

**PROJECT FICHE FOR PHARE 2006**

for

**INCREASING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY  
IN ROMANIA' INTEGRATION PROCESS**

**PHARE 2006/018-147.01.02**

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## **1. Basic Information**

1.1 CRIS Number: PHARE 2006/018-147.01.02

1.2 Title: Increasing the role of civil society in Romania' integration process

1.3 Sector: Civil Society

1.4 Location: Romania

1.5 Duration:

36 months

## **2. Objectives**

### **2.1 Overall Objective**

Increasing the citizens' participation in the process of policy formulation and monitoring of the implementation at all levels – national, regional and local - through enhancing the capacity of the non-governmental organisations, developing adequate mechanisms for structured dialogue between the state and the “third sector” and strengthening the role of NGOs after the Accession process.

### **2.2 Project purpose:**

Enforcement of NGO contribution to a democratic society and further improve access to social justice as well as supporting Romanian society through early stages of EU membership.

To be achieved by the following tasks:

Task 1 To support NGOs acting as CABs to play an increasing role in society through services provided to citizens and promoting citizens' needs and interests and to support the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) to promote and monitor the sound model of CABs throughout the existent network.

Task 2 To support civil society specific initiatives meant to ensure effective representation of citizens' interests by civil society in monitoring the Government actions, ensuring more transparency in the government decision making in several fields such as:

- democracy, especially in the area of fighting against corruption and human rights;
- environment protection, energy;
- consumer protection;
- social dialog;
- work and employment;
- gender issues in social and economical sphere.

*Task 3* To further develop Romanian NGO capacities in order to create both internal consultation platforms for the state and recognised partners in the efforts taken by the state in the social, political, economic sphere of EU relations.

## 2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

The development of a functioning Civil Society is intrinsically linked with the further consolidation of a democratic and pluralistic society in Romania. By their virtues and key roles, the NGO's have the capacity to represent the interests and needs of citizens and to contribute to increasing the participation of communities.

## 2.4 Coherence with National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies as guiding framework the necessity of improving of monitoring enforcement of existing legislation which is one of the most important EU requirements before and after accession, increasing the capacity of civic groups to better serve the members or constituencies interests in targeted sectors, involving NGOs in defining and applying of National Development Plan (NDP) and Regional Development Plan (RDP), building local partnerships for RDP awareness in order to ensure high level of projects development according to the needs included in NDP for specific regions, initiating and substantiating the "civil dialogue" in adopting different legislative initiatives;

The programme is in line with the axis 3 of the NDP, to strengthen human resources potential and improving the quality of social services. Furthermore, it is answering the axis 5 in relation to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

## 2.5 Cross Border Impact

N/A

# 3. Description

## 3.1 Background and Justification

Since 1994 the Civil Society Development Foundation has been involved in providing technical assistance (TA) for the Phare programmes addressing civil society.

As the Interim Evaluation Report for the social sector (0528/7 December 2005) noted, the Grant Scheme for civil society, ensured through a significant continuity of Phare assistance starting 1999, is based on a refined analysis of sector needs, which resulted in approaching a broad range of areas of assistance (*democracy and rule of law, human rights, access to information, independence of media, independence of justice, anti-corruption, civic education, social services, environment protection, consumer protection, socio-economic development, capacity building of NGOs etc*). It reflected, according to the report, a thorough and efficient process that benefited from the CSDF's experience accumulated over the years and its strong liaisons with NGOs.

As on overall effect, also given the specific of the NGO sector, the number of applications has been constantly high over the years (more than 1,000 applications per programme). As a rule, a big number of projects enter into competition for a grant

(around 7). Also, the eligibility and compliance conditions have also been toughened, as noted in the report.

Therefore, a considerable input is required in the evaluation phase from the following perspective:

- ensuring the mobilization of effort internally (long term experts and other supplementary staff);

- ensuring the specialized technical expertise through external evaluators and assessors.

In order to improve the efficiency of the evaluation process, to ensure that the selection process is concluded to allow a maximum duration for the implementation of the projects, it is recommended to increase the percentage of the technical assistance from 7.25% to 8.25%. It is to be noted that this percentage was set to a maximum of 7.25% for the programmes implemented through CSDF, which was considered “very cost-effective in terms of value for money”. However, the considerable efforts of the TA to provide for the successful outcomes of the project were noted in the report as follows: “[...] but realistically this is only because of the amount of extra work carried out by the CSDF staff”.

### *General*

The growth and development of the non for profit organisations are directly linked to the advancement of a democratic society. After the institutional upheaval of 1989, the so called “non for profit sector” emerged with models of addressing the needs of marginalised, learned to give voice to a variety of groups promoting the human rights and democracy related issues, and latter assumed more active roles in amending the governments’ policies and practices.

Substantial support was channelled through Phare funds to strengthen the involvement of the NGOs in view of pressing forward the needed reforms on the path to the EU accession by a combination of direct and complementary roles to those of the state institutions, i.e, the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire*. The NGOs were able to answer and come up with valid interventions in a number of areas which were considered problematic within EU agenda and were signalled as such in the Regular Reports throughout the years, i.e. freedom of expression and independence of media, access to information, independence of justice and fighting against corruption, the rights of institutionalised persons, children rights, disabled, victims of trafficking, the rights of minorities.

The systematic approach of Phare funding is continued on the main coordinates related to strengthening the NGOs roles in democracy, rule of law, respects of human rights, implementation and monitoring of the *acquis communautaire*. Recognizing the role that NGOs have to play in responding to the needs of citizens has led to setting up information and advice services for citizens managed by NGOs. This project of institutional building is to be continued in the view of increasing importance which was attached to citizens’ advice services all over Europe, also recognised by the European Parliament.

Particular attention is to be given however to the drawbacks the not for profit sector is confronted with. Recent efforts of the not for profit organisations, with the support of the main stakeholders as well as few political actors, have resulted in the final adopting of the Law on associations and foundations. After five years of pending to be adopted in the Parliament, the law has been adopted with changes that will encourage a better functioning of the NGOs. But parallel legislation is issued in a number of areas which are

related to social work, which is characterised by an overlapping of attributions, procedures, methodologies which affect the framework in which social NGOs operate.

Anchored in solving the needs of community, constantly challenged to struggle for financial resources, NGOs are prevented to increase their participation in the process of policy formulation and monitoring of policy implementation. The withdrawal of major donors in the context of upcoming accession makes the task of developing and maintaining structured dialogue with the state institutions at all levels - regional, national, local - more difficult. Although a positive result, that was to create the premises of internal sustainability for the NGO sector was noted, respectively by giving the possibility for individual contributors to direct 2% of their tax income to an NGO at their own choice, there is still a lot to achieve in terms of active campaigning of NGOs to attract these contributions.

By forming a number of coalitions and informal networks to monitor transparency in decision making as well as the implementation of policies, the NGOs have enjoyed media and public attention. They have focused on cases related to electoral processes and legislation, parliamentary practice, conflict of interest in politics, corruption etc. Their operational and institutional capacity needs to be further strengthened in view of a better visibility of themselves and a higher credibility on behalf of the large public. This capacity needs to be enhanced not only in relation with their advocacy role, but also with to service provision in the attempt to address the needs of citizens. By promoting the partnership principle in a wide understanding, where NGOs, public authorities and businesses are involved in addressing the community needs, solutions, good practices and models usually emerge.

Changing mentalities and educating people in connection to the rights and obligations they have as citizens, through a variety of means which are specific to NGOs, form public campaigns to innovative narrowed-down methods, will help the integration efforts. By their flexibility and impartiality, by the set of values they share, NGOs are set to monitor and reveal the deviations from the principles of democracy, rule of law, independence of justice or human rights respect and are an important actors in guaranteeing that these principles are adequately enforced.

### 3.2 Sectoral rationale

NA

#### 3.2.1 Identification of projects

Projects are proposed to cover a variety of actions and initiatives specific to civil society type of interventions in the following fields:

- citizen's rights - through strengthening the Citizens Advice Bureaux network;
- democracy, in particular in the area of fight against corruption and human rights;
- environment, consumer protection, social dialog, work and employment as well as gender related areas;
- internal development and public profile of the NGOs.

#### 3.2.2 Sequencing

NA

### 3.3 Results

*The CABs creation/consolidation initiative was supported under two completed Phare projects (2000, 2001) and continues under Phare 2003 and 2005. The multi-year support registered a regressive rate in terms of EU funding and encouraged an increasing of involved local communities' resources.*

*Task 1* To support NGOs acting as CABs to play an increasing role in society through services provided to citizens and promoting citizens' needs and interests and to support the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) to promote and monitor the sound model of CABs throughout the existent network.

- NGOs able to deliver in due time quality information and advice services to citizens
- Increase by 20 % of the no of CABs which provide extended areas of assistance
- CABs able to deliver in due time quality information and advice services to citizens
- CABs (more) visible and recognised in communities
- CABs reaching out the citizens in the targeted communities
- CABs able to identify and assess the needs of various groups of citizens /CABs able to engage in relationship with citizens according to their needs, either identified or expressed
- CABs able to address a wide range of activities, from individual assistance and advice to tackling issues shared by groups of citizens
- A functional network of CABs constantly assisted by NACAB into assuming a more visible role in society
- Strengthened NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability, as well as its sustainability.
- Identified ways of further development and sustainability of the network

*Task 2* To support civil society specific initiatives meant to ensure effective representation of citizens' interests by civil society in monitoring the Government actions, ensuring more transparency in the government decision making in several fields such as:

- democracy, especially in the area of fighting against corruption and human rights;
  - environment protection, energy;
  - consumer protection;
  - social dialog;
  - work and employment;
  - gender issues in social and economical sphere.
- 
- At least 40 NGO relevant initiatives in supporting democracy, especially in the area of fighting against corruption and human rights violation in state institutions, environment protection, energy, consumer protection, social dialog, work and employment, gender issues in social and economical sphere.

*Task 3* To further develop Romanian NGO capacities in order to create both internal consultation platforms for the state and recognised partners in the efforts taken by the state in the social, political, economic sphere of EU relations.

- At least 10 initiatives consisting in creating sustainable Romanian NGO platforms;
- At least 15 initiatives consisting in Romanian NGO participation in EU platforms/ movements;
- At least 5 initiatives meant to ensure visibility and increase recognition of Romanian NGO movements/ actions/ network;
- At least 10 initiatives focused on civic education;
- At least 5 initiatives related to NGO resource centres creation/development at local/ regional level.

TA results:

- Appropriate support to Implementing Agency in preparation and launching of Calls for proposals
- Adequate support to Implementing Agency in conducting the evaluation according to the applicable rules, including elaboration of the evaluation reports
- Efficient support to Implementing Agency to ensure full and timely commitment and disbursements of the grants schemes
- Support for the dissemination of programme results
- Contribution to the general co-ordination between the Implementing Agency, Implementing Authority and EC Delegation in view of ensuring a sound programme management

### 3.4 Activities

#### Task 1

*Call for proposals (grants) for:*

- Supporting the already existing CABs, namely the NGO members of NACAB, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services provided by CABs, and reaching sustainability.

The call for proposals will be open to

- Non-governmental non-profit organisations from Romania, which have already established CABs according to the network standards
- Non-governmental non-profit organisations representing CABs established under 2000 Civil Society Development, 2001 Civil Society or under 2003 Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania programmes that have been registered as separate organisations.

The applicants must be members of the National Associations of the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Applicants should act in consortium with local authority.

Grants will only be awarded for the strengthening of existing CABs and only for those that can clearly demonstrate the existing need for continued provision and development



of their services, and also their efficiency in their previous activities as Citizens Advice Bureaux.

CABs should improve citizens' access to information and should provide necessary advice for citizens to enable them solve their problems, and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

CABs should continue to operate along the lines featured under the previous Phare programmes, with a focus on consolidating the services they already provide and achieve their sustainability. The applicants should take into consideration the efficiency and effectiveness and make necessary improvements of their services.

Throughout the project implementation all CABs should observe the same aims and principles in providing information and advice as established under previous Phare programmes.

EU contribution will not cover costs for buying or renting the office space.

Support from local authority is mandatory for the award of grants; for example the required support may be: providing the premises and office facilities for the normal running of the Citizens Advice Bureaux, in-cash contribution.

The applicant and/or partners will have to bring their own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action. During the elaboration of guidelines for applicants, this contribution may be increased based on the previous experience and for ensuring the sustainability.

The minimum amount per grant will be 5,000 Euro. Given the fact that this is an institution building programme, the maximum amount will be determined upon the evolution of CABs, depending on the remaining number of active NGOs at the date of launching of call for proposals.

*Direct agreement for:*

- Supporting the NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability.

The NACAB was established under 2000 Phare programme in order to support development of CABs in the network and their sustainability. The institutional and operational capacity of NACAB is a critical success factor which has consequences on the entire network: development, observance of the standards within the network and confidence of the members in the existent structure.

The NACAB should continue the general line featured under previous Phare programmes, with focus on consolidating the services it already provides and extend/diversify its services as regard the area covered and/or beneficiaries. Throughout the period action execution NACAB should respect the same principles as they were established under Phare 2001 Civil Society programme and continued under Phare 2003 Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania programme.

Based on the previous experience, the applicant must insist on the added value brought in by the project implementation.

The applicant will have to bring his own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action. During the elaboration of guidelines for applicants, this contribution may be increased, based on the previous experience and for ensuring the sustainability.

The amount allocated for direct agreement will be determined upon the evolution of CAB network at the time of launching of the open call for proposals for CABs.

## Task 2

*Call for proposals (grants) for:*

- Projects in the field of democracy, especially in the area of fighting against corruption and human rights, environment protection, energy, consumer protection, social dialog, work and employment, gender issues in social and economical sphere.

The call for proposals will be open to non-governmental non-profit organisations from Romania.

The applicant and/or partners will have to bring their own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action.

The minimum amount per grant will be 10.000 Euro, while the maximum will be of 100.000 Euro.

## Task 3

*Call for proposals (grants) for:*

- Projects focused on NGO platforms/ networks;
- Projects focused on NGOs institutional development;
- Projects focused on ensuring visibility of NGO initiatives among large public;
- Projects focused on NGO resource centres development;
- Projects in the field of civic education.

The call for proposals will be open to non-governmental non-profit organisations from Romania.

The applicant and/or partners will have to bring their own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action.

The minimum amount per grant will be 10.000 Euro, while the maximum will be of 100.000 Euro.

TA activities provided by CSDF will be aimed:

1. To provide support for the preparation and evaluation of the Call for proposals to the programme authorities, namely for:

- programme launching (Guidelines for Applicants, Press releases, Call for Proposals notices)

- answering request for information from potential applicants
  - evaluation of applications
  - preparing the evaluation reports
2. To provide support for the signature of Contracts between the programme Beneficiaries and the Implementing Agency, namely:
    - pre-contracting visits (follow up on the evaluation)
    - contracts preparation
    - contracts signature
  3. To monitor the implementation of all projects under the programme
  4. To report on the technical implementation of the programme to the Implementing Authority, the Implementing Agency and the European Commission Delegation, and
  5. To provide support for the publicity of programme results.

### 3.5 Linked activities

#### Phare support

Support to the Civil Society from the EU in Romania started in 1993 through a grant scheme. Two main periods can be distinguished:

#### *1993-1999*

- Phare Democracy (223 projects for 1.8 million €), which promoted democracy and the rule of law by training politicians and transferring the required know how to professional associations regarding democracy and the rule of law.
- Phare LIEN (162 projects for 1.3 million €), stimulating citizens' initiatives and the capacity of NGO's that were active in the social sector, supporting activities as reintegration of marginalized groups, professional re-conversion, medical protection, etc.
- Phare Partnership Programme (19 projects for 140.000 €), aimed at creating partnerships between NGO's and the public and private sector which would lead to more sustainability in economic and social development.
- All offering grants through a call for proposals.
- RO-9406, Civil Society Development Programme (around 5 million€), operational in the period 1996-1999, offering grants to NGO's through the CSDF, for institution building, training activities, developing and strengthening resource centres, etc.
- Phare EIDHR 1999 grants through proposals launched in 2000 (for 18 projects with a total value of 415,650 €).
- Phare EIDHR 2000 with a budget of 308,760 €, aimed to strengthen pluralist democracy, human rights, and the rule of law with a view to supporting the overall process of democratisation, civil society development, and the protection of human rights. The Democracy and Human Rights Fund supports local civil society initiatives and their contribution to democracy and protection of Human Rights

#### *1999-2003*

Mainly through ACCESS (which replaced Phare LIEN and Phare Partnership) and newly expanded Phare programmes.

- Apart from support through these programmes, support was also channelled through to the Civil Society through the Project for Regional Development (RO-0007.02) in particularly the component addressing the Human Resources

Development, Programme Investments in Economic and Social Cohesion 2001 (RO-0108.03) and the project for Social Services Institution Building (RO-0108.02).

- Under the 1998 National Phare Programme, a Roma programme was implemented, having as wider objective to set up, through a Government strategy, the institutional, legal and policy basis for the improvement of the social and economic situation of Roma, including respect for their rights as defined in national and international law.
- The Civil Society programme RO 0004.02.01 has three components (total budget allocation 4.0 M€):
  - Citizens Advise Bureaus (CAB's)  
Development of an active network of citizens advise services based on NGO's geographically spread able to provide advisory services to citizens in order to cover the lack of information. A typical service provides information, advise, practical help and advocacy for difficult cases. CAB's provide advise in areas such as: social security and health, employment, discrimination, consumer debts, taxes, housing, legislation and legal advice, utilities, victims of abuse or domestic violence, other issues according to local needs.
  - Capacity building for partnerships between local authorities and NGO's  
This component focuses on improving the co-operation between local authorities and NGO's in problem solving at local level through training and technical assistance and co-financing of local initiatives.
  - NGO sector development  
A grant programme is providing support for the creation and development of local resources (financial and human) in order to reinforce the sustainability of the NGO sector.
- The Phare RO 0008 has a total budget allocation of 4.31 M€.  
The main objectives of the programme are:
  - To promote the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in policy areas in which the third sector plays an important implementation and advocacy role, and to raise popular awareness and acceptance in these areas;
  - To encourage the inclusion and participation of individuals and groups who risk being economically, socially or politically marginalized in the transition process.

Additional support is provided for activities related to the adoption and implementation of the "Acquis" in the following areas:

- Environmental protection;
- Socio-economic development (such as promotion of workers' rights and social dialogue; promotion of consumer interests and strengthening of associations representing co-operatives, mutual and other organisations with a socio-economic role; promotion of advocacy in support of good social policy).

Activities in the social sector are also supported, which aim at contributing to the social reintegration and/or to promote sustainable health and social support for marginalized groups of the population (such as members of minority groups, disabled persons, elderly, homeless, street or abused children, illiterate, unemployed, victims of addiction, of AIDS, victims of cruelty etc.).

The EU-Phare Civil Society Fund (RO 0104.03) aimed at improving the capacity and credibility of the NGO sector in order to better serve the community needs and interests. In particular, the Fund support projects in the field of democracy, human

rights and the rule of law, adoption and implementation of the EU legislation in environmental protection and socio-economic development, as well as projects with a social impact.

The Phare 2003 programme (005-551.01.05) continues to strengthen the civil society in Romania, having as main objectives the increasing of capacity and credibility of the sector, supporting the NGO projects of relevance to the implementation of the acquis communautaire and to certain social needs, and strengthening the NGOs in the field of democracy, human Rights, rule of law and independence of justice.

The Phare 2004 programme (016-772.01.02) further strengthen the role of Romanian NGOs in addressing the need to accelerate the social, economical and political reforms in view of EU accession, and advancing the implementation of the acquis communautaire.

#### Activities and Projects supported by other Donors

- Mott Foundation, a private US Foundation continues to provide grants for activities that strengthen the non-profit sector in Romania, including infrastructure development, promoting an enabling environment, heightened public understanding and support for the sector, and efforts to build sector's capacity (leadership, research, networking, etc), encouraging resource development, including the growth of philanthropy and volunteerism.
- USAID Local government programmes supported the setting up citizens information centres at local and county levels in the period 1995-2000. Efforts are made to re-launch and reinforce of the citizens information centres.
- USAID currently develops in Romania (2001 - 2006) the ChildNet Partnership Programme. The objective of the programme is to provide support for a Romanian-American partnership for the welfare of children in Romania. By 2006 the program aims to achieve sustainable reform within the Romanian child welfare system. *ChildNet Partnership Program* has two components: sub-grants and training/technical assistance.
- World Bank, small grants aiming to support institutional development, public services and law enforcement.
- DFID, for the period 2002-2003 within a budget of 170,000 £ for small grants aiming to support the community development and population at risk support.
- REC (Regional Environment Centre), small grants up to a maximum budget of 100,000 € annually, focused on EU Integration, energy and biodiversity.
- Launched in 2000, The Environmental Partnership Programme managed by Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation supports community based environmental projects developed by NGOs in 33 counties of Romania.
- Principesa Margareta Foundation, small grants focused on child protection and youth.

#### 3.6 Lessons learned

According to the Interim Evaluation Report for the social sector (0528/7 December 2005), the Grants Schemes under 2003 civil society and 2004 civil society continue the assistance provided under Phare 1999, 2000 and 2001. 2003 civil society is based on the same formula as the 2001 programme, which addressed a broad range of topics and benefited from the highest Phare budget allocation in the sector. This was a thorough and efficient process that benefited from the CSDF's experience accumulated over the years and its strong liaisons with NGOs. As a result, both schemes are well articulated

and respond to the real needs of the beneficiaries. However, it should be noted that the selection mechanism for individual projects' has become more process-driven over the years, which may result in more experienced applicants having an advantage over less experienced applicants with perhaps better ideas.

Given the extensive experience and high commitment of the CSDF, opting for a direct negotiation contract to ensure continuity in the grants schemes' management was a correct choice. The other key actors involved in programme management should now be much better prepared after previous experience. Unfortunately, this has not been translated in an improved efficiency of the grants schemes' management. This continues to frustrate the beneficiaries and in combination with difficult procedures, which most of the beneficiaries consider as inappropriate for small grants, questions are raised as to how much time the beneficiaries dedicate to project bureaucracy and how much to the activities.

However, it should be noted that CSDF has performed very well in the earlier stages; the launching of the grant schemes was more efficient in comparison with other Phare schemes. In terms of value for money, the TA can be judged as very cost-effective, but realistically this is only because of the amount of extra work carried out by the CSDF staff.

Many of the beneficiary NGOs is experienced in implementing Phare projects, therefore there are good prospects that many of the initial delays and bureaucratic complications can be overcome during project implementation.

Most projects under the previous programmes were successfully completed and the vast majority of activities implemented as planned. Therefore it is expected that, as the circumstances are similar under the current assistance, similar results will be achieved.

In terms of scope, the current Phare interventions remain very limited in comparison with the sector's needs. Phare had and is having a positive impact in assisting the Romanian NGO sector to function. The very good visibility ensured for the EU assistance through Civil Society projects should not be ignored, and neither should the wider benefits from activities that would not have any other chance to be financed (i.e., independent media campaigns promoted under 2001 programme).

Romanian Civil Society sector remains weak in comparison to other MS, including the new ones, and this mainly translates in its insufficient ability to influence public policies. The partnership culture between NGOs and central or local authorities needs to be significantly strengthened. It can be argued that having met the eligibility selection criteria imposed by Phare, most of the NGOs benefiting from the current Phare 2003 and 2004 assistance are well experienced and have managed to sustain their activities over the years. They are therefore in a better position than others to both survive in an unfavourable environment and benefit financially from the new legal provisions and so should prove sustainable.

In general, if successfully implemented, the current projects will significantly contribute to the enhancement of the NGOs' situation and help them become more visible and trustworthy as future partners with the public authorities. As Romania moves towards EU integration, where the project-based development philosophy is predominant, the NGOs, as organisations that are already experienced in promoting and implementing projects, will be in much better positions than before.

#### 4. Institutional Framework

The Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF), established to manage the 1994 Civil Society Development Programme, has shown the capability of launching the programme, organising the selection in a fair and professional way and organising the contracting properly. CSDF has proven its qualification and capacity to manage and supervise all components of this project.

#### 5. Detailed Budget

	Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support	Co-financing			Total Cost
€M		National Public Funds (*)	Other Sources (**)	Total Co-financing of Project	
Year 2006 Institution Building support					
Component 1 (Task 1)	1.500	0	0	0	1.500
Component 2 (Task 2)	2.305	0	0	0	2.305
Component 3 (Task 3)	1.700	0	0	0	1.700
Technical assistance	0.495	0	0	0	0.495
IB support	<b>6.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.00</b>
<b>Total project 2006</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>6.00</b>

Note. A minimum compulsory co-financing limit of 10% of total budget will be established in the guidelines for applicants but based on experience from previous programmes, for some component this limit could be increased (i.e. support of already established CABs, NGO resource centres, etc.).

## **6. Implementation Arrangements**

### **6.1 Implementing Agency**

The CFCU will be the Implementing Agency, and will be responsible for overseeing the procedures applied, as well as for contracting, payments and financial reporting (Programme Authorising Officer).

Contact details of CFCU:

Title: Programme Authorising Officer  
PAO name: Mrs. Carmen Rosu  
Address: 44 Mircea Voda Blvd, Bucharest-3, Romania  
Telephone: +4021 326 55 55  
Fax: +4021 326 87 09 / 326 87 30

Unless EDIS is in place, the European Commission through its Delegation in Romania will have to officially endorse the implementation documentation (strategy, criteria for selection, guidelines for applicants, etc.). In addition, the Delegation will participate as observer in all tender/selection/evaluation processes, will approve the evaluation reports and supervise and monitor closely the operation of CSDF and the project implementation process, unless EDIS is in place.

### **Implementing Authority**

The Ministry of Public Finance will be the Implementing Authority, Direction Management Authority for Community Support Framework, responsible for the approval of call for proposals, guidelines for applicants, evaluation reports, and with the overall monitoring of the implementation process (Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Senior Programme Officer).

Contact details of Ministry of Public Finance:

Title: Senior Programme Officer  
SPO name: Mrs. Livia Chirita  
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### **6.2 Twinning**

N/A

### **6.3 Non-standard aspects**

Taking into consideration that through a Phare programme CSDF was set-up with the specific role to administrate and managed funds addressed to the Civil Society, based on the experience accumulated over the last 9 years, a direct agreement will be required.

Being a non-profit organisation, CSDF will be exempted of the obligation foreseen by the standard service contract related to the bank guarantee.



Contracts with the NGOs beneficiaries of small grants may specify, as an exception to normal Phare procedures, that payments will be made on the basis of an advance payment of 50%, a subsequent interim payment of up to 40 % and a final payment of the remaining balance of the grant, rather than the normal 80 % advance payment and 20 % final payment, when it is considered necessary to ensure adequate control over the implementation of the grant schemes.

#### 6.4 Contracts

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the project management will be signed by the CFCU with the CSDF in Romania.

Project management will include the elaboration of the criteria for calls for proposals, organisation of evaluation/selection of projects, monitoring the implementation of the projects. The project management costs will not exceed 8.25% of the Phare support.

Following the conclusion of this direct agreement the main activities of the project will be implemented through a number of financing agreements between the CFCU and the beneficiaries selected through a competitive selection process managed by the CFCU. The CFCU will be supported by CSDF for the preparation and evaluation of calls for project proposals.

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the NACAB will be signed by the CFCU with the NACAB. NACAB was established under Phare 2000 programme in order to support development of CABs in the network and their sustainability.

The MACSF, the CFCU and, unless EDIS is in place, the EC Delegation will participate as observers in selection/evaluation processes and will supervise the activities of CSDF.

CSDF will not be an eligible beneficiary of the project, other than through payments under the direct agreement contract specified above.

### **7. Implementation Schedule**

Signature of Direct Agreement is expected in August 2006

#### 7.1 Start of Tendering /Call for Proposals

February 2007

#### 7.2 Start of Project Activities

October 2007

#### 7.3 Project Completion

August 2009

## **8. Equal Opportunity**

All 3 components related to the identified tasks are designed in the idea of equal opportunities and encourage equal participation and representation.

## **9. Environment**

N/A

## **10. Rates of return**

N/A

## **11. Investment criteria**

N/A

## **12. Conditionality and sequencing**

The EU financing will be conditional upon the efficient support for preparation, evaluation, contracting and monitoring of Phare RO 2004/016-772.01.02 –Civil Society.

## **ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Log frame in standard format for each project
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project
4. For all projects: reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, in depth ex ante evaluations or other forms of preparatory work. For all investment projects, the executive summaries of economic and financial appraisals, environmental impact assessments, etc, should be attached
5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
6. Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies
7. Lessons learnt

Annex 1 - Logframe Matrix

<b>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche</b>		Programme name and number	<b>PHARE 2006/018-147.01.02</b>
<b>Increasing the role of civil society in Romania' integration process</b>		<b>Contracting period expires: November 30, 2008</b>	<b>Disbursement period expires: November 30, 2009</b>
		<b>Total budget: 6 MEURO</b>	<b>Phare budget : 6 MEURO</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Relates to Copenhagen criterion and acquis chapter</b>	<b>List of other projects with same objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the citizens' participation in the process of policy formulation at all levels – national, regional and local - through enhancing the capacity of the non-governmental organisations, developing adequate mechanisms for structured dialogue between the state and the “third sector” and recognizing the role of NGOs in the Accession process.</li> </ul>	<p>Accession Partnership objectives related to democracy, rule of law and human rights.</p> <p>Implementation of the structural and cohesion instruments according to Article 8 of the European Council regulation no. (CE) 1260/ 1999 regarding the setting of general rules on structural funds.</p>		
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement of NGO contribution to a democratic society and further improve access to social justice as well as supporting Romanian society through early stages of EU membership.</li> </ul> <p>To be achieved by the following</p>		<p><i>For all tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political and economically stability</li> <li>Support from relevant institutions</li> <li>Co-operation and co-ordination between actors involved in the implementation of the programme</li> </ul>

<p>tasks:</p> <p><i>Task 1</i> To support NGOs acting as CABs to play an increasing role in society through services provided to citizens and promoting citizens' needs and interests and to support the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) to promote and monitor the sound model of CABs throughout the existent network.</p> <p><i>Task 2</i> To support civil society specific initiatives meant to ensure effective representation of citizens' interests by civil society in monitoring the Government actions, ensuring more transparency in the government decision making in several fields such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• democracy, especially in the area of fighting against corruption and human rights;</li> <li>• environment protection, energy;</li> <li>• consumer protection;</li> <li>• social dialog;</li> <li>• work and employment;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of number of clients of CABs comparing to previous programme</li> <li>• No of initiatives to improve the quality of services provided to citizens</li> <li>• Level of satisfaction of CABs' clients with the services provided</li> <li>• No. of initiatives to improve the quality of services provided to CABs</li> <li>• Level of satisfaction of CABs regarding NACAB services</li> <li>• Number of created structures able to monitor the Government actions related to implementation of EU policies and regulations in Romania;</li> <li>• Number of NGOs interventions in policy making process at local/ regional/ national level;</li> <li>• Number of initiatives that regard the adjustment of official doc alternative papers/ amendments of official documents/ actions in line with the EU-Romanian agreements;</li> <li>• Number of NGOs initiatives to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation reports</li> <li>• Monitoring reports</li> <li>• Impact assessment reports</li> <li>• Government of Romania and the European Commission through Progress Reports and Regular Reports (Commission's opinion, AP, NPAA)</li> <li>• Press and media coverage in the areas in which the project is expected to have impact</li> <li>• Interim and final reports of previous programmes</li> <li>• Qualitative and quantitative social investigation</li> <li>• Official data from local and central authorities</li> <li>• Public opinion pools</li> <li>• Official data from local and central authorities</li> <li>• Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of local resources for co-financing</li> <li>• Efficient implementation of anti-corruption measures</li> <li>• The satisfactory results of the Civil Society Phare 2004/016-772.01.02 programme.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gender issues in social and economical sphere.</li> </ul> <p><i>Task 3</i> To further develop Romanian NGO capacities in order to create both internal consultation platforms for the state and recognised partners in the efforts taken by the state in the social, political, economic sphere of EU relations.</p>	<p>improve citizens' understanding and commitment to democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of NGOs initiatives to support independent and professional media</li> <li>Number of initiatives relevant for the environmental protection field</li> <li>Number of initiatives relevant for the consumer protection field</li> <li>Number of initiatives relevant for the social economic development field</li> <li>Number of initiatives focused on gender issues.</li> <li>No of created Romanian NGO platforms by subject of interest</li> <li>Number of effective partnerships with relevant European organisations/ structures</li> <li>Level of involvement of Romanian NGOs in EU platforms/ movements</li> <li>Number of initiatives consisting in integrating EU best practices within different field of activity of Romanian society</li> <li>No of initiatives consisting in further development of functional resource centres for</li> </ul>		
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<p>relationship with citizens according to their needs, either identified or expressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CABs able to address a wide range of activities, from individual assistance and advice to tackling issues shared by groups of citizens</li> <li>• A functional network of CABs constantly assisted by NACAB into assuming a more visible role in society</li> <li>• Strengthened NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability, as well as its sustainability.</li> <li>• Identified ways of further development and sustainability of the network</li> </ul> <p><i>Task 2</i></p> <p>At least 40 NGO relevant initiatives in supporting democracy, especially in the area of fighting against</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity of CABs to identify and assess the needs of (various groups) of citizens</li> <li>• No of trained staff of CABs</li> <li>• No and quality of activities developed by CABs as participation in the network</li> <li>• Level of attracted resources other than EU support</li> <li>• No and type of activities conducted to reach sustainability</li> <li>• No and type of partnerships concluded by CABs</li> <li>• Level and sources of co-financing</li> <li>• Quality and timeliness of services provided by NACAB to its members</li> <li>• Quality of training provided to the CABs' staff</li> <li>• No and quality of monitoring activities in the network</li> <li>• No and type of initiatives and actions of NACAB to promote and strengthen the standards of quality amongst CABs</li> <li>• No and type of partnerships concluded by NACAB</li> <li>• No and quality of activities conducted to reach sustainability</li> <li>• Level of attracted resources, by NACAB, other than EU support</li> </ul>	<p>etc.)</p>	<p>in fighting against corruption</p>
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<p>corruption and human rights, environment protection, energy, consumer protection, social dialog, work and employment, gender issues in social and economical sphere.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of co-financing</li> <li>• Quality of assessment activities</li>   <li>• No of initiatives carried out successfully in the fields of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independence of justice and fighting against corruption</li> <li>• democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions;</li> <li>• independence of media and freedom of expression,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Level of involvement in fighting against corruption</li> <li>• No of initiatives to promote good governance and participatory practices</li> <li>• No of initiatives to promote better understanding of the impact of enlargement in the environmental protection area</li> <li>• No of initiatives to promote better understanding of the impact of enlargement in the consumer protection area related to consumer protection</li> <li>• No of initiatives to promote better understanding of the impact of enlargement in the</li> </ul>		
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<p><i>Task 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 10 initiatives consisting in creating sustainable Romanian NGO platforms;</li> <li>- At least 15 initiatives consisting in Romanian NGO participation in EU platforms/ movements;</li> <li>- At least 5 initiatives meant to ensure visibility and increase recognition of Romanian NGO movements/ actions/ network;</li> <li>- At least 10 initiatives focused on civic education;</li> <li>- At least 5 initiatives related to NGO resource centres creation/development at local/ regional level;</li> </ul> <p>TA results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate support to Implementing Agency in preparation and launching of Calls for proposals;</li> <li>- Adequate support to Implementing Agency in conducting the evaluation</li> </ul>	<p>work, employment ad social dialog area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of initiatives including a gender perspective</li> <li>• No of initiatives focused on NGO institutional development that contribute to increased flexibility and sustainability of NGOs</li> <li>• No of initiatives related to networking development</li> <li>• No of initiatives related to NGO resource centres at county/ regional level</li> <li>• No of initiatives meant to promote civic education</li> <li>• No of initiatives consisting in large impact public campaigns</li> <li>• Quality of information and communication during the informative sessions;</li> <li>• Quality and timelines of the Guidelines for Applicants under each of the Programme Components;</li> <li>• Quality of the administrative</li> </ul>		
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<p>according to the applicable rules, including elaboration of the evaluation reports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efficient support to Implementing Agency to ensure full and timely commitment and disbursements of the grants schemes;</li> <li>- Support for the dissemination of programme results;</li> <li>- Contribution to the general co-ordination between the Implementing Agency, Implementing Authority and EC Delegation in view of ensuring a sound programme management</li> </ul>	<p>compliance and eligibility assessment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of assistance to the Evaluation Committees;</li> <li>• Quality of contracting;</li> <li>• No and quality of technical monitoring reports;</li> <li>• No and quality of financial monitoring reports;</li> <li>• No and quality of monitoring visits;</li> <li>• Quality of communication with programme beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Quality of communication with programme authorities;</li> <li>• No and content of meetings with programme authorities;</li> <li>• Quality of activity reports;</li> <li>• Quality of dissemination materials</li> </ul>		
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>	
<p><i>Task 1</i> <i>Call for proposals (grants) for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the already existing CABs, namely the NGO members of NACAB, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services provided by CABs, and reaching sustainability.</li> </ul> <p><i>Direct agreement for:</i></p>	<p><i>All tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of grant contracts corresponding to selected CAB projects</li> <li>• Direct agreement for support to NACAB (grant contract)</li> <li>• A number of grant contracts corresponding to selected projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information, freedom of expression, independence of justice and fight against corruption</li> <li>• A number of grant contracts corresponding to selected projects in the field of environment protection, energy, consumer protection, social economic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective Involvement of NGOs in project implementation</li> <li>• Support from other relevant institutions</li> <li>• Functioning of CAB's</li> <li>• Effectiveness of NACABs in providing support for the network of CABs</li> <li>• Good capacity of NGOs to</li> </ul>	



<p>will be aimed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide support for the preparation and evaluation of the Call for proposals to the programme authorities:</li> <li>2. To provide support for the signature of Contracts between the programme Beneficiaries and the Implementing Agency, namely:</li> <li>3. To monitor the implementation of all projects under the programme</li> <li>4. To report on the technical implementation of the programme to the Implementing Authority, the Implementing Agency and the European Commission Delegation, and</li> <li>5. To provide support for the publicity of programme results.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 key long-term experts</li> <li>○ A pool of short-term experts to support the evaluation/selection</li> <li>○ Appropriate mechanism to ensure proper support for programme management</li> </ul>	
		<p><b>Preconditions</b></p> <p><b>Efficient support for the preparation, evaluation, contracting and monitoring of projects under Phare 2004 Programme for Civil society</b></p>

## Annex 2 - Detailed implementation chart

[illegible]

### Annex 3 - Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule

Title													
CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (6.0 MEURO)													
	2006	2007				2008				2009			
	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12
CONTRACTED	0.495	0.495	0.495	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00			
DISBURSEMEN T	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.25	3.05	5.25	5.25	5.30	5.30	5.30	6.00	6.00	6.00

NB: 1. *All contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM.*  
2. *All disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM.*

#### Annex 4 - Reference list of studies, evaluations or other forms of preparatory work

1. Interim Evaluation of Phare Support Allocated in 1999-2002 and Implemented until November 2003
2. Interim Evaluation Reports of the European Union Pre-Accession Instrument Phare, Social Sector, 7december 2005
3. PPF reports
4. Index for Civil Society, USAID, 2003
5. Index for Civil Society, USAID, 2004
6. Index for Civil Society, USAID, 2005

## Annex 5 - Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

1. OG 26/2000 – regarding associations and foundations
2. Legea 246/2005 – Law regarding approval of OG 26/2000
3. Legea 350/2005 regarding the regime of non-reimbursable funds from public funds allotted to nonprofit activities of general interest
4. OG 68/2003 regarding social services modified and completed
5. HG 1024/2004 regarding the methodology of accreditation of social services providers
6. Law 34/1998 – regarding the subsidies given to associations and foundations with legal person, which set up and run units of social assistance
7. Law 52/2003 regarding the decisional transparency in public administration
8. Law 544/2001 regarding the free access to public interest information
9. L32/1994 – regarding sponsorship (modified and completed)
10. L 195/2001 – Volunteering Law
11. L571/2003 – The Fiscal Code modified and completed
12. OMFP 1880/2005 for the approval of the Norms regarding the application of the value added tax for delivery of goods and performing of services financed through non-reimbursable assistance from the foreign governments, international organisms, and international charities form within the county or outside, including donations of individuals, stipulated at the art. 143 alin. (1) lit. l) of the Law no. 571/2003 regarding the Fiscal Code
13. OG 59/2003 – regarding some categories of good excepted from the duty tax
14. OMFP 1654/2004 – regarding the application of OG 59/2003
15. Order no. 1829 from 22 December 2003 regarding the approval of the Accountancy Regulations for the legal persons without a patrimonial aim
16. OMFP no. 330 from 14 March 2003 regarding the approval of the excerpt model of the financial statements for the associations and foundations which are recognised as having a public utility status, according to the law
17. OSGG no. 186 from 17 May 2002 for the approval of the Methodology of financing and selection of projects within the programs of national interest in the field of child protection
18. ORDER no. 18 from 13 February 2002 for the modification and completion of the annex to the Order of the state secretary form the State Secretariat for Persons with Handicap no. 313/2001 regarding the establishing of the main criteria of the selection of the projects in the field of protection of persons with handicap
19. ORDER no. 313 from 10 August 2001 regarding determining the criteria of the selection of the project in the field of protection of persons with handicap
20. ORDER no. 256 from 10 October 2000 for the approval of the evaluation and section criteria for the associations of consumer protection which set up and run centres for advice and information of the consumers, as well as the convention model
21. SELECTION CRITERIA from 23 January 2003 of the NGOs and other legal persons which can participate to the elaboration, together with the ministries and public institutions, of activities and programs in the field of public health and family protection, as well as the financing modalities
22. METHODOLOGICAL NORMS of 16 January 2003 regarding the criteria of granting subsidies for associations and foundations with legal persons, as well as other organisations



## Annex 6 - Reference lists of relevant strategic plans and studies

1. PPF multi-annual programming document
2. Defining the Not for profit Sector: Romania, - Co-author, published by The Johns Hopkins University, Institute for Policy Studies, 1998
3. Global Civil Society. Dimensions of the Not for profit Sector - Romanian chapter, published by The Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, 1999
4. Romanian Civil Society - An Agenda for Progress - published by CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, 2001

## Annex 7 - Lessons learnt

Field	Identified gaps or recommended courses of intervention	Action for covering the gap or implement the recommended intervention	Phare programming 2004	Phare Programming 2005
Anti-corruption measures <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the lack of rigorous enforcement of existing legislation</li> <li>- measures contained in the National Corruption Strategy and Action Plan had a limited impact</li> <li>- fight against corruption is hampered by integrity problems even within institutions that are involved in law enforcement and the fight against corruption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- objective and equidistant monitoring of anti-corruption fight process</li> <li>- impact assessment of anti-corruption measures at the level of state institutions</li> <li>- public awareness campaigns targeting also the state institutions that are involved in law enforcement and anti-corruption. Citizens participation in intimation and combating of corruption cases</li> <li>- empowerment of civil society organisations to act as watchdogs in the fields such as fight against corruption at different levels of government, creation of coalitions of the NGOs, etc.;</li> <li>- studies, evaluation of corruption phenomenon</li> <li>- supporting CSOs to effectively propose amendments on strategies and laws regarding anti-corruption or proposing new ones</li> </ul>	Phare Civil Society Programme – grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption	Phare Civil Society Programme – grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption
Rule of law <sup>1</sup>		External oversight of the work of the Parliamentary Committees; Monitoring of Parliament rule of legislative power and highlighting its limitation by the executive in the legislative process;	Phare Civil Society Programme -grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information,	Phare Civil Society Programme - grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information,

<sup>1</sup> Source of information: 2004 Comprehensive Report

		<p>Member of Parliament's accountability in relation with their constituents;</p> <p>Initiatives meant to open channels of communication and consultation between citizens and local/central public authorities in the decision making process and other governmental processes;</p> <p>Disseminating the good practice in the area of public authorities accountability;</p> <p>Monitoring the implementation of Law on transparency of the decision making process and Law on access to information, at local administration level;</p>	<p>Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>	<p>Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>
Judicial system <sup>1</sup>	<p>-the low quality of judgments caused by heavy workload of judges, their limited access to case law, a lack of information about new legislation, poor circulation of information within the judicial system and lack of training and specialization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promotion, monitoring and support of the implementation of the Judicial System Reform</li> <li>- implementation of Magistrates' Code of Ethics</li> <li>- know-how exchange for magistrates' preparation for specialized courts cases</li> <li>- training for magistrates in order to develop abilities necessary for exercising their profession, including non-judiciary knowledge</li> <li>- information public campaigns on the latest modifications of legislation</li> <li>- training and expertise exchange concerning the European law application</li> </ul>	<p>Phare Civil Society Programme – grants</p> <p>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>	<p>Phare Civil Society Programme – grants</p> <p>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>
Anti-discrimination <sup>1</sup>	<p>-delays in processing petitions received by NCCD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- independent monitoring of National Council for Combating</li> </ul>	<p>- Phare Civil Society Programme - grants</p>	<p>Phare Civil Society Programme - grants</p>

	-transparency in the way NCCD carries out its activities; low level of visibility, of promotion of its actions	<p>Discrimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- initiatives aiming at encouraging of the population in pointing out discrimination cases</li> <li>- awareness campaigns</li> </ul>	Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption	Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption
Promoting of human rights <sup>1</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowerment of citizens to take actions in defence of their human rights;</li> <li>- Development of networks of expertise in human rights and democracy;</li> <li>- Empowerment of the minorities groups to promote their rights;</li> <li>- Improvement of quality and coverage of human rights issues in the media;</li> <li>- Other initiatives for groups/persons exposed to infringements of their social and civil rights</li> </ul>	Phare Civil Society Programme - grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption	Phare Civil Society Programme - grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption
Ill-treatment <sup>1</sup>	-the existence of cases of ill-treatment from police stations, prisons and psychiatric hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising in the Romanian society about the living conditions in the psychiatric institutions and prisons, as well as ill-treatment by the police;</li> <li>- Monitoring and bringing to public attention of cases of ill-treatment on patients from psychiatric hospitals</li> <li>- Monitoring and bringing to public attention of cases of ill-treatment on patients from psychiatric hospitals</li> </ul>	-	Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed area for 2006 programme

Trafficking in human beings <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the existence of trafficking in human beings cases</li> <li>-the lack of measures for improvement of the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking</li> <li>-the necessity to implement witness protection scheme</li> <li>-introduction of a non-punishment clause for illegal border crossing in the case of the victims of trafficking</li> <li>-the rigorous enforcement of legislation concerning the detention regime of pre-trial detainees</li> <li>- the poor living conditions for prisons detainees</li> <li>- the low number of staff from penitentiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know-how transfer from specialised NGOs to responsible institutions to action in trafficking cases from the view of the experience accumulated in the NGO sector</li> <li>- extension of the probation experimental services in the counties where they don't exist;</li> <li>- development and training of the Romanian probation officers network.</li> <li>- Development and extension of prevention, assistance and reintegration of trafficking victims;</li> <li>- Know-how transfer from specialised NGOs to responsible institutions to action in trafficking cases from the view of the experience accumulated in the NGO sector;</li> </ul>	-	Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed area for 2006 programme
Refugees <sup>1</sup>	-the low number of asylum seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of assistance for refugees and migrants</li> <li>- information campaigns/ dissemination of information related to asylum criteria</li> <li>- development of assistance for refugees and migrants</li> </ul>	-	Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed area for 2006 programme
Freedom of expression <sup>1</sup>	-the statute of the journalist and the code of press conduct should be adopted widely and enforced in all media organizations	- Activities meant to create a healthy environment of journalists work, in order to limit the political and economical pressures, especially at	Phare Civil Society Programme - grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of	Phare Civil Society Programme - grants Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of

	<p>-the necessity to establish an institution responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of law on free access to public information</p>	<p>local and regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation in development/ setting up of a responsible body for the effective implementation of law on free access to public information</li> <li>- Independent monitoring of law on free access to public information enforcement</li> <li>- Strengthening the role of journalists organisations in promoting independency of media and promoting the best practices;</li> <li>- Legal advice for journalists and/or training on legislation;</li> <li>- Advocacy activities (e.g. for media-related legislation/policy change, for anti-discrimination related legislation/policy change, etc.);</li> </ul>	<p>Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>	<p>Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption</p>
<p>Freedom of association, role of NGOs<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>- strengthening the role of NGOs in public life</p> <p>- increase NGOs financing from indigenous sources</p> <p>According to a project financed out of a Project Preparation Facility (May 2002, beneficiary the Ministry of European Integration), “<i>Civil Society Development, Strategic Planning for 2003-2007</i>”, a no. of gaps have been identified as critical for the NGOs sector, i.e.:</p>	<p>- Public information/education campaigns focused on the specific roles NGOs have in mobilising private initiatives for public interest and added value of their intervention against that of the public or for-profit sectors;</p> <p>- Training, consultancy, technical assistance for NGO staff (including volunteers) and board members, reflecting their preoccupation for accountability, transparency, constituency building, strategic development, management and good governance etc. in their specific or</p>	<p>Phare Civil Society Programme Component NGO Sector Development</p>	<p>Discontinued under 2005 programme, some areas proposed for 2006 programme</p> <p>Phare Civil Society Programme Citizens Advice Bureaux Component</p>

	<p>-drawbacks in the legal and fiscal framework in which NGO function;</p> <p>- consultation of NGOs is practised by public authorities for legislative implementation and by Donors for strategy building, but it seems that in both cases the NGO's opinion is rarely taken into account.</p> <p>- the regional Development Agencies made significant progress in their capacity to select and monitor projects, but little is achieved in terms of economic diagnosis, strategy making, programming and ex-ante evaluation. Regional Development Boards (RDB) have clear roles and responsibilities in designing regional policies and programmes, but in practice this process has been delayed by various obstacles<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p>- NGO's managerial capacities are in general perceived by the sector as insufficient (though in progress); internal management</p>	<p>more general areas of activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource centers for NGOs developed and supported to provide services to answer identified needs of NGOs locally or regionally;</li> <li>- Increased participation of the NGOs in networks/platforms built up on specific sectors or themes (i.e., Roma, environment, social, consumer protection, media).</li> <li>- improve public perception of the benefits of the work of NGOs, including an understanding of the 2% law, leading to increase individual and corporate philanthropy</li> </ul> <p><i>Recommended actions through PPF study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private funding and marketing on the NGO's side should be improved and follow clear, transparent strategic planning. In particular, NGOs still need to improve the marketing of their activities and results toward mass media.</li> <li>- At the national level, supporting consortiums and the creation, where needed, of umbrella organisations for different sectors, this would be done as the continuation of the component "<u>NGO sector development</u>" of the PHARE 2001 Civil Society and Civil Society 2003 and</li> </ul>		
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<sup>2</sup> See PHARE Country ex-post Evaluation and Capacity Building, Final Report – Romania, December 2002.

<sup>3</sup> In previous programmes Regional Development Agencies had introduced proposals which had not been retained. This logic should be followed in future strategy, Regional Development Agencies being NPOs but not NGOs. Proposals should be introduced by an NGO partner.

	<p>(staffing and decision making internal procedures) still need technical assistance particularly for partnership project preparation.</p> <p>Sustainability is low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lack of resource centres</li> <li>- Partnership between NGOs and other sectors are generally isolated.</li> <li>- Lack of trust and the weak image</li> <li>- The law on the financing of political parties (January 2003) authorising the funding without limits of parties through NGOs not only constitutes a money laundering predicate but legitimates public new suspicion.</li> </ul>	<p>would address the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to strengthen executive network for representation of NGO community in the field of legal regulations on the sector; in particular, since Law 52 on transparency in decision making process was adopted, supporting the consultation process on the secondary legislation and its implementation, articulating the demands of citizens through active participation and consciousness growing, supporting protection of minorities and independence of justice;</li> <li>- to create an executive network for representation of Environmental NGOs so to build up with public authorities the procedures of public consultation concerning environment issues accordingly to the EIA directives;</li> <li>- to strengthen executive network for representation of NGO community in the fields of self-regulation and good practices, in particular concerning management practices, information dissemination, improved complementarity of projects and programmes and improved partnership with public authorities.</li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the regional and local level, supporting partnership with other sectors, through the “NGO sector development” and the “CAB” components of the PHARE 2001 Civil Society and Phare 2003</li> <li>- improving definition and implementation of regional development plans by strengthening the partnership between Regional Development Agencies<sup>3</sup> and NGOs;</li> <li>- promoting systematic partnership between NGOs and local authorities when relevant;</li> <li>- in the environmental sector, to support the “Local Agenda 21” on sustainable development, by promoting partnership between environmental NGOs, Local Authorities and private industry;</li> <li>- in the fields of labour, social dialogue, consumers protection, professional associations, strengthening institutional capacity;</li> <li>- establishing new resource centres for NGOs in areas where such initiatives do not exist;</li> <li>- pursuing the “Citizen Advise Bureau” experience in partnership with local authorities, tailoring through technical assistance the communication with beneficiaries;</li> </ul>		
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		<p>supporting dissemination of information about their services, and information networking; If new CABs should be implanted, shape and location should be identified on the base of the results of the existing CABs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting up a CAB network, capable of sharing information and resources, will need logistic support, training and technical assistance.</li> <li>- At the NGO institutional level, supporting visibility concerning accountability, social and democratic issues for improving Civil Society's involvement. This sub component should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- campaigning with partnership, private and/ or Media, so to support communication on society issues as well as improving the image of the sector;</li> <li>- improvement of the visibility of the work of the NGO sector, internally to the sector and for public use, by promoting studies on the implemented projects (e.g. and in particular, for ACCESS and PHARE Civil Society Programmes, FDSC could publish the analysis of its monitoring of the programmes under the form of an annual report);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- civic education: to continue to educate public opinion about the role of civil society and in particular, to build partnerships in this regard (e.g. with schools);</li> <li>- training for NGOs will accompany the needs: training in management, accountability procedures, marketing and communication, and specific professional fields training;</li> <li>- further promoting, through grants, projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities, independence of justice or fighting corruption;</li> <li>- last but not least, NGO's visibility in society arises from its practical social implication and devotion, NGO's messages will only be strong and perceived by Civil Society were there are embodied with social action. Social action and social awareness are joint realities. Supporting NGO's social action through grants remains not only a social necessity in the actual fund raising possibilities for the sector but the opportunity to encourage democratic and civic awareness or practices. In the child care field, were it appears that public is now sufficiently active, special attention should be given to co-ordination and focusing on mothers and children's rights.</li> </ul>		
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Improving of civil dialog <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- effective representation of citizens' interest by civil society in monitoring the Government, ensuring more transparency in the government decision making</li> <li>- ensuring the participation of NGOs and NPOs in the consultation process regarding the implementation of the structural and cohesion instruments according to Article 8 of the European Council regulation no. (CE)1260/ 1999 regarding the setting of general rules on structural funds.</li> </ul> <p><i>According to this regulation, the local and regional level partners – NGOs, business organisations, professional and academic bodies etc. – must be involved in consultation regarding the implementation of the structural and cohesion instruments.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitoring enforcement of existing legislation which is one of the most important EU requirements before and after accession;</li> <li>- increase the capacity of civic groups to better serve the members or constituencies interests in targeted sectors;</li> <li>- concrete initiatives related to NGOs involvement in defining and applying of National Development Plan (NDP) and Regional Development Plan (RDP);</li> <li>- local partnerships building for RDP awareness in order to ensure high level of projects development according to the needs included in NDP for specific regions;</li> <li>- Initiating and substantiating the “civil dialogue” in adopting different legislative initiatives</li> </ul>	-	Phare Civil Society Programmne – proposed area
Social economical development <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- low level capacity of Romanian entrepreneurial sector in competition pressure of commune market (NDP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving the capacity of business associations and professional bodies in providing specific training and facilitating know-how related to EU market</li> </ul>	Civil Society Programme Component Implementation of the Acquis Communautaire	Discontinued under 2005 programming, proposed area under 2006 programme

<sup>4</sup> Source of information: Article 8 of the European Council regulation no. (CE)1260/ 1999; National Development Plan (NDP); Regional Development Plan (RDP)

<sup>5</sup> Source of information: National Development Plan (NDP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient knowledge of management methods and marketing techniques as well as low level of cooperation between multi-national corporation and potential SMEs sub-contractors</li> <li>- difficult access to grant/sources of finances for SMEs</li> <li>- gap between educational offer and labor market requirements</li> <li>- structural problems related to unemployment</li> <li>- increasing of black labor market</li> <li>- insufficient integration of disadvantaged groups (Roma, disabled persons etc.) on labor market</li> </ul>	<p>requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facilitating the access of SMEs to new and adapted methods in management and marketing through business associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, specialised NGOs etc.</li> <li>- better awareness of goods and services Romanian providers at local and regional level through business associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, specialised NGOs etc.</li> <li>- facilitating the access of SMEs to sources of finance through information and counselling activities</li> <li>- evaluation and monitoring of labor market for a quick adopting of educational offer</li> <li>- concrete measures for diminishing unemployment like vocational training for unqualified employed, unemployed and categories of population exposed to long term unemployment such as women or elderly</li> <li>- population awareness related to risks of black work and benefits of legal work contracts</li> <li>- supporting health and safe at work</li> <li>- activities meant to sustain the empowerment of civil society organisations to act as watchdogs (e.g. implementation of legislation related to labour and employment, gender segregation and occupations at sectoral</li> </ul>		
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		level, pay gaps, gender stereotypes, etc.); - enforcement of anti-discrimination measures as stipulated by the national legislation in the fields of labour relations and related to safety and health.		
Environment protection <sup>6</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- environment dumping</li> <li>- isolation of rural areas</li> <li>- insufficient development of waste management systems</li> <li>- insufficient environmental technology and infrastructure used by business sector</li> <li>- low awareness level of population related to environmental problems</li> <li>- insufficient knowledge of environment disasters (extreme natural phenomena) management systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- training and consultancy for business sector related to environmental protection systems implementation within technological processes</li> <li>- independent monitoring of the appliance of “polluter pays” principle</li> <li>- monitoring, bringing into public attention and assistance in court of citizens or group of citizens affected by pollution;</li> <li>- activities aiming to ensure the access of public to environmental information at the central or regional level, including the participation of citizens in the process of elaboration of plans and programmes from environmental protection area.</li> <li>- activities having as results the overcoming of the barriers in the implementation of the adopted legislation through: assessment of the current implementation status of the environmental legislation, evaluation of both the implementation costs and the necessary administrative capacity, proposing realistic solutions for the identified problems</li> </ul>	Civil Society Programme Component Implementation of the Acquis Communautaire	Discontinued under 2005 programming, proposed area under 2006 programme

<sup>6</sup> Source of information: National Development Plan (NDP)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- concrete activities meant to reduce the high level of pollution in rural area</li> <li>- setting up of waste collecting centres in rural areas together with population awareness/education</li> <li>- improvement of urban waste recycling technology areas together with population awareness/education</li> <li>- establishment of environmental information centres</li> <li>- promotion of the sustainable development principle in policies establishment as well as in business activities</li> <li>- promotion of instrument/systems to be applied in crisis situations in order to ensure a quick reaction of population facing natural disasters</li> </ul>		
Consumer protection <sup>7</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient capacity of consumer protection NGOs in order to comply with the role they will play in the future implementation of consumer protection policies and national strategy</li> <li>- low level of information among consumers regarding their rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitoring the implementation of the specific legislation related to alternative solving of litigations</li> <li>- setting up mediation services as alternative to court solving of consumers complains</li> <li>- information, counselling and education and campaigning on consumer rights</li> <li>- identifying the consumers problems related to goods and services and implementing innovative local practical initiatives aiming to solve them</li> </ul>	Civil Society Programme Component Implementation of the Acquis Communautaire	Discontinued under 2005 programming, proposed area under 2006 programme

<sup>7</sup> Source of information: Article 3 of Decision no. 20/2004/EC; EC Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006; National Authority for Consumer Protection Strategy 2005-2008

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in the decision making process in issues that have direct impact on their area of activity</li> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in consultative bodies, inter-ministerial committee for surveillance of goods and services marketing</li> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in the comities for abusive clauses and products security</li> <li>- information, best practices promotion, expertise exchange, networking, etc, with regard to the European relevant experience in the process of promoting and implementing the consumers and health protection legislation</li> </ul>		
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