forms of communication (internet and email) resulting in a programme development and consultation process that has considered, as much as feasible, the opinions and contribution of many local and regional organisations, experts and individuals.

3.1.2 Identification of projects

The proposed programme will support the identification and implementation of joint projects. In the meaning of the programme, the following should be considered as joint projects:

- (a) Simple projects with a cross-border effect taking place mostly or exclusively on one side of the border but for the benefit of both partners;
- (b) Complementary projects where an activity on one side of the border is accompanied by a similar activity on the other side;
- (c) Integrated projects where partners on either side of the border contribute different elements to a single project

In order to better manage the project identification process under the current Phare CBC RO-HU 2004-2006 programme a very straightforward breakdown between overall objective, project purpose, results and activities has been utilised – as described in the attached Programme logframes (one overall logframe) and Project logframes (one each for Priority 1 and Priority 2 of this programme) (Annex 1). A summary is provided below:

The overall objective and project purpose are as described in Section 2.1 and 2.2 above. The results and activities section of the logframe correspond with the priorities and measures as developed in the two main CBC planning documents (as listed in Section 2.5 above).

The overall scheme, in terms of CBC RO-HU 2004-6 priorities and measures, is shown in the table below:

CBC RO-HU 2004-6 Priorities and Measures	
GRANT SCHEME	
Priority 1	Strengthening the spatial, physical & infrastructural integrity of the HU-RO cross-border areas
<i>Measure 1.1</i>	Improving cross-border infrastructure
<i>Measure 1.2</i>	Addressing common challenges in the field of environmental protection & flood prevention
Priority 2	Promotion of cooperation initiatives in order to facilitate the integration of markets & enhance coherence between local societies.
<i>Measure 2.1</i>	Development of business infrastructure & joint business services
<i>Measure 2.2</i>	Support co-operation of enterprises
<i>Measure 2.4</i>	Promotion of co-operation in the field of RTD & human resource development
SMALL PROJECT FUND	
<i>Measure 2.3</i>	Encourage co-operation between institutions & communities
Priority 3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
<i>Measure 3.1</i>	Programme administration & management
<i>Measure 3.2</i>	Programme publicity, monitoring & evaluation

Notes:

The priorities and measures are transposed from the jointly developed CBC planning documents (CIP and PC) as listed in Section 2.5 above

The overall aim of the programme is to bring the people, communities & economic actors of the border area closer to each other in order to establish a sound basis for balanced economic & social development, assuring optimal development opportunities for Romania (RO) & Hungary (HU). This overall aim will be achieved through the combined project purpose of strengthening spatial, physical and infrastructural integrity (Priority 1) and the promotion of cooperative initiatives such as market integration and societal coherence (Priority 2).

The RO-HU CBC programme will be implemented through a series of grant-funded activities under the priorities and measures identified in the table above. However, it is recognised that strengthening of cross-border connections and development of the border regions will not come about through investment in infrastructure and facilities alone. Institutional strengthening is clearly required on both sides of the border. For example, in the case of waste management, investment in sorting stations, collection equipment, and landfill or incineration facilities in the border area diminish the impact that unsustainable waste disposal has on soil and the groundwater table and cross-border rivers. Moreover, the promotion of linkages and combined development and implementation of waste management strategies for border straddling regions - through institutional strengthening - will have a better chance of instigating lasting changes in both Romania and Hungary. This logic - a sensible combination of institutional strengthening and appropriate investment - will result in far higher and longer term dividends than investment alone. As part of this combined institutional strengthening and related investment theme, it is important to note that project preparation studies and activities will also be covered by the RO-HU CBC programme (both from funding from CBC RO-HU 2003 and CBC RO-HU 2004-6) (see the section on Implementation Arrangements below).

The two measures proposed under Priority 1 (Measures 1.1 & 1.2) and the four measures proposed under Priority 2 (Measures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4) are described in some detail below - measure by measure.

The programme will help the national and joint implementing bodies to ensure efficient, effective and transparent management as well as smooth operation of the Phare CBC programme. The support to programme administration and management, publicity, monitoring and evaluation activities will be provided through the Technical Assistance.

3.A. PRIORITY 1 & 2 (EXCEPT MEASURE 2.3) – GRANT SCHEME,

3.2.1 Measure 1.1: Improving cross-border infrastructure (Priority 1)

Measure 1.1 - Background and Justification

Under Measure 1.1 funds will be used to improve the transport related institutional and physical infrastructure of the border area to facilitate accessibility to the border as well as cross-border passenger and freight traffic. The proposed actions under this measure support joint infrastructure development as the existence of proper cross-border infrastructure is a pre-requisite for any type of cross-border co-operation. In addition, this measure helps to achieve the other objectives of the

project by strongly supporting the establishment of the basic pre-conditions of the sustainable development of the area, thus directly contributing to one of the key horizontal objectives of the Phare CBC RO-HU Programme.
Given the limited amount of funds available, priority is given to the funding of small-scale projects.

Measure 1.1 - Results

The expected result of Measure 1.1 is:

- improved infrastructure in the border area, leading to increased accessibility and mobility of the persons and goods in the border region and reduced travel time.

Measure 1.1 – Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this measure will be 5.580 M€ (Phare contribution: 4.185 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for the four measures. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 1.860 M€ (Phare contribution: 1.395 M€)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of € 300,000 – 600,000 for the procurement of services, supplies and works. For the cycling-paths / feasibility studies the grants shall be provided in an amount of € 50,000-150,000.

Eligible activities will be the following:

- (1) construction, reconstruction, widening and pavement reinforcement of national public roads as well as those owned by municipalities or counties, and construction of connecting junctions, building bicycle routes
- (2) rehabilitation, extension and modernisation of railway stations and associated facilities

However are not eligible works on roads of Corridor IV and on the “Bors-Cluj-Brasov” corridor.

Measure 1.1 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Construction
- Construction and development costs of infrastructure (the costs of construction)
- Costs of training related to infrastructural developments or purchase of equipment

p.m.: land acquisition expenses will not be eligible under this programme.

Measure 1.1 – Selection Criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities:

- linked to other interventions and developments by other programmes (national and community programmes)

- involving infrastructure development on both sides of the border
- contributing to an improved accessibility of the border areas and the reduction of travel time between cross-border destinations or of business infrastructure establishment of cross border interest (50% of “users” should have activities with the other side of the border)
- estimated number of future users of the new or the improved infrastructure
- Moreover for railway stations:
 - the concerned station should justify a minimum daily average of 100 passengers making cross-border trips to/from Hungary or a minimum 30% of daily passengers making cross-border trips to/from Hungary.
 - the financed investments should show a direct benefit for passengers (improving travel time or comfort).

Measure 1.1 – Eligible beneficiaries

- Local public authorities
- Local and county public road management companies
- Railway companies etc

Measure 1.1 - Linked Activities

Until now, only measures for improving the border crossing process were financed under Phare CBC. National access roads to the border were improved and specific equipment was provided for the National Administration of Roads, Border Police and Custom Administration. Among the main projects supported by Phare CBC in the past are the following:

- PHARE 1993 and 1994 Arad - Nadlac: road rehabilitation, construction of administrative building and weighing station for the National Administration of Roads; Equipment for Border Police and Custom Administration
- PHARE 1994 Oradea – Bors: road rehabilitation, construction of administrative building and weighing station for the National Administration of Roads; Equipment for Border Police and Custom Administration
- PHARE 1995 Chisineu Cris – Varsand: road rehabilitation, construction of administrative building and weighing station for the National Administration of Roads; Equipment for Border Police and Custom Administration
- PHARE CBC 1999 Arad Airport Cargo terminal and rehabilitation of Timisoara – Cenad road
- PHARE CBC 2000 Petea – Kiszombor border crossing point: road rehabilitation, construction of administrative building and weighing station for the National Administration of Roads; Equipment for Border Police and Custom Administration
- PHARE CBC 2002 railway passage on National Road 19 in Satu Mare.
- Satu Mare – Petea: road rehabilitation, construction of administrative building and weighing station for the National Administration of Roads; Equipment for Border Police and Custom Administration

It should be noted however that beside these main routes (above), the rest of the infrastructure network remains under-developed due to a lack of sufficient investment to date.

3.2.2 Measure 1.2: Addressing common challenges in the field of environmental protection & flood prevention (Priority 1)

Measure 1.2 - Background and Justification

Under Measure 1.2 funds will be used to support the joint protection of the environment and the natural values of the cross-border area, with primary focus on the protection of the common water table and surface waters, as well as on joint flood prevention activities.

The degree of harmonisation of Romanian legislation with EU Environment Directives is rather high but the implementation infrastructure in Romania lags behind. However, the border area with Hungary is close to the national average (while the opposite is true on the Hungarian side). Particular issues to be addressed are: the gap between the development of water supply and wastewater networks (as large as 2/3 in rural areas – indicating a need for improved wastewater treatment) and appropriateness of wastewater treatment facilities mainly for small towns and rural areas.

A general upgrading of solid waste collection and disposal facilities is planned at national and regional level to comply with EU Directives and the implementation of regional waste management system and the associated infrastructure is only now starting (14 of 55 planned facilities are in place or under construction). These will obviously decrease the impact of waste on quality of soil, river water and groundwater. In rural areas where no waste management is available, the practice of tipping waste into rivers will be thus discouraged.

A separate issue, that of continuity of flow during flood on major and small rivers (channels) crossing the border, still needs to be addressed (in line with the existing RO-HU Hydro-technical agreement).

Beside the actions supporting joint environment protection, water protection and flood prevention, all interventions within this measure should strongly support the establishment of the basic pre-conditions of sustainable development in the border area, thus directly contributing to one of the key horizontal objectives of the Phare CBC RO-HU Programme.

Measure 1.2 - Results

The expected results of Measure 1.2 are as follows:

- Increased portion of population served by environmental infrastructure services
- Larger natural areas, groundwater tables and rivers protected
- Higher level of protection against floods
- Decreased level of polluted areas

The records of the local Environmental Agencies, Regional Agencies of National Water Authority and local/regional authorities will be used as sources of verification.

Measure 1.2 – Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this measure will be 5.580 M€ (Phare contribution: 4.185 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for the four measures. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 1.860 M€ (Phare contribution: 1.395 M€)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of €300,000 – 600,000 for the procurement of services, supplies and works. For

activities under No (5) below, the range of grant size could be reduced (to be specified in the call for proposal/Guidelines for applicants).

Eligible activities are the following:

- (1) Collection and treatment systems for solid waste (both industrial and domestic), sewerage networks and wastewater treatment plants. However, in the case of industrial waste state aid issues might arise
- (2) rehabilitation and cleaning up of contaminated sites (if applicable, state aid rules will strictly apply).
- (3) Investments related to the development of joint nature protection areas and nature parks_(construction or rehabilitation of buildings and other edifices and infrastructural establishments, ICT development, purchase of specific equipments, monitoring equipment, related training activities)
- (4) Investments related to the development of joint river protection and flood prevention monitoring and information systems (construction or rehabilitation of buildings and other edifices and infrastructural establishments, ICT development, purchase of specific equipments, related training activities
- (5) elaboration of feasibility studies, engineering design documents and environmental impact assessments facilitating the joint protection of the environment and the natural values of the cross-border area
- (6) Support the use of renewable energy sources with a cross border impact (construction and development of facilities producing energy from renewable resources, related information campaigns)

Measure 1.2 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Construction
- Construction and development costs of infrastructure (the costs of construction)
- Purchase of specific equipment
- Costs related to ICT development
- Costs of training related to infrastructural developments or purchase of equipment

p.m.: land acquisition expenses will not be eligible under this programme

Measure 1.2 – Selection Criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities:

- concentrating on the major rivers of the eligible area: Tur, Someş / Szamos, Barcău, Crişul Repede, Crişul Negru, Crişul Alb / Körös, Mureş / Maros, (Actions 1-2 and 4-6) as well as on cross-border small rivers / channels (Action 5)
- Impacting on a large number of population/ land/water base/assets in the border region
- linked to other interventions and developments under other programmes (EC / International, national and community programmes in Romania, mainstream SF programmes in Hungary)
- contributing to projects involving environment infrastructure development on both sides of the border
- linked to Natura 2000 programme
- land function should fit within the spatial plan

- allowing cleaning up activities only if it is part of a larger development project
- investments should be fully compliant with the relevant EU Directives

Applications under Action 3, should be supported by appropriate management plans
Applications under Action 4 should be coherent with the existing RO-HU Hydro-technical agreement

Measure 1.2 – Eligible beneficiaries

- local public authorities
- local, county and regional water management, solid waste management, waste water management, river protection and flood protection companies and public bodies
- local, regional environment protection agencies
- environmental NGOs
- non-profit organisations
- public organisations responsible for management of natural parks and protected areas

Measure 1.2 - Linked Activities

- ISPA funds are being channelled into water / wastewater systems and treatment improvements in major towns like Satu Mare, Oradea, Arad and Timisoara and a comprehensive waste management system will be funded in Timis county, and two ecological disposals are proposed for funding in Oradea and Satu Mare
- SAPARD (Measure 2.1 “Development and upgrading of rural infrastructure”) is also funding water supply networks and water treatment facilities and sewer networks and wastewater treatment facilities for communes of more than 2000 inhabitants, including the border region
- Economic and Social Cohesion 2003, SAMTID Programme is looking at Arad county as a possible pilot project location, and the small scale waste projects programme is funding such projects all over the country
- CBC Programmes 1999 and 2000 have co-financed investments for flood protection and water quality projects on cross-border river (e.g. like Tisa, Barcau and Tur)
- LIFE programme 1999 and 2002 funded two subsequent projects for natural habitats of Sat Chinez wetlands (Timis County) and LIFE 2000 has funded Vote for the Bicycle project in Oradea County.
- a USAID funded project developing integrated meteorological data collection and decision making system (SIMIN) to be integrated with a national wide automatic alert system (DESWAT) for flood modelling (WATMAN).
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3.2.3 Measure 2.1: Development of business infrastructure & joint business services (Priority 2)

Measure 2.1 - Background and Justification

The border region is mainly characterised by important differences in the level of development. These differences are present mainly in the areas of infrastructure and industrial development. At the same time, the region has important human and physical resources that could be used in order to kick-start economic growth and level the existing differences between the RO and HU border regions.

Measure 2.1 - Results

The expected result of Measure 2.1 is an improved system for business support services in the border area

Measure 2.1 – Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this measure will be 1.860 M€ (Phare contribution: 1.395 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for the four measures. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 0.620 M€ (Phare contribution: 0.465M€)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of €50,000 – 300,000 for the procurement of services, supplies and works.

Eligible activities are the following:

- (1) Development and extension of existing business infrastructure facilities, (business incubators, industrial parks and trade centres providing services and office / storing capacity / space for businesses involved in cross-border trade); modernisation, extension and refurbishment of existing buildings,
- (2) Establishment of new business incubators (construction of new buildings, refurbishment of existing buildings currently out of use, or used for other purposes; development of IT infrastructure and provision of necessary equipments)
- (3) elaboration of feasibility studies, engineering design documents for preparing business infrastructure development projects facilitating better cross-border business co-operation

Measure 2.1 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Construction and development costs of infrastructure (the costs of construction of new buildings, or renewal / refurbishment of existing buildings, construction of internal roads)
- Purchase of equipment (office infrastructure, IT equipment, laboratory and research equipment)

Measure 2.1 – Selection Criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities:

- linked to other interventions and developments in other programmes (mainstream SF programmes in Hungary, national and community programmes in Romania) (Actions 1-3)
- contributing to projects involving infrastructure development on both sides of the border (Actions 1-3)
- responding to clearly demonstrated needs of SMEs (Actions 1-3)
- establishing facilities supporting or inducing direct cross-border co-operation of businesses (demonstrating that at least 50% of firms that will use the services of

the supported facility will be involved in cross-border trade / business) (Actions 1-3)

- Applications for actions 1 and 2 should be supported by a business management plans (notably: defining clearly services to be provided to SMEs, tariffs for these services). A minimum 15% of the grant shall be dedicated to a) technical support for the provision of services to SMEs in the launching phase b) promotion campaign to ensure awareness of potential “clients/users”.

Measure 2.1 – Eligible beneficiaries

- Local public authorities and other public bodies
- Local enterprise agencies
- Chambers of commerce, agriculture and industry
- Non-profit organisations
- Euro Regions
- SMEs only for not profit making activities

Measure 2.1 - Linked Activities

The objective of the Makó Business and Service Centre, Hungary, for strengthening Hungarian-Romanian cross-border relations (HU0107-01) project is creating a business service centre and incubator house for small and medium enterprises in order to support them in Makó-Nagylak area. These establishments, cooperating with the Romanian Regional Business Centre financed by Phare, are promoting the development of Romanian - Hungarian economic co-operation and ensuring beneficial business services and training opportunities for Romanian and Hungarian SMEs.

Within the Phare ESC programmes - small and large scale infrastructure components, a number of projects with a cross-border impact, located in the counties neighbouring Hungary, have been implemented.

One important project was the Industrial Park in Satu Mare, financed within the Phare 2000 programme. The Satu Mare city has a favourable position in the region, close to the border with Hungary. The beneficiary is the Satu Mare Local Council. The industrial Park is connected to the major transport infrastructure, thus facilitating the development of a friendly economic environment that would ensure the drawing of foreign capital, particularly for the benefit of the SME's.

- Financed under the Phare 2000 ESC programmes, the Industrial and Technological Park in Timisoara -in the south part of the border area, will allow the intensification of cross-border information change, organising scientific meetings, international trade fairs.

Within the Phare 2002 programme, an important project was financed for the benefit of the region, namely The Bors Industrial Park. Located near Oradea, close the Hungarian borders, this project created a business environment taking advantage of the promotion of foreign investments. Due to the business concentration, the project has better control over the polluting elements, a control that would help prevent and reduce the negative impact of industrial activity even in Romanian and Hungarian border.

The project Development of the touristic area Luna Ses – Borsa, financed under Phare 2002, is located in the north-west area in Satu Mare county and Maramures county, at 65 km from Petea custom with Hungary. The objective of the project is the

development of the tourism potential of the county as support for the tourism activities.

Rehabilitation of the rural infrastructure and environment preservation in the Lake Surduc area with the end of the including it in the international tourist circuit will be financed under Phare 2003.

3.2.4 Measure 2.2: Support co-operation of enterprises (Priority 2)

Measure 2.2 - Background and Justification

The cooperation of enterprises is only one, although very important, aspect of cooperation; the involvement of various other actors is also necessary to achieve sustainable, mutually advantageous and balanced development of the border area.

Measure 2.2 - Results

The expected result of Measure 2.2 is the establishment of long-term cross-border business cooperation.

Measure 2.2 – Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this measure will be 1.860 M€ (Phare contribution: 1.395 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for the four measures. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 0.620 M€ (Phare contribution: 0.465 M€)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of €50,000 – 300,000.

Eligible activities are the following:

- Support of cross-border business events facilitating the meeting of small and medium sized businesses (sectoral conferences, trade fairs, study tours)
- Support for enterprise cooperation in regard to cross-border activities (such as: development of common IT tools, the development and introduction of common production and quality standards, common market research and marketing activities, common training projects, organisation of cross-border clusters, development of sectoral cross-border co-operation strategies, product and process innovation; laws, regulations, etc)

Measure 2.2 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Appropriate strategies, consultancy and advisory services;
- Organisation and delivery costs of various business events, including communication costs, costs of PR and marketing, costs of speakers and moderators, rental costs of rooms and technical equipment, cost of travel and catering;
- Costs of training courses (room, technical equipment, costs of trainers, catering, preparation of training materials)

Measure 2.2 – Selection Criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities...

- linked to other interventions and developments in other programmes (mainstream SF programmes in Hungary, national and community programmes in Romania) (Actions 1-2)
- directly involving businesses, primarily SMEs in both Romania and Hungary (Actions 1-2)
- responding to clearly demonstrated needs of SMEs (Actions 1-2)
- resulting in long-term co-operations of enterprises from the eligible area (Actions 1-2)

Measure 2.2 – Eligible beneficiaries

- Local public authorities
- Local enterprise agencies
- Chambers of commerce, agriculture and industry
- NGOs with training activities in the field of business promotion and networking
- Universities and colleges
- Non-profit organisations
- SMEs only for not profit making activities

Measure 2.2 - Linked Activities

See Measure 2.1

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3.2.5 Measure 2.4: Promotion of co-operation in the field of RTD & human resource development (Priority 2)

Measure 2.4 - Background and Justification

Training, conferences, seminars in the field of business activity (business –to-business, e-commerce), and new challenges (more possibility and responsibility) will hopefully create a positive attitude towards cross-border co-operation by filling an existing information gap and enabling cross-border connections leading to improved competitiveness in the border region. The best examples of local initiatives in cross-border co-operation can be found in the field of education and training.

Some cross-border activities have already started and could be further developed. These include a wide range of general education, business seminars, conferences and workshops – all with an interdisciplinary character. Most important of these possible activities are those that involve the establishment of permanent economic connections or involve a wide range of participants.

Measure 2.4 – Results

- The expected results of this measure are as follows:
- newly established cross-border networks or partnerships between businesses and/or research institutes
- increased long term RTD cooperation
- more harmonised training systems in some specific fields

Measure 2.4 – Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this measure will be 1.488 M€ (Phare contribution: 1.116 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for the four measures. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 0.496 M€ (Phare contribution: 0.372 M€)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of €50,000 – 300,000.

Eligible activities are the following:

- (1) support for the establishment of new partnerships, collaboration between research institutes or universities in the field of research and development activities, as well as social sciences (conferences and other events; development of scholarship programmes to researchers; implementation of joint pilot research projects; related ICT and RTD investments)
- (2) co-operation projects in the field of education and vocational training (conferences and other events; development of scholarship programmes to university students; curriculum development and training material development for joint training and educational programmes; introduction of new training courses based on adaptation of existing ones across the border, transfer of knowledge and experience related to education and training methodologies, study tours, elaboration of joint training standards; pilot training projects in thematic fields related to cross-border co-operation; related ICT investments)

Measure 2.4 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Cost of special RTD equipment and ICT development
- Costs of specific consulting and training services
- Costs related to scholarships
- Costs of conferences and other cooperation events
- Only actions strictly linked to joint activities are eligible. Activities without cross border value, which could be eligible under the Phare National programme – e.g. under the TVET project – are not eligible under this programme)

A maximum of 75% of the grant can support ICT and RTD investments.

Measure 2.4 – Selection Criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities...

- carried out with the participation of the higher education and research centres of the eligible area

- that involve RTD and HRD in relevant sectors (e.g. industry, agribusiness and trade) for the economic co-operation in the border regions
- involving businesses in R&D cooperation clusters
- with linkage to other interventions and developments by other programmes (mainstream SF programmes in Hungary, national and community programmes in Romania)
- in case of RTD component, that contribute to innovation serving the purposes of sustainable development

Measure 2.4 – Eligible beneficiaries

- Research institutes,
- Public or non-profit educational and training organisations
- NGOs active on the education and training field
- Euro Regions

Measure 2.4 - Linked Activities

See Measure 2.1

3.B. SMALL PROJECT FUND

3.2.6 Measure 2.3: Encourage co-operation between institutions & communities (Priority 2)

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Measure 2.3 - Background and Justification

The analysis of the border area has identified the multicultural traditions of the eligible area as a major strength. It has also pointed out, that as a result of previous cross-border co-operation programmes, strong cross-border initiatives in the form of the joint actions of institutions, communities and NGOs.

Measure 2.3 - Results

The expected results of this measure are as follows:

- Cross-border co-operation of communities, NGOs and institutions enhanced
- Direct involvement of people in cross-border co-operation strengthened.

Measure 2.3 – Actions and Eligible Activities

This measure is primarily aimed at encouraging cross-border contacts and co-operation at regional and local level, mainly in the fields of cultural, social and sports co-operation, as well as institution building.

The indicative allocation for this measure will be M€ 2.631 (Phare contribution: M€1.974) during the 2004-2006 period.

For 2004, the allocation for this measure will be M€ 0.877 (Phare contribution: M€ 0.658)

Under this measure, the Grant Scheme shall provide grants in an amount of €10,000 – 50,000.

Eligible activities are the following:

- Support of cross-border events and people-to-people actions (conferences, joint seminars, sports events, joint social activities, study tours, joint cultural events, etc)
- Support for the co-operation of institutions (apart from educational and research institutions) and communities (joint institution building, transfer of knowledge and experience in various areas, with special attention to issues related to the European integration)

Measure 2.3 – Eligible Costs

- Relevant and linked institutional strengthening activities
- Appropriate project preparation and supervision activities
- Cost of organising and delivering joint events
- Cost of various equipment facilitating co-operation
- Travel costs related to joint events
- Accommodation and catering related to joint events
- Costs of conference speakers, trainers

Only soft measures are eligible under this measure.

Measure 2.3 – Selection Criteria

- When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities:
 - involve direct interactions of people at least from two of the eligible border areas;
 - build upon and / or strengthen the multicultural traditions of the eligible border areas;
 - involve and mobilise a large number of people
 - prepare / lay the foundations of long-term co-operations;
 - directly linked to other interventions of the programme.

Measure 2.3 – Eligible beneficiaries

- Non-profit-making organisation;
- Local organisations, associations and foundations;
- Municipalities and Communities within the defined border region;
- County and local level organisations;
- Inter-communal co-operation organisations;
- Euro regions;
- Chambers of Commerce;
- Professional associations;
- Trade Union Organisations;
- NGOs etc ...

Measure 2.3 - Linked Activities

See Measure 2.1

3.C. Priority 3 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Priority 3 - Background and justification

- Technical Assistance (TA) within Priority 3 is an essential resource for effective delivery of the cross-border cooperation programme. The aim of the TA is to ensure efficient, effective and transparent management and smooth operation of the Phare CBC programme.

Successful delivery of the programme through the grant schemes implementation will require a strengthening of the administrative capacity. During the Romanian-Hungary cross-border cooperation starting with 1996 program, any cooperation bodies were set up at the central and local level. In the further funding period (2004-06) this structure has to be expanded and strengthened to a higher quality, especially at the local level, in the border area. One of the aims of the TA is to support the structure to fulfil the goals of this programme. The new Regional CBC Office established in Oradea (which will include the current JSPF Office in Arad), will be responsible with the administrative and technical implementation of the measures provided by the Programme. TA support will ensure effective and efficient publicity and evaluation of the programme.

TA will highly contribute to ensuring equal opportunities for the potential applicants for the granted funds objectives. With this end, TA will support the target groups of the border region and beneficiaries of projects and all institution involved in the program management in project development and in the technical documentation preparation.

Consequently, Priority 3 will be implemented through two specific measures, one focusing on programme operation activities (administration and management), while the other one focusing on programme support type activities (programme publicity, monitoring and evaluation).

Priority 3 - Results

The expected results of the TA will be a strengthened and robust administration systems, even at central and local level. In line with the need of the strengthening administrative capacity in the border area, the CBC Office in Oradea will become operational and it will be assured with a satisfactory and trained staff.

During the programme, an efficient, effective and transparent management of the programme and equal opportunities will be ensured for the potential applicants.

Priority 3 - Actions and Eligible Activities

The indicative allocation for this priority will be 0.750 M€ (Phare contribution: 0.750 M€) during the 2004-2006 period.

The 2004 budget will be allocated according to proposals selection outcomes for this priority. For 2004, the indicative allocation for this measure will be 0.250 M€ (Phare contribution: 0.250 M€).

Eligible type of activities will mainly be focus on:

1. Programme administration, support for grant scheme management and project preparation:

- 1.1. Program administration and capacity building such as:

- Supporting the eligible costs of the setting up the Regional CBC Office in Oradea
 - Covering the eligible expenditures of the operations of this organisation
 - Covering the eligible costs related to the participation in the Joint Monitoring and Steering Committees;
 - Covering the costs of services like translation, audits and on-the-spot checks of the operations.
- 1.2. Support for grant scheme and project management in project preparation and implementation phases such as:
- launching Calls for Proposals for Priorities 1&2 (infrastructure and environment)
 - preparation and management of Joint Small Project Fund (Measure 2.3)
 - awareness campaign, seminars and provision of information and advice to applicants for project appraisal
 - projects pipeline
 - feasibility studies, EIA, CBA etc.
 - project design and tender documents
 - primary and secondary contracting process

2. Programme publicity, monitoring and evaluation:

- drawing up communication action plan,
- delivering seminars and other information events,
- assuring exchange of information on different project proposals,
- actions to support beneficiaries in project development and in search of partners,
- promotion of the use of information technologies (Internet), operating the monitoring system and for the operation of the website.

Priority 3 - Selection criteria

When selecting from the initial group of applications, priority will be given to activities...

- Supporting the functioning of the program managing institutions
- Needs for fulfil the tasks.

All selection criteria shall be included which the evaluation grid of project applications will be based on. All projects shall meet the core criteria and the detailed selection criteria presented below:

- Cross-border-project
- Conform to the program priorities and measures
- Comply with the horizontal objectives of sustainable development and equal opportunities

Priority 3 - Eligible beneficiaries

- National and joint institutions set up for the managing of the programme and projects
- Potential applicants/TA and consulting companies

Priority 3 - Linked activities

Technical Assistance funds from RO-HU Phare CBC 2003/005-702.03 project (aimed at setting up a project pipeline and at assisting RO authorities in designing and implementing Grant Schemes), of an amount of EUR 550,000 could be used to fund the above technical assistance for the provision of a range of management and financial control services.

3.3 General Project Selection Criteria (applies to entire project)

Projects already financed by another EU funded programme may not be granted from this programme.

-

Applications for funding under each measure (projects) will be selected according to a PRAG compliant evaluation grid that takes account of the following indicative selection criteria.¹ The final version of the grid will be decided by the JCC / JMC.

Relevance

- Relevance to the particular needs and constraints of the cross-border region (including conformity with the RO-HU 2004-06 Phare CBC / INTERREG IIIA programme and regional development plans and strategies)
- Linked to other interventions and developments by other programmes (national, regional and community programmes)
- Compliance with the objectives of this grant scheme. The applicants must justify that the proposed projects are adapted to the specific needs of the cross-border region
- Linked to interventions under other measures of the programme, especially to business infrastructure development under Measure 2.1
- Coherent, appropriate and practical activities
- Linked to a transport /environment infrastructure development project
- Added value, new, innovative approaches
- Clearly defined, strategically chosen target groups
- Relevance of the project to the needs of the target group

Methodology

- The preparedness and elaboration of the project proposal
- Inclusion of relevant support documents (if requested) for example:
 - pre-feasibility study
 - feasibility study
 - cost-benefit analyses
 - environmental impact study
 - permits and construction plans.
 - tender documentation
 - business plan
 - training programme (curriculum)
 - research plan

¹ The selection criteria will be further developed in the guidelines and calls for proposals.

- Involvement of the partners in the elaboration and implementation of the project proposal.
- Realistic time-schedule for implementing the project proposal.
- Logical objectively verifiable indicators and sources of verification for the project outcomes
- Methodology for follow-up of the project results

Sustainability

- Tangible impact on target group(s)
- Further utilisation and long- term sustainability of the project results.
- Beneficial social, economic impacts of the project results.
- Possible multiplier effects of the project results.

Budget and cost effectiveness

- To what extent is the budget clear and detailed?
- To what extent are the proposed expenditures necessary for the implementation of the project?

Management Capacity and Expertise

- Availability of the necessary personal, organisational and institutional capacity for the implementation of the project proposal.
- Previous experience in similar projects
-

Evidence of Cross-Border Impact

- To be eligible for Phare CBC financing, projects will have to be joint in the meaning of this programme (cf. 3.1. identification of projects)
- Applicants must have at least one project partner from the Hungarian border region and provide a written statement from this partner outlining their support for the application and describing the relevance of the application to the partner
- Application contributes to cross border development in terms of a particular measure defined in this fiche (Measure 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)

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3.4 Beneficiaries / Organisations Eligible for Support (applies to entire project)

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Projects for support will be selected according to transparent criteria² (indicative selection criteria, in accordance with the evaluation grid of the PRAG). Profit making enterprises, apart from eligible activities founded for SMEs, and national organisations without a distinctive role in the border region will not be eligible for grant funding, as well as political parties. In any case, state aid rules apply.

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All applicant organisations must be registered in Romanian eligible border area and the partners, in Hungary if the case may be.

3.5 Lessons Learned (applies to entire programme)

- During the preparation of this project fiche, the experiences of previous Phare CBC programmes, especially in the field of cross border co-operation (ZZ9624, RO 0003-03-01 Joint Small Projects Fund) were considered. More specifically, the 2000 Joint Small Projects Fund management has reoriented the joint and transparent

² The selection criteria will be further developed with the preparation of the call for proposals.

character of the tool and this was applied to the 2001 and 2002 Funds (RO 0102-03 and RO 2002/000-628-03) and will be applied to implementation of Measure 2.3 of the current project (through a Small Projects Fund).

- Previous Phare projects such as the Disaster Damage Reconstruction Programme (1997 & 1998) are seen as relevant implementation models for the current project in terms of type (infrastructure mainly, including environment), size (FIDIC contract conditions) and implementation arrangements (local implementing authorities). The conclusions of the ex-post monitoring report and evaluation report for this and similar projects and programmes have been considered in the preparation of this project fiche.

-
- The lessons learned can be summarised as follows:
-
- Assistance should be provided to the Management Agency, and ultimately to the beneficiary, for successful management to Phare requirements (documentary evidence, transparency, accountability etc.);
- Need for a tight match between the final product (completed project) and the original needs assessment and project preparation studies;
- Full consideration of all stakeholders;
- Project selection and implementation should take full account of value for money;
- Adequate “Indicators of Achievement” needed at project planning state as a benchmark for late evaluation;
- Acknowledgement of Phare contribution at project site;
- Attention to Environmental Impact Assessment requirements;
- Adequate timing of project design to allow comprehensive initial surveys, outside of Winter season (November-March)
- Adequate timing of project construction of the selected size to allow a minimum of one and a half construction seasons (March - October)

In addition, the “Interim Evaluation No. R/RO/CBC/03037- Interim Evaluation of the European Union Pre-Accession Instrument Phare Cross-Border Cooperation report” outlines the issue of delay in programme implementation and lessons learned can be summarised as follows:

- Increase Institutional capacity at central level
- Extended technical assistance for entire project control and management at local and central level
- As revealed during the implementation phase, international technical assistance needs to be provided to increase the design skills and the quality of the tender documents produced by local designers and to ensure that the preparation of design and tender documents meets international practice to eliminate poor programme preparation with design
- Feasibility studies to EU standards to be included in the project proposals and assistance provided
- Clear adoption statements to be part of project proposals, together with operation funding identification and commitment. Affordability analysis and CBA including IRR will be part of the feasibility studies to eliminate concerns regarding sustainability

4 Institutional Framework

Bearing in mind that this programme will be jointly implemented with an INTERREG funded Programme, the overall responsibility for the Hungary-Romania INTERREG

IIIA - Phare CBC Programme 2004-2006 shall lie with the *Managing Authority* (within the meaning of Article 9 lit. n and Article 34 Council Regulation 1260/99), in Hungary, in accordance with point 38 subsection 2 of the INTERREG guidelines (Communication from the European Commission to the Member States, 28 April 2001 C(2000)1101).

The Managing Authority will work in close co-operation with the Romanian National Authority which will be responsible for Phare CBC programme, on the basis of their agreements with the relevant Commission Services. The Romanian National Authority (in this case the Ministry of European Integration) will act as Implementing Agency (IA) through the Directorate for Cross Border Cooperation and Payment Directorate in the MoEI and will have full responsibility for Romanian programme implementation.

The Programme Authorising Officer (PAO) in the MoEI, acting as Contracting Authority, is responsible for programme implementation through the grant scheme.

The Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC - provided for under the Phare CBC Regulation 2760/98) and the Monitoring Committee (provided for under the Structural Funds Regulation 1260/99) shall form a single committee, the "INTERREG-Phare CBC Monitoring Committee" (according to the INTERREG Guidelines forwarded in a Communication from the European Commission) that shall perform the common tasks as described in the above mentioned EC Regulations.

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) in force under the INTERREG programme is responsible for the joint selection and approval of projects and the coordination of the monitoring of their implementation as foreseen in point 29 of the INTERREG guidelines. Projects proposed for Phare CBC financing shall be selected in compliance with the selection criteria set out in the CIP and Programme Complement and in Section 3.2 above. The selection and approval of the projects to be financed by Phare CBC will follow the procedure laid down by Article 7(3) and Article 8 of the Phare CBC Regulation and Phare Practical Guide.

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS), in force under the INTERREG programme, directly provides services to the Hungarian Managing Authority and Paying Authority with the operational management of their respective responsibilities. To ensure efficient project development covering the whole programme, Sub-Programme Secretariat serving as technical co-ordination body at national level will be established by the National Authority in Romania. The Romanian representative in the JTS will act within the above body. Thus, the Joint Technical Secretariat will play a role in relation to the Phare CBC funded projects, reporting to the Programme Monitoring Information System.

As grant scheme implementation will require extensive strengthening of local administrative capacity, the Romanian institutions related to the preparation for future INTERREG management, described as Intermediate Bodies in the Complementary Position Paper on Chapter 21 "Regional Policy and Coordination of the Structural Instruments", will be involved in the CBC RO-HU 2004-06 implementation process. In this respect, the association between two key Regional Development Agencies, RDA West and RDA North-West, and establishment of the CBC Regional Office in Oradea (Bihar County) for grant scheme implementation will be speeded up. The CBC Office (which will have legal status) will be responsible with the implementation of the measures supported by the programme, namely technical management of the projects. Their task will start after the selection of the successful funding applications by the Contracting Authority.

5 Detailed Budget

- Euro -

Component	Phare Support			National Co-financing	IFI	TOTAL SUPPORT
	Investment	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)			
2004						
Grant scheme for all measures 1&2 except measure 2.3	4,092,000	-	4,092,000	1,364,000		5,456,000
Measure 2.3. People to people actions	-	658,000	658,000	219,000		877,000
Technical Assistance	-	250,000	250,000	-		250,000
Total	4,092,000	908,000	5,000,000	1,583,000		6,853,000
2005 (indicative)						
Grant scheme for all measures 1&2 except measure 2.3	4,092,000	-	4,092,000	1,364,000		5,456,000
Measure 2.3. People to people actions	-	658,000	658,000	219,000		877,000
TA	-	250,000	250,000	-		250,000
Total	4,092,000	908,000	5,000,000	1,583,000		6,853,000
2006 (indicative)						
Grant scheme for all measures 1&2 except measure 2.3	4,092,000	-	4,092,000	1,364,000		5,456,000
Measure 2.3. People to people actions	-	658,000	658,000	219,000		877,000
TA	-	250,000	250,000	-		250,000
Total	4,092,000	908,000	5,000,000	1,583,000		6,853,000
2004-2006	12,276,000	2,724,000	15,000,000	4,749,000		20,559,000

National co-financing:

The grant schemes will be jointly co-financed between Phare and government resources. The rate of Phare support within the total support will be 75%, while the Romanian government will contribute 25 %. The ratio between the Phare and the national amount is binding and has to be applied to the "final contract price". The rate of the generally available maximum support (Phare and national co-financing) is 90 % of the total cost of the projects to be supported, and at least 10 % has to be provided as own resources by the beneficiaries in cash. The national co-financing included in the above budget table indicates the governmental co-financing amount of the project.

6 Implementation Arrangements

The Ministry of European Integration will be the Implementing Agency and Contracting Authority.

The PAO will be the State Secretary responsible for Regional Development.

Address: Apolodor Street 17, Sector 5, Bucuresti,
tel. (40 21) 301 1658, fax (40 21) 301624

The Ministry of European Integration will closely work with the Regional CBC Office established in Oradea, as a representative of the RDAs West and North-West, which will be responsible for implementation at measures level.

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6.2 Twinning

- Not applicable

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6.3 Non-standard aspects

- No non-standard aspects

6.4 Contracts

The grants described below cover a joint Phare CBC and Romanian funding effort (in the proportions laid out in Section 5 – Detailed Budget).

The Grant Scheme for Spatial Integrity (Priority 1: Measures 1.1 & 1.2) shall support implementation of approved projects with grants of between EUR 300-600,000 for project implementation. It is estimated that between 5 and 10 Priority 1 projects per year will be supported from this grant scheme.

The Grant Scheme for Economic Development (Priority 2: Measures 2.1, 2.2 & 2.4) shall support implementation of approved projects with grants of between EUR 50-300,000 for project implementation. It is estimated that between 5 and 20 Priority 2 projects (apart from Measure 2.3 projects) per year will be supported from this grant scheme.

-

The Small Projects Fund (Priority 2: Measure 2.3) shall support implementation of approved projects with grants of between EUR 10-50,000 for project implementation. It is estimated that between 10 and 40 Priority 2 projects (Measure 2.3) per year will be supported from this grant scheme.

The Technical Assistance (Priority 3: Measure 3.1 and 3.2) shall support implementation of an indicative number of 4 contracts .

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7 Tentative Implementation Schedule

The activities scheduled for Year 1 (using CBC 2004 funds) are the presented in Annexe 2. The timing and activities for Years 2 and 3 will be similar but remain to be confirmed in the 2005 and 2006 updates to the fiche.

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- **8 Equal Opportunity**

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- The implementation of this project does not support discrimination based on gender or any other kind. Equal opportunity principal and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the projects supported by the programme will be ensured. At the same time the project implementation procedures will ensure that the project brings benefits to both men and women, and other categories as well to ethnic groups, involving them to the same extend in the project activities
-

9 Environment

The environment protection is one of the top priorities and adequate support will be required under all EC support. The measures implemented under the project will therefore be complementary to the measures implemented with EC pre and actual structural instruments. Phare will only co-finance works when responding to EU environment standards.

- Projects with potential negative environmental impacts will be subject to an environmental impact process that meets the requirements of the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC). This will ensure that any negative impact is avoided or mitigated at project preparation stage.
-

- Moreover, the projects to be developed under the environmental co-operation measure (Measure 1.2) will be designed to alleviate environmental impact and selection criteria will be specific in this respect.
-

Economic development projects supporting activities in the fields of environment protection, using or developing environmentally friendly technologies or products will be preferred during the whole selection process.

-
- On the institutional side, particular attention will be given to participation of local representatives of Ministry of Environment and Water Management in the Steering Committee, including local Environmental Inspectorates and branches of National Romanian Water Company in the selection of projects.
-

- Only projects complying with the environmental regulations of the EU will be eligible.
-
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10 Rates of return

A Cost Benefit Analysis will be part of each feasibility study forwarded together with the grant application. This will follow Commission's guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis and will calculate financial rate of return (FIRR) as well as economic rate of return (EIRR), including creditworthiness and will be based on the Business plan. Increasing of tariffs,

if the case (public works) will be justified and the affordability of these tariffs will be demonstrated at feasibility study stage.

The financial rate of return of projects proposed to be co-financed by Phare cannot exceed 10%. The calculation of the economic rate of return will be realistic and estimated benefits should be achievable as an effect of the project alone/not depending on other action with resources and means not yet identified.

11 Investment Criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect

The project will finance the infrastructure improvement projects, protection environment projects and economic development, as well as economic, innovation and training activities that are high priorities in the target regions. Support to innovative and pilot projects will raise the awareness of common concerns and chances across the border region. It will also strengthen the positive attitude towards co-operation in solving common concerns, establishing common structures in economic development, and thereby increasing competitiveness of the whole cross-border region. The Phare CBC contribution will act as a catalyst both for priority Accession-driven actions in the field of cohesion promotion and in the improving of the life standards for population.

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11.2 Co-financing

Co-financing will take place as follows:

Co-financing		
Measure	Phare CBC %	Romania %
1.1 to 2.4	75%	25%
3.1 & 3.2	100%	-

The corresponding figures are clearly laid out in the budget table above (Section 5).

Clear evidence of national co-financing will be made available to the Joint Monitoring Committee. Co-financing will be implemented following the same procedure as for Phare funds, for the entire cycle of the project. The PAO will be responsible for reporting to the Commission (EC Delegation) about the implementation and the results achieved.

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- 11.3 Additionality

The project will not generate competition with any private service providers, and no other financiers will be displaced by the Phare intervention, in particular as the project target mainly beneficiaries whose demand for financing and training measures, are still unmet by the private sector.

-

11.4 Project readiness and size

Project proposals for grant support under all measures (apart from Measure 2.3) will be evaluated using a detailed scoring matrix. Project readiness will be one factor in the

evaluation and scoring of proposals. At the same time, however, it is recognised that many applicants will not have the capacity to carry out complete project preparation studies (e.g. pre and full feasibility studies, business plans etc). For this reason, a CBC GSM (Grant Scheme Management) technical assistance contract team will, after evaluating and performing an initial ranking of project proposals, assist in the completion of the project preparation studies for the chosen proposals. Obviously, infrastructure / environment / business infrastructure projects cannot be fully assessed / ranked without a proper feasibility study that might result in changes to the initial technical solution, cost and expected impact. Once all project preparation work has been carried out a final project ranking exercise can be carried out.

11.5 Sustainability

The beneficiaries will be responsible for the sustainability of the project and will provide the administrative staff and the necessary funds for the operational costs or present firm operation agreements with third parties. The ability of the applicant to finance the long-term operation and maintenance of the establishments or programmes shall be proved in the application and checked at the project selection phase.

The selected projects will be independent projects, however co-ordinated with one another, if the case, and with projects approved under other funding. By all means, they will not be dependent of other projects where funding is not secured at date. Splitting projects is not envisaged. Moreover, the projects are expected to give a sustainable solution to the identified problem.

All proposed projects will be compliant with the *Aquis Communautaire* and EU norms and Standards as well as with Romanian regulation.

Where operation of implemented projects will imply tariffs to be paid by the population an affordability analysis and tariff evaluation will be part of the feasibility study on which selection is based.

A binding commitment for project adoption by the final operator, coherent with feasibility study, and specifying source and amount of financial resources that will be made available in this respect should be submitted together with the proposal. This will include the provisions for covering the maintenance and any other involved expenses related to the projects life costs.

Where procurement is required under secondary contracting the relevant procurement rules will be observed and project implementation / construction will be under FIDIC contract conditions.

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11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

All actions financed by Phare CBC will respect the state aid conditions and rules referred to in the European Agreement.

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12 Conditionality and Sequencing

The Ministry of European Integration will ensure the necessary human and physical (office space and equipment) resources for the management of the Grant Schemes and coordination of the Romanian part of the programme.

The operation of the CBC Regional Office in Oradea will require the provision of logistic support and sufficient numbers of qualified staff by the RDAs.

Annexes to project Fiche

1. Logframe (One Programme Logframe and Two Priority Logframes)
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period) (compulsory for year 1)
4. Reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, in depth ex ante evaluations or other forms of preparatory work (not included)
5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
6. Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies
7. Template for the institutional framework/implementation arrangements for Grant Scheme implementation

Phare CBC RO –Hungary Project Fiche Logframe -

Overall LOGFRAME: CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION RO-HU 2004-2006		Programme name and number	PHARE CBC 2004																								
		Contracting period expires: 30 NOV 06 (07/08)	Disbursement period expires: 30 NOV 08 (09/10)																								
Overall objective	Indicators of achievement	Sources of Information																									
The overall aim of the programme is to bring the people, communities & economic actors of the border area closer to each other in order to establish a sound basis for balanced economic & social development, assuring optimal development opportunities for RO & HU.	Improved level of development in the CB regions of HU & RO as indicated by economic & quality of life indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & regional statistics International statistics (e.g. OECD) 																									
Project purpose	Indicators of achievement	Sources of information	Assumption																								
The purpose of the project is to promote cross border development between HU & RO through the strengthening spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity & the promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved border area infrastructure Increased level of economic development in CB region Improved environmental quality & protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National & regional statistics International statistics (e.g. OECD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RO fulfils conditions for receipt of EU CBC funds Continued cooperation between relevant CB authorities / organisations at national, regional & local level in RO & HU 																								
Results	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumptions																								
Priorities																											
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened spatial, physical & infrastructural integrity of the HU- RO cross-border areas Promotion of cooperation initiatives in order to facilitate the integration of markets & enhance coherence between local societies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved spatial, physical & infrastructure conditions in the RO CB region Improved cross-border social & economic cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring & evaluation reports Ministerial statistics & reports Chambers of Commerce statistics & reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed & effective cooperation between the planning / development / operator organisations & CBC applicants Detailed & effective cooperation between the social & economic related organisations & CBC applicants 																								
Activities	Means		Assumptions																								
Measures																											
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improving cross-border infrastructure Addressing common challenges in the field of environmental protection & flood prevention Development of business infrastructure & joint business services Support co-operation of enterprises Encourage co-operation between institutions & communities Promotion of co-operation in the field of RTD & human resource development TA: Programme administration & management TA: Programme publicity, monitoring & evaluation 	<table> <tr> <th>Source</th><th>CBC €m</th><th>RO €m</th><th>Tot €m</th></tr> <tr> <td>Priority 1</td><td>2.790</td><td>0.930</td><td>3.720</td></tr> <tr> <td>Priority 2</td><td>1.767</td><td>0.589</td><td>2.356</td></tr> <tr> <td>TA</td><td>0.100</td><td>0</td><td>0.100</td></tr> <tr> <td>GSM TA*</td><td>0.343</td><td>0</td><td>0.343</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>5.000</td><td>1.519</td><td>6.519</td></tr> </table> <p>* Grant Scheme Management TA (7% reserve)</p>	Source	CBC €m	RO €m	Tot €m	Priority 1	2.790	0.930	3.720	Priority 2	1.767	0.589	2.356	TA	0.100	0	0.100	GSM TA*	0.343	0	0.343	Total	5.000	1.519	6.519		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of sufficient quality of eligible applications Establishment & operation of transparent & straightforward project selection methodology Timely provision of co-funding Provision of adequate TA for overall programme management
Source	CBC €m	RO €m	Tot €m																								
Priority 1	2.790	0.930	3.720																								
Priority 2	1.767	0.589	2.356																								
TA	0.100	0	0.100																								
GSM TA*	0.343	0	0.343																								
Total	5.000	1.519	6.519																								
Notes			Preconditions																								
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This is a multi-annual programme. However, as it will be implemented through grant schemes and as results and activities are already quite well developed through a detailed and ongoing cross-border consultation process (see CBC documentation) the logframe is not broken down by year. Related (project) fiches for each result (Priority 1 & 2) are attached. The Results correspond to Priorities 1 & 2 & the Activities correspond to Measures 1.1-3, 2.1-4, 3.1-2. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FM signed <01 NOV 04 (to allow for two construction seasons) Timely development of appropriate CBC project management system 																								

PROJECT LOGFRAME: Priority 1 CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION RO-HU 2004-2006					Programme name and number		PHARE CBC 2004-2006	
					Contracting period expires: 30 NOV 06 (07/08)		Disbursement period expires: 30 NOV 08 (09/10)	
Overall objective		Indicators of achievement			Sources of Information			
The purpose of the project is to promote cross border development between RO & HU through the strengthening spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity & the promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved border area infrastructureImproved environmental quality & protection			<ul style="list-style-type: none">National & regional statisticsInternational statistics (e.g. OECD)			
Project purpose		Indicators of achievement			Sources of information		Assumption	
Priority 1 Strengthened spatial, physical & infrastructural integrity of the HU-RO cross-border areas		Improved spatial, physical & infrastructure conditions in the RO CB region			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring & evaluation reportsMinisterial statistics & reportsChambers of Commerce reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed & effective cooperation between the planning & development organisations & CBC applicants	
Results		Indicators of Achievement			Sources of Information		Assumptions	
Measures 1.1 & 1.2 1.1 Improved cross-border infrastructure 1.2 Common challenges in the field of environmental protection & flood prevention addressed		1. 5% growth in CB flow of passengers & goods (number of persons / value of goods) by 2008 2. 1.5% growth in share of RO in annual foreign trade turnover of HU CB area by 2008 3. 50 implemented joint cross-border development projects by 2008 4. 5% increase in CBC 2004 co-operation agreements in the eligible area (compared with CBC 2003) 5. Environmental / flood security improved for 10,000 people by 2008			1. Border Guard & Customs statistics 2. HU statistical office 3. CBC monitoring & evaluation reports 4. CBC monitoring & evaluation reports 5. RO MoE reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submission of sufficient quality of eligible applicationsEstablishment & operation of transparent & straightforward project selection methodologyTimely provision of co-fundingProvision of adequate TA for overall programme management	
Activities *		Means					Assumptions	
Measure 1.1 3. Building & rehab of roads, bicycle routes & road junctions 4. Rehab and building of railway stations		Source	CBC €m	RO €m	Tot €m	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Timely development & agreement of overall management system (including documentation e.g. grant applications)Sufficient level of applicant interestEffective project evaluation & selectionTimely receipt of appropriate co-fundingEffective project management (including engineering design & construction supervision)Sufficient contract duration to allow for seasonal nature of construction projectsAgreement of appropriate construction contract conditions (e.g. FIDIC)		
		1.1 Grant Scheme	1.395	0.465	1.860			
Measure 1.2 1. Construction & rehab of solid waste & wastewater management infrastructure 2. Rehab of polluted areas (contaminated soil) 3. Investments for development of joint nature protection areas & nature parks 4. Investments for development of joint river protection and flood prevention, monitoring & information systems 5. Preparation of major dev projects facilitating joint protection of the environment and natural values of cross border area		1.2 Grant Scheme	1.395	0.465	1.860			
		Total	2.790	0.930	3.720			
		Measure 1.1 & 1.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of approved CBC Grant Scheme Guidelines for applicantsTraining in the use of the guidelinesDevelopment of project selection criteriaLaunch of CBC Grant Scheme Call for ProposalsEvaluation of proposalsContractingImplementationMonitoring & evaluationAbsorbing lessons learned into RO-HU CBC 2005-6 programming process						
<i>* Based on and following numbering system for “Actions” in the Community Initiative Programme</i>								
							Preconditions	
							<ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective CBC management in place	

PROJECT FICHE LOGFRAME: (Priority 2) CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION RO-HU 2004-2006					Programme name and number		PHARE CBC 2004-2006																									
					Contracting period expires: 30 NOV 06 (07/08)		Disbursement period expires: 30 NOV 08 (09/10)																									
Overall objective		Indicators of achievement			Sources of Information																											
The purpose of the project is to promote cross border development between RO & HU through the strengthening spatial, physical & infrastructure integrity & the promotion of cooperation initiatives (market integration & societal coherence)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved border area business infrastructureImproved environmental quality & protectionCreation of xx new jobs by 2008			<ul style="list-style-type: none">National & regional statisticsInternational statistics (e.g. OECD)																											
Project purpose		Indicators of achievement			Sources of information		Assumption																									
Priority 2 Promotion of cooperation initiatives in order to facilitate the integration of markets & enhance coherence between local societies.		Improved market integration & CB social coherence			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring & evaluation reportsMinisterial statistics & reportsChambers of Commerce reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Detailed & effective cooperation between the marketing / business development / socio-economic organisations & CBC applicants																									
Results		Indicators of Achievement			Sources of Information		Assumptions																									
Measures 2.1-2.4 2.1 Development of business infrastructure & joint business services 2.2 Support cooperation of enterprises 2.3 Encourage cooperation between institutions & communities 2.4 Promotion of cooperation in the field of RTD & human resource development		(all to be achieved by 2008) 1. Rehabilitation or establishment of 2 business infrastructure or RTDI facilities 2. Support for at least 2 CB business events involving at least 200 people 3. Preparation of 2 major business dev projects 4. Develop 4 new business tools (IT etc.) 5. Support for at least 2 CB P2P actions 6. Develop 3 new training courses			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring & evaluation reportsNational, regional & local statistics		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submission of sufficient quality of eligible applicationsEstablishment & operation of transparent & straightforward project selection methodologyTimely provision of co-fundingProvision of adequate TA for overall programme management																									
Activities*		Means					Assumptions																									
Measure 2.1 1. Dev. & extension of existing business infrastructure facilities 2. Establishment of new business infrastructure facilities 3. Preparation of major business infrastructure development projects facilitating better cross-border business co-operation		<table><tr><th>Source</th><th>CBC €m</th><th>RO €m</th><th>Tot €m</th></tr><tr><td>2.1 Grant Scheme</td><td>0.465</td><td>0.155</td><td>0.620</td></tr><tr><td>2.2 Grant Scheme</td><td>0.465</td><td>0.155</td><td>0.620</td></tr><tr><td>2.3 Small GS</td><td>0.465</td><td>0.155</td><td>0.620</td></tr><tr><td>2.4 Grant Scheme</td><td>0.372</td><td>0.124</td><td>0.496</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>1.767</td><td>0.589</td><td>2.356</td></tr></table>			Source	CBC €m	RO €m	Tot €m	2.1 Grant Scheme	0.465	0.155	0.620	2.2 Grant Scheme	0.465	0.155	0.620	2.3 Small GS	0.465	0.155	0.620	2.4 Grant Scheme	0.372	0.124	0.496	Total	1.767	0.589	2.356			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Timely development & agreement of overall management system (including documentation e.g. grant applications)Sufficient level of applicant interestEffective project evaluation & selectionTimely receipt of appropriate co-fundingEffective project management (including engineering design & construction supervision)Sufficient contract duration to allow for seasonal nature of construction projectsAgreement of appropriate construction contract conditions (e.g. FIDIC)	
Source	CBC €m	RO €m	Tot €m																													
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2.3 Small GS	0.465	0.155	0.620																													
2.4 Grant Scheme	0.372	0.124	0.496																													
Total	1.767	0.589	2.356																													
Measure 2.2 1. Support of cross-border business events facilitating the meeting of small & medium sized businesses 2. Support for enterprise cooperation		Measure 2.1, 2.2 & 2.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of approved CBC Grant Scheme Guidelines for applicantsTraining in the use of the guidelinesDevelopment of project selection criteriaLaunch of CBC Grant Scheme Call for ProposalsEvaluation of proposalsContractingImplementationMonitoring & evaluationAbsorbing lessons learned into RO-HU CBC 2005-6 programming process																														
Measure 2.3 1. Support of cross-border events & people-to-people actions 2. Support for cooperation of institutions																																
Measure 2.4 1. Establishment of new partnerships, collaboration between research institutes or universities 2. Co-operation in the field of education & vocational training																																
* Based on and following numbering system for "Actions" in the Community Initiative Programme		Measure 2.3 Similar to above but with smaller grant amounts																														
							Preconditions																									
							<ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective CBC management in place																									

Implementation Schedule

Priority 1 & 2 (Except Measure 2.3)		
Activities of Contracting Authority (CA) & Technical Assistance¹ (CBC GSM TA)	Start	Finish
Design and tendering of CBC Project Management Contract (TA for project preparation and grant scheme management)	Jan 04	Jun 05
Implementation of CBC GSM TA contract	Jun 05	Jun 08
Design and tendering of framework CBC Financial Control Contract (TA for grant scheme financial control and monitoring)	Feb 05	Nov 05
Ex-Ante Evaluation		
Mid-Term Evaluation		
Reporting		
Payments to contractors & project partners		

Priority 1 Spatial Integrity Grant Scheme (Mainly Works Contracts)		
Activities of Contracting Authority (CA) & Technical Assistance (CBC GSM TA)	Start	Finish
Prepare Applicant Guidelines for Spatial Integrity Grant Scheme. ECD endorsement.	Feb 05	Jun 05
CBC GSM TA: prepare and launch Call for Proposals ²	Jun 05	July 05
CBC GSM TA: awareness campaign, seminars and provision of information and advice to applicants for project appraisal (Applicants have 60 days to prepare proposals – PRAG).	Aug 05	Oct 05
Application submission deadline		Nov 05
CBC GSM TA: evaluation of proposals	Oct 05	Nov 05
CBC GSM TA: production of initial ranked project pipeline	Nov 05	
CBC GSM TA: completion of relevant project preparation studies for suitable proposals (e.g. feasibility studies, EIA, CBA etc.)	Nov 05	Mar 06
CBC GSM TA: production of final ranked project pipeline	Feb 06	
Preparation Phase		
CBC GSM TA: production of project design and tender documents for feasible projects.	Feb 06	Mar 06
Independent review of project design and tender documents (with guidelines from GSM TA)	Mar 06	Jun 06
Beneficiary: obtain construction permits	Apr 06	Aug 06
EC Delegation: endorsement of tender documents	Jun 06	Aug 06
CBC GSM TA & CA: launch tender process for works contracts	Aug 06	Sept 06
Preparation of bids	Sept 06	Oct 06
CBC GSM TA: evaluation of bids	Nov 06	
CBC GSM TA: contract negotiation	Dec 06	
CA: award contracts (if construction permit exists), obtain performance guarantee	Dec 06	Jan 07

¹ The beneficiaries are obliged to either take the lead or provide substantial inputs in relation to all steps shown in the current tables – as appropriate. Therefore, references to “CBC GSM TA” (Grant Scheme Management Technical Assistance) should be read as “Beneficiary and CBC GSM TA”.

² It is assumed that a realistic date for signature of the Financing Memorandum is December 2004. However, if it is signed earlier, for example in October, the call for proposals can be launched earlier. Call for proposal can also be launched ahead of the signature of the FM, with a suspensive clause.

Implementation Schedule

Priority 1 Spatial Integrity Grant Scheme (Mainly Works Contracts)		
Activities of Contracting Authority (CA) & Technical Assistance (CBC GSM TA)	Start	Finish
Project Implementation Phase		
CA: contracting of Independent Engineer (FIDIC) for works contract supervision	Oct 06	Dec 06
Works contract implementation	Jan 07	May 08
Engineer: supervision of works contract implementation and disbursement	Jan 07	May 09
Works contract handover under FIDIC (issue of Taking Over Cert)		May 08
Engineer: approve payment of performance security and second half of retention money at the end of Defects Notification period (normally 1 year after completion)		May 09

Priority 2 Only (Except Measure 2.3) Economic Development Grant Scheme (Mainly Supply Contracts³)		
Activities of Contracting Authority (CA) & Technical Assistance (CBC GSM TA)	Start	Finish
Prepare Applicant Guidelines for Economic Development Grant Scheme. ECD endorsement.	Mar 05	Sep 05
CBC GSM TA: prepare and launch Call for Proposals ²	Jun 05	Aug 05
CBC GSM TA: awareness campaign, seminars and provision of information and advice to applicants for project appraisal	Aug 05	Sep 05
Application submission deadline		Sep 05
CBC GSM TA: evaluation of proposals	Sep 05	Oct 05
CBC GSM TA: production of ranked project pipeline	Nov 05	
Project Preparation Phase		
CBC GSM TA: completion of relevant project preparation studies ⁴	Nov 05	Feb 05
CBC GSM TA: production tender documents for feasible projects	Feb 05	Apr 06
Independent review of tender documents	Apr 06	Jun 06
CBC GSM TA & CA: launch tender process for supply contracts	Jun 06	
CBC GSM TA: evaluation of bids, contract negotiation	Aug 06	Sep 06
CA: award contracts	Sep 06	Oct 06
Project Implementation Phase		
Supply contract implementation	Nov 06	Jun 07
CBC GSM TA: accept supplies, advise CA on approval of payment requests	Nov 06	Jun 07
CBC GSM TA: approve supply contract hand-over	Jun 07	
CBC GSM TA: approve final payment at expiry of warranty period (normally 1 year after completion)	May 08	Jun 08

³ Activities may also take place through supply and service contracts. However, as the majority of funding is expected to be delivered via supply contracts the table is written on this basis. Works contracts will follow a similar approach to that shown for Priority 1.

⁴ The studies will depend on the type of contract envisaged and will include e.g. feasibility studies, business plans, obtaining training licences from education authorities etc.

Implementation Schedule

Priority 2 Small Project Fund (Measure 2.3)		
Activities of Contracting Authority (CA) & Technical Assistance (CBC GSM TA)	Start	Finish
Prepare Applicant Guidelines for Small Project Fund. ECD endorsement.	Feb 05	May 05
CBC GSM TA: prepare and launch Call for Proposals ²	May 05	Aug 05
CBC GSM TA: awareness campaign, seminars and provision of information and advice to applicants for project appraisal	Aug 05	Sep 05
Application submission deadline		Sep 05
CBC GSM TA: evaluation of proposals	Sep 05	Oct 05
CBC GSM TA: production of ranked project pipeline	Oct 05	
Project Implementation	Oct 05	Oct 06