

## **STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE**

**Project Number : RO9804.04**

**Title:** Strengthen the Institutional and Administrative Capacity to Manage Environmental Policy in Romania in conformity with the *Acquis Communautaire*

**Sub-programme** : strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity to manage the *acquis*

**Geographical location** : Bucharest and a limited number of counties (judets)

### **Objectives**

The broad objective for this project is institutional development necessary for the transposition and implementation of the harmonised environmental legislation.

The specific objective is to help ensure that the institutional structures are sufficient to develop, manage and administer an EC *acquis* on environment policy. It will address changes and strengthening at all of the relevant levels of Romanian environmental activity:

- The Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection (MWFEP): need to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry for the development of environment policy in a market economy context, and to ensure adequate management of the policy and effective administrative support for the monitoring, enforcement and reporting of EC conformant environment policy. There is also a need for greater interministerial communication on environmental matters with a view to integrating environmental policies into other areas of Government policy. The relationship with the Ministry of Industries and the SOF in removing environmentally related obstacles to the industrial privatisation process and with the Ministry of Public Works, the Council for Reform and the Municipal authorities in refining the policy to develop investment in environmentally related services such as water, waste water and waste disposal are presented as examples.
- At the local level there is a need for an improved capacity for implementing the policies, through improved operation of appropriate structures, improved project preparation and improved relations with the stakeholders. There is a need for rationalisation of the structures at regional and local level and for improving the capacity of these institutions to support integrated pollution control.
- The Public and NGO sector need support to generate greater awareness of environmental issues and greater capacity to address the issues (e.g. in public participation in environmental impact assessment).

These reflect the key institutional building and needs assessment as noted in Annex A attached to this Fiche.

### **Description**

Strengthen the Institutional and Administrative Capacity to Manage an Environmental Policy in Romania conformant with the *Acquis Communautaire*. This involves three main parts:

#### ***I. Strengthen central government capacity***

- a) *Institutional Strengthening of MWFEP*: TA and/or long term secondees for MWFEP in policy development and management, administration, legal drafting, use of economic instruments, investment and finance, environmental management and administration, environmental technologies, ecology, and project preparation.
- b) *Support for Inter-Ministerial Environment Committee*: for EU and non-public sector Romanian experts to contribute to cross-ministerial progress in implementing the environmental *acquis communautaire* and in integrating environment policy in other areas of national policy.
- c) *TA on laboratory services*: also with regional and local implications this action will include a review of the access of the monitoring and enforcing authorities to adequate laboratory measurement services of accredited quality and

will identify a programme of support for improvements to ensure that the regime will, on a clearly defined timescale, meet the standards required to implement the EC acquis.

## **II. Support regional and local capacity to implement the Acquis**

- a) **Review the structure of the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) and the capacity of local and regional bodies to support the implementation of the EC acquis.** The action will examine the operations, effectiveness and costs of the existing regional and local structures of EPAs and Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) in ensuring the implementation of the environment policy;
- b) The project will support training of selected EPAs to improve capacity in key areas such as integrated permitting (c.f. World Bank and USAID projects);
- c) **Development of regional and local capacity for implementation of the acquis through LEAPs:** Development of four LEAPs as a basis for environmental accession planning - two new LEAPs, and further development of two already existing LEAPs.
- d) **Support capacity for environmental auditing:** Enable, through training, and recommend and, if possible, support any other necessary measures to ensure that there is available an adequate resource of services, with the capacity to carry out environmental audits to EC standards, especially in relation to privatisation and develop the relationship with the SOF in identifying and managing the process related to environmental liabilities.

## **III. Training, Awareness and Dissemination.**

- a) **Support for environmental awareness and education:** This includes dissemination of EC environmental standards, LEAP results, support for implementation of EIA directive, etc. (c.f. World Bank project).

## **Institutional framework**

The project will address the needs of the institutions active in environmental matters in Romania - from the Ministry of Forests, Water and Environmental Protection (MWFEP), other Ministries (e.g. Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Industry and Commerce for industry's role; Ministry of Agriculture regarding farming practices,), to the local Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs), the regional water bodies (Apele Romane), laboratory facilities, the State Ownership Fund (for privatisation), other municipal authorities, NGOs and the public. It will examine the mission and the functioning of these bodies and the operation of the relations between them with a view to identifying any necessary restructuring or capacity building requirements to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the environmental policy.

## **Budget**

The total proposed budget for the project is 3 MECU, all of which will be Institution Building. 0.5 MECU of this will go to twinning, and 2.5 MECU to consultant contract (though the latter contract can be used to access further Ministry experts from Twinned Ministries). Amounts are in MECU.

|  | Investment | Institution Building | Total Phare (I + B) |
|--|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| I. Strengthen central government capacity  | 0.0        | 1.4                  | 1.4                 |
| II. Support regional and local capacity    | 0.0        | 1.0                  | 1.0                 |
| III. Training, Awareness and dissemination | 0.0        | 0.6                  | 0.6                 |
| Total                                      | 0.0        | 3.0                  | 3.0                 |

## Implementation Arrangements

The Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) will be the Implementing Agency having thus the responsibility for tendering, contracting, payments and administrative matters. There will be one overall contract co-ordinator on the side of the MWFEP which will be the Implementing Authority. Day-to-day local counterparts will be allocated to each project element to ensure the effective and efficient local contribution. The contract will identify the responsibilities of the contractor of which a part will be implemented through the twinning arrangement, and part through the consultant contract probably to a consortium.

## Implementation Schedule

*Tendering:* tendering would take place in July 1998

*Start of project activity:* Overall project activity is planned to start in the last quarter of 1998, with elements staggered to reflect the needs, as noted in the table.

*Completion:* All projects are expected to be completed by the end of the last quarter of 2000.

|                          | Q4 '98 | Q1 '99 | Q2 '99 | Q3 '99 | Q4 '99 | Q1 '00 | Q2 '00 | Q3 '00 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Overall Planned - 3 MECU | 0.3    | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.4    | 0.3    | 0.3    | 0.2    |
| Overall Actual - MECU    | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |

## Equal opportunity

Gender breakdown of trainees and consultants employed will be recorded to ensure measurement of equal participation in project by women and men.

## Conditionality and sequencing

A number of broad conditionalities have been included in the programme; they are:

1. The engagement of the programme is conditional on structural change in the Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection by 1 September 1998, clarifying responsibilities inside the Ministry for developing and managing environment policy, for legislative development and for enforcement and setting out clear and managed programmes, deadlines and measures of performance for each unit to achieve its role in accommodating the EC acquis. This will include a reasoned consideration of the DISAE prepared organisation plan.
2. The support for the Economic Policy Unit is conditional on the appointment of a unit leader with acceptable profile, position and stature within Ministry and with access to adequate human resources to develop a market oriented environment policy. The person and their unit should have a clearly identified role and responsibilities and reporting structure within MWFEP, including responsibility for the absorption and effective use of the Phare support and clear and transparent links to other national resources and to support from other donor agencies. A programme of work identifying goals, timescales and measurements of performance will be available by 1 September 1998 .
3. Clear and written agreement on the responsibilities of each member of the national counterpart team for absorption of the Phare 1998 Environment Programme demonstrating the contribution of this activity to the development of institutional capacity in the sector.
4. Financial and project monitoring to ensure transparency and accountability of use of funds. This would include a commitment to a calendar of progress review meetings on a 6-monthly basis focused on improving the capacity to develop and manage national environment policy under the new market conditions.

5. After one year a special review will be dedicated to preparing a plan to be approved by the Minister for consideration by the Government, based on the programme, of the necessary changes required in the sector structures essential to facilitate absorption of the EC acquis in Environment.

In addition, a number of project element specific conditionalities are presented in the project element descriptions in Annex A.