

**Cross border co-operation between Bulgaria and Greece
2006 Project Fiche on Integrated Grant Scheme for a sustainable
development through protection and preservation of waters and
biodiversity across the border between Bulgaria and Greece (Priority 3)**

1. Basic Information

CRIS Number: BG 2006/018-387.03.01

Title: Integrated Grant Scheme for a sustainable development through protection and preservation of waters and biodiversity across the border between Bulgaria and Greece

Sector: Regional Development / CBC
Environment

Location: Bulgaria - Greece Border Region

Duration: 18 Months
Contracting deadline: 30/11/2008
Execution of contract deadline: 30/11/2009

Phare funding: € 3,0 million

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective

Promote wise use of natural resources in the cross-border region and ensure sustainable development

2.2 Project purpose:

- Strengthen co-operation between Bulgaria and Greece in the fields of biological and landscape diversity protection, through the establishment of three cross-border eco-networks
- Preserve biodiversity in the Bulgarian/Greek border region and enhance water protection level

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

With reference to the Accession Partnership, this project aims to support an integrated approach for addressing regional disparities in the border region. By strengthening and development of joint initiatives across the border, the project stimulates real cross-border co-operation in the regions.

The project falls to a different extent within the following NPAA priorities in Chapter 22 Environment, sector 22.5 Nature Protection:

22.5.1. Adoption and implementation of the acquis in the field of conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, as well as conservation of wild birds for the Bulgarian side;
 22.5.1.4. Implementation of priority actions from Protected Areas Management Plans, including wetlands for the Bulgarian side;
 22.5.1.9. Development and adoption of Protected Areas Management Plans;
 22.5.1.17. Implementation of measures incorporated in the Protected Areas Management Plans.
 22.6.1- Integrated water management

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The project will contribute for the achievement of the following objectives goals identified in the NDP

- Attainment of balanced and sustainable development of Bulgaria's regions;
- Establishment of appropriate environment for economic growth and high employment on the basis of a more efficient use of the regions' development potential;
- Strengthening the socio-economic cohesion of the regions in the process of the country's European integration.
- Integrating the principles of sustainable development into the production landscape and the evolving market economy.
- Nature conservation: conservation and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species, and landscape characteristics.
- Sewerage: Improving local environments through the improvement of agricultural waste and wastewater.

Also, the Project is in compliance with the following projects developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MAF):

- "Programme for development of Alternative Agriculture in the Rodopi Mountain"; The programme aims at sustainable development of the Rodopi Mountain region by recovering the traditional agriculture and developing of alternative agriculture.
- "Sustainable Rural Development" – a joint project (MAF and UNDP. The project enhances the development of rural areas by promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and tourism and by fostering participatory strategic planning and environmentally friendly job creation.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project will be implemented in the cross-border region between Bulgaria and Greece and has direct cross-border impact. By providing a basis for the planning of methods to achieve the objectives project will improve small technical infrastructure, water management and wastewater treatment, sustainable development and protection of biodiversity. In this framework, the Grant scheme aims at implementing concrete projects in the field of water treatment and management, prevention of floods, usage of ecological approach in business, tourism, and innovations.

The objectives of the project have a strong cross-border impact. Through the Bulgarian-Greek border region there are common rivers and catchments areas. Flooding - especially in the last

year caused serious problems. Also, it is a common interest to provide appropriate wastewater management and treatment to prevent these natural resources from pollution.

The project includes also biodiversity conservation in the border region, habitat and landscape protection, strengthening of eco and rural tourism, environmental agriculture and farming, management and awareness campaign with regard to natural resources.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

Under the EU Sustainable Development Strategy launched by EU leaders in Gothenburg in 2001, halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2010 as a priority.

Bulgaria has demonstrated its interest in, and commitment to, the conservation of biodiversity and natural areas through signing of international agreements, adopting national regulations and the designation of a large number of protected areas. Despite these efforts Bulgaria has experienced difficulties in implementing policies and strategies to achieve effective biodiversity conservation.

The Bulgarian Protected Areas Act classifies 6 different types protected areas - strict nature reserve, national park, natural monument, managed nature reserve, Natural Park, protected site.

The cross border region is extremely rich to nature landmarks. Its importance for the whole environment and biodiversity not only for Bulgaria but for Balkans as well is significant.

Two out of Bulgaria's three national parks are situated in the South-western part of the trans border region - National Parks Pirin and Rila, as well as Nature Park Rila Monastery. These three parks are characterized by their rich landscape and magnificent forms of relief, a large number of high-land lakes, as well as a rich variety of vegetation and animal species that include some endemics and/or protected species. There are also eleven Natural Reserves located in the that region which have preserved century-old woods and rare vegetation and animal species: Julen, Baiovy Dupky – Jinjiritza, Parangalitza, Rila Monastery Woods, Oreljak, Tisata, Sokolata, Kongura, Alibotush, Konsky Dol and Temnata Gora.

Another important from environmental point of view place is Rodopi Mountain that has an abundance of natural recourses which need sustainable use and genuine care to preserve uniqueness of the region. Natural meadows and pasture-grounds cover more than 58% of the farming land in the Rodopi mountain area. This is a great natural recourse of green fodder and precondition for successful animal husbandry. During the transitional period those recourses are neglected and former pastures are transformed into desolate and shrubby areas. At the time being only 10 % of meadows and pasture-grounds are used for farming. Cattle's breeding is a age-old tradition in the region. The Experimental Station in the town of Smolyan has a long experience in development of Rodopi cattle breed. This breed is extremely well adapted to the local climatic conditions and it is well placed to be used in the development of "green" farming.

The significance of preservation of biodiversity and water through sustainable development is a priority of all interested parties – state administration, local authorities, and civil communities. Besides the legislative role of the relevant ministries the local administration has very important place in the process of nature protection.

Local authorities are responsible for land-use planning but there is still lack of capacity and qualified staff for incorporating biodiversity/nature conservation into their policies. On the other side the Regional Inspectorates for Environmental and Water (divisions of MoEW) have legal responsibility for environmental monitoring and nature conservation. Another

important player in the process are local NGOs, which include professionalized groups and experts. Together with local, regional, and central ministries and agencies, NGOs have also often organised or participated effectively in projects in the interest of biodiversity conservation. Their role is crucial for the achievement of sustainable development defending the society's interest.

There is an abundance of natural water ponds and reservoirs. The majority of ponds have deteriorated significantly and are no longer operational. They are a lifeline for water supply for many areas in the region. The reservoirs also support an important fish breeding and tourism outlet. Agricultural waste (all types) is not managed and no services exist for collection and disposal of agricultural waste. On the whole, there are no systems and methods for recycling and re application of green waste.

Surface water quality in the region is affected by wastewater discharges. In many settlements there is no sewerage and treatment system which has an impact on surface water quality and in some cases on ground water.

The use of small-scale wastewater treatment utilities is an economic and environmentally sound solution. This is the necessary and adequate condition for small settlements to develop cost-efficient sewage treatment programs instead of applying the expensive urban solutions.

The current project aims to upgrade and further develop the 2005 project providing sustainability of the foreseen activities. The Grant scheme is in two windows:

The first window includes measures addressing environmental agriculture and farming, forestry, species and habitats conservation, and promotion of “green and cultural” tourism. Activities in this window follow recommendations of the Programme for development of alternative (green) agriculture, mentioned above.

The second window contains small-scale infrastructure activities aiming at construction of wastewater treatment facilities and measures for flood prevention and rehabilitation.

This Grant Scheme is elaborated with the representatives from the regions on the basis of the national and regional strategies and survey of the potential project ideas. This is a guarantee for successful implementation of the proposed scheme. The possibility for mirror/joint projects was confirmed in the bilateral Bulgarian/Greek working group.

3.2 Sector rationale

N/A

3.3 Results

The following results are expected:

- small-scale infrastructures related to agriculture, farming and tourism developed/rehabilitated;
- technologies of organic aquaculture and farming adopted and number of farms ready for “green” production;
- “green” practices aimed at nature-friendly organic farming, green agriculture, and fruit-culture, preservation of gene fond of livestock, etc. - implemented;

- a number of water wells/springs/ponds and their surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas rehabilitated;
- initiatives focussed on development of rural tourism, traditional customs and cultural heritage preservation (archaeological, craftsmanship ethnographic and folklore activities), and habitat restoration implemented;
- a number of small-scale hydraulic structures and activities combating flood phenomena and rivers' banks erosion developed/rehabilitated/strengthened/implemented;
- measures for waste water treatment applied.

3.4 Activities

Activities under this project are separated into two windows as follows:

Window 1 – Environment friendly agriculture, tourism and bio-diversity preservation:

Elaboration and implementation of small investment measures aimed at:

- development of sustainable nature-friendly organic farming, agriculture and fruit-culture, including cultivation and production of herbs, nuts (walnuts), medical plants, aromatic species, vegetables, honey products, animal products, mushroom-growing, wild berries, tree-nursery, preservation of gene fond of local livestock breeds, etc;
- preparation/reconstruction of farms for adoption (or conversion to) of technologies of organic aquaculture, farming and stock breeding, creation of by-farms pasture-grounds;
- improvement/rehabilitation of water wells/springs/ponds and surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas, archaeological, ethnographic and folklore spots;
- remove the technical barriers through improvement of infrastructure for agriculture/organic waste disposal, herbicides disposal, anaerobic digestion and biogas production, pasture management, agricultural waste water treatment, etc.
- encouragement/revitalisation of traditional craftsmanship, traditional customs and cultural heritage, rural tourism development and habitat restoration ;
- development/improvement/rehabilitation of small-scale tourist infrastructures.

Window 2 – Water protection:

This window will contain small infrastructure measures implemented in the rivers basins, and will be aimed at:

- actions for combating riverbanks erosion;
- flood prevention and protection actionsto reduce or eliminate flood phenomena and/or consequences;
- actions for small-scale waste water treatment;
- reconstruction of water supply and sewerage systems as a part of treatment measures.

Eligibility and selection criteria

The following eligibility and selection criteria will be incorporated in the Guidelines for applicants:

Eligibility criteria, eligibility of area, applicants and partners

Eligible regions:

The Grant scheme is applicable for the following cross-border districts in Bulgaria: Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Kardjali and Haskovo.

Eligibility of applicants and partners

Window 1

- Municipalities in the cross-border region,
- Non-profit organisations operating in the field of biodiversity, sustainable development and tourism
- Cultural, research/academic, and educational institutions;
- Associations of the above organisations, within the border region

Window 2

- Municipalities in the cross-border region.
- Associations, NGOs, other non-profit organisations within the border region.

Projects for construction of water treatment facilities should be addressed only in villages with less than 2000 citizens. One project proposal could include more than one village.

The applicants must be registered or have branches in the eligible border region.

The District Governors offices are not eligible for the present project.

The project partners have to fulfil the same eligibility criteria as project applicants.

Eligibility of projects

Size of projects:

The grant for a single application to be contracted is within **€ 50 000 - 250 000**. Phare contribution cannot exceed 75% of the grant.

The total budget of the Grant scheme is **4.000 MEUR**, divided indicatively to Window 1 – 2.000 MEUR and Window 2 – 2.000 MEUR.

Applicants may submit project proposals under Window1 and Window 2, but can not receive grants under both of them in the frame of the Call for proposals.

Duration of the project:

The maximum project duration under this Grant Scheme is **18 months** with an ending date of at least one month before the expiry date of the Financing Memorandum. The same project proposal must not receive more than one EC-funded grant.

Activities covered under the Grant Scheme have to be in line with the national legislation and the EU requirements. Project readiness has to be justified by providing all the relevant documentation as feasibility studies, detailed design, Bill of Quantities, cost-benefit analyses, environmental impact assessment, necessary permits etc.

The above given list of activities will be further specified within the Guidelines for Applicants.

Co-financing:

The necessary minimum 25 % co-financing of the *total grant amount* will be provided from the Bulgarian national budget.

Detailed eligibility criteria for participation in the grant scheme and activities will be given within the Guidelines for Applicants.

3.5 Linked Activities

- Phare project BG 2004 CBC BG/GR - Promotion of nature protection actions and sustainable development across the border
- Phare project BG 2005 CBC BG/GR - Sustainable development through protection and preservation of waters and biodiversity across the border;
- Phare project BG 2005/017-684.01 “Post-Flood Rehabilitation and Relief Scheme”;
- Phare project BG 2005/017-453.01.01 “Capacity Improvement for Flood Forecasting in the BG-TR CBC Region”.
- Phare project 2005/017-684.02 “Support to Sustainable Crisis Management at Central and local Level”
- Phare project 2005/017-453.01.02 “Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area”.
- GEF/UNDP Rhodopes Project (Project for the Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Landscape of Bulgaria’s Rhodopes Mountain), starting 2004 (ongoing)
- Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Program, (i) Burgas Wetlands Project – Building local capacities for the management of the complex of wetlands. Development of Management plan for Atanasovsko lake Managed Reserve; (ii) Dobrudja Wetlands Project – Building local capacities for the management of the complex of wetlands. Development of Management plan for Durankulak lake Protected Site; (iii) East Rhodopes Project – Conservation of biological diversity through a complex of protected areas, designation of East Rhodopes Nature Park, supporting the biodiversity conservation, the effective management of the protected territories and the sustainable use of natural resources; (iv) Pirin National Park Management Plan; (v) Strandja Nature Park Management Plan
- Biodiversity Conservation and Economy Development Project (USAID, 1992) (i) Development of National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (the first in Europe); (ii) Preparation and realization of the management plans for the Rila and Central Balkan National Parks, and Rila Monastery Nature Park; (iii) Development of National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan; (iv) Preparation and realization of management plan for the Rila Monastery Nature Park; (v) Establishment of Protected Areas Fund.
- GEF/World Bank-financed Bulgaria Forest Development Project, to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, started 2003 (ongoing)
- National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan for Bulgaria (NETSAP)
- Management Planning of Five Protected Areas in Rhodopi Mountains Region, Bulgaria (MoEW, 2003-2004 ongoing) – *Momchilowski dol, Shabaniza, Soskovcheto, Kasanite and Kastraklii*
- Restoration of Persina and Kalimok-Brushlen Marshes (ended March 2001); Preliminary studies were carried out on the biodiversity status, socio-economic conditions, land use and management etc. in and around the wetland areas.
- Ministry of Environment and Water, financed through a GEF/World Bank grant: Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project: Project Development Phase (end March 2002).
- The GEF/World Bank grant was obtained by the Ministry of Environment for preparation of technical design for wetlands restoration; social and environmental impact assessment; as well as for the preparation of TOR for Protected Areas Management Planning according to the Protected Areas Law of Bulgaria (1998)
- Ministry of Environment and Water, financed through a GEF/World Bank grant: Wetlands Restoration and Pollution Reduction Project: Project Implementation Phase.
- DANCEE/Ministry of Environment and Water: Conservation of Species and Habitats in Bulgaria: EU Approximation.

3.6 Lessons learned

The previous experience of both countries under various programmes could provide enough evidence for the achieved up to now. Experience obtained from ongoing projects mentioned above, namely: project **BG 2005/017-453.01.01**, project **2005/017-453.01.02**, project **2005/017-684.02**, project **2005/017-684.01**, and mostly those with 2005 grant schemes implementation, will be applied as much as possible. For the time being implementation of those projects is not started yet. Crisis Management Plans and other policy documents related to flood prevention that are expected to be developed under the Phare project **2005/017-684.02 “Support to Sustainable Crisis Management at Central and local Level”** will reflect direct experience in the field of flood prevention and will be used in the present project.

4. Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works will be acting as a **Contracting Authority** with the overall responsibility for the programme implementation, administrative, technical and financial management of the grant scheme.

The **Steering Committee** of the Grant Scheme will be composed of representatives from the following institutions:

- The Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works will manage this project.
- Ministry of Environment and Water
- East Aegean Basin Directorate – Plovdiv;
- West Aegean Basin Directorate – Blagoevgrad;
- National Forestry Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- The Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents.
- District Governors’ administrations.
- EC Delegation as observer.

Beneficiaries for the project are:

- Local authorities and communities;
- Local cultural centres, research and educational institutions;
- Non-profit organisations in the border region.

5. Detailed Budget

	Phare support	Co-financing			Total Cost
€M		National Public Funds (*)	Other Sources	Total Co-financing of Project	
Investment support					
<i>Window 1 (**)</i>	1.500	0.500		0.500	2.000
Grant scheme					

<i>Window2(**)</i> Grant scheme	1.500	0.500		0.500	2.000
Investment support - total	3.000	1.000		1.000	4.000
% of total public funds	75 %	25 %			

Total project 2006	3.000	1.000		1.000	4.000
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(*)Minimum 25 % co-financing of the total eligible project cost is provided from the Bulgarian national budget through the Ministry of Finance;

(**)Within the overall budget of the GS the budget given for the each of the two windows is indicative. The concrete amount for each window will be defined after project selection takes place.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The Implementing Agency will be the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, through its Directorate IA Programme Phare (Cross Border Co-operation Department), which will retain overall responsibility for the implementation of the programme, including: approval of tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation of invoices. The Payments Directorate within the same ministry will make the payments of invoices.

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
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6.2. Twinning

N / A

6.3. Non-standard aspects

There are no non-standard contracts or tender procedures envisaged within this project. The PRAG "Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions" valid as from 01/02/2006 will apply until Bulgaria becomes a member state of the European Union. After accession, the national procurement legislation will be in force.

6.4. Contracts

Grant scheme procedure - contracts with applicants will be signed for a total amount of the grant scheme up to 4.000 MEUR

7. Implementation Schedule

	<i>Starting dates</i>
7.1. Launching the Call for proposals	08.2007

7.2. Start of project activity	02.2008
7.3. Project completion	07.2009

8. **Equal Opportunity**

The project will stimulate the process building the partnership between the national, regional and local partners in terms of responsibilities taken, decision making and priorities setting and will be in no way discriminatory in terms of gender, life-style, religion or politics. Equal opportunity principles in relation to participation in the project will be guaranteed.

9. **Environment**

The project activities are entirely oriented to preservation and sustainable use of the environmental resources.

10. **Rates of return**

N / A

11. **Investment criteria (applicable to all investments)**

11.1. Catalytic effect

Stimulating green farming practices, Phare support will be conducive to prevention of environmental degradation, natural resources exhaustion and flood prevention in the eligible areas, particularly after severe flooding in 2005. In particular, the following catalytic effects are foreseen:

- Improvement of nature status and flood prevention efficiency in the region;
- Inflow of know-how through project co-operations;
- Increased level of “green” agricultural production;
- Strengthening cross-border links between institutions dealing with river management;
- Creation of job opportunities and improving social welfare.

The implementation of projects will stimulate and create a positive business environment for further cooperation.

11.2. Co-financing

The National co-financing amounting to minimum 25% of the total eligible project costs will be provided by the Bulgarian National Budget through the National Fund Directorate at the Ministry of Finance.

11.3. Additionality

The grants awarded under this scheme will not displace any other financial sources. Supported investments and programmes will not displace private financial sources, as they do not generate financial profit.

11.4. Project readiness and size

The grant amount awarded to eligible projects will be between **€50 000 – 250 000**.

11.5. Sustainability

Long-term sustainability will be one of the selection criteria for projects. Only organizations being able to prove the sustainability of results achieved will be supported.

11.6. Compliance with state aids provisions

12. Conditionality and sequencing

N/A.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Log-frame in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule

ANNEX 1: LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX

LOGFRAME MATRIX FOR PROJECT: Integrated Grant Scheme for sustainable development through protection and preservation of waters and biodiversity across the border between Bulgaria and Greece		Project name and number 2006/018-387.03.01	PHARE – CBC BG-GR.....
		Contracting period expires: 30/11/2008	Execution of contract period expires: 30/11/2009
		Total budget: 4.0 MEUR	Phare budget: 3.0 MEUR
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To strengthen the cross-border co-operation between Bulgaria and Greece by promoting wise use of natural resources and ensuring sustainable development in the cross-border region	Biodiversity and water resources protection and preservation provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and national statistics, protocols, and annual reports. Statistics and other documents from organisations responsible for civil protection and disasters prevention. 	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen co-operation between Bulgaria and Greece in the fields of biological and landscape diversity protection, through the establishment of three cross-border eco-networks Preserve biodiversity in the Bulgarian/Greek border region and enhance water protection level 	Increase (10 %) of the formal/informal contacts, forums, cooperation agreements and structures in the cross-border area between environmental organisations and local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics and other documents from the Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents (or from commissions/working groups etc., established especially for civil protection); Statistics and other documents from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (or other relevant organisations) featuring the level of development of rural/protected areas; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good response from the local communities for development of projects. Possible co-operation with other institutions concerned with environmental protection, agricultural farming and flood prevention.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small-scale infrastructures related to agriculture, farming and tourism developed/ rehabilitated; technologies of organic aquaculture and farming adopted and number of farms ready for “green” production; “green” practices aimed at nature-friendly organic farming, green agriculture, and fruit-culture, preservation of gene fond of livestock, etc. - implemented; a number of water wells/springs/ponds and their surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas rehabilitated; initiatives focussed on development of rural tourism, traditional customs and cultural heritage preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 12 projects implemented Minimum 2 small hydraulic projects combating flood phenomena (reinforcement of rivers’ cross sections, area rehabilitation, banks’ erosion protection, flood prevention, etc.) implemented Minimum 2 small-scale infrastructure projects related to tourism, agriculture, farming, fishery, environment protection, cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents/certificates of acceptance and supervision of relevant infrastructure works; Reports on monitoring and implementation of Grant Scheme on monthly basis; Regional and national statistics, protocols, statistics and other documents from organisations responsible for civil protection and disasters prevention. 	Relevant stakeholders (municipalities, NGOs, etc.) from the cross-border areas to be involved in the process of implementation of the project.

(archaeological, craftsmanship ethnographic and folklore activities), and habitat restoration implemented; • a number of small-scale hydraulic structures and activities combating flood phenomena and rivers' banks erosion developed/rehabilitated/strengthened/implemented; • measures for waste water treatment applied.	heritage protection implemented. • Minimum 2 partnerships forms developed and implemented; • "Green" farming/agriculture practices adopted by a number of farms and "green" production started.	• Additional reports/documents – audits, supervision, evaluation, etc., from authorised organisations, especially established commissions and working groups for civil protection, disaster prevention, cultural preservation, monitoring of rural development, etc. • Reports/documents from NGOs, chamber of commerce, associations; • Relevant articles in newspapers, spots on TV, etc.	
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<u>Window 1 – Environment friendly agriculture, tourism and bio-diversity preservation in the border mountain area:</u> Elaboration and implementation of small investment measures aimed at: • development of sustainable nature-friendly organic farming, agriculture and fruit-culture, including cultivation and production of herbs, nuts (walnuts), medical plants, aromatic species, vegetables, honey products, animal products, mushroom-growing, wild berries, tree-nursery, preservation of gene fond of local livestock breeds, etc; • preparation/reconstruction of farms for adoption (or conversion to) of technologies of organic aquaculture, farming and stock breeding, creation of by-farms pasture-grounds; • improvement/rehabilitation of water wells/springs/ponds and surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas, archaeological, ethnographic and folklore spots; • remove the technical barriers through improvement of infrastructure for agriculture/organic waste disposal, herbicides disposal, anaerobic digestion and biogas production, pasture management, agricultural waste water treatment, etc. • encouragement/revitalisation of traditional craftsmanship, traditional customs and cultural heritage, rural tourism development and habitat restoration ;	<u>Several Grant Contracts with a total amount of 4.000 MEUR</u>	• Evaluation report • Information in media	• Co-ordination between the activities of the respective authorities in the implementation of the planned activities; • The methodology to assure the sustainability of the project results to be described and provided by the applicants of the Grant scheme

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development/improvement/rehabilitation of small-scale tourist infrastructures. <p><u>Window 2 – Water protection:</u></p> <p>This window will contain small infrastructure measures implemented in the Maritsa and Tundja rivers basins, and will be aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • actions for combating riverbanks erosion; • flood prevention and protection actions to reduce or eliminate flood phenomena and/or consequences; • actions for small-scale waste water treatment; • reconstruction of water supply and sewerage systems as a part of treatment measures 			
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ANNEX 2: Detailed implementation chart

Project title: Integrated Grant Scheme for sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Greece																																													
Contracting		2006						2007										2008										2009																	
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
	Grant Scheme															T	T	T	T	T	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I						

T = Tender preparation/design; C = Contracting; I = Implementation/works

ANNEX 3: Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

Project title: Integrated Grant Scheme for sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Greece															
Contracting	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (provisional)														Total
	2006		2007				2008				2009				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
PHARE contribution															
Window 1 Grant scheme							1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500		1.500
Window 2 Grant scheme							1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500		1.500
Total PHARE							3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000		3.000
National contribution															
Window 1 Grant scheme							0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500		0.500
Window 2 Grant scheme							0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500		0.500
Total National co-financing							1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000		1.000
Total Grant Scheme							4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000		4.000
Total contracting:							4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000		4.000

Disbursement	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (provisional)														Total
	2006		2007				2008				2009				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
PHARE contribution															
Window 1 Grant scheme							1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.500		1.500
Window 2 Grant scheme							1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.500		1.500
Total PHARE							2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	3.000		3.000
National contribution															
Window 1 Grant scheme							0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.500		0.500
Window 2 Grant scheme							0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.500		0.500
Total National co-financing							0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	1.000		1.000
Total Grant Scheme							3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	4.000		4.000
Total disbursement:							3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	3.200	4.000		4.000

