

**PHARE/2005/017-553.01.02**

**PROJECT FICHE FOR PHARE 2005**

**for**

**Strengthening the Democracy in Romania**

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## **1. BASIC INFORMATION**

**1.1. CRIS Number:** PHARE/2005/017-553.01.02

**1.2. Title:** Strengthening the Democracy in Romania

**1.3. Sector:** Civil Society

**1.4. Location:** Romania

**1.5. Duration:** 20 months

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1. Overall Objective:**

To intensify the NGOs contribution to a democratic society and further improve access to social justice and support citizens in exercising their rights and responsibilities and in solving complex problems

### **2.2. Project purpose:**

1. To support the NGOs in order to further strengthen the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided by CABs

To be achieved by the following tasks:

⇒ *Task 1*

To further raise the capacity and credibility of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) to address the needs and interests of citizens

⇒ *Task 2*

To further raise the capacity of National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) to strengthen the network of CABs

2. To further strengthen the advocacy role of NGOs in supporting democracy, rule of law, protecting basic human rights, access to information, freedom of expression and related independence of media, independence of justice and fight against corruption

### **2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA priority**

The development of a functioning Civil Society is intrinsically linked with the further consolidation of a democratic and pluralistic society in Romania. By their virtues and key roles, the NGOs have the capacity to represent the interests and needs of citizens and to contribute to increasing the participation of communities.

Among priorities assumed by the Romanian government through its National Programme for the Adoption of the Aquis are: strengthening of the administration-citizen relation and

support to participation of citizens to the decision making process, ensuring the governance transparency and improvement of the relation between administration and public services users.

A major priority is to establish solid institutions to guarantee respect for the rule of law.

The AP highlights as political criterion - implementing of measures aimed at fighting discrimination (including within the public administration).

Thus, advisory and information services for citizens must also be improved. Moreover, strengthening democracy and the rule of law has to be further supported.

#### **2.4. Contribution to National Development Plan**

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies as guiding framework the development of the Civil Society and promotion of an “information society”, increased transparency in the process of designing strategy and programmes and involvement of social partners in this process. The programme is in line with the axis 3 of the NDP, to strengthen human resources potential and improving the quality of social services.

#### **2.5. Cross Border Impact:**

N/A

### **3. DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Background and justification:**

The NGO sector has to continue to play an important role in responding to the needs of the citizens. The information and advice services established by the civil society organizations can play a significant role in preparing the citizens for EU integration. Citizens' advice services are recognized also by the European Parliament as important information sources (mentioned in the EU budget), offering proximity to the citizen, user-friendly information and problem solving-skills by comparison to the general information campaigns that cannot adequately and effectively inform citizens of their individual rights.

Citizens need to make correct use of their rights (including European rights) and first step in this process is to understand these rights. The Citizens Advice Bureaux were established and function in this respect: to provide information and advisory services to citizens in order to enable them to solve problems and exercise their rights and duties.

Although at present Romania fulfils the political criteria, there are numerous aspects to be improved, as mentioned in the Regular Reports of the European Commission, especially in relation to the protection of minorities and independence of justice. Furthermore, the actions of the Government to strengthen the rule of law, respecting the minorities' protection and fight against corruption must be directly sustained by the actions of the Civil Society, through its NGO's/NPO's as well as professional associations.

By their flexibility and impartiality, NGO's can easily monitor and detect any deviation from the principles of democracy, rule of law, independence of justice or human rights respect and can be reliable “bodies” in guaranteeing that these principles are adequately enforced.

## **Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) and their Network**

Starting with the Phare 2000 programme and continued with Phare 2001 programme, a network of 58 Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB's) have been established and currently provide information and advice services to citizens in order to enable them to solve problems and exercise their rights and duties. The services are provided in the following fields: health, social assistance, social insurance, labour, consumer protection, civil rights and duties, property regime, taxation, education, notary procedures, child protection and public services. A critical issue was the substantial lack of information and advisory services, especially outside larger cities. In this context, the Phare 2001 and 2003 programmes supported the establishment of CABs in rural areas too.

The National Association of CABs (NACAB), established under Phare 2000 programme, should be further supported to provide services and assistance for the CABs network and to contribute to their sustainability. This is considered to be necessary taking into consideration the need to ensure the autonomy of CABs, especially in relation with the local authorities.

As the institutional infrastructure of CABs has been set up with significant support and proved by now to answer the needs of the large public, it is of major importance to set up and adapt the services of these organisations to the new challenges brought up by the economic development, globalisation, and development of society on competitive basis. The EU integration brings a new dimension to the services provided by CABs, more emphasis should be put on the European law and rights deriving from it.

In this context it is necessary to strengthen the network of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CABs) which will further offer information and advice services, as well as the institutional and operational capacity of NACAB.

All these challenges have to be taken into consideration and in this respect an assessment of the development stage of the CABs and their respective network is a must.

## **Participation of NGO's for the support of democracy, human rights, rule of law and independence of justice**

The role that NGOs have in giving voice to a variety of concerns and interests, in promoting human rights and democracy related initiatives, was one of the most visible role NGOs have played in Romania, namely the advocacy role. Thus one of the most known NGOs by the large public are those active in human rights and democracy areas. Recent events have brought up again on the agenda of EU integration concerns about freedom of expression and independence of media, access to information, independence of justice and fighting against corruption. Encouraging the NGOs to continue keep track on government policies and practices and learning to assume even more the "watchdog" related attributions will help maintaining the focus on strengthening the democracy in Romania. A particular attention is to be given to the justice field.

The Regular Report refers to the challenge of implementing the reform in judicial system and points at some key aspects that need to be addressed in the supporting the process of achieving the independence of the judiciary and improving legal certainty. To be successful the reform needs to be accompanied by a major increase in resources to the new institutions as well as the necessary redeployment and retraining of judges. Progress is related to the activity of the National Institute of Magistracy and the Training Centre for Clerks that developed the training for entry level professionals, improved the curricula and included new

legal subjects like ethics and justice for minors. Also there are three Regional Centres set up by the National Institute that are fully operational. However they encounter limitations related to continuous training, in-service training for judges and prosecutors, developing applied skills or professional ethics, specialized training on issues such as economic crime, money laundering and the fight against corruption. Special support is needed for the development of institutional and operation capacity of the professional associations of magistrates, such as the National Association of Magistrates.

### **3.2. Sectorial rationale**

N/A

### **3.3. Results:**

For supporting the NGOs in order to further strengthen the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided by CABs, the following should be achieved:

*Results fulfilling the first project purpose*

- NGOs able to deliver in due time quality information and advice services to citizens

*Task 1*

- Strengthened CABs and CABs' network in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, in order to reach sustainability (headquarters, activities) and to achieve a sustainable impact
- Assessed development stage, strengths and weaknesses of the CABs and their network
- Identified ways of further development and sustainability of CABs

*Task 2*

- Strengthened NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability, as well as its sustainability.
- Assessed development stage, strengths and weaknesses of the NACAB
- Identified ways of further development and sustainability of NACAB

*Results fulfilling the second project purpose*

- Increased intervention of NGOs in supporting democracy, rule of law, protecting basic human rights, access to information, freedom of expression and related independence of media, independence of justice and fight against corruption

### **3.4. Activities:**

*Activities within first project purpose*

*Task 1*

***Call for proposals (grants) for:***

Supporting the already existing CABs, namely the NGO members of NACAB, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services provided by CABs, and reaching sustainability.

An open call for proposals will be launched with the goal to enable existing CABs to consolidate, diversify and improve the quality of their services in response to citizens' needs and gain sustainability.

The call for proposals will be open to

- Non-governmental non-profit organisations from Romania, which have already established CABs according to the network standards
- Non-governmental non-profit organisations representing CABs established under 2000 Civil Society Development, 2001 Civil Society or under 2003 Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania programmes that have been registered as separate organisations.

The applicants must be members of the National Associations of the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Applicants should act in consortium with local authority.

Grants will only be awarded for the strengthening of existing CABs and only for those that can clearly demonstrate the existing need for continued provision and development of their services, and also their efficiency in their previous activities as Citizens Advice Bureaux.

CABs should improve citizens' access to information and should provide necessary advice for citizens to enable them solve their problems, and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

CABs should continue to operate along the lines featured under the previous Phare programmes, with a focus on consolidating the services they already provide and achieve their sustainability. The applicants should take into consideration the efficiency and effectiveness and make necessary improvements of their services.

Throughout the project implementation all CABs should observe the same aims and principles in providing information and advice as established under previous Phare programmes.

EU contribution will not cover costs for buying or renting the office space.

Support from local authority is mandatory for the award of grants; for example the required support may be: providing the premises and office facilities for the normal running of the Citizens Advice Bureaux, in-cash contribution.

The applicant and/or partners will have to bring their own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action. During the elaboration of guidelines for applicants, this contribution may be increased based on the previous experience and for ensuring the sustainability.

## *Task 2*

### ***Direct award (grant) for:***

- Supporting the NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability.

A direct agreement will be signed with NACAB with the goal to strengthen the NACAB institutional and operational capacity to further provide services and assistance to the network of CABs and increase their sustainability, as well as its sustainability.

The NACAB was established under 2000 Phare programme in order to support development of CABs in the network and their sustainability. The institutional and operational capacity of NACAB is a critical success factor which has consequences on the entire network: development, observance of the standards within the network and confidence of the members in the existent structure.

The NACAB should continue the general line featured under previous Phare programmes, with focus on consolidating the services it already provides and extend/diversify its services as regard the area covered and/or beneficiaries. Throughout the period action execution NACAB should respect the same principles as they were established under Phare 2001 Civil Society programme and continued under Phare 2003 Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania programme.

NACAB should act with a view to:

- Represent the Citizens Advice Bureaux nationally, achieving changes/improvements of public policies, acting as an effective voice for all CABs
- Promote the image and raise awareness of the CABs to the general public, public authorities and institutions, potential donors, etc.
- Act strategically towards achieving sustainability of the CABs network
- Provide quality services (training, information, etc.) to its members
- Support CABs to provide quality services that effectively respond to citizens needs.

As general principles standing for its activities, NACAB should:

- Ensure equal representation and treatment of all members
- Act in compliance with legislation and its own bylaws
- Be transparent and accountable of its activities and resources.

Based on the previous experience, the applicant must insist on the added value brought in by the project implementation.

The applicant will have to bring his own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action. During the elaboration of guidelines for applicants, this contribution may be increased, based on the previous experience and for ensuring the sustainability.

#### *Task 1 and 2*

##### ***Tender for Service Contract for:***

Assessing the development stage, the strengths and weaknesses of the CABs and their network, as well as of NACAB, and identifying ways of their further development and sustainability.

A tender will be launch in order to select a service contractor that will conduct the assessment of the development stage of CABs in the network and of NACAB, their strengths and weaknesses, impact assessment, and will identify ways of their further development and sustainability.

The Contractor will identify the gaps between the citizens' needs and the current provision of information and advice for citizens.

The Contractor will be responsible for:

- Developing assesement isnstruments
- Developing the appropriate data collection
- Conducting field and desk research
- Processing and analysing the results of the assessment
- Produce conclusions and recommendations
- Participating in public presentations of results.

The Contractor will provide the assessment report that will enable the provision of services adjusted to the CABs/NACAB development stage and to the real needs of citizens.

The findings will be used for drawing the strategic actions for CABs and NACAB.



### *Activities within second project purpose*

#### **Call for proposals (grants) for:**

- Projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions;
- Projects to promote the independence of media and freedom of expression;
- Initiatives addressed to issues related to the independence of justice and fight against corruption;
- Supporting the professional associations of magistrates at national and local levels.

An open call for proposals will be launched with the goal to

- Intensify the NGOs intervention in:
  - o promoting and protecting human rights including freedom of expression and independence of media, etc.
  - o strengthening the rule of law, particularly by supporting independence of justice
  - o promoting Good governance, particularly by supporting the fight against corruption, the accountability and transparency of the public authorities decision making process
  - o promoting the participation of citizens in decision making process
- Increase the capacity of professional magistrates associations in order to enhance the involvement of these organisations of magistrates in initiatives addressed to issues related to democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions, independence of justice and fight against corruption.

The call for proposals will be open to non-governmental non-profit organisations from Romania.

The applicant and/or partners will have to bring their own in-cash contribution of at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the action. During the elaboration of guidelines for applicants, this contribution may be increased based on the previous experience and for ensuring the sustainability.

### **3.5. Linked activities:**

#### **EU support**

Support to the Civil Society from the EU in Romania started in 1993 through a grant scheme.

There were funds for Citizens Information Centres and advice centres under Phare Democracy Programme. The projects proved that the citizens need advice bureaux not only in the field of relationships with local administration but also in other fields such as legal advice, advice for victims of abuse etc. In the same time, citizens from rural areas have a big need of information and advice services.

Starting with the Phare 2000 **Civil Society Development programme RO 0004.02.01** the Citizens Advice Bureaux were established in Romania, through one dedicated Component of the programme which had as results the development of an active network of citizens advice services based on NGOs geographically spread able to provide advisory services to citizens in order to cover the lack of information. A typical service provides information, advice, practical help and advocacy for difficult cases. CABs provide advice in the following areas: health, social assistance, social insurance, labour, consumer protection, civil rights and

responsibilities, property regime, taxation, education, notary procedure, child protection and public services.

The support for the CABs continued with Phare 2001 **Civil Society Programme RO-0104.03** where also a dedicated component aimed at extending the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux by establishing new CABs, and at supporting the existing CABs. In addition, the National Association of CABs (NACAB) was supported in order to ensure its further development.

The strengthening of the CABs is ensured by the Phare 2003 **Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania Programme PHARE 2003/005-551.01.05**. The CAB Component aims at developing and strengthening the network of CABs, and at increasing the efficiency of the services provided by CABs through:

- extending the network by establishing new CABs and continuing the support for the already established CABs
- strengthening the CABs and their network in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, in order to achieve a sustainable impact
- strengthen NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability.

1993-1999: **Phare Democracy** (223 projects for 1.8 million €) promoted democracy and the rule of law by training politicians and transferring the required know how to professional associations regarding democracy and the rule of law.

Phare **EIDHR 1999** supported democracy through proposals launched in 2000 (for 18 projects with a total value of 415,650 €).

Phare **EIDHR 2000** with a budget of 308,760 €, aimed to strengthen pluralist democracy, human rights, and the rule of law with a view to supporting the overall process of democratisation, civil society development, and the protection of human rights. The Democracy and Human Rights Fund supports local civil society initiatives and their contribution to democracy and protection of Human Rights.

The Phare 2001 **Civil Society Programme RO-0104.03** aimed at improving the capacity and credibility of the NGO sector in order to better serve the community needs and interests. The Fund supported projects in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Phare 2003 **Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania Programme PHARE 2003/005-551.01.05** and Phare 2004 **Civil Society Programme 2004/016-772.01.02** continue to strengthen the civil society in Romania, including the NGOs in the field of democracy, human Rights, rule of law and independence of justice.

#### **Activities and Projects supported by other Donors**

- USAID Local government programmes supported the setting up Citizens Information Centres at local and county levels in the period 1995-2000. Efforts are made to re-launch and reinforce of the citizens information centres (CIC).
- Governance Reform and Sustainable Partnership Programme (GRASP) was a programme funded by the USAID. The goal of GRASP was to foster effective and sustainable partnerships between local government and civil society organisations to improve the quality of life in local communities throughout Romania.
- World Bank, small grants aiming to support institutional development, public services and law enforcement.

- Department for International Development (DFID) UK, for the period 2002-2003 within a budget of 170,000 £ for small grants aiming to support the community development and population at risk support. DFID has provided technical assistance to the Civil Society Development Foundation of Romania to assist and support the implementation of the Citizens Advice Bureaux component under 2000 Phare programme. Further on DFID supported the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux in Romania.

Currently there are many other projects and initiatives having same objective. We are mentioning only some of them:

- Europa fund - the grants provided through the Europa Fund support actions related to the enlargement efforts with the objective to create more transparency of this process and to facilitate its understanding by the general public/specific target groups from the future Member States.
- Strengthening market surveillance and consumer protection EU fund aims to develop the technical capacity and the capability of ANPC inspection bodies to strengthen the market surveillance and to develop the co-operation with civil society, including the activity of information and counselling in consumer protection field.
- Youth Informing and Consulting Center (Department within the frame of National Agency for Supporting Youth Initiative) implements the program of extension the network of youth informing and consulting centers, assuming the function of national center of informing resources and coordinator of local centers.
- Strengthening the rule of law - Strengthen the fight against corruption proposes to contribute::
  - To obtain an accurate and objective picture of corruption in Romania, to assess the state's anti-corruption measures, and to propose an enhanced policy response;
  - To improve the legal framework so that there is greater effectiveness in investigating, prosecuting and convicting corruption cases;
  - To improve the co-operation between all relevant law enforcement agencies and actors in the justice system with a role in the fight against corruption so that there is greater effectiveness in investigating, prosecuting and convicting corruption cases;
  - To enhance the operational effectiveness of the National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (PNA), the lead agency in the investigation of high-level corruption affecting Romania;
  - To increase the public awareness of the threat that Romanian society faces from all forms of corruption and educate them as to the negative consequences for democracy and socio-economic development while informing them of their individual legal and moral responsibility to fight against corruption as well as the practical possibilities for doing this.
- Integrated programme to strengthen the capacity of the state institutions to fight against corruption and related organised crime aiming to support the integrated and centralised national strategy for the fight against public corruption and organised crime.

### **3.6. Lessons learned:**

*See also Annex 7*

A wide array of activities has been successfully completed with already good effects, such as increased awareness in Civil Society activities, the completion and promotion of numerous grant aid projects, especially through numerous non-governmental organisations.

The objectives of RO 0004.02.01, RO 0104.03 and PHARE 2003/005-551.01.05 (Civil Society 2000, 2001 and 2003) were well-defined, reflecting a new bottom-up, needs based

issue-specific approach. The 2001 and 2003 programmes were based on the previous 2000 programme but better designed to encourage citizen participation.

For the 2001 programme, reporting and management was based on improved project procedures based on the lessons learned under the 2000 programme and therefore the outputs of the 2001 programme were delivered even if the programme start was delayed.

The experience acquired in the 3 previous programmes – Phare 2000, 2001 and 2003 – are to be further explored and built on in the present programme. A special attention should be paid to the CABs' potential to attract local resources (additional to the compulsory contribution required in the programme) and secure the sustainability for the long term. Also the institutional and operational capacity of NACAB is a critical success factor which has consequences on the entire network: development, observance of the standards within the network and confidence of the members in the existent structure.

- The experience of the 2001 programme showed that the compulsory partnership with the local authorities represented for a small number of projects rather a set-back factor than a factor and did not contribute to ensuring their sustainability.

The existence of CSDF and its involvement in disseminating best practices ensures confidence, support and an element of sustainability within the NGO sector. NGOs and CABs demonstrate a good ability to attract local resources. The fact that RO-0004.02.01 is followed by the 2001 and 2003 programmes should see the good results from the former being sustained and enhanced by the latter.

It is expected that the results of the present programme will serve as a starting point for other programmes as the assessment of the CABs network performance will be employed for designing or adjusting the financing in the future.

#### **4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.**

The Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF), established to manage the 1994 Civil Society Development Programme, has shown the capability of launching the programmes, organising the selections in a fair and professional way and organising the contracting properly. CSDF has proven its qualification and capacity to manage and supervise all components of this project.

CSDF is to operate under the joint supervision of the National Aid Co-ordinator (Ministry of Public Finance, Management Authority for Community Support Framework) as Implementing Authority and Central Finance and Contracts Unit, Ministry of Public Finance as Implementing Agency, and unless EDIS is in place, the European Commission Delegation.

Its location is in 2K Splaiul Independentei, 4th and 5th floors, sector 3, Bucharest.

There is no Steering Committee/Steering Arrangement established for programme co-ordination.

## 5. DETAILED BUDGET

|   | Phare support   | Co-financing              |                    |                               | Total Cost |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| €M  |                 | National Public Funds (*) | Other Sources (**) | Total Co-financing of Project |            |
| <b>Year 2005 - Investment support jointly co funded</b> | N/A             |                           |                    | N/A                           | N/A        |
| <b>Investment support – sub-total</b>                   | N/A             |                           |                    | N/A                           | N/A        |
| <i>% of total public funds</i>                          | <i>max 75 %</i> | <i>min 25 %</i>           |                    |                               |            |

:

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Year 2005 - Investment support co funded in parallel</b> |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |             |  |  |            |             |
|--|-------------|--|--|------------|-------------|
| <b>Year 2005 Institution Building support</b>                    |             |  |  |            |             |
| <b>CAB</b>   |             |  |  |            |             |
| - Grants for CABs  |             |  |  |            |             |
| - Direct agreement for NACAB                                     | 0.93        |  |  | N/A        | <b>0.93</b> |
| - Service contract for assesement                                |             |  |  |            |             |
| Democracy, human rights, rule of law and independence of justice | 0.92        |  |  | N/A        | <b>0.92</b> |
| Technical Assistance (Direct agreement CSDF)                     | 0.15        |  |  | N/A        | <b>0.15</b> |
| <b>IB support</b>  | <b>2.00</b> |  |  | <b>N/A</b> | <b>2.00</b> |

|                           |             |  |  |            |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|--|------------|-------------|
| <b>Total project 2005</b> | <b>2.00</b> |  |  | <b>N/A</b> | <b>2.00</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|--|------------|-------------|

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

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

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 6.1. Implementing Agency

The Central Finance and Contracts Unit, Ministry of Public Finance (CFCU) will be the *Implementing Agency*, and will be responsible for overseeing the procedures applied, as well as for contracting, payments and financial reporting (Programme Authorising Officer).

Contact details of CFCU:

Title: Programme Authorising Officer  
PAO name: Mrs. Carmen Rosu  
Address: 44 Mircea Voda Blvd., 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bucharest  
Telephone: 040-021-3268733  
Fax: 040-021-3268730

**Implementing Authority**

The Ministry of Public Finance, Management Authority for Community Support Framework (MACSF), will be the *Implementing Authority*, and will be responsible for the approval of call for proposals, guidelines for applicants, evaluation reports, and with the overall monitoring of the implementation process (Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Senior Programme Officer).

Contact details of AMCSC:

Title: Senior Programme Officer  
SPO name: Ms. Livia Chirita  
Address: 12 Libertatii Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> District, Bucharest  
Tel.: 00-40-21-3359872  
Fax: 00-40-21-3359878

Unless EDIS is in place, the European Commission through its Delegation in Romania will have to officially endorse the implementation documentation (strategy, criteria for selection, guidelines for applicants, etc.). In addition, the Delegation will participate as observer in all tender/selection/evaluation processes, will approve the evaluation reports and supervise and monitor closely the operation of CSDF and the project implementation process.

Contact details of EC Delegation:

Title: Task Manager  
SPO name: Ms. Dolores Neagoe  
Address: 18-20 Jules Michelet Str, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Bucharest  
Tel.: 00-40-21-2035450  
Fax: 00-40-21-2128808

**6.2. Twinning**

N/A

**6.3. Non-standard aspects**

Taking into consideration that through RO 96.04 Phare programme the Civil Society Development Foundation in Romania (CSDF) was set-up with the specific role to administrate and manage funds addressed to the Civil Society, based on the experience accumulated over the last 9 years, a direct agreement will be required.

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the project management will be signed by the CFCU with the Civil Society Development Foundation in Romania (CSDF).

Project management will include the elaboration of the criteria for call for proposals, NACAB direct agreement and tender for service contract, organisation of evaluation/selection of projects and service contractor, monitoring the implementation of the

projects, NACAB direct agreement and of the service contract. The project management costs will not exceed 7.25% of the total project budget.

Following the conclusion of this direct agreement the main activities of the project will be implemented through a number of financing agreements between the CFCU and the beneficiaries (grant contracts) / contractor (service contract) selected through a competitive selection process, except for the direct agreement with NACAB, managed by the CFCU. The CFCU will be supported by CSDF for the preparation and evaluation of calls for project proposals and of the tender for service contract, and for the negotiation of the direct agreement with NACAB.

The MACSF, the CFCU and, unless EDIS is in place, the EC Delegation will participate as observers in all tender/selection/evaluation processes and will supervise the activities of CSDF.

CSDF will not be an eligible beneficiary of the project, other than through payments under the direct agreement contract specified above.

Being a non-profit organisation, CSDF will be exempted of the obligation foreseen by the standard service contract related to the bank guarantee.

Contracts with the NGOs beneficiaries of small grants may specify, as an exception to normal Phare procedures, that payments will be made on the basis of an advance payment of 50%, a subsequent interim payment of up to 40 % and a final payment of the remaining balance of the grant, rather than the normal 80 % advance payment and 20 % final payment, when it is considered necessary to ensure adequate control over the implementation of the grant schemes.

Co-financing from applicants will be required. The co-financing limits will be established in the guidelines for applicants based on the experience from previous programmes (minimum 10%).

#### **6.4. Contracts**

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the project management will be signed by the CFCU with the CSDF in Romania.

Project management will include the elaboration of the criteria for call for proposals, NACAB direct agreement and tender for service contract, organisation of evaluation/selection of projects and contractor, monitoring the implementation of the projects, NACAB direct agreement and service contract. The project management costs will not exceed 7.25% of the total project budget.

Following the conclusion of this direct agreement the main activities of the project will be implemented through a number of financing agreements between the CFCU and the beneficiaries (grant contracts) / contractor (service contract) projects selected through a competitive selection process, except for the direct agreement with NACAB, managed by the CFCU.

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the NACAB will be signed by the CFCU with the NACAB. NACAB was established under Phare 2000 programme in order to support development of CABs in the network and their sustainability.

One (1) Service Contract to assess the development stage of the CABs and their network, as well as of NACAB, and identify ways of their further development and sustainability, will be signed by the CFCU with the selected contractor.

The CFCU will be supported by CSDF for the preparation and evaluation of calls for projects proposal and tender for service contract, and for the negotiation of the NACAB direct agreement.

The MACSF, the CFCU and, unless EDIS is in place, the EC Delegation will participate as observers in all tender/selection/evaluation processes and will supervise closely the activities of CSDF.

CSDF will not be an eligible beneficiary of the project, other than through payments under the direct agreement contract specified above.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

Signature of Direct Agreement with CSDF to support the project management is expected in May 2006.

### **7.1. Start of tendering/call for proposals**

The Guidelines for applicants and Terms of Reference are expected to be ready in July 2006.

### **7.2. Start of project activity**

Expected date of commencement of first contract is May 2006.

Expected date of commencement of contracts under grant scheme is December 2006.

### **7.3. Project completion**

Expected date of last payment under last contract/grant is November 2008.

## **8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The project is designed in the idea of equal opportunities and encourages equal participation and representation. The CABs will continue to offer services for victims of abuse and the experience proved that usually these victims are mainly women. The project was designed especially in order to ensure better information of the citizens regarding their rights and this will lead to equal participation of women.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

N/A

## **10. RATES OF RETURN**

N/A



## **11. INVESTMENT CRITERIA**

### **11.1. Catalytic effect:**

The development of a functioning Civil Society is intrinsically linked with the further consolidation of a democratic and pluralistic society in Romania. By their virtues and key roles, the NGOs have the capacity to represent the interests and needs of citizens and to contribute to increasing the participation of communities.

One of the first priorities of the Phare support is institutional building defined as helping the candidate countries among which Romania to develop the structures, strategies, human resources and management skills needed for their economic, social and regulatory capacity.

The project complies with the short and medium term priorities for reaching the administrative capacity to apply the acquis in the area of strengthening of the administration-citizen relation; the aid of the public institutions to provide the necessary information to the citizen; simplification of citizen-administration relation and enhancement of service quality.

In this line NGOs will be supported to have a pro-active approach in providing quality advice and information services to citizens.

Also the programme is in line with the medium-term priority for Romania in meeting the political criteria for the implementation of measures aimed at fighting discrimination.

### **11.2. Co-financing:**

N/A. Co-financing from national public fund is not applicable. Nevertheless, the grants beneficiaries will be requested to bring their co-financing contribution to the project. The limits will be established by the Guidelines for Applicants (minimum 10%).

### **11.3. Additionality:**

N/A

### **11.4. Project readiness and Size:**

In developing the project fiche Interim Evaluation for Social Sector, Health, Education, Culture and Minorities and PPF reports were considered.

### **11.5. Sustainability:**

The project will generate no adverse effects on the environment and aims at enforcing the sustainability of CABs as institutional building projects (headquarters, activities, impact). Thus, the partnership with local authorities, co-financing requirement, the network, the support provided by NACAB (including trained staff, assistance in developing PR activities, sustainability plans/activities, identified ways for further development) are elements of further sustainability. Moreover the results of assessment of CABs, network and NACAB development stage will be the basis for further plan for their development and sustainability.

### **11.6. Compliance with state aids provisions:**

N/A

## **12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING:**

N/A

### **ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logframe in standard format for each project
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period)
4. Reference list of studies
5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations
6. Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies
7. Lessons learnt

### Annex 1 - LOG FRAME

| LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche   |  | Programme name and number<br><b>PHARE/2005/017-553.01.02</b>   | Strengthening the Democracy in Romania            |
|--|--|--|---|
| Strengthening the Democracy in Romania   |  | Contracting period expires:<br>November 30, 2006   | Disbursement period expires:<br>November 30, 2008 |
|  |  | Total budget: <b>2 MEURO</b>   | Phare budget : <b>2 MEURO</b>                     |
| Overall objective  | Relates to Copehagen criterion and aquis chapter   | List of other projects with same objective   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To intensify the NGOs contribution to a democratic society and further improve access to social justice and support citizens in exercising their rights and responsibilities and in solving complex problems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project is intrinsically linked with the further consolidation of a democratic and pluralistic society in Romania. By their virtues and key roles, the NGOs have the capacity to represent the interests and needs of citizens and to contribute to increasing the participation of communities.</li> <li>Among priorities assumed by the Romanian government through its National Programme for the Adoption of the Aquis are: strengthening of the administration-citizen relation and support to participation of citizens to the decision making process, ensuring the governance transparency and</li> </ul> | <p>Currently there are many other projects and initiatives having same objective. We are mentioning only some of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europa fund - the grants provided through the Europa Fund support actions related to the enlargement efforts with the objective to create more transparency of this process and to facilitate its understanding by the general public/specific target groups from the future Member States.</li> <li>Strengthening market surveillance and consumer protection EU fund aims to develop the technical capacity and the capability of ANPC inspection bodies to strengthen the market surveillance and to develop the co-operation with civil society, including the activity of information and counselling in consumer protection field.</li> <li>Youth Informing and Consulting Center</li> </ul> |   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>improvement of the relation between administration and public services users.</p> <p>Thus, advisory and information services for citizens must also be improved.</p> <p>Moreover, strengthening democracy and the rule of law has to be further supported.</p> | <p>(Department within the frame of National Agency for Supporting Youth Initiative) implements the program of extension the network of youth informing and consulting centers, assuming the function of national center of informing resources and coordinator of local centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the rule of law - Strengthen the fight against corruption proposes to contribute:: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To obtain an accurate and objective picture of corruption in Romania, to assess the state's anti-corruption measures, and to propose an enhanced policy response;</li> <li>- To improve the legal framework so that there is greater</li> <li>- effectiveness in investigating, prosecuting and convicting corruption cases;</li> <li>- To improve the co-operation between all relevant law enforcement agencies and actors in the justice system with a role in the fight against corruption so that there is greater effectiveness in investigating, prosecuting and convicting corruption cases;</li> <li>- To enhance the operational effectiveness of the National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (PNA), the lead agency in the investigation of high-level corruption</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|

|  |   | <p>affecting Romania;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase the public awareness of the threat that Romanian society faces from all forms of corruption and educate them as to the negative consequences for democracy and socio-economic development while informing them of their individual legal and moral responsibility to fight against corruption as well as the practical possibilities for doing this.</li> <li>• Integrated programme to strengthen the capacity of the state institutions to fight against corruption and related organised crime aiming to support the integrated and centralised national strategy for the fight against public corruption and organised crime.</li> </ul> |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Project purpose</b>   | <b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>  | <b>Sources of Verification</b>  | <b>Assumptions</b>  |
| <p>1. To support the NGOs in order to further strengthen the network of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs) and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided by CABs</p> <p>To be achieved by the following tasks :</p> <p>⇒ <i>Task 1</i></p> <p>To further raise the capacity and credibility of Citizens</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased by 10% of the number of clients of CABs comparing to previous</li> </ul> | <p><i>For all tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Evaluation reports</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political and economically stability</li> <li>• Support from relevant institutions</li> <li>• Co-operation and co-ordination between actors involved in the implementation of the programme</li> <li>• Availability of local resources for co-financing</li> </ul> |

| <p>Advice Bureaux (CABs) to address the needs and interests of citizens</p> <p>⇒ <i>Task 2</i><br/>To further raise the capacity of National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) to strengthen the network of CABs</p> <p>2. To further strengthen the advocacy role of NGOs in supporting democracy, rule of law, protecting basic human rights, access to information, freedom of expression and related independence of media, independence of justice and fight against corruption</p> | <p>programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of initiatives to improve the quality of services provided to citizens</li> <li>• Level of satisfaction of CABs' clients with the services provided</li> <li>• No of initiatives to improve the quality of services provided to CABs</li> <li>• Level of satisfaction of CABs regarding NACAB services</li> <li>• No of initiatives concerning human rights, rule of law, independence of justice, and perception on corruption</li> <li>• No of initiatives to improve citizens' understanding and commitment to democracy</li> <li>• No of initiatives to support independent and professional media</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring reports</li> <li>• Impact assessment reports</li> <li>• Government of Romania and the European Commission through Progress Reports and Regular Reports (Commission's opinion, AP, NPAA)</li> <li>• Press and media coverage in the areas in which the project is expected to have impact</li> <li>• Interim and final reports of previous programmes</li> <li>• Qualitative and quantitative social investigation</li> <li>• Official data from local and central authorities</li> <li>• Public opinion pools</li> <li>• Official data from local and central authorities</li> <li>• Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP, etc.)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient implementation of anti-corruption measures</li> <li>• Adequate implementation of Phare 2003/005-551.01.05 – Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania Programme, Citizens Advice Bureau Component.</li> <li>• The satisfactory results of Democracy component of the 2004 Civil Society Phare 2004/016-772.01.02 programme.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|
| Results   | Objectively verifiable indicators  | Sources of Verification   | Assumptions  |
| <p><i>Results fulfilling the first project purpose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs able to deliver in due</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No and type of initiatives to</li> </ul>  | <p><i>For both purposes and all Tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Reports of the projects implemented under the programme</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from relevant institutions</li> <li>• Efficient programme</li> </ul>  |

|  |  |   |   |
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| <p>time quality information and advice services to citizens</p> <p><i>Task 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened CABs and CABs' network in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, in order to reach sustainability (headquarters, activities) and to achieve a sustainable impact</li> <li>Assessed development stage, strengths and weaknesses of the CABs and their network</li> <li>Identified ways of further development and sustainability of CABs</li> </ul> <p><i>Task 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened NACAB in order to further provide services and</li> </ul> | <p>strengthen the institutional capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No and type of initiatives to promote CABs</li> <li>No and type of initiatives to achieve sustainability</li> <li>Increase by 20 % of the no of CABs which provide extended areas of assistance comparing to previous years</li> <li>Level of visibility of the CABs activity in communities</li> <li>No of trained staff of CABs</li> <li>No and quality of activities developed by CABs as participation in the network</li> <li>Level of attracted resources other than EU support</li> <li>No and type of activities conducted to reach sustainability</li> <li>No and type of partnerships concluded by CABs</li> <li>Level and sources of co-financing</li> <li>Quality and timeliness of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring Reports of service contract implemented under the programme</li> <li>Ad hoc reports</li> <li>Interim and final reports of previous programmes</li> <li>Interim and final reports of CABs</li> <li>Interim and final reports of NACAB</li> <li>Interim and final reports of service Contractor</li> <li>Assessment report</li> <li>Qualitative and quantitative social investigation</li> <li>Official data from local and central authorities</li> <li>Press and media coverage</li> <li>Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP, etc.)</li> </ul> | <p>management (implementation, monitoring and assessment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective co-ordination between the Implementing Agency, Implementing Authority, Contracting Organizations, Implementing Body and the beneficiaries</li> <li>Timelines and co-financing resources</li> <li>The NACAB established under Phare 2000 Civil Society programme to function efficiently</li> <li>Continuous commitment to protection of human rights</li> <li>Effectiveness of the law package against corruption and support from authorities in fighting against corruption</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|---|

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|--|---|--|--|
| <p>assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability, as well as its sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed development stage, strengths and weaknesses of the NACAB</li> <li>Identified ways of further development and sustainability of NACAB</li> </ul> <p><i>Results fulfilling the second project purpose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased intervention of NGOs in supporting democracy, rule of law, protecting basic human rights, access to information, freedom of expression and related independence of media,</li> </ul> | <p>services provided by NACAB to its members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of training provided to the CABs' staff</li> <li>No and quality of monitoring activities in the network</li> <li>No and type of initiatives and actions of NACAB to promote and strengthen the standards of quality amongst CABs</li> <li>No and type of partnerships concluded by NACAB</li> <li>No and quality of activities conducted to reach sustainability</li> <li>Level of attracted resources, by NACAB, other than EU support</li> <li>Level of co-financing</li> </ul> <p><i>For Task 1 and 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of assessment activities</li> <li>Quality of assessment report</li> <li>Applicability of recommendations made for future development of CABs</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of initiatives carried out successfully in the fields of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- democracy, rule of law,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|



| independence of justice and fight against corruption   | <p>human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- independence of media and freedom of expression,</li> <li>- independence of justice and fighting against corruption</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of involvement in fighting against corruption</li> <li>• No of initiatives to promote good governance and participatory practices</li> </ul>  |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Activities   | Means   |  | Assumptions   |
| <p><i>First project purpose</i></p> <p><i>Task 1</i></p> <p><b>Call for proposals (grants) for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the already existing CABs, namely the NGO members of NACAB, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services provided by CABs, and reaching sustainability.</li> </ul> <p><i>Task 2</i></p> <p><b>Direct agreement for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the NACAB in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability.</li> </ul> | <p><i>All purposes and tasks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of grant contracts corresponding to selected CAB projects</li> <li>• Direct agreement for support to NACAB (grant contract)</li> <li>• Service contract for assessment of CABs, their network and NACAB</li> <li>• A number of grant contracts corresponding to selected projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information, freedom of expression, independence of justice and fight against corruption</li> <li>• Direct agreement for TA support (service contract with CSDF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least 4 key long-term experts</li> <li>○ A pool of short-term experts to support the evaluation/selection</li> <li>○ Appropriate mechanism to ensure proper support for programme management</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective Involvement of NGOs in project implementation</li> <li>• Support from other relevant institutions</li> <li>• Functioning of CAB's</li> <li>• Effectiveness of NACAB in providing support for the network of CABs</li> <li>• Good capacity of NGOs to conduct awareness and education activities at national level</li> <li>• Continuous commitment to protection of human rights, including</li> </ul> |

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| <p><i>Task 1 and 2</i></p> <p><b><i>Tender for Service Contract for:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the development stage, the strengths and weaknesses of the CABs and their network, as well as of NACAB, and identifying ways of their further development and sustainability.</li> </ul> <p><i>Second project purpose</i></p> <p><b><i>Call for proposals (grants) for:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions;</li> <li>Projects to promote the independence of media and freedom of expression;</li> <li>Initiatives addressed to issues related to the independence of justice and fight against corruption;</li> <li>Supporting the professional associations of magistrates at national and local levels.</li> </ul> |  | <p>minority rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectiveness of the law package against corruption and support from authorities in fighting against corruption</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

## Annex 2 - DETAILED TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR PROJECT

### “Strengthening the Democracy in Romania”

|  | 2005  |   |   |   |   |   | 2006 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2007 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2008 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| calendar months  | 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 |  |  |
| Activities   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| TA   |   |   |   | D | D | D | C    | C | C | 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 |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| CAB  |   |   |   | D | D | D | D    | D | D | D | D | D | D | C | C | C | C | I | I    | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I    | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| Democracy, human rights, rule of law and independence of justice |   |   |   | D | D | D | D    | D | D | D | D | D | D | C | C | C | C | I | I    | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | I    | I | I | I | I | I | I | I |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|  | D = Design<br>C = Contracting<br>I = Implementation |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |

### Annex 3 - CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

#### Strengthening the Democracy in Romania

#### CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (2 MEURO)

DATE:

|                     | 31/03/06 | 30/06/06 | 30/09/06 | 31/12/06  | 31/03/07  | 30/06/07  | 30/09/07  | 31/12/07  | 31/03/08  | 30/06/08  | 30/09/08  | 31/12/08  |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>CONTRACTED</b>   |          | 145,000  |          | 2,000,000 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>DISBURSEMENT</b> |          |          | 50,000   | 210,000   | 1,100,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,720,000 | 1,720,000 | 1,790,000 | 1,820,000 | 2,000,000 |

**Annex 4 - REFERENCE LIST OF STUDIES, EVALUATIONS OR OTHER FORMS  
OF PREPARATORY WORK**

1. Interim Evaluation No. R/RO/SOC/03043
2. PPF reports

## **Annex 5 - REFERENCE LIST OF RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

1. Government Ordinance 26/2000 – on associations and foundations
2. Government Ordinance 37/2003 – modifying and completing OG 26/2000
3. Law 32/1994 – on sponsorship (modified and completed)
4. Law 195/2001 – Law on the voluntaries
5. Law 571/2003 – Fiscal Code (modified and completed)
6. Order of the Ministry of Public Finance 1941 – regarding the procedure to allocate an amount representing up to 1% from the owed tax on the annual income, according to art. 90 of Law 571/2003 – Fiscal code.
7. Government Ordinance 68/2003 on social services (modified by Government Ordinance 86/2004)
8. Law 544/2001 regarding free access to public interest information
9. Law 52/2003 regarding the transparency of public administration decisions
10. Law 215/2001 regarding local public administration
11. Law 303/2004 regarding the statute of magistrates
12. Government Decision 1052/2003 on the approval of the Strategy for the Reform of the Judiciary
13. Law 78/2000 for prevention, discovering and sanctioning the corruption acts (completed and modified)
14. Law 272/2004 on protection and promotion of child's rights
15. Government Decision 83/2005 regarding the organization and functioning of Ministry of Justice
16. Government Decision 1944/2004 regarding the approval of the National Anticorruption Strategy for the period 2005-2007.
17. Internal Rules of organization and functioning of the Superior Council of Magistracy
18. Government Decision 1024/2004 regarding Methodological norms for application of the provisions of Government Ordinance no. 68/2003 on social services, as well as the Methodology of accreditation of the social services providers
19. Order of the Ministry of the Labour, Social Security and Family 422/2004 regarding the Compulsory quality standards for specialised social services from Romania, offered by the public system, private and public-private partnership
20. Government Ordinance 59/2003 – regarding some category of goods exempted by the custom tax
21. Order of the Ministry of Public Finance 1654/2004 – regarding the application of the Government Ordinance 59/2003
22. Order of the Ministry of Public Finance 141/2004 – regarding the VAT recovery
23. Order 1829/2003 regarding the approval of the Accountant rules and norms for the non profit legal persons
24. Order of the Ministry of Transport, Tourism and Communications 808/2003 regarding the procedure of offering the approval for the establishment and functioning of the associations/foundations/federations and their subsidiaries and of approving the specific criteria for recognizing the public utility status
25. Order of the National Sport Agency 149/2003 regarding the approval of the Criteria and financing conditions for the sport structures of private law, others than national sport federations, public utility sport programmes and frame-contract for their financing
26. Order of ANIMMC 258 / 2003 regarding the approval of the specific criteria for recognizing the public utility status of the associations, foundations and federations that develop activities within the competency of the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperation (ANIMMC), of the list of the requested

- documents in order to be recognized as being of public utility and of the form for the activity report for the last 3 years
27. Order of the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption (ANPCA) 139 /2003 regarding the approval of the specific criteria of the ANPCA for recognizing the public utility status of the non profit legal persons of private law
  28. Order of MCTI 298 / 2003 regarding the procedure of issuing the necessary approval for the establishment and functioning of the associations and foundations.
  29. Order of MAI 518 / 2003 for implementing the provisions of the Government Ordinance 26/2000 on associations and foundations, modified and completed by Government Ordinance 37/2003
  30. Order of ANPH 302 /2003 regarding the approval of the specific criteria of the ANPH for recognizing the public utility status of the non profit legal persons of private law
  31. Order of MAN 80 /2003 for implementing the provisions of the Government Ordinance 26/2000 on associations and foundations, modified and completed by Government Ordinance 37/2003
  32. Order of MMSS 115 /2003 regarding the organizing the compartment for relations with associations and foundations and approval of the specific criteria of the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity for recognizing the public utility status of the association, foundations and
  33. Order of MMSS 98 /2003 regarding the issue of the necessary approval for recognition of the legal personality
  34. Order of MEC 3.571 /2003 for implementing the provisions of the Government Ordinance 26/2000 on associations and foundations, modified and completed by Government Ordinance 37/2003
  35. Order of Ministry of Public Finance 330/2003 for approval of the model of extract for annual financial statement that is made public by associations and foundations recognized by law as being for public benefit.
  36. OSGG 186/2002 for approval of the funding methodology and selection of the projects in the frame of national interest programs in the field of child protection.
  37. Order 18/2002 for modifying and completing the annex to the Order of the Secretary of State for Persons with disabilities no. 313/2001 regarding establishing of the criteria on which the selection of the projects in the field of social protection of the disable person will be carried.
  38. Order 313/2001 regarding the establishing the criteria on which the selection of the projects in the field of special protection of the disable person will be carried.
  39. Order 256/2000 for approval of the evaluation and selection criteria of the consumers protection associations that are setting and supporting advise and information centers for consumers, and also example of signed conventions.
  40. Selection criteria of NGOs and other legal entities from 2003 that could participate together with the Ministries and public institutions in developing activities and programmes in the field of public health and family protection and develop the methods for financing those activities and programmes.
  41. Methodological norms from 2003 regarding the establishing of the criteria for giving subsidies to Romanian associations and foundations that are legal entity, as other not for profit non governmental organization, that are initiating and developing cultural programmes and projects.
  42. Law 601/2004 – approving the Urgency Government Ordinance 24/2004 regarding the increasing of the transparency in exercising the public functions and dignities, and the intensifying the measures for prevention and fighting the corruption
  43. Government Decision 430/2001 regarding the approval of the Romanian Government Strategy to improve the Roma situation

44. Government Decision 111/2005 regarding the organisation and functioning of the Department for Interethnic Relations
45. Government Decision 1258/2004 regarding the approval of the National Action Plan for Fighting Discrimination
46. Government Decision 231/2005 regarding the approval of the National Anticorruption Strategy for 2005-2007 and the National Action Plan to Implement the National Strategy
47. Law 504/2002 –Audiovisual Law (modified and completed)
48. Resolutions 1003 and 1215/1993 of the European Council regarding the journalists ethics



## **ANNEX 6 - Reference lists of relevant strategic plans and studies**

PPF multi-annual programming document



## Annex 7 – LESSONS LEARNT

| Field                                 | Identified gaps or recommended courses of intervention   | Action for covering the gap or implement the recommended intervention  | 2004   | 2005   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Anti-corruption measures <sup>1</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- anti-corruption legislation is incomplete (must be improved in order to make possible the monitoring of declarations on conflict of interest)</li> <li>- the lack of rigorous enforcement of existing legislation</li> <li>- measures contained in the National Corruption Strategy and Action Plan had a limited impact</li> <li>- fight against corruption is hampered by integrity problems even within institutions that are involved in law enforcement and the fight against corruption.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- objective and equidistant monitoring of anti-corruption fight process</li> <li>- impact assessment of anti-corruption measures at the level of state institutions</li> <li>- public awareness campaigns targeting also the state institutions that are involved in law enforcement and anti-corruption. Citizens participation in intimation and combating of corruption cases</li> <li>- empowerment of civil society organisations to act as watchdogs in the fields such as fight against corruption at different levels of government, creation of coalitions of the NGOs, etc.;</li> <li>- studies, evaluation of corruption phenomenon</li> <li>- supporting NGOs to effectively propose amendments on strategies and laws regarding anti-corruption or proposing new ones</li> </ul> | Phare Civil Society Programme<br>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption | Phare Civil Society Programme<br>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |
| Rule of law <sup>1</sup>              |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- External oversight of the work of the Parliamentary Committees;</li> <li>- Monitoring of Parliament rule of legislative power and highlighting its limitation by the executive in the legislative process;</li> <li>- MP's<sup>2</sup> accountability in relation with their constituents;</li> <li>- Initiatives meant to open channels of communication and consultation between citizens and local/central public authorities in</li> </ul>  | Phare Civil Society Programme<br>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption | Phare Civil Society Programme<br>Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |

<sup>1</sup> Source of information: 2004 Regular report

<sup>2</sup> **MP** = **M**ember of **P**arliament

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|  |  | <p>the decision making process and other governmental processes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disseminating the good practice in the area of public authorities accountability;</li> <li>- Monitoring the implementation of Law on transparency of the decision making process and Law on access to information, at local administration level;</li> </ul>  |   |   |
| Judicial system <sup>1</sup>           | <p>-the low quality of judgments caused by heavy workload of judges, their limited access to case law, a lack of information about new legislation, poor circulation of information within the judicial system and lack of training and specialization</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promotion, monitoring and support of the implementation of the Judicial System Reform</li> <li>-implementation of Magistrates' Code of Ethics</li> <li>-know-how exchange for magistrates' preparation for specialized courts cases</li> <li>-training for magistrates in order to develop abilities necessary for exercising their profession, including non-judiciary knowledge</li> <li>-information public campaigns on the latest modifications of legislation</li> <li>-training and expertise exchange concerning the European law application</li> </ul> | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |
| Anti-discrimination <sup>1</sup>       | <p>-delays in processing petitions received by NCCD</p> <p>-transparency in the way NCCD carries out its activities; low level of visibility, of promotion of its actions</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-independent monitoring of National Council for Combating Discrimination</li> <li>-initiatives aiming at encouraging of the population in pointing out discrimination cases</li> <li>-awareness campaigns</li> </ul>   | -   | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |
| Promoting of human rights <sup>1</sup> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowerment of citizens to take actions in defence of their human rights;</li> <li>- Development of networks of expertise in human rights and democracy;</li> <li>- Empowerment of the minorities groups to promote their rights;</li> <li>- Improvement of quality and coverage of human rights issues in the media;</li> <li>- Other initiatives for groups/persons exposed</li> </ul>   | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |

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|  |   | to infringements of their social and civil rights   |   |   |
| Ill-treatment <sup>1</sup>               | -the existence of cases of ill-treatment from police stations, prisons and psychiatric hospitals  | - monitoring and bringing to public attention of cases of ill-treatment on patients from psychiatric hospitals<br>- Monitoring and bringing to public attention of cases of ill-treatment on patients from psychiatric hospitals  | -   | Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed measure          |
| Trafficking in human beings <sup>1</sup> | -the existence of trafficking in human beings cases<br>-the lack of measures for improvement of the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking<br>-the necessity to implement witness protection scheme<br>-introduction of a non-punishment clause for illegal border crossing in the case of the victims of trafficking<br>-the rigorous enforcement of legislation concerning the detention regime of pre-trial detainees<br>- the poor living conditions for prisons detainees<br>- the low number of staff from penitentiaries | -know-how transfer from specialised NGOs to responsible institutions to action in trafficking cases from the view of the experience accumulated in the NGO sector<br>-extension of the probation experimental services in the counties where they don't exist;<br>-development and training of the Romanian probation officers network.<br>- Development and extension of prevention, assistance and reintegration of trafficking victims;<br>- Know-how transfer from specialised NGOs to responsible institutions to action in trafficking cases from the view of the experience accumulated in the NGO sector; | -   | Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed measure          |
| Refugees <sup>1</sup>                    | -the low number of asylum seekers   | -development of assistance for refugees and migrants<br>-information campaigns/ dissemination of information related to asylum criteria   | -   | Phare Civil Society Programme – proposed measure          |
| Freedom of expression <sup>1</sup>       | -the statute of the journalist and the code of press conduct  | -activities meant to create a healthy environment of journalists work, in order to limit the political  | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human | Phare Civil Society Programme Component: Democracy, Human |

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|   | <p>should be adopted widely and enforced in all media organizations</p> <p>-the necessity to establish an institution responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of law on free access to public information</p>  | <p>and economical pressures, especially at local and regional level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participation in development/ setting up of a responsible body for the effective implementation of law on free access to public information;</li> <li>- independent monitoring of law on free access to public information enforcement</li> <li>- Strengthening the role of journalists organisations in promoting independency of media and promoting the best practices;</li> <li>- Legal advice for journalists and/or training on legislation;</li> <li>- Advocacy activities (e.g. for media-related legislation/policy change, for anti-discrimination related legislation/policy change, etc.);</li> </ul>   | Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption | Rights, Rule of Law, Access to Information, Independence of Media, Independence of Justice and fight against corruption |
| Freedom of association, role of NGOs <sup>1</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthening the role of NGOs in public life (the role of NGOs in public life remains weak);</li> <li>- NGOs financing from indigenous sources</li> </ul> <p><b>According to a project financed out of a Project Preparation Facility (May 2002, beneficiary the Ministry of European Integration), “Civil Society Development, Strategic Planning for 2003-2007”, a no. of gaps have been identified as critical for the NGos sector, i.e.:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-drawbacks in the legal and</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue enhancing credibility and improving the institutional and operational capacity of the NGOs in relation with all stakeholders, from local communities to large public, from constituencies to decision makers;</li> <li>- Public information/education campaigns focused on the specific roles NGOs have in mobilising private initiatives for public interest and added value of their intervention against that of the public or for-profit sectors;</li> <li>- Training, consultancy, technical assistance for NGO staff (including volunteers) and board members, reflecting their preoccupation for accountability, transparency, constituency building, strategic development, management and good governance etc. in their specific or more general areas of activity;</li> <li>- Resource centers for NGOs developed and</li> </ul> | <p>Phare Civil Society Programme</p> <p>Component NGO Sector Development</p> <p>-</p>                                   | <p>Phare Civil Society Programme</p> <p>-</p> <p>Component Citizens Advice Bureaux</p>                                  |

<sup>3</sup> See PHARE Country ex-post Evaluation and Capacity Building, Final Report – Romania, December 2002.

<sup>4</sup> In previous programmes Regional Development Agencies had introduced proposals which had not been retained. This logic should be followed in future strategy, Regional Development Agencies being NPOs but not NGOs. Proposals should be introduced by an NGO partner.

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|  | <p>fiscal framework in which NGO function;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultation of NGOs is practised by public authorities for legislative implementation and by Donors for strategy building, but it seems that in both cases the NGO's opinion is rarely taken into account.</li> <li>- the regional Development Agencies made significant progress in their capacity to select and monitor projects, but little is achieved in terms of economic diagnosis, strategy making, programming and ex-ante evaluation. Regional Development Boards (RDB) have clear roles and responsibilities in designing regional policies and programmes, but in practice this process has been delayed by various obstacles3;</li> <li>- NGO's managerial capacities are in general perceived by the sector as insufficient (though in progress); internal management (staffing and decision making internal procedures) still need technical assistance particularly for partnership project preparation.</li> </ul> <p>Sustainability is low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lack of resource centres</li> <li>- Partnership between NGOs</li> </ul> | <p>supported to provide services to answer identified needs of NGOs locally or regionally;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased participation of the NGOs in networks/platforms built up on specific sectors or themes (i.e., Roma, environment, social, consumer protection, media).</li> <li>- improve public perception of the benefits of the work of NGOs, including an understanding of the 2% law, leading to increase individual and corporate philanthropy</li> </ul> <p><i>Recommended actions through PPF study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private funding and marketing on the NGO's side should be improved and follow clear, transparent strategic planning. In particular, NGOs still need to improve the marketing of their activities and results toward mass media.</li> <li>- At the national level, supporting consortiums and the creation, where needed, of <b>umbrella organisations</b> for different sectors, this would be done as the continuation of the component "<u>NGO sector development</u>" of the PHARE 2001 Civil Society (RO.0104.03) and Civil Society 2003 and would address the following needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to strengthen executive network for representation of NGO community in the field of legal regulations on the sector; in particular, since Law 52 on transparency in decision making process has been published on the 03/02/2003, supporting the consultation process on the secondary legislation and its implementation, articulating the demands of citizens through active participation and consciousness growing, supporting protection of minorities and independence of justice;</li> <li>- to create an executive network for representation of Environmental NGOs so to build up with public authorities the</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |  |
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|  | <p>and other sectors are generally isolated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of trust and the weak image</li> <li>- The law on the financing of political parties (January 2003) authorising the funding without limits of parties through NGOs not only constitutes a money laundering predicate but legitimates public new suspicion.</li> </ul> | <p>procedures of public consultation concerning environment issues accordingly to the EIA directives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to strengthen executive network for representation of NGO community in the fields of self-regulation and good practices, in particular concerning management practices, information dissemination, improved complementarity of projects and programmes and improved partnership with public authorities.</li> </ul> <p>- At the regional and local level, supporting partnership with other sectors, through the “NGO sector development” and the “CAB” components of the PHARE 2001 Civil Society (RO.0104.03) and Phare 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving definition and implementation of regional development plans by strengthening the partnership between Regional Development Agencies<sup>4</sup> and NGOs;</li> <li>- promoting systematic partnership between NGOs and local authorities when relevant;</li> <li>- in the environmental sector, to support the “Local Agenda 21” on sustainable development, by promoting partnership between environmental NGOs, Local Authorities and private industry;</li> <li>- in the fields of labour, social dialogue, consumers protection, professional associations, strengthening institutional capacity;</li> <li>- establishing new resource centres for NGOs in areas where such initiatives do not exist;</li> </ul> |  |  |
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|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pursuing the “Citizen Advise Bureau” experience in partnership with local authorities, tailoring through technical assistance the communication with beneficiaries; supporting dissemination of information about their services, and information networking; If new CABs should be implanted, shape and location should be identified on the base of the results of the existing CABs;</li> <li>- Setting up a CAB network, capable of sharing information and resources, will need logistic support, training and technical assistance.</li> <li>- At the NGO institutional level, <b>supporting visibility</b> concerning <b>accountability, social and democratic issues</b> for improving Civil Society’s involvement. This sub component should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- campaigning with partnership, private and/ or Media, so to support communication on society issues as well as improving the image of the sector;</li> <li>- improvement of the visibility of the work of the NGO sector, internally to the sector and for public use, by promoting studies on the implemented projects (e.g. and in particular, for ACCESS and PHARE Civil Society Programmes, FDSC could publish the analysis of its monitoring of the programmes under the form of an annual report);</li> <li>- civic education: to continue to educate public opinion about the role of civil society and in particular, to build partnerships in this regard (e.g. with schools);</li> <li>- training for NGOs will accompany</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |  |
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|  |   | <p>the needs: training in management, accountability procedures, marketing and communication, and specific professional fields training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- further promoting, through grants, projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities, independence of justice or fighting corruption;</li> <li>- last but not least, NGO's visibility in society arises from its practical social implication and devotion, NGO's messages will only be strong and perceived by Civil Society were there are embodied with social action. Social action and social awareness are joint realities. Supporting NGO's social action through grants remains not only a social necessity in the actual fund raising possibilities for the sector but the opportunity to encourage democratic and civic awareness or practices. In the child care field, were it appears that public is now sufficiently active, special attention should be given to co-ordination and focusing on mothers and children's rights.</li> </ul> |   |   |
| Improving of civil dialog <sup>5</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- effective representation of citizens' interest by civil society in monitoring the Government, ensuring more transparency in the government decision making</li> <li>- ensuring the participation of NGOs and NPOs in the consultation process regarding the implementation of the</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitoring enforcement of existing legislation which is one of the most important EU requirements before and after accession</li> <li>- increase the capacity of civic groups to better serve the members or constituencies interests in targeted sectors</li> <li>- concrete initiatives related to NGOs involvement in defining and applying of National Development Plan (NDP) and Regional Development Plan (RDP)</li> </ul>   | - | Phare Civil Society Programmne – proposed measure |

<sup>5</sup> Source of information: Article 8 of the European Council regulation no. (CE)1260/ 1999; National Development Plan (NDP); Regional Development Plan (RDP)

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|  | <p>structural and cohesion instruments according to Article 8 of the European Council regulation no. (CE)1260/ 1999 regarding the setting of general rules on structural funds.</p> <p><i>According to this regulation, the local and regional level partners – NGOs, business organisations, professional and academic bodies etc. – <b>must</b> be involved in consultation regarding the implementation of the structural and cohesion instruments.</i></p>  | <p>- local partnerships building for RDP awareness in order to ensure high level of projects development according to the needs included in NDP for specific regions.</p> <p>- Initiating and substantiating the “civil dialogue” in adopting different legislative initiatives</p>  |  |   |
| Social economical development <sup>6</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- low level capacity of Romanian entrepreneurial sector in competition pressure of commune market (NDP)</li> <li>- insufficient knowledge of management methods and marketing techniques as well as low level of cooperation between multi-national corporation and potential SMEs sub-contractors</li> <li>- difficult access to grant/sources of finances for SMEs</li> <li>- gap between educational offer and labor market requirements</li> <li>- structural problems related to unemployment</li> <li>- increasing of black labor market</li> <li>- insufficient integration of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving the capacity of business associations and professional bodies in providing specific training and facilitating know-how related to EU market requirements</li> <li>- facilitating the access of SMEs to new and adapted methods in management and marketing through business associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, specialised NGOs etc.</li> <li>- better awareness of goods and services Romanian providers at local and regional level through business associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, specialised NGOs etc.</li> <li>- facilitating the access of SMEs to sources of finance through information and counselling activities</li> <li>- evaluation and monitoring of labor market for a quick adopting of educational offer</li> <li>- concrete measures for diminishing unemployment like vocational training for unqualified employed, unemployed and</li> </ul> | Civil Society Programme Component Implementation of the Acquis Communautaire | - |

<sup>6</sup> Source of information: National Development Plan (NDP)

|                                     |  |   |  |   |
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|                                     | disadvantaged groups (Roma, disabled persons etc.) on labor market   | <p>categories of population exposed to long term unemployment such as women or elderly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- population awareness related to risks of black work and benefits of legal work contracts</li> <li>- supporting health and safe at work</li> <li>- activities meant to sustain the empowerment of civil society organisations to act as watchdogs (e.g. implementation of legislation related to labour and employment, gender segregation and occupations at sectoral level, pay gaps, gender stereotypes, etc.);</li> <li>- enforcement of anti-discrimination measures as stipulated by the national legislation in the fields of labour relations and related to safety and health.</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| Environment protection <sup>7</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- environment dumping</li> <li>- isolation of rural areas</li> <li>- insufficient development of waste management systems</li> <li>- insufficient environmental technology and infrastructure used by business sector</li> <li>- low awareness level of population related to environmental problems</li> <li>- insufficient knowledge of environment disasters (extreme natural phenomena) management systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- training and consultancy for business sector related to environmental protection systems implementation within technological processes</li> <li>- independent monitoring of the appliance of “polluter pays” principle</li> <li>- monitoring, bringing into public attention and assistance in court of citizens or group of citizens affected by pollution;</li> <li>- activities aiming to ensure the access of public to environmental information at the central or regional level, including the participation of citizens in the process of elaboration of plans and programmes from environmental protection area.</li> <li>- activities having as results the overcoming of the barriers in the implementation of the adopted legislation through: assessment of the current implementation status of the environmental legislation, evaluation of both the implementation costs and the necessary administrative capacity, proposing realistic solutions for the identified problems</li> </ul> | Civil Society Programme Component Implementation of the Acquis Communautaire | - |

<sup>7</sup> Source of information: National Development Plan (NDP)

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|                                  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- concrete activities meant to reduce the high level of pollution in rural area</li> <li>- setting up of waste collecting centres in rural areas together with population awareness/education</li> <li>- improvement of urban waste recycling technology areas together with population awareness/education</li> <li>- establishment of environmental information centres</li> <li>- promotion of the sustainable development principle in policies establishment as well as in business activities</li> <li>- promotion of instrument/systems to be applied in crisis situations in order to ensure a quick reaction of population facing natural disasters</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| Consumer protection <sup>8</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient capacity of consumer protection NGOs in order to comply with the role they will play in the future implementation of consumer protection policies and national strategy</li> <li>- low level of information among consumers regarding their rights</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitoring the implementation of the specific legislation related to alternative solving of litigations</li> <li>- setting up mediation services as alternative to court solving of consumers complains</li> <li>- information, counselling and education and campaigning on consumer rights</li> <li>- identifying the consumers problems related to goods and services and implementing innovative local practical initiatives aiming to solve them</li> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in the decision making process in issues that have direct impact on their area of activity</li> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in consultative bodies, inter-ministerial committee for surveillance of goods and services marketing</li> <li>- facilitating participation of consumers NGOs in the comities for abusive clauses and products</li> </ul> | Civil Society Programme<br>Component Implementation of<br>the Acquis Communautaire | - |

<sup>8 8</sup> Source of information: Article 3 of Decision no. 20/2004/EC; EC Consumer Policy Strategy 2002-2006; National Authority for Consumer Protection Strategy 2005-2008

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|  |  | <p>security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information, best practices promotion, expertise exchange, networking, etc, with regard to the European relevant experience in the process of promoting and implementing the consumers and health protection legislation.</li> </ul> |  |  |
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