

**Cross border co-operation between Bulgaria and Turkey
2006 Project Fiche on Protection, Improvement and Management of the
Environment (Priority 2)**

1. Basic Information

CRIS Number: BG 2006/018-385.01.02

Title: Integrated Grant Scheme for a sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Turkey

Sector: Regional Development / CBC
Environment

Location: Bulgaria - Turkey Border Region

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

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective

To strengthen the cross-border co-operation between Bulgaria and Turkey by protection, management and sustainable development of the environment in the border area.

2.2 Project purpose

To co-ordinate efforts and to carry out joint activities in the Border region to prevent environmental degradation and nature exhaustion through adoption and implementation of green farming practices, sustainable use of the environmental resources, and prevention of flood phenomena.

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 contributes to development and sustainable use of natural resources, including creation of conditions for long-term sustainability. The project falls to a different extent within the chapter 22 of NPAA priority, namely:

Chapter 22: Environment, and in particular:

22.5 sector 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;
- 22.5.1.11. Expanding the Protected Areas network to include habitats of Directive 92/43/EEC for the Bulgarian side;
- 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 Bulgarian Government has planned to actively support and complement the EU initiatives and programmes for cross-border cooperation, while seeking to incorporate the latter into the national framework for regional development planning and programming. The NDP aims at achieving sustainable development of the entire border region rather than of some individual border areas. The main goal pursued under the above mentioned priority area refers to opening up new horizons, fostering the socio-economic development of the border areas and gradually overcoming the problems resulting from their isolated position at the country's periphery.

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 Agriculture and Rural Development Programme for Strandja-Sakar (ARDPSS) developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MAF) with the financial and methodological support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The ARDPSS outlines short-to-medium term actions for the integrated agriculture and rural development in Strandja area over the period 2005 – 2013. The scope of activities, envisaged in the ARDPSS, is coordinated with the EU Rural Development axes and measures, as defined in the new Proposal for Council Regulation on support of rural development for the period 2007-2013.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project will be implemented in the cross-border region between Bulgaria and Turkey and has direct and strong cross-border impact. It is in compliance with Priority 2 of the JPD, namely Measure 2.1, "Integrated management and protection of waters" and Measure 2.2: "Protection and Sustainable Development of Natural Resources and Biodiversity". 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. Through the Bulgarian-Turkish border region there are common rivers and catchments areas. Flooding - especially in 2005 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:

The project contains a Grant Scheme, divided into three windows. The first two windows should be compliant and be a continuation of the 2005 Grant Scheme activities in the Strandja mountains, namely at environmental agriculture and farming, forestry, species and habitats conservation, and promotion of “green and cultural” tourism. Activities under the first two windows follow recommendations of the Programme for Strandja-Sakar (ARDPSS, mentioned above), and comply with priorities to be defined in the Sustainable Development Plan to be elaborated under the 2005 Phare Project **2005/017-453.01.02 “Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area”**. Activities under the third window are targeted at flood prevention and defense. They complement the Grant Scheme within 2005 project **BG 2005/453.01.01 “Capacity Improvement for Flood Forecasting in the BG-TR CBC Region”**.

Strandja Mountain falls into the Euxin botanic-geographic province laying in Europe only to the seaside of Bulgaria and Turkey. Strandja Nature Park is situated in the south-east part of Bulgaria and it is the largest protected area in the country. The particular situation of Strandja Mountain on the approach of Europe to Asia makes it unique in regard to the European biodiversity. Combination of marine and mountains climate is also a precondition for the uniqueness of the area, for biological abundance and biodiversity. In compliance with the Protected Areas Act and with the financial support of the Swiss Development Agency, the Management Plan for the Strandja Nature Park has been developed.

The region contains a number of sites of tourist’s importance, such as archaeological and natural monuments. It is the only spot where an indigenous tradition, the fire dancing, is preserved in its ancient form. A major yearly event, unique for Europe, the fire dancing ceremony in village Bulgary is taking place in June in the honour of Saints Konstantin and Helena. Tourist promotion and development in the region require infrastructure development, but in close compliance with the purposes of conservation and nature recreation.

According to ARDPSS, Strandja Mountain is a repository area for a variety of medical herbs, aromatic species, mushroom, wild berries, etc. The Strandja area has significant potential for expanding this production due to the favourable climatic, soil and water conditions. Conditions also favour nut growing and production, although nut production in the region is still very low. This branch of “green” agriculture can be developed and has a potential to stimulate significant economic benefit for local population.

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.

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.

The key distinctive features of the region are the low level of urbanization and the lack of industrial, administrative and cultural settlements in its interior. According to Ordinance 14 of 14 April 2003 of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, all municipalities in Strandja-Sakar have been classified as rural areas. The natural and cultural resources of Strandja Mountain are of key importance to the economic growth and the quality of life of people living in the border area. Conversely, the destruction or degradation of these resources has high costs to human health and private sector productivity. A significant challenge for the management of rich biodiversity areas is the harmonization of stakeholder interests and management goals into a coherent, comprehensive management plans, integrating nature conservation objectives with sustainable local socio-economic development, social affordability, and tangible benefits for the local people.

The Maritsa/Meriç River is the biggest river on the Balkan peninsular with a catchment area more than 53 000 km², 21 084 of which are on the Bulgarian territory. The river's length on the Bulgarian territory is 321 km. The territory of Maritsa basin is quite densely populated (more than 2 million people on the Bulgarian territory), highly industrialized and with intensive agriculture. The biggest towns are Plovdiv on the Bulgarian territory, with 650000 citizens, and the town of Edirne on the Turkish territory, with 402 606 citizens. The basin area at the upper course of the river has predominantly high-mountain character while the character in the middle and lower river course is plain. The Maritsa River has more than 100 tributaries which are symmetrically situated on both sides of the main stream. The biggest tributaries are Tundja/Tunca and Arda Rivers. While Arda River does not belong to the Bulgarian-Turkish border area, the Tundja River crosses the border region and marks the border between the two countries for about 9 km.

Tundja River catchment area is about 7884 km² and length on the Bulgarian territory is 350 km. Three nature parks are situated along the river. In addition, the River Basin comprises a range of ecologically valuable, but also vulnerable ecosystems and important habitat areas, including wetland habitats (such as nature reserves with riparian flood dense forests). Both Arda and Tundja Rivers join the main stream of Maritsa river on Turkish territory, south of the Bulgarian – Turkish border near the town of Edirne.

The climatic and geographical characteristics of Maritsa and Tundja River Basins lead to specific run-off conditions: flash floods, high inter-annual variability, heavy soil erosion reducing the reservoirs' capacities through sedimentation, etc. Despite of the significant number of reservoirs and cascades having total capacity for Maritsa and Tundja about 2.2 10⁶ m³, their retention possibilities are not sufficient to reduce the floods downstream.

Flood hazards cause damages in the border area having often devastating consequences. There is a permanent danger of new and larger floods that would provoke swamping of the region and will misbalance the existing ecosystem of the border region, and mainly within nature parks. In 2005 a Phare project **BG 2005/453.01.01 “Capacity Improvement for Flood Forecasting in the BG-TR CBC Region”** was designed to facilitate establishment and improvement of flood forecasting capacities and development of an early warning system. Also, in order to mitigate flood devastating consequences during the 2005, projects

- BG2005/017-684.01 “**Post-Flood Rehabilitation and Relief Scheme**” and
- 2005/017-684.02 “**Support to Sustainable Crisis Management at Central and local Level**”

were developed under the National Phare Programme part III. Further actions aimed at flood prevention are thought to be of great importance in order to deal with this phenomenon.

3.2 Sector rationale

N/A

3.3 Results

The following results are expected:

- small-scale infrastructures related to tourism/agriculture/farming developed/rehabilitated and activities aimed at nature-friendly organic farming, green agriculture, fishery and fruit-culture implemented;
- technologies of organic aquaculture and farming adopted and number of farms ready for “green” production;
- a number of water wells/springs/ponds and 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;
- rivers’ cross sections reinforced and ready for operational monitoring;
- a number of hydraulic structures and activities combating flood phenomena and rivers’ banks erosion developed/rehabilitated/strengthened/implemented;

Note: Results related to the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area should be in conformity with the *Sustainable Development Plan* to be developed under the 2005 Phare Project **2005/017-453.01.02 “Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area”**.

3.4 Activities

Activities actually are a further development and extension of activities of the GSs from 2005 BG_TR CBC projects. They will be implemented under three windows as follows:

Window1: *Sustainable nature-friendly actions*

Elaboration and implementation of small investment measures aimed at:

- development of sustainable nature-friendly organic farming, fishery, agriculture and fruit-culture, including cultivation and production of herbs, nuts, medical plants, aromatic species, vegetables, honey products, animal products, mushroom-growing, wild berries, tree-nursery, etc;
- preparation/reconstruction of farms for adoption (or conversion to) of technologies of organic aquaculture, farming and stock breeding;
- 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.

Window 2: Valorisation of the rural tourism potential

- encouragement/revitalisation of traditional craftsmanship, traditional customs and cultural heritage, rural tourism development and habitat restoration;
- development/improvement/rehabilitation of small-scale tourist infrastructures.

Note: Activities under Windows 1&2 should be compliant with the *Sustainable Development Plan* to be developed under the 2005 Phare Project **2005/017-453.01.02 “Promotion of sustainable development in the Strandja/Yıldız Mountain area”**.

Window 3: Flood protection

This Window will contain small-scale infrastructure measures implemented in the river basins, and will be aimed at:

- combating rivers’ banks erosion: cleaning of rivers beds, relief works, renewal/rehabilitation of water control and water redirection structures such as: protective walls, embankments, dikes, piers, etc;
- flood prevention measures: creating small scale retention volumes, weirs and other hydraulic structures to reduce or eliminate flood phenomena and consequences;
- reinforcement of river cross-sections for the purposes of water monitoring;

Note: Activities under Window 3 should be in line with the legislation and supplement the activities and further development of flood related projects. In particular, activities at local - CBC level under Window 3 should be coherent with activities at national level. Crisis Management Plans, Policy Documents, Floods maps, Data and other outputs related to crisis prevention and flood rehabilitation measures should be used/incorporated into the process of implementation of the present project.

Within the overall budget of the grant scheme, the budget for the each of the three windows will depend on the real number and quality of project proposals submitted. The concrete amount for each window will be defined after project selection takes place.

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: Burgas, Haskovo, and Yambol in Bulgaria.

Eligibility of applicants and partners

Potential applicants are:

- Local authorities;
- Local communities, cultural centers, environmental NGOs and non-profit organizations;

- Cultural, research/academic, and educational institutions;
- Associations within the border region;

The applicants (or their branches) must be registered in the eligible border region.
The offices of the District Governors 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 - 150 000**. Phare contribution cannot exceed 75% of the grant of the eligible project costs.

Duration of the project:

The maximum project duration under this Grant Scheme is **18 months**.

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*. In the process of preparation of *Guidelines for Applicants*, *Notes* under item **3.3 Results** and item **3.4 Activities – Grant Scheme (Windows 1&2)** should be taken into consideration.

The Grant Scheme will be implemented through call for proposals, following the “Practical Guide to contract procedures” which applies to all procedures started as from the 1/02/2006.

3.5 Linked Activities

Phare project **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”.**

Phare project **BG 2006/**** Capacity Improvement for Flood Forecasting of Maritsa / Evros river basin in the BG-GR CBC Region**

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 river/water/flood related projects, and mostly those concerning southern Bulgarian borders (BG_TR and BG_GR), 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. MRDPW as a co-ordinator for CBC programme is obliged to monitor physical and financial implementation of this project including Phare and co-financing payments, and prepare regular monitoring reports.

The MRDPW will ensure necessary human resources for the technical management of the Grant Scheme and may delegate specific tasks to a **Secretariat** to be established for the Grant Scheme implementation in accordance with PRAG rules ("Practical guide to contract procedures for EC external actions" valid as from the 01/02/2006). This Secretariat will be established following a mutual Bulgarian-Turkish agreement reached after relevant negotiations.

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.
- National Nature Protection Service, Ministry of Environment and Water.
- National Forestry Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- The Ministry of State Policy for Disasters and Accidents.
- District Governors' administrations.
- EC Delegation as observer.
- Local municipalities and NGOs.

Beneficiaries of the GS are:

- Local authorities and local communities.
- Local cultural centres, research and educational institutions, and associations within cross-border region.

Indirect beneficiaries include different institutions and stakeholders in Bulgaria and Turkey involved in the process of sharing river data and information, responsible for flood prevention, park management.

Special activities within an information and promotion campaign for the potential beneficiaries of this Grant Scheme will be carried out by MRDPW.

5. Detailed Budget

	Phare support	Co-financing			Total Cost
€M		National Public Funds (*)	Other Sources	Total Co-financing of Project	
Investment support					

Grant scheme (**)	1.200	0.400		0.400	1.600
Investment support - total	1.200	0.400		0.400	1.600
% of total public funds	75 %	25 %			

Total project 2006	1.200	0.400		0.400	1.600
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(*)Minimum 25 % co-financing of the total project cost is provided from the Bulgarian national budget through the Ministry of Finance;

(**)Within the overall budget of the GS, the budget for the each of the three windows will depend on the real number and quality of project proposals submitted. The concrete amount for each window will be defined after project selection takes place.

6. Implementation Arrangements

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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Twinning

N / A

Non-standard aspects

There are no non-standard contracts or tender procedures envisaged within this project.

Contracts

Grant scheme	Several grant contracts with total amount of 1.600 MEUR (including 1.200 EU support and 0.400 national co-financing)
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7. Implementation Schedule

<i>Starting dates</i>	<i>Grant</i>
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	<i>scheme</i>
7.1. Start of call for proposals	09.2007
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 projects will be co-financed by the Bulgarian National Budget through the National Fund Directorate in the Ministry of Finance who will provide a minimum of 25% of the total eligible project costs. The PHARE contribution will finance up to 75% of the total eligible costs of the projects.

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 – 150 000**.

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

The project complies with the state aids provisions.

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The CBC IA within MRDPW will ensure that the necessary human resources for the implementation and technical management are available to implement the project in accordance with the **“Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions”** valid as from 1/02/2006.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

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

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT: Integrated Grant Scheme for a sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Turkey		Project name and number 2006/018-385.01.02	PHARE – CBC BG-TR
		Contracting period expires: 30/11/2008	Execution of contracts period expires: 30/11/2009
		Total budget: 1.6 MEUR	Phare budget: 1.2 MEUR
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To strengthen the cross-border co-operation between Bulgaria and Turkey by protection, management and sustainable development of the environment in the border area	Established working partnership between Bulgarian and Turkish authorities responsible for: - flood prevention and control; - management of protected areas; - relevant tourist/farmers/agricultural associations;	<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. A number of flood protection projects implemented.	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To prevent environmental degradation and nature exhaustion through adoption and implementation of green farming practices, sustainable use of the environmental resources, and prevention of flood phenomena.	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 tourism/agriculture/ farming developed/ rehabilitated and activities aimed at nature-friendly organic farming, green agriculture, fishery and fruit-culture implemented; technologies of organic aquaculture and farming adopted and number of farms ready for “green” production; a number of water wells/springs/ponds and surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas rehabilitated; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 10 projects implemented Minimum 5 small hydraulic projects combating flood phenomena (reinforcement of rivers’ cross sections, area rehabilitation, banks’ erosion protection, flood prevention, etc.) implemented Minimum 3 small-scale infrastructure 	<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 	Relevant stakeholders (municipalities, NGOs, etc.) from the cross-border areas to be involved in the process of implementation of the project.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiatives focussed on development of rural tourism, traditional customs and cultural heritage preservation (archaeological, craftsmanship ethnographic and folklore activities) implemented; rivers' cross sections reinforced and ready for operational monitoring; a number of hydraulic structures and activities combating flood phenomena and rivers' banks erosion developed/rehabilitated/strengthened/implemented; 	<p>projects related to tourism, agriculture, farming, fishery, environment protection, cultural heritage protection implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 2 partnerships forms developed and implemented; "Green" farming/agriculture practices adopted by a number of farms (more than 2) and "green" production started. 	<p>documents from organisations responsible for civil protection and disasters prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p><i>Window 1 – Sustainable nature-friendly actions</i> Elaboration and implementation of small investment measures aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of sustainable nature-friendly organic farming, agriculture and fruit-culture, including cultivation and production of herbs, nuts, medical plants, aromatic species, vegetables, honey products, animal products, mushroom-growing, wild berries, tree-nursery, fishery and aquaculture, etc; preparation/reconstruction of farms for adoption (or conversion to) of technologies of organic aquaculture, farming and stock breeding; improvement/rehabilitation of water wells/springs/ponds and surrounding areas, soil eroded and wet areas, archaeological, ethnographic and folklore spots, biological revitalization of old mines; improvement of infrastructure for agriculture/organic waste disposal, herbicides disposal, anaerobic digestion and biogas production, pasture management, agricultural waste water treatment, etc. <p><u><i>Window 2: Valorisation of the rural tourism potential</i></u></p>	<p><u>Several Grant Contracts with a total amount of 1.600 MEUR</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation report Information in media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> • encouragement/revitalisation of traditional craftsmanship, traditional customs and cultural heritage, rural tourism development; • development/improvement/rehabilitation of small-scale tourist infrastructures: eco-tourist walk tracks, shelters and summer camping sites. <p><u>Window 3 Flood 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"> • combating rivers' banks erosion: cleaning of rivers beds, relief works, renewal/rehabilitation of water control and water redirection structures such as: protective walls, embankments, dikes, piers, etc; • flood prevention measures: creating small scale retention volumes, weirs and other hydraulic structures to reduce or eliminate flood phenomena and consequences; • reinforcement of river cross-sections for the purposes of water monitoring; 			
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ANNEX 2: Detailed implementation chart

Project title: Integrated Grant Scheme for a sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Turkey																																														
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/C	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 a sustainable development in the border region between Bulgaria and Turkey															
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															
Grant scheme							1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200		1.200
Total PHARE							1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200		1.200
National contribution															
Grant scheme							0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400		0.400
Total National co-financing							0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400		0.400
Total Grant Scheme							1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600		1.600
Total contracting:							1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600		1.600

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															
Grant scheme							0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	1.200		1.200
Total PHARE							0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	1.200		1.200
National contribution															
Grant scheme - National co-financing							0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.400		0.400
Total National co-financing							0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.400		0.400
Total Grant Scheme							1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.600		1.600
Total disbursement:							1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.280	1.600		1.600

