

STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

Desiree Number: **BG0107.01**

Title: **Construction of a border-crossing checkpoint in Silistra**

Sector: **Infrastructure (IN)**

Location: **NorthEast part of the country - borderline between Bulgaria and Romania.**

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall objectives

- To develop the economy of the border regions by enhancing the trade and the economic co-operation.
- To motivate the creation and development of corresponding transport links on both sides of the Bulgaria/Romania Border.

2.2. Purpose of the project

- To improve the Cross-Border co-operation between Bulgaria and Romania the construction of a new Border Crossing Checkpoint.
- To improve the relations between the populations in the border region.
- To improve and facilitate passing through the Border Crossing by travellers and vehicles by reducing waiting time and by streamlining border crossing formalities.

2.3. Accession partnership and NPAA priority

The project is in compliance with the national plan for economical development, priority “Establishing of sustainable development in regional aspect”, programme “Infrastructure Improvement”, sub-programme “Construction of new BCCP”

NPAA (Medium-term priority):

Promotion of cross-border co-operation

2.4. Cross Border Impact

- To foster cross border co-operation at a local and national level.

- Completion of the Bulgarian component mirror to the Romanian project “Border Crossing between Calarasi and Silistra”
- Through these improved links and infrastructure to promote cultural exchanges and the integration of the two border regions.
- To encourage economic development on both sides of the border in an economically depressed region. The main municipalities from the Bulgarian side concerned with the construction of the specific Crossing Border are in the Region of Silistra and Dobrich (NorthEast Region). The overall population concerned is 154. 000 inhabitants in 7 Municipalities, the average income per person is 1.250 EUR a year and the average rate of unemployment is approximately 19%.

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification

Background

At present, the main border crossings between Romania and Bulgaria along Danube are: Russe/ Giurgiu bridge (65% of the traffic of goods and 60% of the traffic of travellers), Vidin/Calafat (25% of the traffic of goods and 25% of the traffic of travellers) and Oriahovo/Bechet (10% of the traffic of goods and 5% of the traffic of travellers). After 1992 the traffic increased and the above mentioned border crossings became overloaded in terms of traffic. In order to take measures to improve the situation the Romanian and Bulgarian Governments agreed for a programme to modernise the existing ones and to establish new border crossing checkpoints. Within the framework of this agreement it was decided to create a border crossing between Calarasi and Silistra (Bulgarian Council for Regional Development within the Council of Ministers, Decision 12 Oct. 2000). Additionally, an agreement was signed (10 Nov. 1998) between Bulgarian and Romanian Ministries of Transport, in order to establish a new Ferry – boat line connection between Silistra and Calarasi. Currently, the border crossing is operating only for the local population and for travellers. Moreover, the existing checkpoints are of a very small size with limited capacity and not in compliance with international standards.

In Bulgaria, a Preliminary Study has been carried out by the regional authorities based on data from the existing traffic flow and the need of the regional population. Additionally, preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment has been produced and Detailed Design, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Tender documents for Works and Supervision Contract are under preparation by Bulgarian Authorities.

Justification

Bulgaria is currently in the process of conversion to a market led economic system. As an integral part of this process, Bulgaria is actively pursuing a policy of greater accessibility to trade and economic links with its neighbours Greece, Romania, FYROM and Turkey. Its geographical position inevitably means that international traffic will cross its borders. Therefore it is important of the construction of the new Border Check Point and that the existing Check Points upgrade their provided services to a sufficient level in order to meet EU standards. It is expected that the traffic with increase at least by 25% between 2000 and 2004.

The project complies with the government regional policy to promote and support the population in the regions near by the Crossing Borderline and with relevant Legal Framework. It is also in compliance with all existing relevant bilateral agreements between Bulgaria and Romania, concerning Border links and relationships.

This project is fully in line with the priorities that are indicated in the Joint Programming Document (JPD). The JPD constitutes the general framework for the co-operation between the two countries and was agreed between the Romanian and Bulgarian authorities in early 2000. Under the priority 1 “Improving local and Trans-national infrastructures”, which consists of short term and medium term priority, the JPD stresses the importance of “the Modernisation and reconstruction of existing checkpoints”.

3.2. Linked activities

- Phare CBC BG/RO 2000: “Facilitation of the Danube River Border Crossing”. Under this project, the border crossing formalities between Romania and Bulgaria will be reviewed, harmonised and streamlined in order to reduce the waiting time at the border. The outputs of this project will be also applied to Calarasi / Silistra Cross Border Checkpoint.

3.3. Results

- To improve the existing infrastructure in the field of transport, in the framework of the joint development strategy of both regions.
- Together with the Romanian mirror project - "Border Crossing between Calarasi and Silistra ” the distance between Silistra and Calarasi will be reduced, improving low cost exchanges and circulation between both countries.
- The activities undertaken will enable heavy traffic and the opening of the border crossing to international traffic.

3.4. Activities

The proposed project consists of the construction of a checkpoint in Silistra within the new border crossing Silistra-Calarasi. The project includes five main components:

- The preparation of the land and of the tender documentation by the Bulgarian authorities, in close co-operation with the relevant Romanian authorities: 0.205 MEUR.
- Technical Assistance in order to review the existing Tender Documents prepared by the Bulgarian Authorities. Budget estimation: 0.05 MEUR – Phare funds.
- Civil works for construction of the Checkpoint with estimated cost of 2.9 MEUR. The work contract will be tendered and awarded according to the “Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa and Sapard contract procedures”. Civil Works include:
 - Customs control building
 - Passport and visa control building

- Covered steel structure sheds
 - Detailed check customs building
 - Vehicle disinfecting building
 - Road fees and licenses building
 - Veterinary and Phyto sanitary control building laboratory (optional)
 - Medical and sanitary control building
 - Check points cabins
 - Public WC and facilities
 - Site utility networks with utility service buildings
 - Paved areas, roads and site levelling
 - Water treatment plant and Water tank
 - Fence
- The Bulgarian authorities undertake the obligation to provide simultaneously with the commissioning of the BCCP all required feeding infrastructure (estimated cost: 1.2 MEUR):
 - Supply and install of the electrical high voltage 20 kW cable line
 - Supply and install of the Low voltage cable line for Telecommunication
 - Supply and install of the Water supply pipe network and sewerage system
 - Design and construction of the approach road to the border crossing check point
 - Supervision services with estimated costs of 0.55 MEUR – Phare funds

The establishment of the ferry boat line and the additional services next to the checkpoint infrastructure and facilities will be financed through National Government and private Sector Funds.

The Phare contribution will finance up to 2.6 MEUR. The rest of the financing will be financed by the Bulgarian State Budget.

4. Institutional framework

The Beneficiary Institutional of the Project according to the Bulgarian National legislation (Act 213, 15 May 1997) will be the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

The assets will be given for utilisation and exercise to all required services of the Border Control Authorities by means of “Act for replacement of ownership” issued on behalf of the Employer – CBC Phare, MRDPW.

All relevant administrative and maintenance costs related to the implementation of the project will be covered by the different involved Border Control Authorities.

The Border Police, the Custom Administration, Road Licences and Taxes, Veterinary and Phyto -sanitary control, Committee of Standards will support the preparation and implementation of the proposed project by assuring the necessary organisational environment, making available the necessary information, personnel and covering the cost of the national experts, including staffing training centres, and the related running and administrative costs.

Project Manager:

Plamen Karastoyanov

Head of Division of Phare CBC Programme

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

Address: 6, Sv. Nedelya Sq. Sofia 1000

Tel: 00359 2 987 41 55

Fax: 00359 2 986 28 33

5. Detailed Budget in MEUR

COMPONENTS	Phare support		TOTAL Phare	National * co-financing	IFI	TOTAL
	Investment support	Institution Building				
1. Preparation and Land Acquisition				0.205		0.205
2. Review of TD		0.05	0.05			0.05
3. Works Contract		2.00	2.00	0.90		2.90
4. Feeding infrastructure to the BCCP				1.20		1.20
5. Site Supervision		0.55	0.55			0.55
TOTAL		2.6	2.6	2.305		4.905

** The national co-financing will be provided by the Bulgarian State Budget*

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The Bulgaria CBC Implementing Agency is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), which retains overall responsibility for the implementation of the project (approval of terms of reference, of tender documents, of evaluation criteria, of evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation and payments of invoices).

The Division of Phare Cross Border Co-operation (the previous Foreign Investment Department) within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works will be responsible towards the CBC Implementing Agency for the operational and technical management of the project: studies, preparation of terms reference, tender documents, preparation and proceeding of the Tender procedures, evaluation criteria, evaluation of Tenders, award of contracts, invoices for payment, Commissioning and Handing over of the implemented projects. For works contracts under FIDIC rules the Head of FID acts as the Employer and invoices have to be certified by the independent Engineer contracted and financed by the Programme. The Department reports monthly to the CBC Implementing Agency (with direct copies to the EC Delegation) with monthly disbursement and commitment schedules and with sufficient detail to allow assessment of progress made and remaining work to be accomplished. It liaises directly with the EC Delegation for all issues related to the operational management of the project. The relevant Department shall be adequately staffed with at least 3 qualified full-time experts.

6.2. Non-standard aspects

There are no “non-standards aspects”. The “Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa and Sapard contract procedures” will strictly be followed.

6.3. Contracts

One Contract for Works with amount of 2.9 MEUR

One Service Contract for Site Supervision with amount of 0.55 MEUR.

One Service Contract for the review of existing Tender Documents with amount 0.05 MEUR.

7. Implementation schedule

Due to the complex co-ordination that is needed during the implementation of the project (within Bulgaria and between Romania and Bulgaria) and complex phasing of the works, it is expected that the work contract will have a duration of 28 months. Therefore, the expiry date for disbursement of this project will be 30 November 2005 (like for the Romanian mirror project).

<i>Start of tendering:</i>	<i>Start of project activity:</i>	<i>Completion:</i>
November 2001 – Tender Dossier with ToR submission for check and approval for Service Contract – Site Supervision	March 2002 – Start of Service Contract	April 2005 – completion of project
March 2002 – Tender Documents submission for check and approval for Works Contract	December 2002 – Start of project activities implementation	April 2005 – completion of project

8. Equal Opportunity

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

9. Environment

Report for Environmental Impact: - No
EIA is under preparation by Silistra Municipality.

10. Rates of return

Economic rate of return – Not applicable
Economic internal rate of return – Not applicable

Given the fact that the construction of the border crossing check point is an indispensable condition for the operation of the border crossing, the estimation of the above mentioned rates is not applicable.

11. Investment criteria

11.1. Catalytic effect

Without Phare assistance, the project would not be implemented in the near future, because of the lack of the fund. Thus EU Phare funds are appearing as the economic assistance to the country and will mobilise economy during Pre-Accession period achieving better socio – economic effect.

11.2. Co-financing

The Project is co- financed by the National Bulgarian budget by 2.305 MEUR, which will provide 45% of the total cost of the project, as it is given in item No 5.

11.3. Additionally

No other financing sources from the private sector or from IFIs were available for financing of this project.

11.4. Project readiness and Size

The preliminary studies are completed and the implementation of the project can start according to the implementation chart (Annex 2). The project complies with the 2 MEUR minimum Phare allocation requirement.

11.5. Sustainability

The Ministries that operate the Cross-Border Checkpoint will finance the operating costs.

11.6. Compliance with state aids provisions

The project respects the state aids provisions.

12. Conditionality and sequencing

- Bulgarian authorities undertakes the obligation to cover any additional cost, above the envisaged 4.905 MEUR, necessary for the completion of the whole project during its implementation timeframe.
- Bulgarian authorities undertake to finance the operating costs of the Cross-Border Checkpoint.
- The Bulgarian authorities finance Land acquisition. The Bulgarian authorities undertake to notify to the European Commission before the signature of the works contracts that related land acquisitions have been completed.
- Every infrastructure project will be publicised according to a publicity action plan to be prepared by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and endorsed by the Commission before tendering the works.
- Bulgarian authorities undertake the obligation to ensure normal working conditions in the border region, to ensure access road to the site, water and electricity access during the construction and

to ensure provision of utilities (telephone, water supply, electricity etc.) simultaneously with the commissioning of the BCCP.

- The Romanian authorities and the Bulgarian authorities will ensure a close co-ordination for the preparation and the implementation of the two mirror projects.

Annexes to Project Fiche

1. Logical framework matrix.
2. Detailed implementation chart.
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter.
4. Reference to feasibility/ pre-feasibility studies.

Annex 1 : Logframe Matrix <i>Construction of a border crossing check point in Silistra</i>		Contracting period expires:	Disbursement period expires :
		30/11/2003	30/11/2005
		Total budget : 4.905 MEUR	Phare budget : 2.6 MEUR
Overall objective	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop the economy of the border regions by enhancing the trade and the economic co-operation. To motivate the creation and development of corresponding transport links on both sides of the Bulgaria/Romania Border. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased GDP regional share Increased Romanian and foreign investment in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government and international statistics 	
Project purpose	Indicators of Achievements	Sources of Information	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the Cross Border co-operation between Bulgaria and Romania by construction of a new Border Crossing Checkpoint. To improve the relations between the populations in the border region. To improve and facilitate passing through the Border Crossing by travellers and vehicles by reducing waiting time and by streamlining border crossing formalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cross border traffic by 25% between 2000 and 2004 Reduced cross border journey duration Correspondence with EU requirements and regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic growth in other sectors Bulgarian Government continues its current commitment to reform and to accession to the European Union
Results	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the existing infrastructure in the field of transport, in the framework of the joint development strategy of both regions. Together with the Romanian "mirror" project - "Construction of Calarasi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking over certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRDPW Resident Engineers Contractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of constructions does not exceed cost estimates and no major contingency during construction

<p>Check Point the distance between Silistra and Calarasi will be reduced, increasing low cost exchanges and circulation between both countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activities undertaken will enable heavy traffic and the opening of the border crossing to international traffic. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate staffing of the checkpoints • Parallel progress in Romania for access road construction
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and Land Acquisition • Review of TD • Works Contract • Feeding infrastructure to the BCCP • Site Supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.905 MEUR contracted and disbursed • team adequate staffed with 3 qualified full-time experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reports issued by MRDPW, GRA, Resident Engineers, Contractors • MRDPW bank statements • Romanian authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition completed • Continuity of staff and policy in MRDPW enabling implementation of the project without delays • Effective project Engineer • Capable Contractors

Annex 2 – Detailed implementation chart

Construction of a border crossing check point in Silistra

Compo nents	2001						2002						2003						2004						2005															
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	
1. Detail Design updating and Tender Preparation			D	D	D	D	D	D																																
2. Review / Evaluation of Tender									R	R	R																													
3. Contracting												D	D	D	D	D	D	C																						
3.implementation of Works																			I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	R	R	R
4. Feeding infrastructure to the BCCP																																								
5. Supervision																			D	D	D	D	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
D = Design/Tender preparation C = Contracting I = Implementation/works R = Review/evaluation																																								

D = Design/Tender preparation

C = Contracting

I = Implementation/works

R = Review/evaluation

Annex 3 – Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

Construction of a border crossing check point in Silistra

Components	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)																		Total Phare Allocation	
	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005					
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
2. Review of TD			0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
3.Works Contract						2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
5. Site Supervision						0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Total contracting:			0.05	0.05	0.05	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
Components	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)																		Total Phare Allocation	
	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005					
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
2. Review of TD			0.02	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
3.Works Contract						0.20	0.40	0.60	0.8	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.60	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
5. Site Supervision							0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Total disbursement:			0.02	0.05	0.05	0.25	0.65	0.85	1.05	1.35	1.55	1.75	1.95	2.05	2.05	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60

Annex 4 - Reference to feasibility/ pre-feasibility studies.

Construction of a border crossing check point in Silistra

1. Feasibility Study (produced by Portstroiproekt-Russe, financed by Silistra Municipality, approved on 23.08.2000)
2. Environment Impact Assessment (produced by INCO-Varna and approved by the Supreme Ecological Expert Council-Decision No 7 23/1/2001)