

## **ANNEX 7**

### **Linked Activities**

#### **EU/Phare Programme on Vocational Education and Training “VET” (RO 9405)**

The objective of the VET programme (25 Meuro) , administered by the Ministry of National Education, was to support the Rumanian Government to better prepare students for work in a market economy by modernizing the curricula and the methods used in vocational schools and through adapting the system to the best European practice. More specifically, the programme assisted the reform of the VET system through policy changes and the introduction of practical measures in a nationally-spread and forward-oriented group of pilot and demonstration schools which pioneered change throughout the system. The programme resulted in 75 modern VET schools, new programmes for in-service teacher training, reformed curricula, assessment and certification methods, modern learning and teaching materials. VET partnerships developed at a local level and represented a revised VET policy for the future.

Some of the achievements of this programme are as follows:

- *curriculum development*  
Curricula were developed for vocational schools, with a broad vocational base for the first two years and a more specialised modular provision in the last year. The curricula developed for post-high schools have a two-year flexible modular structure.
- *teacher training*  
Student centred methods of teacher training were introduced and didactical material for independent learning was introduced
- *school management*  
Management training based on a democratic leadership style, focusing on a whole school approach in adopting innovation, as well as creating a sustainable learning environment
- *partnership with the community*  
Structural partnerships with various stakeholders in the community were developed, aiming at: making vocational education more relevant to its users and facilitating the entry of graduates into the labour market
- *equipment*  
Occupational learning equipment was provided to VET schools, to facilitate implementation of the newly developed curricula. It should be mentioned that some studies indicate that the equipment was not adequate enough for the specialised curriculum of the final year of the vocational schools.
- *evaluation and certification*  
A system of evaluation including the active involvement of the social partners was put in place and a certification system based on the assessment of competence through final examinations was introduced.

#### **Phare projects related to quality assurance - TTQM Phare RO 9602-05 project**

TTQM Phare RO 9602-05 project for development of *education for quality* with the purpose of creating curricula for compulsory and post-compulsory education; the project has been developed in co-operation with the National Agency for Science and Technology Innovation and conceived of profile of an effective consumer or producer of qualitative goods or services. The educational component consisted of specific curricula developed for several levels of education and specialised VET structures.

### **ETF Parallel funded project for human resource development at local and regional level**

The project supported two activities in the Southeast region, one on the development of strategies for human resource development at county level and the other on the establishment of school consortia or school networks for the delivery of continuing vocational training.

### **Education for a Second Chance**

The objective of this programme is to assist young people who abandoned compulsory education, to re-enter education and to get at the same time a pre-qualification that will help them either to find work in the local community or formally access other professional routes within VET.

### **Reform of Pre-university Education co-financed by the World Bank and the Romanian Government (RPE) 1995 - 2001**

The WB programme Reform of Pre-university Education complemented the Phare VET RO 9405 programme through its component RPE. The component focused on activities, which are equally important for general education as well as for VET.

### **Catch-up Mining Fund Programme (MARR)**

Given the size of the problem and the high absorption capacity of funds in the Energy Programme (detailed above) the Commission has approved in the 1998 a further allocation of 10 Meuro from the 'Catch-up Facility' for the establishment of a Fund designed to further alleviate the social costs of coal mining restructuring in Gorj county and Jiu Valley. 6 Meuro of the total allocation will finance local partnership projects for active employment measures, small infrastructure, environment protection, social investment, welfare services, vocational education and training, community projects, public work, etc. The remainder of 4 Meuro will be used for the provision of credits to local SMEs. Implementation will last until December 2001.

### **EU/Phare SMEs Support (1992, 1994, 1997 Phare allocations)**

The first phase of Phare support to the SME sector in Romania commenced in 1993 with an allocation of 10 Meuro. It consisted of four main inter-related components:

1. Support to the establishment of the SME agency (CRIMM) and five locally-based SME development centers. Technical assistance and seed finance has been provided to the centres, established as locally-based foundations, with members ranging from the local administration to chambers of commerce and private entrepreneurs. Each center provides basic advice and information to entrepreneurs and acts as a focal point for SME development in the area. The centres are self-sustainable. All five centres commenced operation in April 1994.

2. Development of a favorable atmosphere for SMEs. There has been a programme of support to SME associations in developing their structures. This programme has moved relatively slowly due to the fragmentary nature of the associations and the need to clarify which bodies were truly representative and had identified projects for support. Reform of the education system is also important, a project has been supported to introduce entrepreneurship into the way in which subjects are taught in secondary schools. Support for policy making has taken the form of support for the establishment of an Office of Advocacy which produced a White Paper, in July 1995, outlining the main obstacles existing at the different levels, to the development of the SMEs sector in Romania. Support to international business relations development has been provided through a special grant scheme developed in order to allow all

business advisory centers to become promoters of local economic development initiatives.

3. Setting up of pilot Business Innovation Centers (BICs). The basic objective of this project was to stimulate entrepreneurship and encourage the introduction of innovative processes into existing SMEs with growth potential and which can directly contribute to economic development and job creation. Four Business Innovation Centres (BICs), using EU models, have been established since September 1995. Phare provided technical assistance for the setting up of the centres, accommodation and capital for incubated companies, and seed money for the start-up and supply of the equipment. Funding was digressive, BICs were able to be self sustainable in the third year of operation.

4. Setting up of a 3,4 Meuro grants scheme for SMEs. A conditional micro- grant scheme for assisting SMEs to purchase equipment and other assets directly related to their activity has been operational since December 1993. The maximum individual grant which could be given to an enterprise was 50,000 Euro. Beneficiaries were registered private enterprises with up to 50 employees maximum capital of 0,5 Meuro and turnover of 1 Meuro. Applications for obtaining a conditional grant, supported by adequate documentation proving the reliability of the applicant company, were submitted to one of the Business Advisory Centres, which assisted the company in developing a business plan. After appraisal of the projects, the grant decision was taken by a Steering Committee, composed of members of financial institutions and the CRIMM Foundation. The recipient SME contributed at least 50% of the total cost of the machinery procured. Around 240 enterprises have received financial assistance since early 1996 and around 2400 new jobs have been created.

The second phase supported SMEs and regional development in an integrated manner, given that experience in both EU and CEECs shows the strong interdependence between the two sectors. The programme had different components, support for regional policy analysis and development of SMEs policy; information, training, and support to advisory centres activities, to raise awareness and skills of SME and local development initiatives; allocation of resources for the establishment of a **Local Development Initiatives Fund (FIDEL) and SME financial pilot schemes.**

At the *local level*, the objective was to provide financial services to the business community, advisory centres and local development actors. A Resource Centre to support local development and SMEs was established in order to improve circulation and exchange of experience. More than 40 training courses were delivered to the main target groups covering issues related to local/regional development and project management, followed by courses in consultancy skills for the 84 SME development centres and business incubators set up by various donors in Romania. In addition, 6 Meuro was earmarked for a pilot credit scheme to improve SMEs access to commercial finance and encourage banks to provide loans to SMEs.

The **FIDEL project** provided small grants to support local development initiatives in particular to strengthen basic and promising structures (existing and new support institutions, start-up of production oriented services) of the emerging SME sector. The programme was based on the concept of local partnership. Applicants were local consortia comprising typically, local authorities, prefecture, SME associations, Chamber of Commerce, trade unions, universities, etc. The three calls for proposal resulted in the submission of about 450 project proposal and the selection of 64 projects for financing. The contracts were signed in December 1997 the implementation completed in December 1998. Typical projects included: support for

SMEs expansion; setting-up of new support service centres for SMEs; development of services in the field of agriculture, agro-industry, quality control, technological transfer and export promotion activities. The finance component of RICOP will benefit from the experience of FIDEL.

At the *national level*, the programme provided training and technical assistance to the National Agency for Privatization. The aim was to assist the Romanian authorities to create an enabling environment (fiscal incentives, financial instruments, etc) for the development of the SMEs sector. A separate objective aimed at enhancing the dialogue and the debate between the Government and the private sector on how to promote SMEs development.

The third phase of the Phare support (5,75 Meuro) for SMEs commenced in 1997. It will provide investment credits to enterprises through commercial banks, which in turn will strengthen banking services for SMEs. Banks were selected and the implementation of the programme is expected to start soon.

***Technical Assistance related to SME issues available under the Phare Programmes in 1992, 1994, 1997, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001.***

Technical assistance within the first Phare support programme has been provided to establish CRIMM Foundation and five locally based SME development centres, for the setting up of business innovation centres. The support for policy making capacity has taken the form of support for the establishment of an Office of Advocacy which produced a White Paper in July 1995.

The component '*Support for regional policy analysis and development and SME policy support to the national Agency for Privatisation*' of the Phare Programme RO 9408 provided training and technical assistance to help the Romanian authorities to develop more appropriate policies for the SME sector. The focus of the activities undertaken was on measures to improve the fiscal, legislative and regulatory frameworks (the "enterprise environment").

The Phare Programme '*Enabling Environment for Enterprises and Investment*' RO 9706 was intended to develop the ability of the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) to contribute to building an enabling environment for enterprise and investment, with a specific focus on the main obstacles presently faced by SMEs. Technical assistance was offered to enhance the capacity of the NASME in four main areas:

- Formulating SME support programmes in line with EU good practice and relevant EC policy guidelines;
- Designing and implementing systems for monitoring the impact of SME support programmes and measures;
- Collecting, updating and disseminating relevant knowledge on the business environment of the SME sector in Romania;
- Monitoring and assessing emerging legislation with an impact on enterprise and investment.

The *Technical Assistance for Small SME Credit Scheme* RO 9711.02 was intended to contribute to effective management of the SME credit scheme launched in 1997 by Phare in order to improve access by micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to loan financing. The project is intended to provide all implementing parties with technical assistance for effective implementation according to Phare guidelines, and with clear sustainability perspectives.

The *Technical Assistance component of the MARR Fund – SME Credits RO 9809.02.02* provides assistance to design the scheme, select the implementing banks, negotiate the funding agreement with the selected financial institution(s), finalise the operations manual, train a number of credit officers, monitor progress with the scheme, establish evaluation procedures, elaborate statistics, assess the scheme's overall results and impact.

The project *Technical Assistance for the preparation of the SMEs Credit Line under Phare 2000 - RO9807.01.02.12* has as main objective to prepare the detailed design of the SME credit line, to select the Romanian bank(s) which will implement the Credit Lines in the four target regions and to make the whole system functional, so that the objectives of the **SME Credit Line**, which will be financed under Phare 2000, can be fully and timely achieved.

**Project RO 0108.01 - Technical Assistance for the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Sector** having as main activities:

1. Develop methodology and train on the job NASMEC staff adequately in order to establish a comprehensive statistical database on SMEs, to monitor the health and evaluate the needs of the SME sector. Create flexible mechanisms for adapting policies and programmes to the changing requirements of the SME sector.
2. Develop mechanisms, methodology and train NASMEC staff adequately to assess the development in the SME sector and to design, monitor and measure implementation of SME development policies and programmes/projects, against established targets.
3. Establishing close communication between NASMEC and small and medium-sized businesses in order to ensure that SMEs provide their practical input on policies and programmes and defining consultation mechanisms with national and regional public and private stakeholders of SME sector.
4. To assure that SMEs are well informed and equipped to meet norms and standards resulting from the adoption of the EU *acquis*.
5. Improvement of quality and affordability of business information services for SMEs. Dissemination of relevant information for the SME sector in printed form, through the network of Euro Info Centres, on Internet and all other existing or new created channels (reports, studies, practical guides for SMEs, other relevant information for SMEs. Improvement of the level of knowledge of entrepreneurs on business-related matters.

**Twinning Project No. RO / 2001 / IB-SPP 01 Improving the institutional framework and the organisation of SMEs and Co-operative Policy** - between NASMEC and the administrative authority of the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal German Ministry of Economy and Technology which entrusts the implementation of its part to the Ministry of Economic Affairs Baden-Wurtemberg, having as main activities:

1. Analysis of the legislative and administrative framework related to SME sector. Elaborate practical solutions in line with the EC Enterprise Policy. Review of the Ministry Strategy and Action Plan for the SME sector.
2. Strengthening the organisational structure and improvement of the external relation of the NASMEC with the involved stakeholders.
3. Support in the field of export promotion.
4. Enhance the capacity of NASMEC to develop and implement measures for improving SMEs access to finance.

### **EU/Phare Human Resources Development Programme (RO 9701.01)**

The objective of this programme, supervised by the Development for European Integration and steered by an interministerial Task Force, is twofold: to support Romanian enterprises in upgrading the managerial and technical skills of their staff, thus strengthening their competitiveness in the market; and to improve the enterprise training industry in Romania. The programme also aims to develop recommendations for policy makers in stimulating enterprises to invest in the development of their human resources. The successful applicants will receive grants on a co-financing basis. The implementation of the programme, with a budget of 3 Meuro, will last until end 2000.

### **EU/Phare Regional Policy and Cohesion Programme (RO 9807.01)**

The objective of the programme is to support the establishment of a comprehensive framework for regional development, incorporating policy, and legislation instruments, together with the administrative capacity to manage ISPA, SAPARD and Phare in an Objective 1 context. The programme has a budget of 33 Meuro to support actions related to industrial restructuring of areas blighted by the decline of traditional industries, including: human resource development to support integrated development of designated regions, project preparation for ISPA, environment and transport infrastructure, rural development, technical assistance, etc. The main supervisory role of programme implementation belongs to the National Agency for Regional Development. To co-ordinate and consider issues related to actions falling under all components of the programme, a Monitoring Committee composed of relevant Romanian authorities and Commission's services was established. The programme implementation will last until December 2001.

Under Phare RO98.07.01 - ISPA Preparation Facilities assistance provided for physical infrastructure is for the following components:

- Environmental measures enabling Romania to comply with the requirements of Community environmental law with the objectives of the Accession Partnership;
- Transport infrastructure measures which promote sustainable mobility and in particular those that constitute projects of common interest based on the criteria of Council Decision 1692/1996 and those that enable the beneficiary countries to comply with the objectives of the Accession Partnerships; this includes interconnection and inter-operability of national networks as well as with the Trans- European networks together with access to such networks.

For the above-mentioned measures, through Phare 1998 are going to be implemented the following technical assistance projects:

- TA to the ISPA co-ordination unit within the Ministry of Transport;
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA-Roads Projects - Motorway By-Passes Feasibility Study and Design;
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA - Roads Projects - Review of Feasibility Study and Preparation of Detailed Design for the project " Bucharest- Giurgiu Expressway";
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA - Railway Projects, Preparation of detailed for the project " Rehabilitation of the Railway line Bucharest, section Baneasa-Fundulea";
- TA for the ISPA co-ordination unit within the Ministry of Environment;
- Rehabilitation and Modernization of the Water Supply and Sewerage Systems for Area of Cluj;
- Upgrading the Water and wastewater System in Iasi in order to comply with International Standards for Water Quality and Environmental Protection;
- Rehabilitation of Wastewater Treatment Technology Drinking Water Supply and Sewerage Improvement for the population of Timisoara City;

- TA for the National Co-ordination of ISPA projects;

For business infrastructure under Regional Policy and Cohesion Programme - Industrial Restructuring and Human Resources Component was identified and in course of assessment a number of projects, in each of 4 target regions, aimed on services related to business and networks of specific information and communication issues.

The projects under Development of Regional and Local infrastructure must be connected with the projects under the other two components of Regional Development programme Phare 2000, Regional SMEs Development Support and Twinning on regional planning and programme development. This approach can permit a better concentration of funds on the projects with great potential of development and great estimated regional impact avoiding the spreading of funds on too particularly needs. This approach must be a priority in the identification of the regional development projects being a very good exercise preparing the RDAs for the management of the European Regional Development Fund.

**EU/Phare Enterprise Restructuring and Employment Conversion Programme (RICOP) – RO9904** - starting with 2000 has the overall objective to assist the Government in moving towards fulfilling EU membership criteria in the area of economic policy.

The immediate objectives are:

- To assist the government to implement policies and actions to restructure, privatise or close loss making enterprises;
- To alleviate the consequence of enterprise closure through a strengthened social safety net and through the promotion of employment initiatives;
- To encourage economic activity leading to sustainable employment creation through assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises and micro businesses.

RICOP has five main components to the programme:

- Redundancy intervention;
- Public works;
- Employment promotion initiatives;
- Small business finance, and
- Social response measures

Taken together they represent an integrated approach to enterprise restructuring and employment conversion.

#### **Phare project RO9908**

Elaboration and implementation of National Action Plan for Employment, including measures for continuing vocational training – twinning.

Elaboration of **the Yearly Training Programme by the National Agency for Employment**, approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity.

#### **Phare Economic and Social Cohesion Programmes 2000, 2001 and 2002**

The Phare Program RO 0007.02. "Regional development – investments in the priorities of the National Development Plan" - implementation starts in 2002;

The Phare Program 2002/000-586.05.02 "Investments in Economic and Social Cohesion" – sub-component B – Human Resource Development.

A Twinning Project, "Support for National Development Plan Implementation" (RO-0007.01.01) was launched in November 2001 with a view to assisting the preparation of the institutional framework for strengthening of the administrative capacity for implementing the structural instruments. Extending over 18 months, the project includes a pre-accession advisor at national level and pre-accession advisors in each of the 8 NUTS II regions. The project focuses a part of its activities on establishing partnerships at national level and between the national and regional level, aiming to produce, through the joint efforts of the involved ministries and the EU experts, a Regional Policy Roadmap to EU Accession. PAAs in each region are assisting RDAs in developing effective partnership structures that include economic and social partners, as well as representatives of local administration (generally at county level).

Phare 2002 is funding support for decentralisation and development of the Romanian local public administration. The project will support the development of policies in the area of the decentralisation of certain functions and responsibilities from the central public administration to the local public authorities. In addition, it will support improvements in the capacity of the local public administration to manage local budgetary resources. The project will include the provision of training for local public authorities on modern, transparent and participatory methods for preparing local budgets.

With Phare 2001 funding, a project to develop the National Institute of Administration into an operational organisation capable of training competent civil servants will commence in 2003. The project will strengthen the functional abilities of the National Institute of Administration as an institution devoted to the training and professional development of managers, professional civil servants and elected officials at central and local government levels and connect it to a national network of public administration training centres and international networks of civil service training institutions in Europe.

### **Activities linked to investments to municipal infrastructure (SAMTID)**

The SAMTID Programme is based on the experience and results achieved during implementation of the following programmes:

- MUDP 1, MUDP 2 and Jiu Valley - financed by EU, Romanian Government and EBRD;
- The Project titled "Assessment of Environment Projects" financed under Phare Programme;
- The Project titled "Strengthening the Capacity of Local Authorities to Develop Environmental Infrastructure Projects" financed by DFID.

Since August 2001, with the support of Regional Infrastructure Program (RIP) financed by USAID within the framework of the South East Europe Stability Pact, the local authorities are supported to identify and prepare their priority projects in the field of rehabilitation of water supply systems, which will be submitted for financing within the SAMTID Programme. The SAPARD and RDP programmes, focused on rural area, can be linked to this project, by creating the possibility of using the water savings resulting from the rehabilitation in the small and medium towns. Moreover, the County Level Organisations can provide certain services, especially in terms of water quality monitoring, for the systems in the rural area.

### **Other programmes in the field of Employment**



- Elaboration of the Joint Assessment Paper adopted by the Romanian Government and signed at Bucharest on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2002 by the Minister of Labor and Social Solidarity, Mr. Marian Sarbu, and European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou;
- Implementation of the National Action Plan for Employment (elaborated under twinning Phare project RO9908) approved by G.D. no.759/2002;
- "NAPE implementation and monitoring" TA project, under Romanian-German bilateral agreement (MoLSS from Romania and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development from F.R. of Germany);
- Employment and Social Protection Project (World Bank loan 3849RO, 1996 – 2003) – components "Labor Redeployment Program" and "Active Measures to fight against unemployment";
- "Valea Jiului" Program;
- "70" Program for the 70 localities with the highest unemployment rate;
- The Phare Program RO 02/IB/SPP/02 – "Support for MoLSS to strengthen the administration capacity for implementation European Social Fund - type activities";

#### **Other Donors' Support:**

##### ***World Bank Labour Redeployment Programme –2001-2006***

The programme, launched in 2001, is managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social solidarity together with National Agency for Employment and is co-financed by the World Bank with a loan of 20 million USD. It is specially targeted to workers displaced from enterprises meeting eligibility criteria specified in Ordinance 9/1997.. The programme supports pre and post lay-offs measures, for instance: rapid response and planning services, job counselling and job search and placement, business incubators, community services, vocational training, small business consulting, local economic promotion and studies, etc

##### ***Social Development Fund***

The project aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and to community-driven development through:

- a) improving the livelihood of project beneficiaries in poor rural communities and disadvantaged groups; and
- b) increasing the local level organizational and self-help capacity.

It will support small scale local infrastructure, community-based social services, income generating activities and development of employment opportunities. It is estimated that 1,200 local projects, developed in partnership and co-financed by local contributions, will be supported and around 600,000 persons will benefit. The Social Development Fund is co-financed by the World Bank with a loan of 20 million USD, with matching Romanian Government funds totaling 5 million USD. The project is under preparatory phase.

The **World Bank Programme** - "Employment and Social Protection Project" (Total budget 95.2 M\$) aimed at reforming the social insurance and assistance system so as to target assistance to the most vulnerable to poverty.

Employment and Social Protection Project (World Bank loan 3849RO, 1996 – 2003) – components "National Training Board" and "Regional Vocational Training Centres";

##### ***Micro credit schemes financed by the World Bank, USAID, Soros Foundation, Swiss Cooperation***

### ***SME Credit Schemes financed by bilateral and multilateral institutions***

The **DFID funded Local and Regional Partnership Development (LRPD) Project** is complementing the activities of the PAAs in two NUTS II regions (North-East and South Muntania) by further detailing and making operational the partnership structures whilst also deepening their inclusiveness by making the links with municipalities, towns and communes.

The lack of consultation and inclusion in the development planning process and a truly regional focus and prioritisation based on need has been recognised as an issue at all levels of public administration within the Republic of Romania. It has also been highlighted as an issue within the feedback received from DG Enlargement on the current National Plan<sup>1</sup>. The LRPD Project will seek to assist in linking needs to priority actions at all levels of administration.

It is the focus of this project to create better planning of local and regional development and better management of services provided by local authorities. Through partnership working and improvements to local government the most disadvantaged groups and areas can have their needs both identified and addressed within the activities of development and service provision.

The purpose of the LRPD Project is defined as:

To demonstrate how public bodies and other actors in the poorer communities of the North-east region of Romania can effectively work together to stimulate economic and social development, reduce poverty and social exclusion through an inclusive regional development process [to be verified by and increase in participation in the planning process at local, county and regional level].

One of the intended project results of direct relevance to the Project is:

Regional planning processes that reflect region-wide economic and social interests [to be verified by future regional, judet and municipal/commune plans being constructed through partnership and consensus; plans including locally agreed priority actions]

And a key project activity for the achievement of this result will be:

6. Support the county and local authorities to effectively engage with the NUTS II level planning process [to be verified by documented participation of authorities in planning process; and a future RDP that is an inclusive document].

**The technical assistance insured by the Austrian-Romanian Co-operation Programme “Institutional Strengthening of the NASMEC”7691-00/99** is concentrating mainly on training and coaching activities based primarily on Austrian good practice experience, elaboration of the SMEs Report for 2001 and promotion materials such as the Young Entrepreneurs Guide.

### **Environmental (waste management) infrastructure**

On its way to accession, Romania is undertaking the necessary measures in order to ensure the observation of the political and economic criteria, and to assume its capacity of membership, especially in ensuring the full transposition and implementation of the *acquis*.

In order to fulfil the obligations arising from the *acquis*, over the past years the MoWEP received Phare assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> DG Enlargement I&C Unit December 2001

Since 1991, the European Union and other donors have assisted and supported in the development of the environmental sector in Romania.

#### Phare

**Under Phare 1998 Programme “Strengthening the Institutional and Administrative Capacity to Manage Environmental Policy in Romania in conformity with the Acquis Communautaire”** was developed a twinning in the waste sector which foreseen: transposition of the Acquis into Romanian law (Directives 75/442/EEC amended by 96/350/EC, 75/439/EEC, 91/689/EEC, 91/157/EEC, Regulation 259/93, 94/67/EC, 96/59/EC, 99/31/EC), approaches on waste policy, waste management strategy and action programme, Romanian data base on waste, economic and financial aspects and training sessions.

**Under Phare 2000 Programme “Implementation of the Environmental Acquis”**, a twinning component is unfolding, which foresees to develop an environmental strategy with particular reference to financial mechanism. This project has, as objectives, the transposition and implementation programme for the 9 selected heavy directives, cost assessment for the 9 implementation programmes, developing of economic instruments. The Directives in the field of waste which the twinning refers at, are: 75/442 – waste framework and 94/62 – packaging waste.

Under the same Programme, is ongoing the project **“Technical Assistance for strengthening the local Environmental Protection Inspectorates (LEPIs) and developing Regional Environmental Protection Inspectorates (REPIs)”** which has the following objectives: strengthen the institutional capacity of the LEPIs, establishing REPIs, ensure better communication and co-operation between LEPIs, the newly created REPIs and their target groups and non-target groups for the implementation of the local and regional environmental plans.

**Under Phare 2001 Programme “Assistance for the implementation of environmental policies in Romania”** is under development the project “Twinning to further assist Romania in the transposition and implementation of legislation on Waste Management” which constitutes a follow up of the activities developed under the **Phare 1998 twinning on “waste management”**. The guaranteed results of this twinning are:

- elaboration of one regional waste management plan;
- assistance in the elaboration of the other 7 regional waste management plans;
- updating the National Waste Management Plan and the Waste Chapter of the National Environmental Action Plan;
- transposition of the Internal Transport requirements of the Waste Shipment Regulation and approved Governmental Decision;
- elaboration of documentation, assistance and training for the implementation of the Landfill and Incineration Directives.

As well, under the same Programme is foreseen to be developed a separate sub-project for the implementation of the whole programme which has as objectives: to improve the institutional capacity of the MoWEP to manage the environmental projects in accordance with the EU requirements and to enhance the staff capabilities of the MoWEP regarding Project Cycle Management, Procurement procedures, Contract management, Contract supervision, Bankable projects preparation, through training sessions.

As well, related to the activities of other donors, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was elaborated **“The study on Master Plan for Hazardous Waste Management in Romania”** starting in February 2002.

### ISPA

At the moment, two ISPA projects are ongoing - in Piatra Neamt and Ramnicu Valcea towns, respectively „**Piatra Neamt Waste Management programme in Romania**” and „**Integrated municipal waste management system in Ramnicu Valcea**”.

The main objective of these projects is to ensure compliance with EU regulations and standards regarding the collection, sorting, transport, treatment, disposal and storage of waste. As well, it is foreseen to reduce the amount of waste through recycling and composting and to reduce waste related health problems for sanitation workers as well as the general population.

### Energy sector – Phare 2003

The Ministry of Public Administration ask for assistance through **two Project Preparation Facility** :

1. Support to the Ministry of Public Administration to revue the district heating strategy

The main objectives of this assistance is to define the current state of affairs in the district heating sector, to gather information on best practices in the relevant Member States, central and eastern European countries and to provide recommendations for a revised strategy in this field.

2. Support to the Ministry of Public Administration for assessment and modernisation of the Combine Heat Power Plants transferred to local authorities.