

PROJECT FICHE BG9904.04.03

1.	Title:	PREPARATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
2.	Location:	Bulgaria's Southern Border Region
3.	Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote cooperation between the Greek and Bulgarian common Border Regions, and thus to help these border regions to overcome the specific development problems stemming from their relative isolation in the national economy, in the interest of the local population • to encourage the creation and development of cooperation networks on either side of the borders, and the establishment of links between these networks and wider EU networks; • to indicate the specific interventions that have to be done in this region in order to achieve an overall Regional Development.
4.	Description:	<p>The Bulgarian Government attaches great importance to the improvement of the co-operation between border regions of Bulgaria and Greece. Phare CBC between Greece and Bulgaria is recognized as an instrument to overcome specific regional development problems and to develop the joint potential of the regions on both sides of the border.</p> <p>The Southern Bulgaria is a region with specific development problems resulting from its mountainous geography, from the poor existing infrastructure and from the relative high level of unemployment. The above mentioned problems were results of the absence of a development strategy.</p> <p>The development of this region is part of the Government's strategy for achieving closer ties with the EU. Bulgaria and Greece have signed several bilateral treaties to underline and intensify bilateral relations.</p> <p>In geographical and administrative terms the border regions of Bulgaria have been defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 municipalities situated in the immediate proximity of the border (360 000 inhabitants); • 23 municipalities situated in the immediate back areas, inseparable from a geographical and socio-economic point of view, sharing similar problems and local development potential and common structure and communication networks (800 000 inhabitants). <p>Three sub-regions are delimited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pirin with Struma and Mesta zones; • Rhodopes (Central and Eastern); • Maritsa <p>The performance of the proposing Regional Development Plans will identify priorities in the area of major infrastructure as transport, telecommunication, and utilities and also in the area of the so called "Soft Measures" in order to promote the socio-economic revitalization of the region.</p> <p>The specific objectives of these studies will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve transport infrastructure and communication networks; • to improve utilities, especially for water-supply and purification; • to reduce and prevent pollution and waste disposal; • to assist economic development and co operation, the promotion of tourism and farming development; • to enhance agricultural development by crop diversification and quality improvement; • to develop the human resources and hereby reduce unemployment and enhance productivity.

		The studies included in this proposal should be in relevance and comply with the common priorities which will be established during Technical Meetings between Greek and Bulgarian experts.						
5.	Institutional framework:	na						
6.	Budget (M€)	Phare 1999						
		Invest.	Institut. Building	Total Phare 99 (=I+IB)	Recipient	IFI	Other Sources	TOTAL
	Preparation of Regional Development Projects (Studies)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
	TOTAL:	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
7.	Implementation Arrangements: Implementing Authority: CFCU role: Non-standard procedures:	<p>The Project shall be managed under the Decentralized Implementation System (DIS). The Implementing Agency (IA) is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW).</p> <p>The National Center for Regional Development within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) will be responsible towards the CBC IA for the operational management of the project: preparation of terms reference, of tender documents, of evaluation criteria, of evaluation of offers, of contracts, of invoices for payment.</p> <p>The Center will report monthly to the CBC IA (with direct copies to the EC Delegation) with monthly disbursement and commitment schedules and with sufficient detail to allow assessment of progress made and remaining work to be accomplished.</p> <p>The Center will liaise directly with the EC Delegation for all issues related to the operational management of the project.</p> <p>A project team shall be established within the Department and shall be adequately staffed with 2 qualified full-time experts. Appropriate technical assistance to the project team is to be ensured, financed by the Programme.</p> <p>For the best implementation of the project a Steering Committee will be established that will include representatives of governmental and local Institutions.</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p>						
8.	Implementation schedule: <u>Start of tendering:</u> Period of Prequalification: Period of Tendering: <u>Start of project activity:</u> Completion:	<p>July 1999- December 1999</p> <p>January 2000- June 2000</p> <p>July 2000</p> <p>June 2002</p>						
9.	Environment: Date Initial Screening completed: Report for Environmental Impact: Yes/No.	<p>Na</p> <p>No</p>						

	In case of existence from which source it can be obtained: Major Environmental Effects:	
10.	Rates of Return: Financial % : Economic internal rate of return % :	Not applicable Not applicable
11.	Investment Criteria:	<p><u>Catalytic Effect:</u> Bulgaria and Greece according to their geographical position share common river basins. The preparation of such Regional Development Projects with major importance for both countries is extremely important to promote cross border cooperation for both countries.</p> <p><u>Additionality:</u> For the preparation of such Regional Development Projects concerning the Southern Bulgaria only PHARE funding is being sought or utilized. No other funding agencies are contributing to the Project.</p> <p><u>Sustainability:</u> The Southern Bulgaria is a region with specific development problems resulting from its mountainous geography, from the poor existing infrastructure and from the relative high level of unemployment. The development of this region is part of the Government's strategy for achieving closer ties with the EU. Bulgaria and Greece have signed several bilateral treaties to underline and intensify bilateral relations.</p> <p><u>Competition:</u> It is confirmed that all aspects of the above mentioned studies is open to competitive tender within the European Union and PHARE recipient countries, and all PHARE procedures regarding competition and transparency are fully complied with.</p>
12.	Conditionality and Sequencing:	

ANNEXES

ANNEX I	LOG-FRAME
ANNEX II	DETAILED COST BREAKDOWN
ANNEX III	IMPLEMENTATION CHART
ANNEX IV	CONTRACT AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE
ANNEX V	MINUTES OF TECHNICAL MEETINGS

			Date of Drafting	15.2.1999
			Planning Period	Jan 2000 - Dec 2002
Project Number	BG9904.04.03	PREPARATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS		
Wider Objectives		Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumption and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote economic and social cohesion in the CBC region to promote co-operation with the CEEC regions bordering the European Union, and thus to help these border regions to overcome specific development problems stemming from their relative isolation in the national economy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased GDP regional share increased Greek and foreign investment in the region 	Governmental and international statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic growth in other sectors Bulgarian Government continues its current commitment to reform and to accession to the European Union
Immediate Objectives		Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumption and Risks
Development of Regional Development Plans for the Southern Bulgaria in order to alleviate some of the Regional Development problems		Complete Regional Plans	Government Local authorities	Adequate financing Adequate trained staff for implementation
Results/Outputs		Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumption and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of priorities in the area of major infrastructure as transport, telecommunication, and utilities. Identification of priorities in the area of the so called "Soft Measures" in order to promote the socio-economic revitalization of the region. 		List of priority actions. per region	Government Reports Regional Inspectorate Monitoring Reports Technical Assistance Reports Project Managers Reports	Financial and technical feasibility of projects Staff availability and turnover Co-funding availability
Inputs		Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumption and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phare financing project team in the National Center for Regional Development local authorities participation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ME contracted and disbursed team adequately staffed with 2 qualified full-time experts resources allocated by local authorities 	Reports from MRDPW, Center for Regional Development, Delegation and Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuity of staff and policy in the Center for Regional Development and in local authorities enabling implementation of the project without delay capable Consultants

**ANNEX II
DETAILED COST BREAKDOWN**

in M€	Phare 1999						
	Invest.	Institut. Building	Total Phare 99 (=I+IB)	Recipient	IFI	Other Sources	TOTAL
Preparation of Regional Development Projects	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL:							

ANNEX III

IMPLEMENTATION CHART

[illegible]

COMMITMENT AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

COMMITMENT SCHEDULE

	Total M€	2000				2001				2002			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Regional Development Plans	1		1										
Total	1		1										
Cum. Total	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

	Total M€	2000				2001				2002			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Regional Development Plans	1			0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1		
Total	1			0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1		
Cum. Total		0	0	0,1	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,8	0,9	1	1	1

ANNEX V

CONCLUSIONS OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE JOINT GROUP FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND BULGARIA:

- **SOFIA, FEBRUARY 1999**