

Standard Summary Project Fiche

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:* **2003/005-630-04**
1.2 Title: **Improvement of Fire and Emergency Safety along the Bulgarian-Greek Border**
1.3 Sector: Improvement of the external borders security
1.4 Location: Bulgaria - the South border districts of Blagoevgrad, Smolian, Kardjali and Haskovo

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective:

Fire and emergency safety provision for the border infrastructure in the border regions between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece.

2.2 Project purpose:

The project main purposes are:

- Capability of the staff from the Ministry of the Interior to apply particular Acquis-related standards and develop interoperability with the Greek authorities in fire and emergency prevention.
- Operational and tactical capacity of the Territorial Services for Fire and Emergency Safety (DSFES) in Blagoevgrad, Petrich, Sandanski, Gotse Delchev, Dospat, Devin, Smolian, Rudozem, Zlatograd, Kardjali, Podkova, Krumovgrad, Ivailovgrad, Harmanli and Svilengrad in fire fighting and emergency rescue actions based on European legislation and standards.

2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority:

The project is in accordance with the requirements of the PHARE Programme Cross-border Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece and the priorities of the National Programme for adoption of the European legislation.

2.4 Contribution to the National plan.

The proposed project is in accordance with the priorities of Accession Partnership and the National Programme for adoption of the European legislation. This project supports the implementation of measures upon Sub-programme 2 "Consolidation of the institutional capacity of Ministry of Interior", First programme "Consolidation of the institutions forming business environment" at (1st Axis from the National plan for economic development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2000 – 2006).

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The proposed project is closely related to the prevention and keeping under control of fires, industrial emergencies and first aid rendering during natural disasters and crashes at the border regions of districts Blagoevgrad, Smolian, Kardjali and Haskovo of the Republic of Bulgaria and corresponding structures of prefectures East Macedonia and Thrace and Central Macedonia of the Republic of Greece: Xanthi, Drama, Kavala, Evros, Rhodope, Serres and Thessaloniki.

The project will be a basis for the development of: plans for interactions; models of information systems for prevention, timely detection and joint actions for control of occurred accidents.

This project will have strong cross border impact and it gives the opportunity to implement the same project on reciprocal principle by the Republic of Greece under INTERREG III A.

Similarly, the Greek side implements by using INTERREG III-A funds important projects for modernization of fire service related to the effective fight against forest fires.

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification:

New Ministry of Interior's Act was approved in December 1997. The Act emphasizes on management centralization, institutionalization of the operational independence and information unity of the services. One of the main tasks specified by this Act is the provision of fire and emergency safety (Art. 6, Cl. 4). The body responsible for these activities is the National Service "Fire and Emergency Safety". It is an integral structural unit of MoI. The Act extends responsibilities of the former National Fire Protection Service.

According to this Act, the NSFES implements fire-fighting and emergency-rescue activities (Art. 108), takes part in the limiting and elimination of fires, consequences of disasters, emergencies and crashes, rescue of people and property, rendering of first aid and organization of the emergency transportation. With respect to these tasks, the NSFES:

- Implements 24-hours duty of personnel and equipment;
- Specifies the ways and means for performance of emergency-rescue operations;
- Dispatches immediately forces and resources at receiving of calls for fires, disasters, emergencies and crashes;
- Develops plans for interactions between ministries, agencies, municipalities and trade companies.

NSFES-MoI has an operational structure, established on territorial principle. The regions' borders for operations of the fire and emergency safety services are defined in order to allow arrival of forces and resources within the shortest time.

Within the period January 1997 – December 2001 5,595 disasters were eliminated by NSFES at the border regions between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece along the border and access infrastructure in these areas. 4,967 of them were fires and 628 accidents requiring emergency-rescue operations. The death cases were 21, the people injured 69.

After the analysis of the disasters in which elimination the structural units of NSFES take part, it is evident that approximately 13% of them are related to emergency-rescue operations for limiting and elimination of consequences of disasters, emergencies and crashes. Taking into consideration the trend to increase of travellers and goods traffic along the trans-European corridors crossing the territories served by the above mentioned NSFES, the relative part of the emergency-rescue operations compared to the total number, will be increased.

In spite of the availability of a requisite number of qualified specialists, at present moment the structural units of NSFES are not able to provide effective assistance during performance of these activities because of equipment lack.

3.2 Linked activities:

With regard to the institutional building the following projects upon PHARE program are in process of implementation:

- BG0203.02 - "Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy: Development of an Integrated System for Countering Corruption in MoI.
- BG0203.03 - "Creation of a Unified System for Human Resource Evaluation, Qualification and Development in the MoI"
- BG0203.10 - "Implementation of the National Schengen Plan: Building-up the National Information System in Compliance with Schengen Requirements".
- BG0203.06 - "Further Stabilization of the Border Control and Management of Future External Borders of EU (blue borders)".

3.3. Results

The project results are as follows:

- The time for intervention during fires, natural disasters and crashes will be significantly minimised.
- The time necessary to render effective assistance to sufferers from the border area will be reduced.
- The trained staff from the Territorial Fire and Emergency Safety Services at the border regions Haskovo, Kardjali, Smolian and Blagoevgrad will be capable of applying particular Acquis-related standards by the end of the project.
- The trained staff from the Territorial Fire and Emergency Safety Services will manage fires, natural disasters and crashes in close cooperation with the relevant Greek authorities, including by joint activities on fire prevention and/or limiting and their liquidation.
- Material losses caused by fires, disasters, emergencies and crashes at border regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece will be decreased.
- Effects of environment pollution caused by fires, emergencies and crashes having serious consequences for population and environment will be mitigated in respect to biodiversity conservation, water balance preservation and improvement of quality of life in the border regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece.

3.4. Activities

- Training of employees from the Regional Services for Fire and Emergency Safety at Ministry of the Interior in the border regions neighbouring to the Republic of Greece made by European specialists with a view to improvement of their qualification for implementation of fire fighting and emergency rescue operations according to European standards.
- Training of experts from competent services of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece with respect to the bilateral cooperation in fire and emergency safety actions in compliance with European standards in this field. Development of regulations for interactions between the services from the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece concerning organization and activities for fire and emergency safety provision based on the relevant European legislation.
- Analysis and assessment of the existing in NSFES special-purpose equipment for fire fighting and emergency rescue operations at the border regions and preparation of technical specifications for supply of equipment for fire fighting and emergency rescue operations according to the European Norms requirements for the needs of the territorial services from the border regions of Haskovo, Kardjali, Smolian and Blagoevgrad.

- Organization of equipment supply for the territorial services for fire and emergency safety in the border regions of Haskovo, Kardjali, Smolian and Blagoevgrad.

4. Institutional Framework:

Ministry of the Interior has taken a firm obligation to adopt and apply EU legislation and practical standards. Appropriate laws and working programmes are developed and applied. National Service "Fire and Emergency Safety" is authorized to provide fire and emergency safety. Existing central and operational services, research institutes and educational institutions are stated. Recommendations for improvement of the work and organization of these institutions according to the EU legislation and standards will be included in the elements of this project.

With respect to this, the Directorate NSFES has developed:

- Concept on development of National Service "Fire and Emergency Safety" at the Ministry of the Interior for the period of time 2001 - 2005.

- Programme on development of emergency rescue operations at National Service "Fire and Emergency Safety".

- Programme for re-equipment of NSFES for the period 2003-2005.

5. Detailed Budget

Total cost of the project is 6, 555 MEUR.

BUDGET OF THE PROJECT

	Phare Support					
	Investment Support MEUR	Institution Building MEUR	Total Phare (=I+IB) MEUR	National Cofinancing* MEUR	FI*	TOTAL MEUR
1. Technical support by Twinning Light	-	0,150	0,150	0,015		0,165
2. Supply of equipment	4,790	-	4,790	1,600		6,390
Total	4,790	0,150	4,940	1,615		6,555

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

The Bulgarian CBC Implementing Agency is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), which retains overall responsibility for the implementation of the project. This includes approval of ToR, tender documents, evaluation criteria, etc. It is intended an appointment of special unit for the purpose of project's implementation.

The project beneficiary institution is the Ministry of the Interior - DNSFES. It is responsible towards the CBC Implementing Agency for the operational and technical management of the project.

6.2. Twinning

Twinning Light will be used for carrying out the Institutional Building activities included in the project. Support of European Union experts will be provided to train the staff from the Ministry of the Interior to adopt European legislation and apply European norms in fire fighting and emergency rescue activities.

On the basis of the protocol for cooperation between NSFES - MoI and Fire Service of Greece, experts from both services will develop "Regulations for interactions on organization and activities for provision of fire and emergency safety at border regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece. This document will be submitted to the competent bodies for endorsement.

With a view to improving the capacity of the Territorial units for fire and emergency safety, it is intended to develop Programmes for training of the staff from Regional departments for fire and emergency safety - Ministry of the Interior at the border regions neighbouring to the Republic of Greece.

6.3 Non-standard aspects

The Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions (May 2003) will be strictly followed.

6.4 Contracts

1 (one) Twinning Light Contract at amount of up to 165, 000 EUR.

1 (one) Supply Contract with amount of up to 6,390,000 EUR.

7. Implementation Schedule

Start of tendering	Start of project activities	Completion
Start of Twinning Light Sept. 2003	Service Contract- Dec. 2003	Service Contract- April 2004
Supply Contract- April 2004	Supply Contract- Aug. 2004	Supply Contract- Aug. 2005

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity for men and women to participate in all components of the project will be ensured in the project's implementation.

9. Environment

Due to the fact that this project aims to the improvement of possibilities for fire fighting and rendering of first aid at disasters, emergencies and crashes, there is not necessity of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).

10. Rates of return

Economic rate of return - not applicable

Financial rate of return - not applicable

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:

Without PHARE assistance this project would not be implemented in the near future because of lack of funds. The project by its IB (Twinning Light) component will help the staff from the Ministry of the Interior to apply particular Acquis-related standards. Environment pollution will be mitigated. The efficiency of interactions between fire services of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece will be increased.

11.2 Co-financing:

This project will be co-financed by the Bulgarian state budget which will provide 25% of the total cost of project.

11.3 Additionality:

No other financing sources from the private sector or from IFIs are available for financing of this project.

11.4 Project readiness and size:

The preliminary studies are completed and the implementation of project can start according to the implementation chart.

11.5 Sustainability:

Fixed assets will remain public property managed by the territorial services of MoI-NSFES at the border regions after completion of this project. The necessary funds for serving and maintenance of these assets will be provided from the budget of MoI.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

This project is in compliance with the state aids provisions.

11.7 Contribution to NDP and/or Structural Funds Development Plan/SPD

The proposed project is in accordance with the priorities of Accession Partnership and the National program for acceptance of European legislation. This project supports the implementation of measures upon Sub-programme 2 "Consolidation of the institutional capacity of Ministry of Interior", First programme "Consolidation of the institutions forming business environment" (1st Axis from the National plan for economic development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2000 – 2006).

12. Conditionality and sequencing

Part of this project shall be executed in co-operation with the Republic of Greece. Relevant services of both countries will take into consideration the results by an independent consultant assessment in order to establish common procedures for interactions at border regions for disasters control.

Tendering procedures will be followed for the supply of equipment in accordance with requirements and practice within PHARE Programme (Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions).

Annexes to project Fiche :

- Annex 1 - Logical framework matrix in standard format
- Annex 2 - Detailed implementation chart

- Annex 3 - Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of program (including disbursement period)
- Annex 4 - Supporting letter on behalf of Fire Service of the Republic of Greece.

LOGFRAME MATRIX

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project:			Name and number of the programme	PHARE CBC BG-GR 2003/ 000-630-04
“Improvement of Fire and Emergency Safety on Both Sides of the Bulgarian-Greek Border”			Contracting period expires August 2004	Disbursement period expires: August 2005
			Total budget: 6,555 MEUR	Phare-budget:4,940 MEUR
	Short description	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Important assumptions
1	2	3	4	5
Overall objective	Fire and emergency safety provision for the border infrastructure in the border regions between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece.			Institutional building of National bodies responsible for the fire fighting in the border regions
Project purpose	<p>Capability of the staff from the Ministry of the Interior to apply particular Acquis-related standards and develop interoperability with the Greek authorities in fire and emergency prevention</p> <p>Operational and tactical capacity of the District Services for Fire and Emergency Safety (DSFES) in fire fighting and emergency rescue actions based on European legislation and standards</p>	<p>Number of staff trained</p> <p>Number of prevented and extinguished fires;</p> <p>Number of emergency-rescue actions performed</p>	<p>Inquiries and information from MoI</p> <p>Inquiries and information from MoI</p>	

Results	The time for intervention while fires, natural disasters and crashes will be significantly minimised.	Reduced number of fires, decreased number of losses	Reports and information from MoI	Availability of national and regional structures for fire fighting and emergency-rescue operations.
	<p>The time necessary to render effective assistance to sufferers from the border area will be reduced</p> <p>The trained staff from the Territorial Fire and Emergency Safety Services at the border regions Haskovo, Kardjali, Smolian and Blagoevgrad will be capable of applying particular Acquis-related standards by the end of the project</p> <p>The trained staff from the Territorial Fire and Emergency Safety Services will manage fires, natural disasters and crashes in close cooperation with the relevant Greek authorities, including by joint activities on fire prevention and/or extinction and liquidation of consequences of natural disasters and crashes</p> <p>Material losses caused by fires, disasters, emergencies and crashes at border regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece will be decreased</p>	<p>Reduced number of victims</p> <p>Number of staff trained; Amount of special-purpose equipment supplied</p> <p>Number of staff trained; Amount of special-purpose equipment supplied</p> <p>Number of accidents, amount of damaged property</p>	<p>Inquiries and information from MoI, Ministry of transport and communications, etc. Information from MoI</p> <p>Information from Bulgarian and Greek official authorities</p> <p>Inquiries and information from relevant authorities (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Ministry of Environment and Water, etc.</p>	<p>Availability of equipment for fire extinguishing and emergency-rescue operations at DSFES</p>

	Effects of environment pollution caused by fires, emergencies and crashes having serious consequences for population and environment will be mitigated in respect to biodiversity conservation, water balance preservation and improvement of quality of life in the border regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece	Number of accidents, number of people injured, amount of damaged property, extent of environment affected	Inquiries and information from relevant authorities (MAF, MoEW, etc.)	
Activities	Training of employees from the Regional Departments for Fire and Emergency Safety at Ministry of the Interior in the border regions neighbouring to the Republic of Greece made by European specialists with a view to improvement of their qualification for implementation of fire fighting and emergency rescue operations with respect to European standards	Procedure for Twinning Light is announced; the experts from EU are nominated.	Training is organised	
	Training of experts from competent services of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece with respect to the bilateral cooperation in fire and emergency safety actions in compliance with European standards in this field and development of regulations for interactions between the services from the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Greece concerning organization and activities for fire and	Procedure for Twinning Light is announced; the experts from EU are nominated	Training is organised	

	emergency safety provision based on the relevant European legislation			
	<p>Analysis and assessment of the existing in NSFES special-purpose equipment for fire fighting and emergency rescue operations at the border regions and preparation of technical specifications for supply of equipment for fire fighting and emergency rescue operations according to the European Norms requirements for the needs of the border regions</p> <p>Organization of equipment supply for the territorial services for fire and emergency safety in the border regions of Haskovo, Kardjali, Smolian and Blagoevgrad</p>	<p>Announcement of a tender for supply of equipment by offering and contracting procedures according to the requirements and practice in program PHARE (Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions).</p> <p>Equipment is supplied on the basis of PHARE procedures</p>	<p>Criteria and data for specifications for supply of special-purpose equipment for fire extinction and emergenc-rescue operations are developped</p> <p>Report containing an assessment of the state of existing in NSFES special-purpose equipment for fire extinction and emergenc-rescue operations</p>	<p>Availability of equipment for implementation of fire fighting and emergenc-rescue operations</p>
				Preconditions

Detailed implementation chart

Project title: “Improvement of Fire and Emergency Safety on Both Sides of the Bulgarian-Greek Border”

Components	2003			2004												2005											
	?	N	D	J	F	?	?	?	J	J	?	S	?	N	D	J	F	?	?	?	J	J	?	S	?	N	D
Twinning Light	?	T	?	I	I	I	I																				
Supply Contract							P	T	T	T	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I				
	P = Preparation of ToR for TA T = ?endering C = Contracting I = Implementation																										

Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter											
<i>Project title: Improvement of Fire and Emergency Safety on Both Sides of the Bulgarian-Greek Border</i>											
Components	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)										Total Phare Allocation
	2003		2004				2005				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Contracting Twinning Light		0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15		0,15
Supply of Equipment					4,79	4,79	4,79	4,79	4,79		4,79
Total contracting:		0,15	0,15	0,15	4,94	4,94	4,94	4,94	4,94		4,94
Components	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)										Total Phare Allocation
	2003		2004				2005				
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Contracting Twinning Light			0,10	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15	0,15		0,15
Supply of Equipment					1,6	3,2	3,8	4,2	4,79		4,79
Total Phare			0,10	0,15	1,75	3,35	3,95	4,35	4,94		4,94
National co-financing:											
Contracting Twinning Light				0,015	0,015	0,015	0,015	0,015	0,015		0,015
Supply of Equipment					0,320	0,640	0,960	1,280	1,600		1,600
Total National co-financing											1,615



FIRE SERVICE OF GREECE
FIRE CORPS HEADQUARTERS
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SECTION



Athens, 13 January 2003

To: The Republic of Bulgaria Ministry
of Interior National Service
" FIRE AND EMERGENCY
SAFETY "

For the attention of: Colonel K Voynov, Dipl. Eng.
Director of National Service
" Fire and Emergency Safety "

Fax: +359 2 22 01 53
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Dear Mr. Voynov,

With great pleasure I received your letter which refers to your intention to improve your substructure concerning the prevention of fires and natural disasters at the territories of the borders of your country, which border with the similar Greek territories, in accordance with the corresponding PHARE program.

Similar, in the Greek side, using the sums of the INTERREG programs III-A, has started the implementation of important projects, modernization and step-up of every kind of fire station of the Fire Service, in the way of the effective confrontation of the phenomenon of forest fires.

For this, it is pursued systematical the as possible expansion of collaboration with the similar fire services of the bordering countries, contributing with the equipment and personnel to the confrontation of uncontrollable forest fires and in general disasters of natural or technological origin, that threat the territories of the borders.

Especially in the frame of INTERREG III-A program Greece-Bulgaria, the Fire Service of Greece is been founded with the sum of 5.437.000 euro, for the provision of: helicopter for observation and fire-fighting, special articulated tracklayer fire-fighting vehicle and water wagon fire-fighting vehicles.

In the terms of the existing bipartite protocol of our collaboration, we believe that the creation and improvement of every kind of fire-fighting infrastructure of the border territories, will allow the gradual step-up of the provided services and will offer an effective content in the prospect of our greater collaboration.