

**Cross border co-operation between Bulgaria and Former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia  
2006 Project Fiche for Technical assistance**

**1. Basic Information**

**CRIS Number:** BG 2006/018-389.01.03

**Title:** Technical Assistance to the Bulgaria- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for Cross border region

**Sector:** Regional Development / CBC

**Location:** Bulgaria - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Border Region

**Duration:** 36 Months  
Contracting deadline: 30/11/2008  
Execution of contract deadline: 30/11/2009

**2. Objectives**

2.1. Overall Objectives:

Support to Neighbourhood Programme implementation for the achievement of its objectives and priorities and preparing future neighbourhood and cross-border programmes.

2.2. Project purpose

To provide a smooth administration of the Phare/CARDS Neighbourhood Programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to support the relevant authorities and bodies in preparation of the neighbourhood and cross-border programmes 2007-2013.

2.3. Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority

This support helps to adopt the *acquis* and strengthen the institutions necessary for implementing and enforcing the *acquis*. It also helps Bulgaria to develop the mechanisms and institutions that will be needed to implement EU Structural Funds after accession and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to fully develop the mechanisms and institutions needed to implement the IPA..

NPAA (Medium-term priority):

Promotion of cross-border co-operation

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

N/A

### 2.5. Cross-border impact

In the framework of this Neighbourhood Programme one horizontal measure for technical assistance will support Programme implementation and the achievement of its objectives and priorities.

Technical assistance will be used to ensure efficient, effective and transparent management and implementation of the Neighbourhood Programme. The smooth administration of the programme, that joins funds from two different EC sources – Phare CBC and CARDS - and national co-financing, strictly depends on the capacity in management and in properly dealing with procedures in order to prevent and avoid bottlenecks. In addition, this project is expected to contribute to a more efficient transition from Phare CBC/CARDS instruments to Structural Funds and the new Instrument for Pre- Accession (IPA).

The activities are broadly divided into two categories:

- I. Operational costs to the Programme including  
Programme management and implementation  
Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation
- II. TA to future Programme preparation

## **3. Description**

### 3.1. Background and justification

The Joint Programming Document (JPD) is the basis for the Neighbourhood Programme of the border area between the Republic of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As such, this JPD lays the basis for implementing funds both from the EU Phare CBC programme (for Bulgaria) and from the EU CARDS programme (for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Moreover, the document provides a strategic framework for interventions to be financed from the new neighbourhood instrument, which will be established after 2007.

The programme is structured into two main priority axes, supplemented by an additional one for the enhancement of local people to people actions. The NP strategy has in addition a ***horizontal measure for technical assistance at programme level***.

The Neighbourhood Programme operates through an Phare Programme Implementing Agency (fulfilling the role of Contracting Authority) for the Phare CBC component (in Bulgaria) and a Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) for the CARDS component (in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), while the Contracting Authority will be the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The management structures for this NP include the national authorities responsible for Programme coordination (Phare Programme Implementing Agency in Bulgaria, and Programme Coordination Unit in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), a Joint Cooperation Committee and a Joint Steering Committee, assisted by a Joint Technical Secretariat.

The operational costs of the Joint Technical Secretariat are co-financed under the programme's budget provided they comply with the list of tasks eligible for co-financing in the relevant EU regulations.

### 3.2. Sectoral rationale

N/A

### 3.3. Results

Financial support provided under the TA the following results:

Smooth operation of the JTS, JSC and JCC through:

- Sufficient number of staff employed within the JTS, operational capable to manage the tasks prescribed in the JPD (to assist JCC, JSC, IA/PCU in performing NP implementation),
- Timely management of all Programme related meetings,
- Increased awareness and information among the local beneficiaries, as well as suitably promoting programme's results achieved and aims pursued,
- Improved administrative activities related to the joint evaluation, monitoring and control process,
- Ready to finance project proposals,
- Programming Documents for 2007-2013 CBC between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia prepared,
- Established framework of the new managing structures

### 3.4. Activities

#### **Programme management and implementation**

Eligible actions within the framework of the JPD horizontal measure are, as an indication, the following ones:

- Expenditure relating to the JTS
- Expenditure relating to the management, implementation, monitoring and control of the Programme

#### **Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation**

- Expenditure for assisting potential applicants in project preparation
- Expenditure relating to evaluations, audits, seminars, information, publicity concerning the Programme

#### **TA to the Programme preparation**

- The TA will support MRDPW in the preparation of the relevant Programming Documents for 2007-2013 and in line with the adopted EC Regulations.
- The TA will also provide support to future managing structures and potential beneficiaries in the whole cycle of project preparation and implementation for the period 2007-2013

### 3.5. Linked activities

The project is the fourth of this type. The previous projects linked to the present are as follows:

- 2003/005.632.03 – Technical assistance for Multi Annual Programming and Implementation of future cross-border neighbourhood programmes with Serbia & Montenegro, fYRoM and Turkey

- 2004/016-786.01.03 - Technical assistance for Implementation of the Neighbourhood Programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- 2005/017-456.03 - Technical assistance for Implementation of Neighbourhood Programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### 3.6. Lessons learned

The project is a direct product of lessons learned from previous Phare programmes, that is to say the necessity to develop sufficient and adequate planning and preparatory activities to anticipate and minimise problems in the implementation phase.

In the Interim Evaluation of the EU Pre-Accession Instrument Phare of 01 August 2005 it was stated that the relevance of the TA projects under FM 2003 (modified) and FM 2004 is satisfactory.

The JTS office in Kyustendil is almost fully equipped and is actually ready to start operating. The Bulgarian JTS staff (2 employees) is already appointed and the Macedonian JTS staff (1 employee) will shortly be appointed.

## 4. Institutional Framework

On the Bulgarian side, the responsibilities for Phare-CBC Programme/CARDS Neighbourhood Programme are laid down with the Phare Programme Implementing Agency at the **Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works**. It has the overall responsibility for the implementation, as well as the administrative, technical and financial management. MRDPW is obliged also to monitor the physical and financial implementation, Phare and co-financing payments, and report to the EC in regularly reports.

The MRDPW will ensure necessary human resources for the technical management of the project.

On the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia side, the responsibilities on the day-to-day tasks of the NP lay down with the PCU, while the **European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)** will act as Contracting Authority.

The Joint Technical Secretariat will assist the Bulgarian MRDPW (IA and CBC Programming Department) and the Macedonian PCU in the implementation of the Neighbourhood Programme 2004-2006 and in preparation of the new 2007-2013 cross-border programme.

The above provisions are valid until Bulgaria becomes a member of the European Union. After accession, the national procurement legislation will be in force.

## 5. Detailed budget

### 5.1. Phare Support

	Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support	Co-financing			Total Cost
€M		National Public Funds	Other Sources	Total Co-financing of Project	
<b>Year 2006 - Investment support</b>	0	0	0	0	0

<b>jointly co funded</b>					
<b>Investment support – sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>% of total public funds</b>	<b>max 75 %</b>	<b>min 25 %</b>			

<b>Year 2006 Institution Building support</b>					
TA	0.120				0.120
Programme management and implementation	0.040				0.040
Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation	0.040				0.040
<b>IB support</b>	<b>0.200</b>				<b>0.200</b>

<b>Total project 2006</b>	<b>0.200</b>				<b>0.200</b>
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## 5.2. CARDS Support

<b>Year 2006 in €M</b>	<b>CARDS Support</b>			<b>National Co-financing</b>	<b>IFI</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	Investment Support	IB	<b>Total CARDS (=I+IB)</b>			
Grant Contract		0,040	0,040			0,040
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0,040</b>	<b>0,040</b>			<b>0,040</b>

## 2. Implementation Arrangements

### 6.1. Implementing Agency

#### The Republic of Bulgaria

*Phare Programme Implementing Agency:*

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

Address: 17-19 Cyril and Methodius St. 1202 Sofia

Director: Stefan Gerasimov – Deputy PAO

Phone: +359 2 9405-488,

Fax: +359 2 987 0737

E-mail: sgerasimov@mrrb.government.bg

#### The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

##### Contracting Authority

European Agency for Reconstruction

Programme Manager: Albert Soer

E-mail: Albert.Soer@ear.eu.int

Makedonija 11/I, 1000 Skopje

Tel: + 389 2 328 6782

Fax: + 389 2 312 4760

Contact Person of PCU in fYRoM

Secretariat for European Affairs  
Katerina Kus-Ivanova  
Tel: + 389 23 23 91 65  
Fax: + 389 231 13 710  
E-mail: [katerina.kus-ivanova@sep.gov.mk](mailto:katerina.kus-ivanova@sep.gov.mk)

#### 6.2. Twinning

N/A

#### 6.3. Non-standard aspects

“The Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for the EC external actions” valid as from 1/02/2006 will be strictly followed.

The above provisions are valid until Bulgaria becomes a member of the European Union. After accession, the national procurement legislation will be in force.

#### 6.4. Contracts

**One Framework Contract assignment for TA** – Phare amount € M 0.120 will be concluded under “Technical Assistance for Implementation of Neighbourhood Programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” project.

**Operational costs to the Programme including:** Programme management and implementation - Phare amount €M 0.040 and Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation - Phare amount €M 0.040 with ex-ante approval of budget lines by EC Delegation in Sofia.

### **7. Implementation Schedule**

	<b>TA</b>	<b>Operational costs</b> (Programme management and implementation; Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation)
<b>7.1 Start of tendering</b>	October 2006	January 2007
<b>7.2 Start of project activity:</b>	January 2007	January 2007
<b>7.3 Project completion:</b>	June 2007	October 2009

### **8. Equal Opportunity**

N/A

### **9. Environment**

N/A

### **10. Rates of return**

N/A

### **11. Investment criteria**

N/A

## **12. Conditionality and sequencing**

The project will start after signing of the Financial Agreement between Bulgaria and the European Commission for 2006.

### **Annexes to Project Fiche:**

1. Logical Framework in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule

**Annex 1**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Title: <b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BULGARIA - FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME</b>		Programme name and number 2006/018-389.01.03	
		Contracting period expires 30.11.2008	Execution of contract period expires 30.11.2009
		Total budget: <b>€M 0,200</b>	Phare budget: <b>€M 0,200</b>
<b>Overall objectives</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	
Support to Neighbourhood Programme implementation for the achievement of its objectives and priorities and preparing future neighbourhood and cross-border programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive assessment on the Neighbourhood Programme implementation and the structures involved in it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementing Agency reports</li> <li>▪ Independent evaluations</li> </ul>	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
To provide a smooth administration of the Phare/CARDS Neighbourhood Programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to support the relevant authorities and bodies in preparation of the neighbourhood and cross-border programmes 2007-2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of projects successfully carried out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Reports</li> <li>• Progress Reports</li> </ul>	
<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sufficient number of staff employed within the JTS, operational capable to manage the tasks prescribed in the JPD (to assist JCC, JSC, IA/PCU in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient number of staff employed and trained – at least 3</li> <li>• A regional office in Kjustendil set up and operational</li> <li>• A branch office in the former Yugoslav</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation reports</li> </ul>	



<p>performing NP implementation),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timely management of all Programme related meetings,</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness and information among the local beneficiaries, as well as suitably promoting programme's results achieved and aims pursued.</li> <li>▪ Improved administrative activities related to the joint evaluation, monitoring and control process,</li> <li>▪ Ready to finance project proposals.</li> <li>▪ Programming Documents for 2007-2013 CBC between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia prepared</li> <li>▪ established framework of the new managing structures</li> </ul>	<p>Republic of Macedonia is set up (optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of signed grant contracts under FM 2006</li> <li>• Successfully implemented projects under FM 2006</li> <li>• Successful launch of Call for Proposals – 2 as per the FM</li> <li>• Promotion and information campaigns timely launched – at least 2</li> <li>• Developed programming documents and structures for the period 2007-2013</li> </ul>		
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<p><b><u>Programme management and implementation</u></b></p> <p>Eligible actions within the framework of the JPD horizontal measure are, as an indication, the following ones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expenditure relating to the JTS</li> <li>▪ Expenditure relating to the management, implementation, monitoring and control of the Programme</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expenditure for assisting potential applicants in project preparation</li> </ul>	<p>The PF will be implemented (at least for the Phare component) through one Framework contract for TA – Phare amount <b>€M</b> 0.120</p> <p>Operational costs to the Programme including: Programme management and implementation Phare amount <b>€M</b> 0.040 and Projects preparation; Programme publicity and evaluation - Phare amount <b>€M</b> 0.040 with ex-ante approval of budget lines by EC Delegation in Sofia.</p> <p>TA funds will be transferred to the BG IA, which will be responsible for using them</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expenditure relating to evaluations, audits, seminars, information, publicity concerning the Programme</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TA to the Programme preparation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The TA will support MRDPW in the preparation of the relevant Programming Documents for 2007-2013 and in line with the adopted EC Regulations.</li> <li>▪ The TA will also provide support to future managing structures and potential beneficiaries in the whole cycle of project preparation and implementation for the period 2007-2013</li> </ul>	<p>for the purposes detailed in the PF.</p>		
<p><b>Preconditions</b></p>			

**ANNEX 2**  
**IMPLEMENTATION CHART**

*Project title:*

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BULGARIA - FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**

Components	2006			2007												2008												2009											
	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	
TA-Framework contract	T	T	T	C / I	I	I	I	I	I																														
Programme management and implementation				C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		
Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation				C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		

**T = Tendering**

**C = Contracting**

**I = Implementation/works**

**ANNEX 3**
**CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE BY QUARTER**

**Project title: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BULGARIA - FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**

CONTRACTING	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in €M													
	2006				2007				2008				Total	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV		
Framework contract					0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120
Programme management and implementation					0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040
Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation					0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040
TOTAL					0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200
DISBURSEMENT	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in €M													
	2006				2007				2008				Total	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV		
Framework contract					0,072	0,108	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120	0,120
Programme management and implementation					0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040
Projects preparation, programme publicity and evaluation					0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040	0,040
TOTAL					0,152	0,188	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200	0,200