Standard Project Fiche

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 CRIS Number (Year 1): BG 2005/017-353.08.08
- 1.2 Title: "Further improvement of the public procurement system in Bulgaria"
- 1.3 Sector: Public Finances
- 1.4 Location: Sofia, Bulgaria
- 1.5 Duration: 24 months

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

Continued progress of improvement of the public procurement (PP) system in Bulgaria and its efficient implementation in compliance with the Acquis.

2.2 Project purpose:

Further development of the overall public procurement system (incl. PPA) in order to ensure competence and effectiveness in the implementation of PP legislation in compliance with EU requirements.

2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority (and implementing measures envisaged by the Action Plan for AP priorities related to strengthening administrative and judicial capacity)

Bulgaria's Accession Partnership contains the following priorities:

- to make further efforts to align legislation and to ensure its effective enforcement as regards public procurement;

- to establish a State agency on public procurement;

- to identify the constitutional changes required to transpose remedies system provisions;

- to amend the Law on public procurement, including the removal of the national preference, to ensure full compatibility with the *acquis*.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan (and/or Structural Funds Development Plan/SDP)

Not applicable

2.5 Cross Border Impact

Not applicable

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

The Public Procurement Agency (PPA) is a newly founded structure within the Ministry of Economy. The establishment of an independent administrative structure (Public Procurement

Agency) is introduced in the Public Procurement Law in compliance with the commitments undertaken in the accession negotiations, as well as with the Road Map and Accession Partnership priorities. According to the Public Procurement Law the Ministry of Economy will bear the responsibility for policy-making in the field of public procurement. The mission of the PPA is to assist the Minister of Economy in implementing the national policy in the field of public procurement and to assure effective PP System in Bulgaria. The Agency shall issue opinions on draft legislation and international agreements in the field of public procurement. Some of the main activities of the Agency are: issue methodological instructions on application of the Law and the secondary legislation; publishes manuals and guidelines on public procurement; notify the competent authorities for performing checks on the implementation of the Law; file appeals with the Court against decision of the contracting authorities which violate the provisions of Article 25, Para 4; file appeals with the Court for declaring null and void public procurement contracts which violate the Law, etc. In order to assure publicity and transparency in the field of public procurement the Agency keeps and maintains Public Procurement Register. The Register was designed and developed with the financial support of USAID. An Action plan in two phases for its improvement was elaborated within the Twinning Light Project (TWLP), performed in 2004. The first phase of the Action plan is expected to be implemented under the TWLP and the second phase under the current project.

The activity, structure, operational rules and number of staff of the PPA are governed by Rules of Procedure adopted by the Council of Ministers (SG No 24/23.03.2004; SG No97/02.11.2004). The PPA is managed and represented by an Executive Director appointed by the Minister of Economy. In exercising his/her powers the Executive Director of the Agency has the right to request from the contracting authorities the needed information and to summarise the implementation practice concerning the PP Law. In order to implement successfully its functions in the field of PP it is necessary the new recruited staff to be trained in accordance with the requirements of the new legislative package.

The Public Procurement Law was adopted by the Parliament on 23.03.2004 (SG No 28/06.04.2004). The Law is in compliance with Directives 92/50/EEC, 93/36/EEC, 93/37/EEC, 93/38/EEC. It aims to set up a mechanism for enhancing publicity and transparency, fair competition and equal treatment of all participants when awarding public procurement contracts, both on central and local levels.

For the effective enforcement of the law a relevant secondary legislation was adopted:

The Council of Ministers adopted the Ordinance on the award of special public contracts (in the field of defence and security) on 19.08.2004 (SG No 80/14.09.2004). The Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Court of Arbitration was adopted (Council of Ministers' Decree No 259/24.09.2004). The Rules on the Application of the Public Procurement Law and the Ordinance on the award of small public contracts was adopted (SG No 84/27.09.2004). With Order No RD-16-566/26.08.2004 the Minister of Economy approved the Procurement Nomenclature which transposes the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) established by Regulation 2195/2002.

The standard forms of notices established by Directive 2001/78/EC were adopted (SG, No 84/27.09.2004) as well the CPV Classifier (81 SG, 17.09.2004)/ (82 SG, 21.09.2004)/ (83 SG, 24.09.2004).

The amended PPL as per EU Directives 2004/17 and 2004/18 is expected to come into force on February 01, 2006. The Arbitration court is expected to be functional from June 2005.

The completion of the legislative alignment and strengthening of PP system will improve the efficiency in spending budget and non-budget resources and resources related to the

performance of certain activities with public significance and will create preconditions for ensuring publicity and transparency, free and fair competition, equal opportunities for all candidates in this process. Developing an information system in compliance with EU practice; establishing an operational help-desk, as well as properly organized and well staffed Agency, are also important preconditions for improvement of the PP system in Bulgaria.

Following the recommendations of the EC 2004 Regular Report and the Road Map for Bulgaria, the PPA, as the organization responsible to assure effective PP system in Bulgaria, will further strengthen its administrative capacity. PPA organisational structure is presented in the Organisational Chart (Annex 6).

The Commission's Regular Report 2004 on Bulgaria's progress refers to chapter 1 "Free movement of goods" toward accession commented that:

"In the field of public procurement, an important step was taken with the entry into force of the new law and the establishment of the Public Procurement Agency under the Ministry of Economy. Many provisions are now aligned with the Directives on public procurement, but several shortcomings remain and will have to be addressed, notably concerning scope, coverage, some definitions, rules on participation and the rules on the award procedures themselves. In parallel with this effort, transposition of the 2004 acquis should now start in order to complete alignment in this sector. An ordinance on the award of special public contracts (in the field of defence and security) has been adopted as well as the procurement nomenclature. Compatibility of these texts with the acquis remains to be confirmed. Efforts should be devoted to strengthening the administrative capacity of the Agency and to improving the qualifications of its staff, so as to be able to apply the national procurement legislation effectively.

In the field of public procurement, Bulgaria's efforts need to focus on completing the legislative alignment and on developing the administrative capacity of the newly established authority."

3.2 Sectoral rationale

Not applicable

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Project 1

3.3.1.1 Purpose

Further development of the overall public procurement system (incl. PPA) in order to ensure competence and effectiveness in the implementation of PP legislation in compliance with EU requirements

3.3.1.2 Results:

The project is divided into six components, of which the expected results are as follows:

Component 1: Further improvement and adaptation of the PP legislation following the EU requirements

• Criteria for analysis' elaboration of EU PP market presented and the PPA staff trained for analysis' elaboration of the PP market in Bulgaria in compliance with EU good practices;

• The amended PPL and the PP secondary legislation in relation to the implementation of the EU Directives (2004/17 and 2004/18) analyzed and assessed and further improvement of the legal texts, if found necessary;

• The EU practice in contracting framework agreements in utility sector analyzed;

• The public procurement practice of the relevant institutions and courts to the Arbitration court within the PPA introduced and the best practices of the EU review procedures report presented;

• Elaboration of general report over the court practice in Bulgaria and EU and Arbitration review in the field of PP, including contradictions and similarities among them;

• Elaboration of the recommendations for the PP handbook for the PPL implementation under the amended PPL and secondary legislation prepared and 2 PP guidelines elaborated;

• New standard form notices for electronic filling up and improvement of the existing standard form notices in compliance with the recommendations of EC Directives 2004/17 and 2004/18 elaborated.

Component 2: Further development of the administrative capacity of PP system

- The administrative capacity of the PPA further improved (incl. Court of Arbitration);
- The HR strategy implemented;
- Enhancement of the Help desk function;

• Proposals for assessment and improvement of the PPA institutional development strategy realized;

• Training needs analysis (TNA) for different groups, engaged in the PP process in Bulgaria (judges, auditors, PPA staff, local authorities, line ministries, etc.) updated;

• Long term training program developed on the basis of the TNA and relevant training courses for PPA staff and line ministries designed, taking into account the EDIS implementation;

• PPA staff and line ministries trained;

• Organization of an international conference for sharing experience on public procurement issues with the participation of representatives from the MS countries, CC, EC and relevant organizations;

• Organisation of a Study visit and training courses for PPA staff in order to gain knowledge in the different aspects of the public procurement system.

Component 3: Organization and implementation of public awareness campaign on central and regional level

• Strategy to promote understanding of the PP system elaborated;

• Media plan for PPA's promotion elaborated and implemented;

• Wider awareness and knowledge on public procurement procedures and system amongst potential contracting suppliers and service providers as well as the general public;

• Production of the advertising materials, brochures, DVD, etc.

Component 4: Elaboration of Action Plan for PPA Web site further development and its implementation until turning the web site into an e-portal for all the information on public procurement

• Implementation of the second phase of the Action plan for the improvement of the Register, elaborated within the Twinning Light Project and implementation of the next stage(s) of e-procurement;

• Update of the Strategy for development of the PPA web site in compliance with the new EU Directives and its implementation for turning it into the Informational Portal for public procurement;

• Development of Informational Public Procurement Portal to help the private and public sector to handle with the EU regulation for tendering and purchase;

• Multimedia PP manual developed, produced and disseminated.

Component 5: Setting up of Training Center on public procurement

• Elaboration of the requirements for the structure and resources for the Training Center;

• Training of the recruited staff for ICT system maintenance;

• Elaboration of a Training Programme and Plan on the basis of the TNA for contracting authorities, contractors, etc.;

• Training of TC staff; train-the-trainers courses;

• Promotion activities about the services offered by the Training Center including advertising materials, brochures, press conferences, etc.

Component 6: Supply of necessary hardware and software

• Technical supply and software delivery for the next stage(s) of e-procurement;

• Equipment and software delivered, installed, tested and put into operation in the Training Center on public procurement;

• Additional equipment and software delivered and installed for the development of the PP Portal;

• Training of the staff for IT maintenance.

3.4 Activities (including Means)

The six project components will include the following activities:

Component 1: Further improvement and adaptation of the PP legislation following the EU requirements

<u>Activity 1.1</u> Analysis and assessment of the amended PPL and the PP secondary legislation in relation to the results for the implementation of the EU Directives (2004/17 and 2004/18 and preparation of the legal texts for further development, if found necessary;

- Presentation of the criteria for analysis' elaboration of EU PP market and the PPA staff training for analysis' elaboration of the PP market in Bulgaria in compliance with EU good practices in the field of PP;

- Analysis of the EU practice in contracting framework agreements in utility sector;

- Introduction of the public procurement practice of the relevant institutions or courts to the Arbitration court within the PPA and presentation of the best practices of the EU review procedures report;

-Criteria for summarizing the EU court practice in the field of PP – cases' examples;

Activity 1.2 Development of guides and manuals on PP

- Recommendations for elaboration of the second edition of the PP handbook for the PPL implementation under the amended PPL and secondary legislation and 2 PP guidelines elaborated;

- Elaboration of new standard form notices for informational electronic filling up (including advisable) and improvement of the existing standard form notices in compliance with the recommendations of EC Directives 2004/17 and 2004/18.

Component 2: Further development of the administrative capacity of PP system Activity 2.1 Further development of the functional organisation of PPA as a Help desk;

Activity 2.2 Implementation of HR strategy;

<u>Activity 2.3</u> Proposals for assessment and improvement of the PPA institutional development strategy;

<u>Activity 2.4</u> Training needs analysis for different groups, engaged in the PP process in Bulgaria (judges, auditors, PPA staff, local authorities and line ministries);

<u>Activity 2.5.</u> Long term training program developed on the base of TNA and relevant training course for PPA staff and line ministries designed, taking full account of EDIS implementation; <u>Activity 2.6</u> Organization of workshops, training courses and seminars on PP issues for the PPA staff, judges, auditors, line ministries, etc. Development and delivery of specific training modules for staff of the PPA;

<u>Activity 2.7</u>. Organization of an international conference for sharing experience on public procurement issues with the participation of representatives from the MS countries, CC, EC and relevant organizations;

<u>Activity 2.8.</u> Organisation of a Study visit and training courses for PPA staff in order to gain knowledge in the different aspects of the public procurement system.

Component 3: Organization and implementation of public awareness campaign on central and regional level

<u>Activity 3.1.</u> Strategy to promote understanding of the PP system elaborated and implemented;

- Elaboration of a National Training Programme and relevant Action Plan on public procurement and elaboration and delivery of a training of trainers – scheme based on the strategy;

- Conducting training for a wide range of contracting entities and suppliers;

- Seminars and public conferences for high-level political officials, representatives of the media and private sector entities on the new public procurement system;

Activity 3.2. Media plan for PPA's promotion elaborated and implemented;

Activity 3.3. Production of the advertising materials, brochures, DVD, etc.

Component 4: Elaboration of Action Plan for PPA Web site further development and its implementation until turning the web site into an e-portal for all the information on public procurement

<u>Activity 4.1</u> Implementation of the second phase of the Action plan for the improvement of the Register, elaborated within the Twinning Light Project and implementation of the next stage(s) of e-procurement;

Activity 4.2. Further development of PP Register in accordance with the incoming

amendments in the legislation and IT development;

- Update of forms for submitting information fom the contracting authorities decisions for opening a procurement procedure in accordance with the incoming amendments in the legislation;

- Update of e-forms for submitting information for terminated or extended procedures in accordance with the incoming amendments in the legislation;

- Interaction with other stakeholders in the PP area: joint activities with the servants working for the State Gazette; joint activities with the Public Internal Financial Control Agency and the Bulgarian National Audit Office on auditing the incoming information in the PP Register;

<u>Activity 4.3.</u> Update of the Strategy for development of web site of the Agency in compliance with the new EU Directives and its implementation for turning the web site into the Information Portal for public procurement;

Activity 4.4. Development of final technical specifications;

<u>Activity 4.5.</u> Developing and production of interactive electronic manual for the contracting authorities;

Activity 4.6. Training

- Development of tailor-made training program;

- Training of the PPA staff for the efficient IT system maintenance;

<u>Activity</u> 4.7. Development of statistic reports for the procurement condition after EU membership in accordance with the EU templates.

Means: Twinning

Component 5: Setting up of Training Center on public procurement

<u>Activity 5.1.</u> Elaboration of the requirements for the structure and resources for the Training Center;

<u>Activity 5.2</u>. Elaboration of training plan on the basis of the TNA for contracting authorities, contractors, etc;

Activity 5.3. Training of the recruited staff for ICT system maintenance;

Activity 5.4. Training of TC staff; train-the-trainers courses;

<u>Activity 5.5.</u> Organization of workshops and training courses on PP issues for contracting authorities on central and regional level;

<u>Activity 5.6</u>. Dissemination activities about the services offered by the Training Center including advertising materials, brochures, press conferences, etc.

Means: Twinning

Component 6: Supply of necessary hardware and software based on the Needs assessment Report and Technical specifications developed with Sigma support

Activity 6.1. Technical supply and software delivery for the next stage(s) of e-procurement;

<u>Activity 6.2.</u> Equipment and software delivered, installed, tested and put into operation in the Training Center on public procurement;

<u>Activity 6.3.</u> Additional equipment and software delivered, installed and put into operation for the development of the PP Portal;

Activity 6.4. Training of the staff for IT maintenance.

Feasibility study and draft technical specifications for the supply of necessary hardware and software shall be developed by SIGMA.

Means: Supply contract

Profile of the RTA

The twinning team shall include a RTA who will spend approximately 24 months in Bulgaria and will work together with the Bulgarian counterpart on the proper co-ordination and implementation of the twinning activities.

The RTA will:

• be responsible for the overall supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the project,

- assist in managing the project administration,
- coordinate and supervise the assistance of the short-term experts,
- organize and coordinate the training programme,

• keep permanent contact with the National Project Leader,

• prepare the monthly and quarterly progress reports for the EC Delegation and the Bulgarian counterpart,

• provide professional support in the relevant field.

It is mandatory that the RTA:

• be an expert with a long-term professional (theoretical and practical) experience within public procurement;

- management and monitoring of public procurement;
- project management;
- advanced organisational and communication skills;
- be a profound in understanding the EU public procurement system;
- experience in the decision-making;
- be computer literate and fluent in English.

The twinning team shall be led by a Project Leader who will have overall management of the inputs of the member state(s).

The Project Leader should have:

• Good interpersonal, leadership and organisational skills,

• Sound knowledge of the administration, policies and processes in the area of public procurement,

- Experience in similar projects;
- Advanced organisational and communication skills
- Profound understanding of EU public procurement system
- Computer literate and fluent in English

The Member State Project Leader is expected to devote a minimum of 3 days per month to the project management, including one at least 3-day visit every 3 months.

Short-term experts

Areas not directly covered by the RTA will be taken over by short-term experts within the limits of the budget as stated in the present fiche. The concrete assignments will be subject to the preparation of the Twinning Contract and the recommendations of the twinning partner(s).

Short-term experts should have the relevant experience and educational background and be competent to secure the project component implementation. They must be fluent in English. Short-term experts with specific skills in the following areas are likely to be required: Legal experts, IT experts and HR experts and other experts with experience in the field of public procurement.

In case that no suitable twinning proposal is forthcoming, the project will be implemented through conventional Technical Assistance instead.

3.5. Linked Activities:

The proposed project is a continuation of the efforts of Bulgaria to develop an effective system on public procurement and PHARE support through Twinning Project BG/2000/IB/FI/03 "Support in the implementation of the public procurement system" and

Twinning Light Project BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE "Strengthening the administrative capacity of the PP Agency and improvement of the legal framework in the area of public procurement". The implementation phase of the last project is December 2004 - August 2005.

PPA had established a sound cooperation with OECD/ SIGMA. SIGMA support to PPA will be provided in the future too.

PPA is a beneficiary under the USAID project "Open Government Initiative". A new PP Register was developed in accordance to the recently adopted PP Law. The supported activities under the USAID project do not overlap or contradict with the activities under the Twinning Light Project BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE or the current Twinning Project.

3.6 Lessons learned:

Thanks to the essential assistance of PHARE and SIGMA the PPA made further progress in strengthening the administrative capacity of the Agency. An Institutional Development Plan has been elaborated with the SIGMA assistance. The PPA set up its strategic goals and priorities.

Within the Twinning Light Project BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE analysis of the legal framework in the area of public procurement is going in progress and proposals for further improvement will be elaborated. The progress with regard the analysis for further development of the PP Register and PPA web site is expected. With the considerable assistance of USAID the new Register was developed in accordance to the new PP legislation in Bulgaria.

Based on the lessons learned current project will also focus on team building and enforcement of the administrative capacity, further improvement and adaptation of the PP legislation in compliance with the new directives EC/ 2004/ 17 and EC/ 2004/ 18, further development of the Register for applying the next stage of e-procurement and web site into information portal for public procurement. All the activities foreseen in the current project will improve the efficiency, publicity and transparency in the procurement process.

4. Institutional Framework

Public Procurement Agency is structured in 3 Directorates - Financial-Economic and Administrative-Legal Directorate, Monitoring, Analysis and Methodology of Public Procurement Directorate and Electronic Database Directorate. The total number of staff is 35. The PPA is empowered to carry out the functions of an institution ensuring a centralised support for contracting authorities and economic operators (by consultations, legal advices, instructions, manuals, standard documents) during the implementation of public procurement legislation. The Public Procurement Agency is bearing the responsibilities for carrying out the coordination and implementation of the public procurement system. The project results will fit into the Institutional Building Plan.

The Agency will establish an internal organization comprising experts from all fields relevant to the project activities under the different components.

The Steering Committee (SC) will be established for the purposes of the project. It will be chaired by the BC Project Leader and will consist of representatives of PPA, line ministries, twinning partners. EC Delegation in Bulgaria will be invited to participate as an observer. The SC shall have regular sessions on a quarterly basis. The main task of the SC is to

monitor the project progress, to evaluate the compliance of the outputs with the project objectives, to recommend corrective measures and redefine if necessary the priorities and activities of the project.

For the duration of the project PPA will provide the twinning partner with administrative, communications and logistical support. Administrative assistant to the RTA will be selected and appointed.

5. Detailed Budget

	Phare/Pre -Co-financingAccession				Total Cost
€M	Instrument support	National Public Funds (*)	Other Sources (**)	Total Co- financing of Project	
Year 2005 - Investment support jointly co funded					
Component 5: Supply of necessary hardware and software	0.45	0.15		0.15	0.6
Investment support – sub-total	0,45	0,15		0,15	0,6
% of total public funds	max 75 %	min 25 %			

* The National co-financing of min 25% of the budget of the investment component will be provided from the State budget through the "National Fund" Directorate within the Ministry of Finance.

In case of <u>parallel</u> co-funding (per exception to the normal rule), see the following special condition: No parallel co-financing

Year 2005 Institution Building support			
Twinning contract	1.1		1.1
IB support	1.1		1.1

Total project 2005	1,55	0,15		1,7

(*) contributions form National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises

(**) private funds, FIs loans to private entities

The National co-financing for the Twinning services contract will be up to 10 % of the Phare support for Twinning services. It will be provided through the "National Fund" Directorate at the Ministry of Finance

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

The Implementing Agency will be the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) at the Ministry of Finance. The CFCU will be the Contracting Authority and in that capacity it will conclude the Twinning Contract and authorize related payments.

Contact details: Mr. Vladimir Valchev CFCU Director 102, Rakovski Str., 1040 Sofia, Bulgaria Tel: +359 2 9859 2772, 359 2 9859 2777 Fax: +359 2 9859 2773

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance will act as PAO of the project.

<u>Contact details:</u> Mr. Tencho Popov Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance 102, Rakovski Str., 1040 Sofia, Bulgaria Tel.: + 359 2 9859 2012 Fax: +359 2 987 3929

6.2 Twinning

The project will be delivered through twinning. The Beneficiary institution will be the PP Agency. It will be responsible for the overall management and co-ordination of the project.

Member States interested in making a twinning proposal should contact the following person:

Beneficiary contact person: Mrs. Miglena Pavlova Executive Director of Public Procurement Agency 4, Lege Str. 1000 Sofia Tel. +359 2 940 70 50 Fax: +359 2 940 70 52 e-mail: <u>m.pavlova@aop.bg</u>

6.3 Non-standard aspects

Not applicable

6.4 Contracts

Two contracts will be concluded under this project fiche:

• Twinning contract which budget will be 1,1 MEUR. It will cover the costs for MS country experts, trainings, elaboration of manuals, guides, etc.

• Comp. 6 will be implemented through a supply contract, which budget will be 0,6 MEUR.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals

The call for proposals will start in the second quarter of 2005. The supply tendering will start in the first quarter of 2006.

7.2 Start of project activity

The project activity will start in the first quarter of 2006. The supply project activity will start in the third quarter of 2006.

7.3 Project Completion

The project will be completed in the fourth quarter of 2007.

8. Equal Opportunity

Men and women will have an equal opportunity to participate in all phases of the project's implementation.

9. Environment

The implementation of the project components will not have negative environmental impact.

10. Rates of return

Not applicable

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect

The PHARE contribution will accelerate the adaptation and enforcement of Acquis in the national legislation.

11.2 Co-financing

National co-financing will cover min 25% of the total costs of the supply component and up to 10% from the PHARE budget of the Twinning component.

11.3 Additionality

No other financiers will be displaced by the PHARE intervention.

11.4 Project readiness and size

PPA started a Twinning Light Project **BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE** "Strengthening the administrative capacity of the PP Agency and improvement of the legal framework in

the area of public procurement" in 2004. An action plan for the PP Register improvement was elaborated and the First Phase of the Action Plan was implemented within the Twinning Light Project. The Second Phase of the Action plan shall be implemented under the current twinning project.

11.5 Sustainability

All supported investment actions are designed to be sustainable in the long term beyond the date of Accession. The current project aims to the completion of the second phase of the Action Plan for the improvement of PP Register.

The investment actions, concerning Component 6 will fully comply with the EU norms and standards and will be coherent with the EU policies in the field of Public procurement. The supply contract under the investment component will be timely planned and covered by the budget. It will be based on the Needs Assessment Report and Technical Specifications developed with Sigma support.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

All investments will respect the state aids provisions of the Europe Agreement.

12. Conditionality and sequencing

12.1 Conditionality

• The Bulgarian authorities will ensure sound coordination among donors, respective international organisations (SIGMA/ OECD, USAID, WB, etc.) and national institutions operating in the public finance sector;

• Successful implementation of activities under the Twinning Light Project BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE.

12.2 Sequencing

The current twinning project financed by PHARE 2004 programme is a continuation of the Twinning Light Project **BG/2002/IB/FI/04/UE** "Strengthening the administrative capacity of the PP Agency and improvement of the legal framework in the area of public procurement" The PP Register was designed and developed with the financial support of USAID. An Action plan in two phases for its improvement was elaborated within the Twinning Light Project (TWLP), performed in 2004. The first phase of the Action plan is expected to be implemented under the TWLP and the second phase is expected under the current project.

The implementation schedules of the twinning project activities and the investment component under the PHARE will be coordinated.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

- 1. Logframe in standard format
- 2. Detailed implementation chart
- 3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period)

- 4. For all projects: reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, in depth ex ante evaluations or other forms of preparatory work. For all investment projects, the executive summaries of economic and financial appraisals, environmental impact assessments, etc, should be attached (compulsory) Not applicable
- 5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
- 6. Organisational Chart of PPA

7. Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Agency, elaborated on the bases of the Institutional Development Plan, developed with the assistance of SIGMA.

LOGFRAME MATRIX

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT	PROGRAMME NAME AND NUMBER	
"Further improvement of the public procurement system in Bulgaria"	Contracting period expires 30 November 2007	Disbursement period expires 30 November 2008
	Total budget: €1.7 MEUR	Phare budget: €1.55 M

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Continued progress of improvement of the public procurement system in Bulgaria and its efficient implementation in compliance with the Acquis.	 Legislative alignment completed Improved publicity and transparency PP Portal developed Next step of e-procurement implemented Training centre established 	 Updated legislation Commission's Regular Report Annual Report of PPA PP Register data 	
Project purposes	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Further development of the overall public procurement system (incl. PPA) in order to ensure competence and effectiveness in the implementation of PP legislation in compliance with EU requirements.	 Transparent and equal conditional awarded procedures performed Training and retention of the PPA staff The number of the seminars, workshops Reports and analysis 	 Annual Report of PPA. The updated and adopted legislation (incl. secondary) Twinning quarterly Reports Long-term training program 	 Commitment on political level; Project is considered high priority for the MoE; Stable legislative framework for the application of the Acquis in the PP area; Recruitment and retention of the qualified staff; Stability of institutions.
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions

PP legislation amended and improved PPA administrative capacity further strengthened. Further improvement of the functional organisation of PPA as a Help desk Manuals, guidelines, handbook prepared and distributed Training program including the authorities outside the Agency PP Register improved and next stage(s) of e-procurement implemented Development of the web site into Information Portal on public procurement	 National legislation aligned with the EU standards Guides elaborated Number of PPA staff and representatives of relevant institutions trained Manuals and guides elaborated PP Handbook updated Training Center opened PP Register well functioning 	 Twinning Quarterly Reports Progress reports Evaluation forms from the participants in the seminars and courses Documents of the delivery, installation of software and hardware Training centre set up and in use The information available on the PP Portal 	
Activities	Means		Assumptions
	 At least 7 legislative acts analysed; 1 PP Handbook developed and 2 PP guidelines elaborated; Report on criteria for analysis' elaboration of the EU PP market realized; 1 seminar organized; At least 10 experts from PPA staff trained; Report on the analysis and assessment of the amended PPL and the PP secondary legislation in relation with the achievement of the results for implementation of the EU Directives (2004/17 and 2004/18); 1 seminar organized under the above mentioned report; At least 10 experts from PPA staff trained and 10 from other relevant institutions; 1 workshop on the EU practice in contracting framework agreements awarded by utility sector contracting authorities analyzed; At least 10 experts from PPA staff trained and 10 from other relevant and 10 from other relevant 	 Quarterly reports; Steering Committee sessions minutes; Evaluation of the carried out trainings; Independent Interim Evaluation Reports. 	Rigorous project management; Timely issue of envisaged documentation;

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	institutions;2 reports on the preparation of		
	elaboration of the PP Handbook for		
	the PPL implementation under the		
	amended PPL and secondary		
	legislation;		
	• 1 seminar on the two reports;		
	• At least 25 experts of the PPA staff		
	trained;		
	• Report on the forms for		
	informational electronic filling up and		
	1 workshop organized;		
Component 2. Eusther development of the administrative appoint of DD	• 10 experts of the PPA staff trained;		
Component 2: Further development of the administrative capacity of PP system;			
Activity 2.1 Further development of the functional organisation of PPA as		• Twinning Quarterly Deports	
Help desk;	• 1 workshop on the functional	Annual report of PPA	
Activity 2.2 Implementation of HR strategy;	organization of the PPA as a help		
Activity 2.3 Proposals for assessment and improvement of the PP.	debit for the start and fere and	developed	
institutional development strategy;	institutions and its further improvement;	• Proceeding and materials of	
Activity 2.4 Training needs analysis for different groups, engaged in the P	• At least 10 workshops, training	0	
process in Bulgaria (judges, auditors, PPA staff, local authorities and lin	courses and seminars on PP issues ;	and contenents organized	
ministries);	• Help desk function set up and		
Activity 2.5. Long term training program developed on the base of TNA an	defined;		
relevant training course for PPA staff and line ministries designed, takin	 Analysis for TNA elaborated; 		
full account of EDIS implementation;	• 1 institutional building seminar for		
<u>Activity 2.6</u> Organization of workshops, training courses and seminars on	the Agency;		
PP issues for the PPA staff, judges, auditors, line ministries, etc.	• International conference with 250		
Development and delivery of specific training modules for staff of the PPA;	participants organized;		
Activity 2.7. Organization of an international conference for sharing	• 1 week study visit for 6 people from		
experience on public procurement issues with the participation of	the PPA;		
representatives from the MS countries, CC, EC and relevant	• 6 internships per 2 people for two		
organizations;	weeks in different areas of PP system		
Activity 2.8. Organisation of a study visit and training courses for PPA	(legislation drafting, remedies and		
staff in order to gain knowledge in the different aspects of the public	court practice, e-procurement,		
procurement system.	monitoring and best practices,		
	institutional building capacity, help		
Component 3: Organization and implementation of public awareness	desk function)		
campaign on central and regional level			

Activity3.1.Strategy to promote understanding of the PP system elaborated and implemented;- Elaboration of a National Training Programme and relevant Action Plan on public procurement and elaboration and delivery of a training of trainers – scheme based on the strategy;- Conducting training for a wide range of contracting entities and suppliers;- Seminars and public conferences for high-level political officials, representatives of the media and private sector entities on the new public procurement system; ActivityActivity3.2.Media plan for PPA's promotion elaborated and implemented; ActivityActivity3.3.Production of the advertising materials, brochures, DVD, etc.	least 14 Districts;Awareness campaign on central level;Regular meetings and 6 workshops	 Strategy to promote understanding of PP system elaborated; Strategy to build support for PP reform elaborated; Strategy for media involvement in the PP process; 	
 Component 4: Elaboration of Action Han for PPA Web site further development and its implementation until turning the web site into an eportal for all the information on public procurement <u>Activity 4.1</u> Implementation of the second phase of the Action plan for the improvement of the Register, elaborated within the Twinning Light Project and implementation of the next stage(s) of e-procurement. <u>Activity 4.2</u> Further development of PP Register in accordance with the incoming amendments in the legislation and IT development Update of forms for submitting information from the contracting authorities decisions for opening a procurement procedure in accordance with the incoming amendments in the legislation Update of e-forms for submitting information for terminated or extended procedures in accordance with the incoming amendments in the legislation Interaction with other stakeholders in the PP area: joint activities with the servants working for the State Gazette; joint activities with the Public Internal Financial Control Agency and the Bulgarian National Audit Office on auditing the incoming information in the PP Register; <u>Activity 4.3</u>. Update of the Strategy for development of web site of the Agency in compliance with the new EU Directives and its implementation for turning the web site into the Information Portal for public procurement <u>Activity 4.4</u>. Development of final technical specifications. <u>Activity 4.5</u>. Developing and production of interactive electronic manual 	 Next stage of e-procurement implemented; Specifications for hardware and software for the Register developed; At least 2 seminars and workshops for training of the staff; 1 seminar for presenting the new functionalities of the Register to the line ministries and relevant institutions; Analysis and report for the development of PPA web site elaborated; IT Strategy updated; I seminar for presenting the strategy; PPA Web site developed into a PP Portal – hardware and software delivery and installation; Training of the staff I seminar for presenting the new functionality of the Portal for the line ministries and relevant institutions 	 Twinning Quarterly Reports PP Register data Final technical specification developed. Electronic manuals for the contracting authorities developed Training plan elaborated Statistical forms updated and new established Documentation for the delivery of software and hardware 	

Component 5: Setting up of Training Center on public procurement Activity 5.1. Elaboration of the requirements for the structure and resources for the Training plan on the basis of the TNA for Activity 5.2. Elaboration of training plan on the basis of the TNA for Activity 5.2. Training of the recruited staff for ICT system maintenance; Activity 5.4. Training of the recruited staff for ICT system maintenance; Activity 5.6. Promotional activities about the services offered by the Training Center including advertising materials, brochures, press•Training conses for trained, erganatization of workshops and training courses on PP elaborated; •Training Center including advertising materials, brochures, press•Frain the staff trained; •PP Portal established and ioperation; •PP Portal established and to peration in the Training Center on public procurement; Activity 6.2. Equipment and software delivered, installed and public procurement; Activity 6.3. Additional equipment and software delivered, installed and put to operation in the Training Center on public procurement; Activity 6.4. Training of the staff for IT maintenance.•Training content openation; •Training content of the procurement; •PP Portal •PP Portal estaff for IT maintenance.•Final Report •VM ming quarterly Reports •PPA annual Report•Component 6: Supply of necessary hardware and software based on the Sigma support Activity 6.2. Equipment and software delivered, installed and put into operation in the Training Center on public procurement; Activity 6.4. Training of the staff for IT maintenance.•PP Portal established and oparation; •PP portal established for IT maintenance•Final Report •Training courses for •Training courses for •PP Annual Report •Documentation for the delivered for the Training Center on public procurement; Ac	for the contracting authorities <u>Activity 4.6.</u> Training - Development of tailor-made training program; - Training of the PPA staff for the efficient IT system maintenance <u>Activity 4.7.</u> Development of statistic reports for the procurement condition after EU membership in accordance with the EU templates.	organized; • At least 10 PPA staff trained; • 1 workshop on updated forms; • 1workshop on the statistical report for public procurement		
Needs assessment Report and Technical specifications developed with Sigma support Activity 6.1. Technical supply and software delivery for the next stage(s) of e-procurement; Activity 6.2. Equipment and software delivered, installed, tested and put into operation in the Training Center on public procurement; Activity 6.3. Additional equipment and software delivered, installed and put into operation for the development of the PP Portal;	Activity 5.1. Elaboration of the requirements for the structure and resources for the Training Center; Activity 5.2. Elaboration of training plan on the basis of the TNA for contracting authorities, contractors, etc; Activity 5.3. Training of the recruited staff for ICT system maintenance; Activity 5.4. Training of TC staff; train-the-trainers courses; Activity 5.5. Organization of workshops and training courses on PP issues for contracting authorities on central and regional level; Activity 5.6. Promotional activities about the services offered by the Training Center including advertising materials, brochures, press	 operation; At least 6 training courses for trainers carried out; Training program for contracting authorities and for contractors elaborated; Train-the-trainers courses conducted TC staff trained; At least 10 training courses for contracting authorities on central and regional level and the contractors; 	 Twinning quarterly Reports PPA Annual Report Training program for contracting authorities 	
	Needs assessment Report and Technical specifications developed with Sigma support <u>Activity 6.1.</u> Technical supply and software delivery for the next stage(s) of e-procurement; <u>Activity 6.2.</u> Equipment and software delivered, installed, tested and put into operation in the Training Center on public procurement; <u>Activity 6.3.</u> Additional equipment and software delivered, installed and put into operation for the development of the PP Portal;	 operation; PP process simplified; At least 25 PCs and proper software delivered for the Training Center; Computer network developed; Training of the staff for IT 	PPA Annual ReportDocumentation for the delivery of software and	

Preconditions

Steering committee, to be established before the project start.
Twinning light project "Strengthening the administrative"

capacity of the PP Agency and improvement of the legal framework in the area of public procurement" implemented successfully and project results in place.

Detailed Implementation Chart

PROJECT TITLE	"Further improvement of the public procurement system in Bulgaria"										
PERIOD	2005 2006 2007										
	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR	1 st QTR	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR	1 st QTR	2 nd QTR	3 rd QTR	4 th QTR
Twinning services	СР	ETC	ETC/ TCS	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι
Supply contract				?	?	SCC	SCI				

Legend:

CP – Call for proposals

ETC – Elaboration of Twinning Contract

TCS - Twinning Contract signed

I - Implementation of the project

 $\boldsymbol{SCC}-\boldsymbol{Supply}\; contract\; contracted$

SCI- Supply contract implemented

? – Tendering

Contracting and Disbursement schedule by month to full duration of the programme (MEUR)

PROJECT TITLE	"Further improvement of the public procurement system in Bulgaria"							
PERIOD	2006				2007			
	1 nd QTR	2 nd QTR	3 nd QTR	4 nd QTR	1 nd QTR	2 nd QTR	3 nd QTR	4 th QTR
Twinning services								
Contracted	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1
Disbursed	0,66	0,66	0,66	0,66	0,99	0,99	0,99	1,1
Supply contract								
Contracted			0,6	0,6				
Disbursed				0,6				

List of relevant Laws and Regulations

1. The Public Procurement Law - adopted by the Parliament on 23.03.2004 (SG, No 28/06.04.2004);

2. The Rules of Procedure of Public Procurement Agency - adopted by Council of Ministers' Decree No 56/12.03.2004 (SG No 24/23.03.2004);

3. The Ordinance on the award of special public contracts – adopted by the Council of Ministers on 19.08.2004 (SG No 80/14.09.2004);

4. Rules for the implementation of the Public Procurement Law - adopted by Council of Ministers' Decree No 250 /17.09 2004

(SG No 84/ 27.09.2004);

5. The ordinance for the award of small public procurement contracts – adopted by Council of Ministers' Decree No 249/17.09.2004 (SG No 84/27.09.2004);

6. The Statute of the Court of Arbitration to the Public Procurement Agency - adopted with Council of Ministers' Decree No 259/24.09.2004 (SG No 87/5.10.2004);

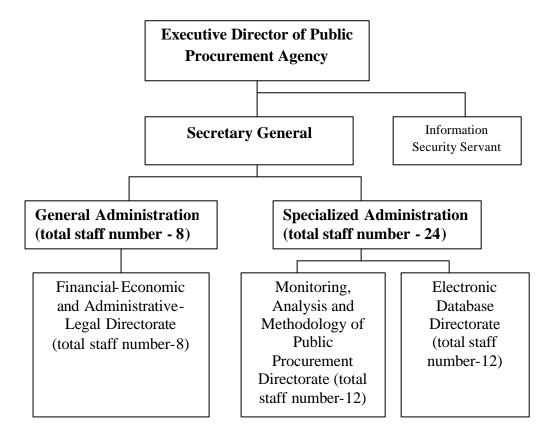
7. The Rules of procedure of the Court of Arbitration to the Public Procurement Agency – adopted by Council of Ministers' Decree No 259 /24.09.2004, (SG No 87/5.10.2004);

8. The Tariff of Court of Arbitration to the Public Procurement Agency - adopted by Council of Ministers' Decree No 241 /08.09.2004, (SG No85, 28.09.2004);

9. The standard forms of notices - adopted by Regulation No 16-616/20.09.2004 of the Minister of Economy (SG, No 84/27.09.2004);

10. The CPV Classifier - adopted by Regulation No 16-566/26.08.2004 of the Minister of Economy (SG No81, 17.09.2004)/ (SG No82, 21.09.2004)/ (SG No83, 24.09.2004).

Organisational Chart of PPA



The main functions of Specialized Administration are as follows:

- Monitoring, Analysis and Methodology of Public Procurement Directorate will be responsible for:
 - elaborating lists of the contracting authorities of public procurement;
 - elaborating a procurement Nomenclature;
 - elaborating the standard forms for the awarded public contracts;
 - monitoring the use of preferences in awarding public procurement contracts and working out economic analyses of the effect of their application;
 - monitoring the implementation of public procurement contracts;
- Electronic Database Directorate will be responsible for:
 - setting up and maintaining information database on public procurement Register;
 - maintaining the Internet site of the Agency and posting all the information referred to public procurement according to the law;
 - organizing the implementation of the new information and communication technologies at the Agency and ensuring the operation of the local area network;
 - elaborating standard forms for online filling in of information in the database;
 - study, research and implement the best practices in electronic public procurement award
 - working out approaches and methods of linking the electronic data with the database of the EU and the WTO;

ANNEX 7

Strategy for the Development of the Public Procurement Agency at the Ministry of Economy for the period 2005-2007

This strategy sets the main objectives of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) by identifying the short-term and long-term tasks for the period 2005-2007. The results expected from its implementation include the creation and functioning of a reliable and professionally well-trained administration in the area of public procurement, as well as the improvement of the business climate through free and fair competition in the process of public procurement.

The plan also allows to measure its effectiveness in terms of the expected results. PPA will prepare periodical reports on its implementation. The PPA has identified the following priority goals in order to reach the overall strategic objective.

OVERALL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR OBSERVING THE PRINCIPLE OF PUBLICITY, TRANSPARENCY, FREE AND FAIR COMPETITION, EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CURBING CORRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR ON THE PART OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCESS

PRIORITY GOALS	TASKS	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS/COORDIN ATION	DEADLINE/PERIOD
?: Improving the legal framework in the field of public procurement and aligning it with that of the EU	1.Analysis of the legal framework in the field of public procurement	Identifying the necessary changes in the legal framework in public procurement with a view to improving it.	PPA – MAMPP, EDB- Coordination – Ministry of Economy. Branch organizations and contracting authorities PPA-MAMPP	Permanent
	2.Tracing and analyzing the achievements in the legal theory and practice related to public procurement in the European Union;	Drafting concrete proposals for full transposition of the EU procurement directives and experience in the national legislation. Ensuring a higher degree of	Coordination – ME, CoM, EU PHARE program	Permanent
		effectiveness and transparency of		

	3.Preparing and implementing concrete initiatives related to national legislation amendment (PPL and secondary legislation)	the public procurement market in Bulgaria	Coordination ME	Permanent
??: Creating a streamlined and uniform practice in the field of public procurement	1. Carrying out ongoing monitoring and methodological guidance by creating organization for collecting the necessary information.	Ensuring detailed and exhaustive information about the public procurement procedures put in place and the contracts signed by indicators (type of contracting authority, type of procedure etc.)	PPA – all directorates	Permanent
	2. Issuing methodological guidelines for applying the PPL and the secondary legislation	Establishing a streamlined and uniform practice of enforcing the PPL and the related secondary legislation – methodological instructions and the visualization on the web-site of the Public Procurement Agency, answering telephone queries.	PPA – MAMPP and EDB	Permanent
	3 Working out an adaptive system of recommended samples and forms	Facilitating the activities related to public procurement as well as those related to exercising control by the competent authorities in Bulgaria and for the businesses. Thrifty and cost-effective spending of public funds	PPA – MAMPP and EDB	September 2005
	4. Establishing a system of studying and popularizing "the best practices" in public procurement in Bulgaria	Setting up uniform practice of enforcing the PPL in its section on		

		"appeals and control".	PPA – MAMPP and EDB	Permanent
	5. Establishing a system of studying the judicial practice.		PPA – MAMPP	Permanent
??: Setting up and maintaining a Public Procurement Register and Internet site of the PPA.	1.Ensuring the efficient functioning of the Public Procurement Register. Drafting procedures for publishing topical and exhaustive information and the popularization of the Register.	1. Hardware and software backup of the electronic data- base of the PPA. Creating a rational organization for processing the input data. Guaranteeing publicity and transparency of the public procurement process.	PPA – EDB EU programs	Long-term
	 Analyzing the possibilities for its integration with other information systems – TED Creation and efficient functioning of 	Creating a rational organization for integration with other information systems, including systems for data retrieval. Maintaining topical and exhaustive information on public procurement in the	PPA – EDB and MAMPP, PHARE program	Permanent
	 4. Creating statistics of public procurement. 	library. Providing statistical information for the needs of the various customers.	PPA – EDB EU programs and other organizations	Permanent

			PPA – EDB	Permanent
?V: Introducing modern Information and communication technologies and solutions. Studying the best practices of e- procurement	1.Studying models of electronic procurement in the EU member-states and of other countries.	Analyzing models of e- procurement that would be applicable in Bulgaria	PPA – EDB, EU programs and other organizations and donors	Permanent
	2.Testing various e-procurement methods and strategies	Implementing the successful models in the Bulgarian PP practice	PPA – EDB EU and other organizations and donor programs	Permanent
	3. Identifying and implementing IT solutions in order to improve the productiveness of the PP Register, respectively of the PPA.	Making the work of the PPA more efficient		Permanent
V. Strengthening the administrative capacity of the public procurement system	1.Drafting a plan for the specialized training of the experts in PPA.	Enhancing the professional competence, knowledge and skills of the PPA staff with a view to better performance	PPA – EDB EU and other organizations and donor programs	Permanent
	2.Drafting a national plan for training the participants in public procurement.	Inculcating professional knowledge and skills in the participants in PP.	PPA – EBD EU and other organizations and donor programs	Mid-term
	3.Participation in seminars and round tables on PP.	Establishing the practice of constant and uniform way of applying the PP law and regulations. Enhancing the competence of the persons related to public procurement	PPA – MAMPP, EDB. Coordination with branch organizations, EU and other organizations and	Permanent

[through a working dialogue.	donor programs	
	4. Producing and disseminating relevant printed publications (manuals, brochures etc.)	Popularizing good professional experience and the best practices	donor programs PPA – FAD, EDB, MAMPP, Coordinator – IPAEI, EU programs, other organizations and donors	Permanent
V?: Active opposition to corruptive practices in public procurement	1.Monitoring of violations in the public procurement process on a sectoral and territorial basis.	Outlining the areas at greatest risk of not applying the law and creating clear-cut mechanisms for curbing such practices.	PPA – MAMPP, EDB	Mid-term
	2. Carrying out active cooperation with the control authorities - the Audit Office and PIFCA – and other institutions.	Putting in place of a streamlined process of preventing violation of law in the area of PP.	PPA – MAMPP, EDB, PIFCA, NAO	Permanent