Summary Project Fiche

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 **CRIS Number** (Year 1): BG2004/016-711.08.06
- 1.2 **Title**: Further Strengthening of Border Control and Management of the Future EU External Borders through Modernisation of Technical Equipment, Development of Centralised Information Systems and Introduction of EU Best Practices and Standards in the Field of Border Control
- 1.3 Sector: Justice and Home Affairs, Sub-sector: Borders
- 1.4 **Location:** Bulgaria, Ministry of Interior, National Border Police Service, Coordination and Information and Analytical Activity Directorate

1.5 **Duration:**

First phase: PHARE Project 2004 Second phase: PHARE Project 2005 Third phase: PHARE Project 2006

2. Objectives

2.1 **Overall Objective(s):**

The further strengthening of the Bulgarian border management through implementation of EU best practices and standards in the field of border control, implementation of compensatory measures in the border zone and, as well as modernisation of the equipment and development of automated information system for border control.

This project is continuation of the multi-annual PHARE Programme, which supports the National Strategy for the National Border Police Service, the Management Programme of the Bulgarian Government in the part "Order and Security" for development of information activity of MoI and the Concept for information activity of MoI.

2.2 Project purpose:

PHARE project 2004 – **First phase:** The first phase of the project is focused on the further strengthening of border control and management of the state border of the Republic of Bulgaria by implementation of integrated measures including the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border zone, as well as further modernisation of the technical equipment of Border Police and development and implementation of the automated information system for border control.

PHARE project 2005 – **Second phase:** The target of the second phase of realization of the multi-annual programme is improvement of the co-operation with other agencies, having competencies in compulsory border control and the improvement of technical facilities of the National Border Police Service in compliance with the EU requirements for border guarding of the external frontiers, development and implementation of the information system for border control and systems supporting the migration control from and through the country, preparation for implementation of compensatory measures in the border zone of the future internal EU borders.

PHARE project 2006 – Third phase: The purpose of the third phase is improvement of the technical equipment of the Bulgarian Border Police and development of the automated information system for border control in accordance with the additional EU requirements for border guarding of the external frontiers; implementation of air surveillance on the borders and achieving of complete readiness for implementation of compensatory measures in the border zone of the future internal EU frontiers.

2.3. Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority

> Convention for Implementation of the Schengen Agreement

> Common Manual on External Border Control

The proposed project will address the following objectives, included in the Accession Partnership, the Convention for Implementation of the Schengen Agreement, the Common Manual on External Border Control, NPAA, the National Strategy for External Borders Building of the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements for Technical Assistance and the Concept for the Development of the National Border Police Service for the period 2001-2004.

Accession Partnership:

Implementation of effective border control and co-ordination of the agencies responsible for the prevention of the illegal migration, realisation and implementation of the new legislation, concerning migration and border police cooperation.

Road Map for Bulgaria

"...the emphases is on the gradual modernisation of the border infrastructure and equipment."

NPAA:

Short-term priorities

Optimisation of border control, supply of modern equipment for effective "green" and "blue" border control, strengthening of the measures for combating illegal migration and trafficking in people.

Mid-term priorities

Fully adoption and application of Schengen standards and requirements for border control and management and achieving of border regime which meets the EU requirements for external border control.

The NBPS Strategy for Strengthening of the Future External Borders of the Republic of Bulgaria and Requirement for Technical Assistance for 2004 - 2006

Strengthening of border management, operative development and modernisation, significant increase of the operative capacity of Border Police, combating cross-border crimes.

Concept for Development of National Border Police Service for 2001-2004.

Elaboration and establishment of modern border management guarantying the persistence and optimisation of the operational capacity in the process of transformation of Border Police from military type into a modern agency for border control and management compliant with the EU standards and requirements. Counteraction of illegal cross-border migration in all existing forms, fight against smuggling of people, trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, use of unauthentic, falsified and forged documents for border crossings, cross-border crimes.

Section "Information Back-up" of the National Strategy for Crime Counteraction

Identifies the need for increasing the level of efficiency of the efforts directed towards counteracting the crime through the use of information technologies and systems which comply with EU requirements and adoption of the current ones and building of new automated information systems in compliance with the Schengen Agreement Implementation Convention and other international acts. It is necessary to develop the information systems for visa and border control, asylum and immigration, and to build up a system for protection of classified information, information technologies, information carriers and means.

2.4 Contribution to the National Development Plan

N.A.

2.5 Cross Border Impact N.A.

3 Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Most of the difficulties, related to the guarding of the state border, refer mainly to the great varieties in the Bulgarian relief: the cross-country border relief, the existence of both maritime and river borders which has to be considered as an International water way.

In the light of the new requirements for accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to EU and having in mind the introduction of the Schengen border management system, the main task of the National Border Police Service is the gradual harmonisation of legislation, as well as the standards and practices for border guarding in compliance with EU requirements and modernisation of the infrastructure in the field of border management.

The professionalisation of the Bulgarian Border Police staff and the process of structural transformations represent a stage of the development of the National Border Police Service. Having in mind the professional experience and traditions that are to be followed in the process of the institutional building, modernisation of border management, the target is to realise in great extend the compliance with the EU standards, to create the necessity of middle term planning of the future steps of the reforms, referring to the Bulgarian National Border Police Service, for optimal level of border guarding, responsible for border guarding and control, according to the requirements of EU.

The level of the border traffic and all border crimes are the two main external factors with directly influence the border management. In principle, a permanent increase of the border traffic is observed, while the forms of border crimes are different, depending on the characteristic of the border areas.

The harmonisation of the border system for guarding of the state border with the Schengen standards requires on one hand the introduction of procedures for border control of the external European borders, referring to Article 6 of the Agreement for Implementing of the Schengen Agreement, and on the other: improvement of the surveillance of the internal borders by mobile patrols, as well as modern technical facilities and electronic means, respecting in the same time the principle for free movement of people and goods. Particularly important is the implementation of compensatory measures in the border areas, improvement

of the co-operation with other agencies involved in the compulsory border control and the modernisation of the technical equipment.

The deployment of the new technical facilities, under projects funded by the EC, the Bulgarian government and under the bilateral co-operation with the EU member states, considerably improved the efficiency of the fight against the illegal migration, trafficking in people and cross-border crimes. But it is still insufficient for effective border management. To a greater extend, this fact is valid for the National Border Police Service now, when the whole staff of Border Police is professional. The personal equipment of the personnel is of great importance too.

There is a necessity for building of a new automated information system (AIS) for border control. The operating Automated Information System (AIS) of Border Control has been designed and operates at two levels – central and regional – and draws on the information contained in the central and local databases, while the non-stop information flow among servers is ensured through the Data Transmission Network (DTN) of the MoI. The architecture of the technical facilities currently in use as Border Control AIS does not allow for adequate integration with the national copy of the Schengen Information System (SIS) databases. The Border Control AIS is based on a technology, which does not allow for the integration of modules and automation techniques for the passenger flow inspection process at border control points, the detection of forged and falsified documents, standards and technologies for detection of biometric data, identity verification, etc. The available technical facilities are outdated and incapable of guaranteeing the EU standards for optimal functioning and time for reliable and verifiable control of individuals and motor vehicles crossing the border. The optimisation of the system is urgently required in order to improve reliability and information safety as well as to reduce operational costs.

The automated information system of the MoI in the field of border control, stay of foreigners and control of migration from and through the country partially meet the requirements to Bulgaria as future external EU border.

For continuation of the preparation for full participation in SIS the elaboration of national databases and registers is needed, including a contemporary automated system supporting the management and providing the border security from Shengen type as a base of the complete implementation of the Shengen Action Plan.

This project is part of the multi-annual strategy for modernisation of the border management, prepared by the National Border Police Service, as precondition for financial support from PHARE Programme.

Practically the project will fulfil some of the objectives and tasks of the **National Action Plan for Adoption of the Schengen Legislation**, in particular: counteracting crossborder crimes, smuggling and trafficking in people, illegal migration from and through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; introduction of modern forms of border police cooperation related to guarding of common frontiers, in accordance with the criteria and requirements of the Convention Implementing Schengen Agreement (border checks in depth in the border zones); technical facilities for border guarding. The Project is in accordance with the Road Map for Bulgaria, as per Chapter 24 for border management – "… the focus is on the gradual modernisation of the border infrastructure and the equipment".

During its preparation the current project has been concerted with "Management of the EU funds" Department of the MoF, the CFCU and the Delegation of EC.

3.2 Sectoral rationale

N/A

3.3 Results:

The successful realisation of this multi-annual project will provide a reliable effective border control and management in compliance with the EU standards and requirements for guarding of the external frontiers.

The indicators for achieving of this general result are:

- increasing the level of compliance with the Schengen standards and best practices;
- improvement of the technical equipment of Border Police;
- decreasing the cross-border crime toll through the territory of Bulgaria.
- improvement of the information infrastructure and communication environment for the needs of the border control and migration systems.

These results will be gradually achieved through the implementation of the fallowing two sub-projects in the separate phases.

3.3.1. Sub-project 1

3.3.1.1. Specific Objective

PHARE Project 2004 – First phase – During the first phase the objective of this subproject is the further strengthening of border control and management through the introduction of integrated measures among with the regional structures of MoI in the border zone, as well as the further modernisation of Border Police technical equipment.

PHARE Project 2005 – Second phase – The second phase of the implementation of subproject 1 intends improvement of co-operation with other agencies involved in the compulsory border control and improvement of the technical facilities of the Bulgarian Border Police according the EU requirements for external borders guarding and preparation for implementation of compensotory measures in the border zone of the EU future internal borders.

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase – The third phase of the sub-project aims the improvement of the technical facilities of the Bulgarian Border Police according the EU requirements for external borders guarding, deployment of air surveillance on the borders and achievement of full readiness for introduction of compensatory measures in the border zone of the future internal borders.

3.3.1.2. Results

PHARE Project 2004 – **First phase** –The realization of this sub-project will achieve partial improvement of border control and management, better prevention of cross-border crime, migration pressure and the violation of the state border and improvement of the co-operation with the regional structures of MoI in the border zone.

Institutional Building

Component 1.1 - Twinning

Elaboration and application of new regulations compliant with the Schengen legislation (Acquis Communautaire), amendment of legislation in the field of integrated border control and methodical and technical assistance for establishment of regional training centre on "blue" border.

- Elaborated new regulations and instructions concerning border control;
- Established new administrative structure of Border Police;
- Continuation of advice on development and improvement of border control and management;
- Worked out of Strategy for Integrated Border Control of the Border Crossings;
- Improved co-operation with the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border area;

- Established regional training centre referring to the "blue" border.

Investment Support

Component 1.2 - Surveillance Equipment

Through the following equipment put into exploitation:

- 10 mobile thermo-vision systems, installed on 10 motor cross-country vehicles;
- 6 stationary thermo-vision systems;
- 80 units portable thermo-vision cameras;
- 100 night vision goggles;
- 100 night vision binoculars;

Resulting in the following:

- improvement of the state border surveillance and guarding;
- facilitating the collection and exchange of operational information for border infringements and attempts;
- improvement of the mobility and efficiency of the border police patrols and posts in identifying and detention of violators of the state border in bad visibility conditions;
- > Tracking of small and middle maritime targets;
- > Facilitation of control on ships at the ports or on reid;
- > Improvement of the technical surveillance equipment of the patrolling border police boats.

Component 1.3 - Mobility equipment

Through the following equipment put into exploitation:

- 68-70 cross-country vehicles;
- 12 minibuses;
- 25 motor vehicles for operational and search activities.

The fallowing specific results are to be expected:

- improvement of the mobility and efficiency of the border police patrols and posts in identifying and detention of violators of the state border
- > increase the number of border police operations in the border area;
- increased capacity for establishment of checkpoints on strategic cross-roads;
- reduction of time for operations of identification and detention of big groups of illegal immigrants.

Component 1.4 - Communication Equipment

After deployment of:

➤ 3 basic stations and relevant system and applied software for the digital radiocommunication system TETRA on the future EU external borders,

The following specific results will be achieved:

- improvement of the communication capacity and the efficiency of the border police patrols in identification and arrest of offenders of the state border;
- reduction of information exchange time;
- reduction of the time necessary for the identification and apprehension of big groups of illegal immigrants;
- extension of the TETRA system along the entire Bulgarian-Turkish border, future external EU border.

Component 1.5 - Maritime equipment

Through the deployment of the following equipment:

- 3 rigid boats;
- 180 protective foul-weather clothing.

The following results will be achieved:

- increase of number of the maritime border police checks in the sea areas;
- decrease of the attempts for border violations at the maritime state border.

Indicators for results achieved in the end of the first phase of the multi-annual project are:

- decreasing the cross-border crime toll through Bulgaria;
- decreasing state border violation attempts;
- increasing of the checks in depth in the border area;
- increasing the number of border police operations around the clock;
- decreasing the time needed for intervention of the border police patrols in order to identify and detain illegal groups;
- increasing the number of averted state border violations in bad weather conditions;
- increasing the number of tracked targets in the harbours, internal seawaters and territorial sea;
- decreasing the time needed for information exchange;
- increasing the radio coverage in Bulgarian-Turkish border area;
- increasing the number of border police sea patrols in the seawaters.

PHARE Project 2005 – **Second phase** – The successful realisation of the second stage of sub-project 1 will result in partial improvement of border control and management and improvement of the co-operation with other agencies, involved in the compulsory border control.

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase – The successful implementation of the third stage of sub-project 1 will result in the effective border control and management of the future external borders of EU, in accordance with the European standards, better prevention of cross-border crime, migration pressure and violation of the state border, readiness for introduction of compensatory measures in the border area of the future internal borders and air surveillance in place.

3.3.2. Sub-project 2

3.3.2.1. Specific objective

PHARE Project 2004 – First phase - Sub-project 2 will permit further generate conditions for the development and implementation of a new centralised automated information system for border control, fully compliant with the EU external border control standards.

PHARE Project 2005 – Second phase -Sub-project 2 will ensure further development and implementation of the new centralised automated information system for border control and of systems, supporting the migration control from and through the country.

The investment support will ensure the delivery of the required technical equipment and software for the Head Computer Communication Centre of MoI, the MoI DTN and the end-users of the systems.

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase – Development of automated information system for border control according the additional European standards for management of EU external borders.

3.3.2.2. Results

The Project aims to achieve the following results:

- improved border control results with respect to counteraction to cross-border organised crime;
- new centralised automated information system for border control and systems facilitating migration control operational;
- information exchange between border control systems and the systems facilitating migration control and the tracing AIS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, currently under development;
- regular information exchange between the respective visa and border control AIS and the systems facilitating the control of migration, issuance of identity documents and the imposition of restrictive measures;
- development of training versions of the systems for training of the Bulgarian police force;
- implementation of an improved complex police training and border control systems, incorporating all levels, units and AIS users;
- change of the manner of work of border police officers;
- improved information infrastructure and communication environment for the needs of the border control and migration systems.

PHARE Project 2004 – First phase – The realization of the sub-project during the first phase will achieve border control and management improvement through:

- Building of new automated information system for border control;
- Realisation of information exchange between the systems for border control and systems supporting the control of migration from and through the country with the AIS for investigation activity of MoI currently under development;
- Development of training versions of the system intended for Bulgarian police officers.

These results will be achieved gradually through the implementation of:

Institutional Building

Component 1.6 – Twinning Covenant

Further development and strengthening of administrative capacity of MoI through development of centralised automated information systems for border control management of EU external borders.

- Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS;
- Elaboration of a system project for development of border control AIS a plan for the information system, analysis of requirements and functional specificity;
- Elaboration of border control system design, components constructing and users procedures;
- Building of training version of system, intended for Bulgarian police officers; implementation of improved complex system for police and border control training, including all levels, units (junctions) and users of AIS.

Indicators for realisation of results of the first phase of the multi-annual sub-project are as fallows:

- Implemented and put into experimental operation a new centralized automated information system for border control:
- Extended scope of Ministry of Interior's structural units which use centralized information in their day-to-day work;
- Increased number of successful investigations.

PHARE Project 2005 – Second phase

• Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS and systems which support the migration control from and through the country;

- Implementation and put into regular operation of automated information systems for border control and systems which support the migration control from and through the country;
- Supply of necessary equipments for automated information systems for border control and systems which support the migration control from and through the country basic component, technical and program means for data exchange network of MoI, technical and program means for end-users of AIS;
- To ensure regular information exchange between automated information systems for visa control, border control, systems which promote migration control, identity documents issuance and restrictive measure enforcement;
- To build a training version of the system, intended for training of Bulgarian police officers;
- To implement an improved complex system for training of police and border control, covering all levels, units (junctions) and users of AIS.

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase

Implemented equipment and modules for automation of passenger traffic check process through the Bulgarian borders:

- recognition of biometric data and verification of persons and documents;
- connection through radio-networks for data transmission;
- optimisation in terms of verification time and security.

Overall period indicators:

- Enhanced reliability and possibility for information back up of the immediate and administrative activity of the border control;
- Improved quality of police training for operation with information systems;

3.4. Activities:

The concrete activities of this project will be as follow:

3.4.1. Sub-project 1

PHARE Project 2004 – First phase

Institutional Building

Component 1.1 – Twinning Covenant

Twinning Covenant procedure - elaboration and application of new regulations in compliance with the Schengen legislation (Acquis Communautaire), amendment of the Bulgarian legislation for integrated border control and technical assistance related to the establishment of regional training centre on "blue" border.

- Elaboration of new regulations and instructions concerning border control;
- Establishment of new administrative structure of Border Police;
- Continuation of advice on development and improvement of border control and management;
- Design of Strategy for Integrated Border Control of the Border Crossings;
- Improved co-operation with the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border area;
- Establishment of regional training centre referring to the "blue" border.

Investment Support

Component 1.2 - Surveillance Equipment - Supply Contracts

- Procurement and deployment of 10 thermo-vision systems, installed on 10 crosscountry motor vehicles;
- Procurement and deployment of 6 stationary thermo-vision systems;
- Procurement and deployment of 80 portable thermo-vision cameras;
- Procurement and deployment of 100 goggles for night vision;
- Procurement and deployment of 100 binoculars for night vision;

Component 1.3 - Mobility - Supply Contracts

- Procurement and deployment of 68-70 cross-country vehicles;
- Procurement and deployment of 12 minibuses;
- Procurement and deployment of 25 motor vehicles for operational and research activities.

Component 1.4 - Communication Equipment- Supply Contracts

- Procurement and deployment of 3 basic stations and relevant system and applied software for the digital radio communication TETRA system

Component 1.5 - Maritime Equipment- Supply Contracts

- 3 rigid boats;
- 180 protective foul-weather clothes.

PHARE Project 2005 – Second phase

Institutional Building

Component 2.1 - Twinning Covenant

Investment Support

Component 2.2. – Surveillance equipment – Supply contracts Component 2.3. – Mobility equipment – Supply contracts Component 2.4. – Communication equipment – Supply contracts Component 2.5. – Maritime equipment – Supply contracts

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase

Institutional Building Component 3.1 - Twinning Covenant

Investment Support

Component 3.2. – Surveillance equipment – Supply contracts Component 3.3. – Mobility equipment – Supply contracts Component 3.4. – IT equipment – Supply contracts

3.4.2. Sub-project 2

<u>Gradual information and technological update and development</u> of the new centralised automated information system for border control and the systems facilitating the control of migration, fully compliant with EU external border control standards, as well as the creation of conditions for the implementation of new technologies for automation of the processes of identity verification and inspection of documents on crossing of the Bulgarian border, are expected.

It is necessary to achieve full compliance with international standards with respect to the security of travel documents, which further precipitates the need for border crossing check-points to be equipped with adequate technical equipment for detection of forged and falsified documents. This will facilitate the integration of the Republic of Bulgaria into the FADO System after it becomes operational.

Regular exchange of information must be ensured between the respective visa and border control AIS and the systems facilitating the control of migration, the issuance of identity documents and the imposition of restrictive measures. This, in turn, will ensure control along the entire chain of administrative services, i.e. consular, border-crossing, services provided to foreign nationals. This functional interaction aims to ensure efficient control of migration processes and restriction of the migration pressure of Bulgarian nationals on the West European countries.

The expected results of the first phase of sub-project 2 will be achieved through the execution of the following activities:

PHARE Project 2004 – First phase

Institutional Building

Component 1.6 – Twinning Covenant

Further development and strengthening of administrative capacity of MoI through development of centralised automated information systems for border control management of EU external borders, the stay of foreigners and control of illegal migration from and through the country

1. Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS;

2. Establishment of new automated information system for border control

- Development of a system project for the implementation of border control AIS;
- Software implementation of border control AIS;
- Integration into the network of other information systems of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including the national copy of the SIS databases currently under development; opportunity for data exchange with SECI information system currently under development;
- Testing, implementation and acceptance of the system.
 - **3.** Implementation of a comprehensive training system, covering all system levels, units and users
- Development of training versions of the system;
- Elaboration of training plans, curriculum, textbooks and training methodology for different types of system users;
- Development of materials and organisation of distance-learning training courses based on the AIS currently under development.

PHARE Project 2005 – Second phase

Institutional Building

Component 2.6 – Twinning Covenant

- 1. Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS and systems which support the migration control from and through the country;
- 2. Development of the information systems facilitating migration control from and through the country
- Elaboration of assignment for development of AIS for the provision of administrative services and address registration of foreign nationals;
- Software implementation of assignment for development of AIS for the provision of administrative services and address registration of foreign nationals;
- Integration into the network of other systems operated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including systems for visa control, border control, residence of foreign nationals, issuance of identity documents, imposition of restrictive measures; processing of data related to

acquisition, loss or reinstatement of Bulgarian citizenship; residence of foreign nationals, issuance of identity documents and other matters relating to Bulgarian citizenship;

- Testing, implementation and adoption of the system.
 - **3.** Implementation of a comprehensive training system at all system levels, units and users
- Development of training versions of the system;
- Elaboration of training plans, curriculum, textbooks and training methodology for different types of system users;
- Development of materials and organisation of distance-learning training courses based on the AIS currently under development.

Investment Support

Component 2.7 – Supply contracts

Supply of hardware and software facilities for operation of the information system of border control.

Component 2.8 – Supply contracts

Supply of hardware and software facilities for operation of the information systems hich support the migration control from and through the country.

PHARE Project 2006 – Third phase

Institutional Building

Component 3.5 – Technical Assistance

- 1. Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS;
- 2. Development of border control AIS with consideration of the additional European standards for EU external border management
- Introduction of new modules for biometric data detection and verification of the identity of persons and documents;
- Introduction of new modules for activities organisation and management and modules for biometric data detection and verification of the identity of persons and documents;
- Development of electronic catalogues of documents and motor vehicles and supplementation (equipment completion) of the system with such tools;
- Connection through data transmission radio networks of the main information channels into mobile workstations, allowing real time processing of train and sea vessel passengers data;
- Other opportunities for system expansion and upgrading, allowing for automation of the passenger flow inspection process and reliable control of passengers and motor vehicles passing the border as well as optimisation of operations in terms of the time and security of inspections.

Investment Support

Component 3.6 – Supply contracts

Supply of hardware and software facilities for operation of the automated information systems for end-users.

3.5. Linked activities:

This project is linked to PHARE Programme 99 – PHARE Project BG 9911.01 "Institutional Strengthening of the Bulgarian Border Police" (3 M Euro), PHARE 2000 – Project BG 0005.02 "Modernising Border Police Equipment at the Turkish Border" (12 M Euro), PHARE 2000' – BG 0012.02 "Strengthening Black Sea Border Police Control at the Bulgarian Maritime Border" (8 M Euro), PHARE 2002 – Project BG 0203.11 "Further Strengthening of Border Management and Control of the Future External Borders of EU (Blue Border)" (7.07 M Euro) and PHARE-CBC 2000, Project BG 0007.03.01 "Facilitation of Danube Border Crossing" (3.15 M Euro). In process of coordination are PHARE Projects 2003 and 2004 "Establishment of Mobile Units for Border Control and Surveillance at the Bulgarian-Turkish Border and Implementation of the Best European Practices for Integrated Control at the Border Areas – first and second phase, representing balanced programmes for Institutional Building and investments in technical facilities.

This project is also connected with PHARE Project BG 9911.02 - "Institutional Strengthening of the Bulgarian Police Force: Updating of the Criminal History Information System and Improvement of Management Techniques (7.1 M Euro); PHARE 2002 - Project BG 0203.10 "Implementation of the National Plan for Adoption of the Schengen Acquis: Development of a national information system in compliance with Schengen requirements" (2.4 M Euro) and PHARE 2002 – BG 0203.02 "Implementation of the National Strategy for Counteraction to Corruption: development of an integrated system for counteraction to corruption at the Ministry of the Interior" (2.0 M Euro).

This project is closely related to PHARE Project 2002-BG 0203.02 "Implementing National Anti-Corruption Strategy: Creation of United System for Anti-Corruption in the Ministry of Interior"(2 ME), by which the Ministry of Interior is applying anti-corruption measures – advice on the development of counter-measures in the case of corruption; training could address the services responsible for internal control and fighting corruption at different managing levels.

The Project is linked with the multi-annual Project Fiche "Modernisation of the Bulgarian Police and enhancing its efficiency" of the Crime /Police Sub-sector. During the first phase it includes Twining aiming at counteracting the organized crimes and illegal migration - training to investigative techniques (technical and management aspects, training of the staff). The main target will be to provide the system of criminal analysis to the Bulgarian Police, as well as training of the staff. The concrete activities are as follows:

- Training in investigative techniques and management aspects of fighting organized crime and illegal migration;
- Crime analysis in relation to corruption issues seminars, training;
- Criminal analysis (basic training, creation data base) and advanced training (operative and strategic analysis);
- Workshops, seminars and training in application of the European acquis and regulations in the field of collecting, storing, processing, transmitting and utilising data, as well as international cooperation both on national and international level.

Sub-Project 2 is related to the proposed multi-annual Project Fiche in the Sub-Sector "Horizontal Reform of the State Administration" aiming at the improvement of the administrative services of the citizens by the introduction of electronic services.

3.6. Lessons learned:

The Bulgarian Border Police gained considerable experience following the successful completion of the 1999 PHARE Project and the current implementation of the two 2000 PHARE Projects and the Project for 2002, which consisted of a balanced programme for institutional building and investment. Substantial support has been given with the assignment of the Pre-accession Advisers, as well as with the system of regular monitoring in the frame of sector sub-committee "Justice and Home Affairs". The recommendations in the regular Projects assessment reports worked out by the EMS consultants contribute for the successful project management.

The completed Twinning projects within the PHARE project 9911.01 "Institutional building of the Bulgarian Border Police" resulted in programmes for short-term working partnerships between analogous structures of the NBPS and the Federal Border Guard, which

are entirely funded by the German Ministry of Interior. The realisation and the management of these projects contribute for gaining of additional experience in this sphere.

As a result of the implementation of Project BG99.11.02 in October 2002 a new Missing Motor Vehicles AIS with updated database has been launched in full compliance with SIS requirements. Information application on the constructive characteristics of the motor vehicles has been developed. Furthermore, an Operational Centre for Information Exchange and a Police Investigation Centre have been set up in order to study the needs and expectations of society with respect to internal security and public order.

The Ministry of Interior, and in particular the various services and directorates implementing the current RHARE project (CIAD, ICT, DNBP, DNP, etc.) have gained valuable experience in the management and implementation of PHARE projects.

3 Institutional Framework

The <u>sub-project 1</u> beneficiary will be the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and in particular the Bulgarian Border Police Service. The Border Police has over 8 000 staff working in the Directorate and throughout the country in 9 Regional Border Sectors.

The Project Manager for the National Border Police Service is the Head of the Department "Legislation and International Co-operation".

The Implementing Unit of the National Border Police Service will be responsible for the technical realisation and the co-ordination of the Project. The Ministry of Finance - CFCU will perform the administrative and financial implementation.

The envisaged Twinning projects will contribute for completion of the process of institutional building of the NBPS. The Twinning project 1 beneficiary will be the Bulgarian National Border Police Service. The project aims at the preparation and the implementation of new regulations compliant with the Schengen legislation, including the integrated border control and technical and methodological assistance for establishment of regional centres for practical training on both "green" and "blue" border.

The <u>sub-project 2</u> beneficiary will be the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and in particular Coordination, Information and Analysis Directorate (CIAD). CIAD will be in charge for the management and implementation of sub-project and will coordinate the work between the services, involved in the project.

The Project Manager for the CIAD is the Head of Directorate Mr. Lachezar Elenkov, coordinator of the project is the Head of the Department "Information Services and Technologies" – Mr. Nikola Vlahov.

The Implementing Unit of the CIAD will be in charge for the technical realisation and the co-ordination of the Project. The Ministry of Finance - CFCU will perform the administrative and financial implementation.

In addition, the CFCU of MoF will work in close cooperation with NBPS and CIAD for the preparation of all tenders according to the requirements and PHARE procedures.

In order to ensure effective coordination and good interaction between the respective MoI directorates, which participate in the project implementation, a Steering Committee, cochaired by the both Sub-project Managers, will be established. It will be responsible for:

- the endorsement of decisions taken during project implementation;
- the provision of guidelines for the activities of the project working groups;
- the provision of the required project information;
- the determination of contact persons from the respective MoI services;
- the timeliness of the project implementation actions and measures in case of delays.

The Steering Committee will meet on a semi-annual basis or more frequently, if required.

5. Detailed Budget						MEURO
	PHARE	Support				
	Investment	Institution	Total	National Co-	IFI*	TOTAL
	Support	Building	PHARE	financing*		
			(I + IB)			
		Year 1/Pha			1	1
Sub-project 1	7,322	0,700	8,022	2,442		10.464
Component 1.1- Twinning					1	T
Contract 1.1 Twinning Covenan		0,700	0,700	*		0.700
Component 1.2- Surveillance E	quipment					1
Contract 1.2 – Supply contract -						
Delivery of mobile, stationary	4,500		4,500	1,500		6,000
and hand- held thermo-vision	.,		.,	1,000		0,000
systems						
Contract 1.3 –						
Supply contract -	0,675		0,675	0.225		0,900
Delivery of goggles and	,		,			,
binoculars for night vision						
Component1. 3- Mobility equip	ment					
Contract 1.4 –						
Supply contract -	1,150		1,150	0,384		1,534
Delivery of cross-country motor vehicles	-		·			-
Contract 1.5 –						
	0,180		0,180	0,060		0,240
Supply contract - Delivery of minibuses	0,180		0,180	0,000		0,240
Contract 1.6 – Supply contract -						
Delivery of motor vehicles	0,330		0,330	0,110		0,440
Component 1.4- Communicatio	n Equipment					
Contract 1.7 –	п Цушртені					
Supply contract -						
Procurement and deployment of	0.055		0.075	0.105		0.500
3 basic stations and relevant	0,375		0,375	0,125		0,500
system and applied software for						
TETPA system extension						
Component 1.5 - Maritime equi	pment					
Contract 1.8 –						
Supply contract - Delivery of	0,045		0,045	0,015		0,060
rigid boats						
Contract 1.9 –						
Supply contract -Delivery of	0,067		0,067	0,023		0,090
maritime foul-weather clothing						
Sub-project 2	0	0,800	0,800	0		0,800
Component 1. 6 - Twinning						
Contract 1.10 Twinning		0,800	0,800	*		0,800
Covenant						· ·
Total	7,322	1,500	8,822	2,442		11,264
		Year 2/Pha				
Sub-project 1	12,645	0,700	13,345	4,215		17,560
Component 2.1 – Twinning		0,700	0,700	*		0,700
Covenant		-,	-,			-,

<i>Component 2.2</i> – Supply	2 ((0		2 ((0	1 220	4.000
contracts – Surveillance	3,660		3,660	1,220	4,880
Equipment					
<i>Component 2.3</i> – Supply					
contracts –	1,260		1,260	0,420	1,680
Mobility Equipment					
<i>Component 2.4</i> – Supply					
contracts –	1,875		1,875	0,625	2,500
Communication Equipment					
<i>Component 2.5</i> – Supply					
contracts –	5,850		5,850	1,950	7,800
Maritime Equipment	,		,		,
Sub-project 2	2,750	0,600	3,350	0,920	4,270
<i>Component 2.6</i> Twinning	_,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Covenant		0,600	0,600	*	0,600
<i>Component 2.7</i> - Supply					
contracts for delivery of					
hardware and software facilities	1,950		1,950	0,650	2,600
for operation of the information	1,750		1,750	0,050	2,000
system of border control.					
<i>Component 2.8</i> – Supply					
contracts for delivery of					
hardware and software facilities					
	0,800		0,800	0,270	1,070
for operation of systems which					
support the migration control					
from and through the country.	15 205	1 200	16.605	E 10E	01.020
Total	15,395	1,300	16,695	5,135	21,830
Seek and is at 1	9.150	Year 3/Pha		2 7 1 7	11.((7
Sub-project 1	8,150	0,800	8,950	2,717	11,667
<i>Component 3.1 -</i> Twinning		0,800	0,800		0,800
<i>Component 3.2</i> – Supply	1.020		1.020	0.240	1.200
contracts -	1,020		1,020	0,340	1,360
Surveillance Equipment					
<i>Component 3.3</i> – Supply					
contracts -	4,430		4,430	1,477	5,907
Mobility Equipment					
<i>Component 3.4</i> – Supply					
contracts -	2,700		2,700	0,900	3,600
Information Equipment and	2,700		2,700	0,200	5,000
Software					
Sub-project 2	1,600	0,250	1,850	0,534	2,384
Component 3.5		0,250	0,250		0,250
Technical assistance		0,250	0,250		0,230
Component 3.6					
Supply contracts for delivery of					
hardware and software facilities	1,600		1,600	0,534	2,134
for operation of the information					
system of border control.					
TT 4 1	0.750	1.050	10 000	3,251	14,051
Total	9,750	1,050	10,800	3,231	14,051

*National co-financing will be up to 10% of PHARE value under the twinning covenant

The national co-financing will be ensured by the state budget through Directorate "National Fund" – Ministry of Finance in the form of joint financing with Phare funds.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

The Implementing agency – CFCU (Ministry of Finance in Sofia) will be responsible for all sub-projects and will work in close co-operation with the beneficiaries in Ministry of Interior - Border Police and CIAD, and in particular the operational Project Implementation Units.

Ministry of Finance Secretary General - PAO BG 1000 Sofia Tel: +359 2 9859 2772 Fax: +359 2 9859 2773

The National Border Police Service experts will prepare the Technical Specifications for the tenders of all investment components of sub-project 1 and these ones for sub-project 2 by CIAAD experts, as required.

The National Border Police Service and the CIAD will nominate experts for the tender evaluation procedures; will control the deployment and installation of the new technical facilities, field tests and the operational assessments.

6.2 Twinning

Twinning procedure is envisaged for the Institutional Building components. In this order standard twinning procedures are to be used.

The duration of the twinning – projects under <u>sub-project</u> 1 of the three phases of the multi-annual program will be 18 months.

The Ministry of Interior and in particular the National Border Police Service requires a Pre-accession Advisors with the following professional profile:

- Professional Police staff /officer/;
- Management skills, administrative and organisational experience;
- Sound knowledge of the national and international public law;
- Fluent English written and spoken;
- Experience in international co-operation and negotiations;
- Experience in use of confidential information.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the sub-project 2 will be implemented through standard two-year twinning and Phase 3 through technical assistance and investment components.

The implementation of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the <u>sub-project 2</u> require a Preaccession Adviser for each phase that will be assisted by EU MS short-term experts.

The PAA must be middle or high ranked official possessing experience in the development and work of automated operational information systems both at national and European level. He/She must be familiar with the respective EU/Schengen requirements relating to system operation and working procedures.

The PAA must be able to establish good relations with MoI staff in order to fully estimate their views and effectively share ideas and techniques. The PAA should to be a professional with excellent communication skills.

The PAA should have expertise in the following areas:

- Knowledge of Information Technologies;
- The operational aspects of police work in the field of border guard and migration;
- Legal matters (overall functioning of penal justice, EU legal documents, i.e. the Schengen Convention, EUROPOL and other relevant conventions, decisions and acts of the EU);
- Human rights and freedoms.

The PAA must be able to effectively assist the process of development of training programmes. He/She further needs to have good command in spoken and written English.

6.3 Non-standard aspects

The Project will be entirely managed according to PHARE Procedures (PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD PRAG).

The Twinning projects of the sub-project 1 envisaged for the three phases of the multi-annual project will be realised according to the Twinning Manual.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the <u>sub-project 2</u> will be implemented through standard twinning and Phase 3 through technical assistance and investment components (Phase 2 and Phase 3). The twinning component expected to be negotiated for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the multi-annual project implementation will be 0,8 and 0,6 MEURO, and Phase 3 will be implemented through technical assistance amounting to 0,25 MEURO.

The Bulgarian partner will provide co-financing for the entire project of total amount of 10.803 MEURO (respectively, Phase 1 - 2,438, Phase 2 - 5,135 MEURO and Phase 3 - 3,230 MEURO).

6.4 Contracts

First Phase – PHARE Project 2004

Sub-project 1

The following contracts are envisaged for the first phase of sub-project 1:

Component 1.1- Twinning

Contract 1.1 - Twinning Covenant- 0,7 MEURO;

Component 1.2 - Surveillance equipment

Contract 1.2 – Supply contract - Delivery of mobile, stationary and hand-held thermovision systems – 6 MEURO;

Contract 1.3 - Supply contract - Delivery of night vision goggles and binoculars -0.9 MEURO;

Component 1.3 Mobility Equipmentt

Contract 1.4 - Supply contract - Delivery of all-terrain motor vehicles -1,53 MEURO; Contract 1.5 - Supply contract - Delivery of minibuses -0,24 MEURO; Contract 1.6 - Supply contract - Delivery of motor vehicles -0,44 MEURO;

Component 1.4 Communication Equipment

Contract 1.7 – Supply contract - Procurement and deployment of 3 basic stations and relevant system and applied software for TETRA system extension – 0,5 MEURO;

Component 1.5 - Maritime equipment

Contract 1.8 – Supply contract - Delivery of rigid boats – 0.06 MEURO;

Contract 1.9 – Supply contract - Delivery of protective foul-weather clothing – 0,09 MEURO.

Sub-project 2

The total amount of the contracts expected per individual projects/phases is detailed below:

<u>Component 1.6</u> - Twinning Contract 1.10 – Twinning Covenant – 0,8 MEURO;

Second Phase – PHARE Project 2005

Sub-project 1

Component 2.1 – Twinning Covenant – 0,7 MEURO Component 2.2 – Supply contracts – Delivery of surveillance equipment – 4,88 MEURO Component 2.3 – Supply contracts – Delivery of mobility equipment – 1,68 MEURO Component 2.4 - Supply contracts – Delivery of communication equipment – 2,5 MEURO Component 2.5 - Supply contracts – Delivery of maritime equipment – 7,8 MEURO

Sub-project 2

Component 2.6 - Twinning Covenant – 0,6 MEURO;

Component 2.7 – Supply contracts for delivery of hardware and software facilities for operation of the information system of border control – 2,6 MEURO.

Component 2.8 – Supply contracts - Supply contracts for delivery of hardware and software facilities for operation of systems which support the migration control from and through the country -1,07 MEURO.

Third Phase – PHARE Project 2006

Sub-project 1

Component 3.1 - Twinning Covenant - 0,8 MEURO

Component 3.2 - Supply contracts - Delivery of surveillance equipment - 1,36 MEURO

Component 3.3 - Supply contracts – Delivery of mobility equipment – 5,9 MEURO

Component 3.4 - Supply contracts - Delivery of IT- equipment and software - 3,6 MEURO

Sub-project 2

Component 3.5 – Technical Assistance – 0,25 MEURO;

Component 3.6 – Supply contracts for delivery of hardware and software facilities for operation of the information system of border control – 2,12 MEURO.

7 Implementation Schedule

Sub-project 1

First Phase – PHARE Project 2004

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals Twinning – Contract 1.1 - 1Q /2005 Investment Support – Contracts 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 – 2Q/2005

7.2 Start of project activities

Twinning – Contract 1.1 - 2Q /2005 Investment Support – Contracts 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 – 2Q/2006

7.3 Project completion

Twinning – Contract 1.1 - 4Q /2006 Investment Support – Contracts 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 – 3Q/2007

Sub-project 2

First Phase – PHARE Project 2004

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals Twinning – Contract 1.10 - 1Q /2005

7.2 Start of project activities

Twinning - Contract 1.10 - 2Q/ 2005

7.3 Project completion

Twinning - Contract 1.10 - 2Q /2007

8 Equal Opportunity

The Ministry of the Interior will ensure equal opportunity for participation of men and women during the implementation of the project.

9 Environment

The equipment will not have any negative influence on the environment. The Bulgarian Border Police and the CIAD are bound to assist other competent authorities in environment protection activities. This project will support this sort of activities.

10 Rates of return

The usefulness of the investments and the institutional building is supported by the Survey on the available equipment for state border guard and necessity of investments and technical assistance - Feasibility study (Annex 4), updated in August 2003 by the NBPS experts.

11 Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:

The consultant help and the investments provided by PHARE will significantly speed up the operational strengthening of the Border Police and in turn this will lead to a more effective border management regime for Bulgaria. This is a key element of the Accession Partnership. Without this investment, it would take far longer for the Bulgarian border management to meet Schengen standards and for the level of cross-border crimes to be brought down.

11.2 Co-financing:

The Bulgarian authorities will provide 25% co-financing of the investment contracts and up to 10% co-financing of the Twinning Covenants.

11.3 Additionally:

The PHARE assistance will not displace other financiers especially from private sector or IFI.

11.4 Project readiness and size:

PHARE 2004 Programme Project is ready for contracting. Technical specifications Projects based on the Survey on the available equipment for state border guard and necessity of investments and technical assistance - Feasibility Study (Annex 4) have been worked out.

11.5 Sustainability:

The strong political will for harmonisation of the legislation and the operative practices in border management of the Republic of Bulgaria with the European standards is the main precondition for the stability of the going on reform. The successful implementation is possible due to the strong Government commitment to build an efficient border guard system, combat crime and illegal actions and strengthen the future external EU borders. The Bulgarian Authorities are fully aware of their responsibilities for their financial participation concerning the co-financing of PHARE Programme and the due care and attention for all the equipment provided under the project in the future.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

The investments are compliant with the concluded and rectified agreements between the EU and the Republic of Bulgaria on Pre-accession Aid.

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

12 Conditionally and sequencing

The Bulgarian MoI is required to ensure that the Border Police have sufficient resources for project management.

The Commission will review the progress of this project in its regular PHARE Review meetings. The effect on the reduction of illegal activities will be assessed in the Annual Progress report on Bulgaria. Therefore the Border police and CIAD must provide full operational analysis and statistics for the periods in question.

ANNEXES TO THE PROJECT FICHE

- 1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
- 2. Detailed implementation chart
- 3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme
- 4. Reference to feasibility/pre-feasibility studies. For all investment projects, the executive summary of the economic and financial appraisals and the environmental impact assessment should be attached
- 5. List of relevant Laws and Regulations
- 6. List of relevant strategic plans and researches

ANNEX 1 - PHARE LOGFRAME

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project: Further Strengthening of Border Control and Management of the Future EU External Borders through Modernisation of Technical Equipment, Development of Centralised Information Systems and Introduction of EU Best Practices and Standards in the Field of Border Control		
	Contracting period expires: November 2006	Disbursement period expires: December 2007
	Total budget for year1: 11,26 MEURO	PHARE budget for year 1: 8,822 MEURO

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
The further strengthening of the Bulgarian border managemer through implementation of EU best practices and standards i the field of border control, implementation of compensator measures in the border zone and, as well as modernisation of th equipment and development of automated information syster for border control.	 Indicators for achieving the overall objective are: Increasing of the level of compliance with the Schengen 	 Regular reports for the implementation of National Shengen Action Plan Regular report of EC PHARE monitoring reports Regular reports by Bulgarian Border police and EC experts Other official documents/analysis/reports, prepared by the Bulgarian authorities and EC. Official statistics of the 	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Objective 2 Year	OVI 2 Year		
Objective 3 Year	OVI 3 Year		

 1 Year – The first phase of the project is focused on the further strengthening of border control and management of the state border of the Republic of Bulgaria by implementation of integrated measures including the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border zone, as well as further modernisation of the technical equipment of Border Police and development and implementation of the automated information system for border control. 2 Year – The target of the second phase of realization of the multi-annual programme is improvement of the co-operation with other agencies, having competencies in compulsory border control and the improvement of technical facilities of the National Border Police Service in compliance with the EU requirements for border guarding of the external frontiers, development implementation of the information system for border control and systems supporting the migration control from and through the country, preparation for implementation of compensatory measures in the border zone of the future internal EU borders. 3 Year - The purpose of the third phase is improvement of the technical equipment of the automated information system for border control in accordance with the additional EU requirements for borders. 	 project 1 (PHARE project 2004) are: decreasing the cross-border crime toll; decreasing state border violation attempts; increasing of the checks in-depth in the border area; increasing the number of border police operations around-the-clock; decreasing the time needed for intervention of the border police patrols in order to identify and detain illegal groups; increasing the number of prevented and identified at the state border violations in bad weather conditions; increasing the number of tracked targets in the harbours, internal seawaters and territorial sea; 	 MoI structures PHARE monitoring reports Report of the Project Steering Committee Statistic for realised activities Regular reports by Bulgarian Border police and EC experts Official statistics of the Bulgarian Border police 	 Parliament of secondary legislation on the border control The Bulgarian authorities to fulfil their obligations about the co-financing
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	 extended scope of Ministry of Interior's structural units which use centralized information in their day-to-day work; increased number of successful investigations. 		
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators OVI 2 Year OVI 3 Year	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Results for all years SUB-PROJECT 1 Efficient border control and management according to the requirements and standards of the EU for external borders guarding	 Indicators for sub-project 1 are: Increasing of the level of compliance with the Schengen standards and best practices Improvement of the technical equipment of Border Police Reduction of cross-border crime toll through the territory of Bulgaria 	 Regular reports by Bulgarian Border police and EU experts Official statistics of the Bulgarian Border Police PHARE monitoring reports Pre-accession Advisor's reports 	 The Bulgarian authorities fulfil their obligations about the co-financing The Border police personnel is sufficiently trained for use of the new equipment The equipment entirely meets the requirements for border police operations Readiness for co-operation in the border area of different structures of the MoI
 SUB-PROJECT 2 improved border control results with respect to counteraction to cross-border organised crime; change of the manner of work of border police officers; improved information infrastructure and communication environment for the needs of the border control and migration systems. 	possibility for information back up of the immediate and administrative activity of the border control;	• EC's Delegation monitoring Records of expert meetings conducted for acceptance of stages of the system	 Building an automated investigation system of the Ministry of Interior in compliance with Schengen provisions - PHARE projects 1999 and 2002; Objectives and tasks set

 Results 1 year SUB-PROJECT 1 Institutional Building Component 1.1 - Twinning The partial improvement of border management and control, decrease of both the migration flux and border infringements, improved co-operation with the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border area will be achieved by: Elaborated new regulations and instructions concerning border control; Established new administrative structure of Border Police; Continuation of advice on development and improvement of border control and management; Elaborated Strategy for Integrated Border Control on the Border Crossings; Improved co-operation with the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border area; Established regional training centre referring to the "blue" border. Investment Components Component 1.2 - Surveillance Equipment improvement of the state border surveillance and guarding; improvement of the collecting and exchange of 	 Number of elaborated new regulations and instructions in the field of border control; Increase the number of joint operations in border area with other NBPS regional units, as well as with other MoI structures; Increase the number of NBPS officers, trained in the regional centres for practical training and qualifications; Reduction of cross-border crime toll; Increase the number of checks indepth in the border area; Increasing the number of border police operations around-theclock; Decreasing the time needed for intervention of the border police patrols in order to identify and detain illegal groups; Increasing the number of averted state border violations in bad weather conditions; 	 Statistical data of the National Civil Police Service Directorate and the National Police Service Directorate - National Business Militia Division 	in Accession Partnership, Road Map for Bulgaria, Catalogue of Basic Administrative Structures for Application of acquis, National Strategy for Combating Crime, etc.; • Adequate fund- provision from state budget.
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 operational information for border infringements and attempts; improvement of the mobility and efficiency of the border police patrols and posts, improvement of the capacity of Border Police during actions of identifications and detentions of violators at the state border, especially in bad weather conditions and low visibility; tracking of small and middle maritime objects; facilitation the control of vessels at the ports or on reid; improvement of the technical surveillance of the patrolling Border Police vessels. 	 Increasing the number of tracked targets in the harbours, internal seawaters and territorial sea; Decreasing the time needed for information exchange; Decreasing the radio coverage in Bulgarian-Turkish border area; Increasing the number of border police sea patrols in the seawaters;
Component 1.3 - Mobility	
• improvement of mobility and efficiency of actions for identification and detention of offenders at the state border;	
• increase the number of border police operations in border	
areas;	
• increased capacity for establishment of checkpoints on strategic cross-roads,	
• reduction of time for operations of identification and detention of big groups of illegal immigrants.	
Component 1.4 - Communication Equipment	
• improvement of the communication capacity and the	
effectiveness of the border police patrols in identification	
and detention of offenders at the state border;	
 reduction of information exchange time; reduction of the time necessary for the identification and 	
• reduction of the time necessary for the identification and apprehension of big groups of illegal immigrants;	
• extension of TETRA system along the Bulgarian-	
Turkish, considered as future EU external border.	
Component 1.5 - Maritime Equipment	
• increase in number of the maritime border police in the sea;	

 decrease of the attempts for border violations at the maritime state border. SUB-PROJECT 2 <u>Component 1.6 - Twinning</u> Development and implementation of a new centralised automated information system for border control, fully compliant with the EU external border control standards. Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS; Elaboration of a system project for development of border control AIS – a plan for the information system, analysis of requirements and functional specificity; Elaboration of border control system – design, components constructing and users procedures; Building of training version of system, intended for Bulgarian police officers; implementation of improved complex system for police and border control training, including all levels, units (junctions) and users of AIS. 	 Implemented and put into experimental operation a new centralized automated information system for border control; Extended scope of Ministry of Interior's structural units which use centralized information in their day-to-day work; Increased number of successful investigations. 	
 Results 2 year SUB-PROJECT 1 Partial improvement of border control and management, reduction of the migration flux and border infringements of the state border and improvement of the co-operation with other agencies, involved in the compulsory border control. SUB-PROJECT 2 Recommendations and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS and systems which support the migration control from and through the country; Implementation and put into regular operation of automated information systems for border control and systems which support the migration control from and systems which support the	• Implementation and put into regular operation of automated information systems for border control and systems which support the migration control from and through the country;	

 through the country; Supply of necessary equipments for automated information systems for border control and systems which support the migration control from and through the country - basic component, technical and program means for data exchange network of MoI, technical and program means for end-users of AIS; To ensure regular information exchange between automated information systems for visa control, border control, systems which promote migration control, identity documents issuance and restrictive measure enforcement; To build a training version of the system, intended for training of Bulgarian police officers; To implement an improved complex system for training of police and border control, covering all levels, units (junctions) and users of AIS. 	 Extended scope of Ministry of Interior's structural units which use centralized information in their day-to-day work; Increased number of successful investigations. 	
Results 3 yearSUB-PROJECT 1Effective border control and management of the futureexternal borders of EU, in accordance with the Europeanstandards, readiness for implementetion of compensatorymeasures in the border area of the future internal borders anddeployment of air surveillance.SUB-PROJECT 2Implementation of new equipment and modules for		
 automation of new equipment and modules for automation of passenger traffic check process through the Bulgarian borders: recognition of biometric data and verification of persons and documents; connection through radio-networks for data transmission; optimisation in terms of verification time and security. 	 Implemented equipment and modules for automation of passenger traffic check process through Bulgarian border: recognition of biometric data and verification of persons and documents; connection through radionetworks for data transmission; 	

	 optimization in terms of verification time and security. 	
ACTIVITIES	MEANS	ASSUMPTIONS
 Activities year 1 SUB-PROJECT 1 <u>Institutional Building</u> <u>Component 1.1 - Twinning</u> Elaboration of new regulations and instructions concerning border control; Establishment of new administrative structure of Border Police; Elaboration of Strategy for Integrated Border Control on the Border Crossings; Improvement of co-operation with the regional structures of the Ministry of Interior in the border area; Establishment of regional centre for practical training and qualification referring to the "blue" border. <u>Investment Support</u> <u>Component 1.2 - Surveillance Equipment</u> Procurement and deployment of 10 thermo-vision systems, installed on 10 cross-country motor vehicles; Procurement and deployment of 80 portable thermo-vision cameras; Procurement and deployment of 100 goggles for night vision; Procurement and deployment of 100 binoculars for night vision; 	 Twinning Covenant (1 Pre- accession Advisor, short-term experts) Contracts for equipment supply 	 The Bulgarian authorities fulfil their obligations about the cofinancing The Border police staff is sufficiently trained for use of the new equipment The equipment entirely meets the requirements for border police operations Readiness for cooperation in the border area of different structures of the MoI Rendering support in the frame of bilateral assistance with EU member-states
 <u>Component 1.3 – Mobility Equipment</u> Delivery and deployment of 68-70 cross-country vehicles; 	• Contracts for equipment supply	

 Delivery and deployment of 12 minibuses; Delivery and deployment of 25 motor vehicles for operational and search activities. <u>Component 1.4 - Communication Equipment</u> Delivery and deployment of 3 basic stations and relevant system and applied software for the digital radio communication system TETRA <u>Component 1.5 - Maritime Equipment</u> Delivery of 3 rigid boats; Delivery of 180 protective foul-weather clothing. 	Contracts for equipment supplyContract for equipment supply	
 SUB-PROJECT 2 <u>Institutional Building</u> Component 1.6 - Twinning Recommendations and advices on development and improvement of border control AIS; Establishment a new automated border control system; to develop a system project for border control AIS development; to ensure software provision for border control AIS; to integrate with other Ministry of Interior operated information systems, inclusive of the currently built national copy of Schengen information system data base; to test, implement and accept the system; To implement a complex training system, covering all system levels, units and users. to develop training plans, prepare aids and training methodology intended for the various types of system users; to prepare materials and training courses by instrument of applying the currently built automated information system for remote training; 	 Twininng Covenant for one PAA and short-term experts for project term; Consult with leader EU experts; Seminars and education. 	 Engaging the managers and technical assistants of all Ministry of Interior services which are involved in the implementation of the project; Effective cooperation with other institutions (universities, industry).

 Activities year 2 SUB-PROJECT 1 <u>Institutional Building</u> Component 2.1 - Implementation of the Twinning project; 	• Twinning Covenant;	
 Investment Support Component 2.2 - Delivery and deployment of surveillance equipment; Component 2.3 - Delivery and deployment of mobility equipment; Component 2.4 - Delivery and deployment of communication equipment; Component 2.5 - Delivery and deployment of maritime equipment. 	• Contracts for equipment supply	 Engaging the managers and technical assistants of all Ministry of Interior services which are involved in the implementation of the project; Effective cooperation with other institutions (universities, industry).
 SUB-PROJECT 2 <u>Institutional Building</u> Component 2.6 - Implementation of the Twinning project Recommendation and advises on development and improvement of border control AIS and systems which support the migration control from and through the country; Development of the information systems facilitating migration control from and through the country to develop an assignment for development of administrative service and foreigners' address registration AIS; to ensure software provision for administrative service and foreigners' address registration AIS; 	 Twinning Covenant for one PAA and short-term experts for project term Consult with leader EU experts; Seminars and education. 	

 to integrate with other Ministry of Interior operated information systems, inclusive of for visa control, border control, foreigner stay, identity document issuance and restrictive measure enforcement; for persons to whom a Bulgarian citizenship has been awarded, withdrawn or reinstated; for stay of foreigners and issuance of identity and Bulgarian citizenship documents; to test, implement and accept the system. To implement a complex training system, covering all system levels, units and users: to build system training versions; to develop training plans, to prepare aids and training methodology for the various types of system users; to prepare materials and training courses by instrument of applying the currently built AIS for remote training. Investment Support Component 2.7 - to supply technical and software means for AIS Border control Component 2.8 - to supply technical and software means for systems supporting the migration control from and through the country. Activities year 3 SUB-PROJECT 1 Institutional Building • Component 3.1 - Implementation of the Twinning	 Contracts for supply, assembly, installation and training for operation with technical facilities, software provision, equipment, etc for AIS Border control and systems supporting the migration control from and through the country. Twinning Covenant; 	 Engaging the managers and technical assistants of all Ministry of Interior services which are involved in the implementation of the project; Effective cooperation with other institutions (universities, industry).
the country. Activities year 3	control from and through the	project;Effective cooperation
• Component 3.1 - Implementation of the Twinning	• Twinning Covenant;	
project;		
 Investment Support Component 3.2 - Delivery and deployment of surveillance equipment; Component 3.3 - Delivery and deployment of mobility 	• Contracts for equipment supply	
equipment;		
• Component 3.4 - Delivery and deployment of		

information equipment and software.		
SUB-PROJECT 2		
Institutional Building		
Component 3. 5 - Technical Assistance		
• Recommendations and advises on development and of	• Contract of technical assistance	
improvement of border control AIS;		
• To develop the automated information system for border		
control in compliance with the additional European standards		
for EU external border management:		
- to implement new modules for recognition of biometric		
data and verification of persons and documents;		
- to implement new modules for activity organization and		
management and biometric data recognition and person		
and document verification;		
- to develop electronic logs for documents and		
transportation vehicles and to add (complete) the system		
with such instruments;		
- to ensure the connection through data transmission radio-		
networks to the basic information channels of mobile		
jobs, allowing for on-line processing of passengers in		
trains and sailing vessels; - other possibilities for expansion and further completion		
of the systems, allowing for automation of the process for		
passenger traffic check through the Bulgarian border,		
provision of reliable and true control of passing persons		
and automobiles, optimization in terms of check time and		
security.		
Investment Support		
Component 3.6 - to supply technical and software means for	• Contracts of supply, assembly,	
automated information system operation intended for the	installation and training for	
system end-users.	operation with technical	
	facilities, software provision,	
	equipment, etc.	

COMPONENTS			2005 2006 2007																																	
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	N	D
											Ins	stitu	tion	al E	Build	ling	Ş																			
Sub-project 1 Component 1.1 Contract 1.1	D	D	D	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	X														
Sub-project 2 Component 1. 6 Contract 1.10	D	D	D	D	D	С	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	X							
											Inve	estm	ents	s Su	ppo	rt,	Sub	-pro	ojec	t 1																
Component 1.2																																				
Contract 1.2	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Contract 1.3	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Component 1.3																																				
Contract 1.4	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т		Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Contract 1.5	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т		Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Contract 1.6	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Component 1.4																																				
Contract 1.7	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Component 1.5																																				
Contract 1.8	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
Contract 1.9	D	D	D	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι		Х	
	T = I =	= Te Imp	esign nder olem osur	ing enta	tion																															

ANNEX 2 - DETAILED TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR THE PROJECT

ANNEX 3 - CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

												i ili ilgui	
	1Q/05	2Q/05	3Q/05	4Q/05	1Q/06	2Q/06	3Q/06	4Q/06	1Q/07	2Q/07	3Q/07	4Q/07	TOTAL
					Instit	utional I	Building						
			SUB	-PROJE	CT 1, C	OMPO	NENT 1.	1, Conti	ract 1.1				
Contracted	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7					0.7
Disbursed		0.35	0.35	0.35	0.56	0.56	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
			SUB-	PROJE	CT 2, C	OMPON	ENT 1.	6, Contr	act 1.10				
Contracted		0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8					0.8
Disbursed		0.08	0.17	0.26	0.35	0.44	0.53	0.62	0.71	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
					Inves	stment S	upport						
					SUE	B-PROJ	ECT 1						
Contracted						9,76	9,76	9,76					9,76
Component 1.2													
Contract 1.2						6.0	6.0	6.0					6.0
Disbursed C 1.2							3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5.4	6.0	6.0
Contract 1.3						0.90	0.90	0.90					0.9
Disbursed C 1.3							0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.81	0.9	0.9
Component 1.3													
Contract 1.4						1.53	1.53	1.53					1.53
Disbursed C 1.4							0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	1.38	1.53	1.53
Contract 1.5						0.24	0.24	0.24					0.24

All figures in million Euro

Disbursed C 1.5				0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.216	0.24	0.24
Contract 1.6			0.44	0.44	0.44					0.44
Disbursed C 1.6				0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.4	0.44	0.44
Component 1.4										
Contract 1.7			0.5	0.5	0.5					0.5
Disbursed C 1.7				0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.45	0.5	0.5
Component 1.5										
Contract 1.8			0.06	0.06	0.06					0.06
Disbursed C 1.8				0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.054	0.06	0.06
Contract 1.9			0.09	0.09	0.09					0.09
Disbursed C 1.9				0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.081	0.09	0.09
Disbursed				5,856	5,856	5,856	5,856	8,784	9,760	9,760
SURVEY ON THE AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT FOR STATE BORDER GUARD AND NECESSITY OF INVESTMENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - FEASIBILITY STUDY

INTRODUCTION

This Study is updated on the basis of The Preliminary Study on Surveillance and Terrestrial Border Protection Equipment and The Preliminary Study on Maritime Equipment, which were attached to the National Border Police Service (NBPS) Project Fiches of Phare Programme for 1999-2003.

The Study is in compliance with the priorities of the Concept for Development of NBPS and the Strategy for Establishment of Bulgarian External Borders till 2006. This Study proposes a programme for institutional development and modernisation, which will improve the Border Police operational capacity and will contribute for efficacy, effectiveness and sustainability of the planned changes.

The Study takes into consideration the European Commission recommendations set up in the Regular Reports on the Progress of Bulgaria from 2000, 2001 and 2002. In these Reports are defined the current requirements for the reforms of the Bulgarian Border Police and the modernisation of the equipment. The Study also reflects the main aspects of the Bulgaria's "Road map" for its accession to the European Union.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this document is to expose the *status quo* of NBPS institutional strengthening and technical equipment and to assess the necessities of investments in the border management and control in view of the preparation of Bulgaria for accession to the EU.

The Study aims to present the problems and the necessity of further regulations in the institutional establishment, training and qualifications of the officers and the equipment modernisation in compliance with the standards and best EU practices in the border management. The Study emphasises the first priority in Justice and Home Affairs Sector and in particular in Sub-sector "Borders" – the strengthening and modernisation of the future EU external borders, in particular – the Bulgarian-Turkish and the Bulgarian Black Sea borders. The necessity of modernisation of the border equipment on the borders with Romania, Serbia and Monte Negro, Macedonia and Greece is also to be defined.

This document considers the geopolitical changes, the illegal migration and crossborder crime trends, the current Bulgarian Border Police reforms, the introduction of new equipment, financed by the Phare programme, State budget – national co-financing - and bilateral assistance. On this basis is determined the actual necessity for undertaking of additional steps for improvement of the administrative capacity of the Bulgarian Border Police, for introduction of the best methods and practices of border protection and infrastructure modernisation.

BORDER MANAGEMENT

The diversity and the specificity of the Bulgarian borders from topographical point of view, namely the extensively rugged relief, the maritime and fluvial borders, which is an international navigable itinerary, determine the complexity of the border protection.

The main task faced by The Bulgarian Border agency, evolving from the accession process and the introduction of the Schengen border management system, is the gradual harmonisation of the legislation, standards and border protection practices with the EU ones, as well as the infrastructure modernisation. For Bulgaria this harmonisation process meant reforming and professionalising the Border Police, transforming it from a paramilitary structure to a modern police agency. The particularities in the practical realisation of this task were a result from the necessity that the Border Police operational capacity should be kept and optimised during this restructuring.

The professionalisation and the already started process of Border Police restructuring are an entire stage of its development. In view of respecting the continuity of the modernisation process and achieving fuller harmonisation with the European border management standards, the Bulgarian Border Police main priorities are to be defined.

The accession of Bulgaria to the EU is linked to the harmonisation of border management principles and procedures and to the change of border protection system related to the competencies, logistics and recruitment policies.

The border protection system harmonisation with the Schengen standards requires, on one hand, introduction of external border control procedures, according to art. 6 of the Agreement on Application of Schengen Accord and, on the other hand, improving the internal borders surveillance through mobile patrols, modern technical and electronic means, in the same time respecting the principle of free movement of persons and goods.

The two key factors that directly affect the border management are the border traffic and the cross-border crime rate. In principle the border traffic is continuously increasing while the cross-border crime forms are different depending on the border portion particularities.

The adaptation of the border control and protection system to the European standards guarantees the effective countering of illegal migration, trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, documents crime, cross-border crime and other forms of crime and shapes up **the NBPS priorities, which are directed to:**

- Harmonisation of the border management legislation with the aquis communautaires;
- Completion of Border Police restructuring, in view of its adaptation to the new challenges;
- Intensifying the international co-operation;
- Improvement of control and protection equipment, according to the EU standards;
- Introduction of aerial surveillance.

The Border Police is also responsible for controlling motor vehicles, goods, freights, hazardous materials, Bulgarian and foreign vessels and aircraft and all other activities linked to the countering of the cross-border crime, corruption and smuggling.

The future EU external borders are of prime significance.

It explains the necessity of strengthening the Black Sea and Bulgarian-Turkish borders. The future EU internal borders – with Greece and Romania – require the elaboration of operational strategy for internal border protection, which is not less important then the strengthening of the external borders.

The performance of effective border control, prevention and countering the illegal migration, implementation and application of new legislation, introduction of Schengen standards and requirements for border management and control, modernisation of border infrastructure and equipment are objectives underlying in the Accession Partnership, Convention of Application of the Schengen Accord, General Manual for External Borders

Control, Bulgaria's Road Map, the NPAA, the National Strategy for the Development of the External Borders of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Requirement for Technical Assistance and in the Concept for the Development of the NBPS 2001-2004.

In this context, the accents in the Border Police activities and, respectively, the results of the accomplishment of the following Phare Programme projects should be the further establishment of effective, European standards compliant Border Police agency, which introduces and applies the best protection practices and standards, further border equipment modernisation and at last but not least, intensive co-operation between the Bulgarian security agencies, on one hand, and the neighboring countries and member states border police agencies, on the other. Namely, this complex of measures and tasks, as a whole, guarantees the cross-border crime successful countering.

The accomplishment of these priorities requires, first, the Bulgarian authorities commitment and State budget financing and also the consulting and financial assistance, in the frame of pre-accession technical programms, of the leading European agencies in border management.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The successfully completed Phare project 9911.01 "Institutional strengthening of the Bulgarian Border Police" has a significant contribution to the Border Police restructuring process and to the legislation harmonisation. Apart the investment component, this Project included two Twinning projects with the Federal Republic of Germany, which have been directed to the institutional strengthening of the Border Police and to the establishment of a modern Training centre in the city of Pazarjik.

In the frame of the one-year Twinning project "Establishment of a modern Training centre for the Bulgarian Border Police" new modulus and training programmes, conformable to the EU standards and requirements, have been worked out.

Additionally, A Draft Ordinance on the Training, arranging the status of the trainees during the training, has been prepared. A new training plan and training programmes for the Centre of specialisation and professional training within the NBPS have been worked out. These documents envisage the extension of the training of the newly recruited sergeants up to 12 months. According to the new curriculum this training starts in 2003.

The adaptation of the Border Police to the European and Schengen standards requires the development of a new training and professional development system. This system should contribute to the training and the qualifications of the officers in order to achieving adequate protection of the future EU external borders. Furthermore, this system should guarantee the higher qualification of the officers and the improvement of their capabilities for handling the new technical equipment.

In the frame of the completed Phare project 9911.01 "Institutional strengthening of the Bulgarian Border Police" has been prepared the legislative basis of the border control and management. The acceptance, in the Ordinance for Application of the Law of the Ministry of Interior and in the Draft of Amendments of the Law of the Ministry of Interior, of the principles of the Draft Law on Border Protection, creates the legislative basis for the harmonisation of the Bulgarian legislation in this area with the EU and Schengen regulations.

The adopted Ordinance on Border Crossing Checkpoints introduces the principle of integrated control as a main element of the integrated border management, which consolidates the efforts of all competent authorities. Draft agreements on border police co-operation with the similar agencies of the neighbour countries have been worked out and represent the legislative basis for application of up-to-date forms of police interaction as cross-border surveillance and cross-border pursuit.

In reference to the restructuring of the agency, a Plan for Border Police Modernisation has been elaborated in view of establishment of border police management system, compliant with the EU requirements and criteria. In the Frame of this Plan, pilot projects on the Bulgarian-Turkish and Black Sea borders have started. Thus, joint protection structures for that part of the borders have been established. The successful realisation of these pilot projects is the foundation of the whole agency structure optimisation. The structure and the functional characteristics of the Bulgarian-Greek, Bulgarian-Macedonian, Bulgarian-Serbian, Bulgarian-Romanian, as well as the Airports Regional Border Sectors have been worked out.

The ultimate objective of this agency restructuring is the reduction of the NBPS structural units, as result – one regional border structure will be responsible for one entire borderline.

The Twinning projects with an EU member-state are effective tools for further institutional strengthening of the Border Police in view of the harmonisation of the legislation and the establishment of an efficient institution capable to enforce the EU standards and laws.

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

The Border Police badly needs important investments for modernisation of the equipment. All types of the available equipment are out-dated, unreliable and in some cases – inappropriate. Undoubtedly, the expenses for replacement of the equipment are considerable but it should be noted that the operational expenses for the maintenance of the old equipment would be even bigger than the delivery of a new one.

The availability of new and sufficient equipment is exceptionally important for attaining efficient border management. This is even more relevant now when all Border Police personnel are professional. The personal equipment and the facilities are also very important.

The introduction of new equipment, delivered within the EC, bilateral and national financed projects considerably improved the fight against the illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and cross-border crime.

Surveillance

The availability of more means for permanent surveillance in any whether conditions is the basis for effective border protection. The thermo-vision systems, the magnification of the images, the radar and the night vision goggles are additional technical solution of problems related to the identification of groups and individuals in the border area. Such surveillance equipment is needed for all borders but especially for the future EU external borders.

Currently the NBPS dispose of 11 thermo-visions systems, 2 "Snog" and 6 "Muson".

Under Phare project 9911.01 "Institutional strengthening of the Bulgarian Border Police" the Border Police received 25 pairs of night vision goggles and one mobile thermovision camera. Other 10 thermo-vision cameras and 112 pairs of night vision goggles have been delivered under Phare project 0005.02 "Modernisation of the equipment for border police control on Bulgarian-Turkish border".

The total cost of the delivered, up to now, surveillance equipment under the Phare Programme is **2,05 Million Euro**.

The following 2002 and 2003 Phare Programme projects envisage the delivery of 22 portable thermo-vision cameras, 15-17 mobile thermo-vision systems, 200-240 night vision goggles and 170-200 night vision binoculars.

The planned cost for this surveillance equipment is **7,73 Million Euro (1,93 Million Euro national co-financing).**

Under the bilateral co-operation with the German Federal Ministry of Interior, NBPS has received 60 night vision devices.

12 posts for technical and visual surveillance have been built-up along the Black Sea coast strip. Three of them are equipped with new coast radio-location systems (RLS) and eight posts are equipped with RLS, manufactured in the period 1995-1998.

At the fluvial border 22 posts for technical and visual surveillance have been built-up. All RLS were bought with budget funds. This radio-location surveillance system is not automated and the data are transmitted by the means of speech information through the communication system of the National Border Police Service.

The radio-location system of the posts for technical and visual surveillance have a range distance for finding targets as follows:

- small targets – 5 nautical miles;

- middle targets – 12 nautical miles.

The RLS of the posts for technical and visual surveillance observe the targets entering/leaving the harbours, the targets with excise goods and such, abiding the peaceful passing through the territorial sea. The radio-location surveillance does not allow finding and tracking of small and middle targets along the whole length of the contingency waters, which are the most probable potential violators. The ships that are on roadstead when entering the harbours, the harbour piers and the small bays are not surveyed by the means of radiolocation. There is no established Vessel Traffic Management And Information System (VTMIS), that makes impossible the recognition of the type of the surveyed targets.

The statistics about the zones out of the border crossing checkpoints pertaining to the regional border sectors (RBSs) of Elhovo and Bourgas for 2002 and the first six months of 2003 show the following:

- detained violators on the state border by technical means -145 cases with 915 individuals for 2002 and 26 cases with 79 individuals for the first six months of 2003. Efficiency -82%.
- not allowed to enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria 187 cases with 2150 individuals for 2002 and 11 cases with 94 individuals for the first six months of 2003. Efficiency 98 %.
- observed targets, abiding the peaceful passing 38 983 targets at sea and 49 915 motor ships and boats at river for 2002 and 19 001 targets at sea and about 25 000 motor ships and boats at river for the first six months of 2003.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned statistics, the conclusion for an arduous operational situation in the zones of responsibility of the RBSs of Elhovo and Bourgas could be drawn. In order to secure the liable guard of the EU future external borders is needed additional quantity of mobile thermo-vision systems, hand-held thermo-vision cameras and equipment for the border police ships and border police patrols along the coast strip and the land border with night vision goggles and binoculars.

The mobile thermo-vision systems will insure: surveillance and control of flat-country areas; gathering of intelligence on preparation for committing offences or smuggling in precarious areas; and will assist the management of personnel and equipment in performing border police operations.

Mobile RLS for surveillance of the uncovered by the coast (stationary) ones zones of the territorial sea are needed.

The hand-held thermo-vision cameras are to be used for: increasing the efficiency of the border police patrols in guarding limited parts of the terrestrial borders; equipping the coast guard vessels; and recording the activities of the violators of state borders, navigation regime and fishing in internal and territorial seas.

The night vision goggles (350 items) will increase the manoeuvring of the mobile squads and coast guard vessels, will facilitate the disguised movement of the border police

foot patrols, will assist the violators detaining units and will be in use by the drivers of the vehicles and the patrol cutters.

The goggles will be also used for intensifying the surveillance on ships that are on roadstead when entering the harbours, the harbour piers and the small bays.

Once these goggles delivered, practically all currently available out-dated Soviet type night vision devices will be replaced.

Mobility

The principle for the mobility means of the Border police is that the main category of vehicles should be a standard patrol type capable to perform routine, all-terrain patrolling in any weather conditions. The other two necessary basic types are vehicles carrying surveillance and communication systems and for transporting of personnel.

For control and guarding of the state border, the Bulgarian National Border Police Service use mainly vehicles of Soviet production - UAZ-469, VAZ-2121 – "Niva", VAZ-2123 – "Niva". A considerable part of them have been in exploitation since 1985-1990. These are all-terrain vehicles, capable to carry out tasks on black roads and off roads in bad environmental conditions. Due to their military purpose, the vehicles UAZ-469 do not offer comfort to the crew. In VAZ-2121 and VAZ-2123 the conditions for the users are improved, but the fact that they have only two doors could causes delay in the actions of bigger border patrols.

As a result of long years of exploitation on bad roads, their technical capacity had decreased and they have functional range of 120-150 km.

The NBPS disposes of other types of vehicles, but they are designated for other tasks such as the transport of mobile border police squads, transport of detained persons, performing border police operations or administrative-economic tasks.

The all-terrain vehicles used in control and guarding of the border have high fuel consumption (from 12.5 to 17.5 litres per 100 kilometres run).

In the period 2004-2006 a big number of vehicles will be 12 years in exploitation and 150 000 km of run and should be replaced. Their technical condition will be inadequate. In the same time their rehabilitation is inexpedient because of the considerable cost. The delivery of new vehicles, which will be in exploitation at least 10 years, is more appropriate.

The conclusion to be drawn is that the NBPS performs its tasks in control and guarding of the terrestrial and maritime borders in conditions of great shortage of reliable all-terrain vehicles. To overcome this, a gradual modernisation of the motor park is needed.

In the period 2000 – 2002 National Border Police Service have received, under Phare Project BG9911.01 "Institutional Strengthening of the Bulgarian Border Police" and Phare Project BG0005.02 – "Modernisation of the Equipment at the Bulgarian-Turkish Border", a total number of 80 vehicles "Land Rover Defender 110 TDI SW", to the value of 1 761 271 Euros. The latter were mainly allocated on the Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-Greek borders.

Under the bilateral co-operation with the German Federal Ministry of Interior, the NBPS have received 36 "Niva" all-terrain vehicles.

For the adequate performance of the duties in the border area the delivery of new vehicles is required. With the actually available out-dated and insufficient motor means the efficient countering of the cross-border migration processes is impossible.

The emphasis is on the capability of: carrying out police operations in the border area; setting up checkpoints on vital crossroads; sealing off areas; and prompt intervention for identifying and detaining large groups of illegal migrants. These mobile squads have already proven their efficiency in Schengen countries that is why their prompt establishment in the regional structures of the NBPS is of prime importance.

The NBPS needs the delivery of minibuses. This type of vehicles is necessary for transiting of foreigners through Bulgaria when applying Readmission agreements with neighbouring countries. The minibuses will be equally used for escorting apprehended foreign citizens to the Detention centres and later on escorting them to the border for expelling into the country of origin. (Currently the above-mentioned is carried out with regular cars, which do not meet the requirements for this sort of activities.)

Communication

For the successful and efficient performing of the tasks of the border guard and the passport and visa control, the building within the National Border Police Service of a modern telecommunication system that meets the requirements and the standards of the EU and the Schengen Information System (SIS) for exchange of information and transmission of data is required.

A contemporary, efficient and secure communication system is a precondition for reliable border management. The communication system should include mobile and stationary radio stations, repeaters, personal mobile radio stations with hardware and software packages for equipping the regional operational, control and communicational centres.

Currently in the NBPS operates an autonomous telecommunication system, which is a part of the telecommunication system of the Ministry of Interior. The information exchange in the Border Police is done through communication means, which in their main part are produced in the 70^{-ies} of the past century and are already out-of-date. Modernisation of the communication system of National Border Police Service means a gradual transition from analogue system to digital one.

Under Phare Project BG 0005.02 "Modernising Border Police Equipment at the Bulgarian-Turkish Border" was built, and is already exploitable, TETRA digital radio communication system. With this project the Border police set up the beginning of the transition from analogue to digital mobile radio communication system, which is an established standard by the European Institute of telecommunication standardisation. The TETRA system in the region of Svilengrad will operate on 70 km of the Bulgarian-Turkish Border. This is a Pilot project for the EC and allows the inclusion of other law enforcement agencies. A mid-term priority of the Border Police is the extension on the whole Bulgarian-Turkish and Black Sea Borders and in long-term – its extension on national level.

Under Phare Project BG 0203.11 "Further strengthening of the border management and control of the future EU external borders (Blue border)", which starts in 2003, the delivery of 410 stationary, mobile and radio-relay stations is envisaged.

Under the bilateral co-operation with the German Federal Ministry of Interior, the NBPS has received 600 hand-held radio stations "Motorola GP 380", 60 stationary radio stations "Motorola GM 360", 100 mobile radio stations "Motorola GM 360" and 20 radio-relay radio stations "Motorola GR 500", to the value of **441 800 Euros**.

The expansion of TETRA digital radio communication system requires considerable budget investments and its feasibility remains more a long-term priority.

Information system and computer equipment

The first information system for operational backup of the work of border control and management bodies of the Ministry of the Interior was developed and launched into operation in 1969. At the moment a third generation border control system is operational, which was has been in use since 1997. It allows real time control and registration of the border crossing of all Bulgarian and foreign nationals and motor vehicles.

The Automated Information System (AIS) of Border Control has been designed and operates at two levels – central and regional – and draws on the information contained in the

central and local databases, while the non-stop information flow among servers is ensured through the Data Transmission Network (DTN) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI).

The architecture of the technical facilities currently in use as Border Control AIS does not allow for adequate integration with the national copy of the Schengen Information System (SIS) databases. The Border Control AIS is based on a technology, which does not allow for the integration of modules and automation techniques for the passenger flow inspection process at border control points, the detection of forged and falsified documents, standards and technologies for detection of biometric data, identity verification, etc. The available technical facilities are dated and incapable of guaranteeing that EU standards with respect to optimal functioning and time needed for reliable and verifiable control of border crossing individuals and motor vehicles are adequately met.

The optimisation of the system is urgently required in order to improve reliability and information safety as well as to reduce operational costs.

A Register of Long-term Residence of Foreign Nationals is maintained at the Ministry the Interior. In order to ensure the execution of the functions assigned by law to the administrative control bodies the data of foreign nationals seeking or accorded special protection on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, the address registration of residing foreign nationals as well as the data on administrative sanctions and executable measures imposed on foreign nationals, the acquisition, loss or reinstatement of Bulgarian citizenship is processed. Need has been identified of further development of the information systems processing such data. One of the key shortcomings of the systems in operation is the inability to achieve full compliance with legal requirements with respect to the registration and control of foreign nationals.

In their entirety and scope the information systems used at the Ministry of the Interior for border control, control of the residence of foreign nationals and illegal immigration do not fully comply with the key requirements of Bulgaria as a future external border of the EU.

We suggest a financing of Sub-project 2 to be ensured for building and development of automated information systems for border control and migration.

The gradual information and technological upgrading and development of centralised information systems for border control and migration is expected, compliant with the European standards for management of external EU borders, as well as creation of conditions for introduction of new technologies and modules for automation of the processes for data check of passengers and their documents.

It is expected:

- development, building and introduction of centralised information systems;
- high speed information channels from end-users working places;
- at local level stationary and mobile working places, allowing processing in real time of passengers and freights at the border-crossing checkpoints terrestrial, maritime and air.

For the building of the new MoI automated information system for border control the purchase of: appropriate software (basic and of development), programme applications, to be built-up in the system; technical means, supporting the design and the exploitation of the system – server of development, peripheral devices, envisaged to be operated by the system, are to be purchased.

For ensuring of high speed information channels to the end-users working places the delivery of specific types of communication devices – routers and modems – is required.

We have proposed the delivery of technical equipment for working places, intended to extend the access to the automated information system for border control for other structural units, involved in activities of prevention and state border control. These working places will be deployed in the national and territorial services of the MoI, the territorial units of Border police (the border-crossing checkpoints and regional border sectors) and CIAD. Each of these units, detached in separate building, will be equipped with technical and programme means, providing access to the automated information system for border control, according to the their functions:

- Working place for immediate passport control (at the border-crossing checkpoints). Graphic terminal, without magnetic information disks; resistant to bad weather conditions, dust-proof; optical scanner connectable for introduction of different types of documents (passports, transport documents, etc.); printer; reader and/or camera for bio-metric identification of individuals and documents; devices for employees' identification for access to the automated information system for border control.
- 2. Verification working place.

PC allowing the installation of all automated information systems of the MoI; printer.

3. Mobile working place for documents processing in trains and ships.

Palm computer - resistant to bad weather conditions, minimal size, dust-proof, shockproof, radio-network interface for data transmission, built-up optical reader for automated introduction of documents.

Geo-information systems

The new NBPS structure requires the introduction of new organisation of the geoinformation activity by the establishment of topographic database and the transition of all measurements and maps to the new unified European co-ordinates. Under the national cofinancing of the Phare Project BG 0005.02 "Modernising Border Police Equipment at the Bulgarian-Turkish Border" has been delivered a modern geo-information equipment, to the value of **255 470 Euros**. For 2003 is planned the contracting and delivery of the second part of the geo-information equipment, under the same Project, to the value of **244 530 Euros**

Border control equipment

The technical equipment of the border crossing checkpoints is intended to reduce the time for border passage.

Priority attention should be paid to passport and visa control of individuals; vehicles, goods and freights checks; Bulgarian and foreign vessels and aircraft checks and all other activities for countering the cross-border crime, corruption, smuggling of goods and illegal migration.

Under the bilateral co-operation with the German Federal Ministry of Interior, the NBPS has received 10 "Dokubox" devices for document checks.

Under Phare Project BG 0203.11 "Further strengthening of the border management and control of the future EU external borders (Blue border)", delivery of 7 mobile systems and 30 field kits for document checks is envisaged.

The statistics show that through the border crossing checkpoints in the area of responsibility of RBS Elhovo and RBS Burgas 3 837 761 individuals have passed in 2002 and 1 652 726 in the first half of 2003.

The NBPS badly needs document checks devices especially for identity documents, visas, vehicle and heavy-freight documents. These devices are needed particularly for the future EU external borders – Black Sea border, 412 km long and the Bulgarian-Turkish border, 268 km long. Through the area of responsibility of RBS Elhovo and RBS Burgas pass some of the most active trans-continental corridors.

The National Border Police Service does not dispose of mobile laboratories, which could serve the borders and could be in use in depth in the border area. Such laboratories are

mounted on minibuses and their equipment allows checking the authenticity of the document on the spot.

The availability of documents exam kits, comprising the most necessary for primary document checks – magnifier, UV lamps, torch, microscope, etc – would be very useful. These kits would be important especially on Svilengrad railway station and for ships that are on roadstead when entering the harbours. The necessity is for 40 such kits for the Black Sea border, the Bulgarian-Turkish border and for the Training centre in Pazardjik.

Maritime equipment

The Bulgarian Black Sea border is one of the most vulnerable Bulgarian borderline areas. The strengthening of the border management and the modernisation of the equipment at the Bulgarian-Turkish border undoubtedly turns the migration flux to the sea. The higher expenses for maritime border investments are due to the cost of maritime patrol vessels and the cost of air surveillance equipment.

The achievement of efficient, European standards-met, protection of the future external borders requires the combination of guard, control and surveillance from the coast, air and the sea. The realisation of this task demands considerable investments and balanced deployment of the equipment. In principle the available maritime patrol vessels could be in use for a limited period of time. There is a necessity for 150-200 tonne vessels, self-contained in the limits of the territorial sea and the contiguous economic zone for 10 days, as well as for smaller vessels, approximately 50 tonne, for patrolling the internal seawater and territorial sea. All these vessels require contemporary communication systems vessel-coast type and contemporary surveillance systems – thermo-vision and radar systems. The available equipment does not allow permanent maritime presence.

Under Phare Project BG 0012.02 "Strengthening of the control at the Bulgarian Black Sea border" a supply contract for two 50 tonne seaworthy patrol vessels, two rigid inflatable boats and foul-weather protective clothing has been concluded. This supply, in combination with the introduction of surveillance and communication systems, will provide much more systematic surveillance of the territorial sea and the internal seawater and will contribute to the efficient counteraction to the cross-border crime.

Under the national co-financing of the same project the procurement of floating ferroconcrete pier with onboard repair and maintenance facilities is envisaged. The training of the personnel in the new techniques of maritime surveillance and in new procedures of maritime evidence collection and processing is also planned.

Under the national co-financing of Phare Project BG 9911.01 and under the bilateral agreement with the German Federal Ministry of Interior, a large, 220 tonne, patrol vessel has been purchased from the Federal Border Guard.

Under Phare Project BG 0203.11 "Further strengthening of the border management and control of the future EU external borders (Blue border)", procurement of one 50 tonne patrol vessel, two river-cutter for Danube river, as well as one large, 220 tonne, patrol vessel, under the national co-financing and the bilateral agreement with the German Federal Border Guard is expected.

The presence of political will for harmonisation of the legislation and the Bulgarian border management operational practices with the EU ones is a basic precondition for the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the started reform. The professionalisation and the already started process of Border Police restructuring are a stage of its development. In view of respecting the continuity of the modernisation process and achieving fuller harmonisation with the European border management standards and best practices, transition from annual to multi-annual programming of the Phare projects is necessary. Such approach will allow the programming of all processes of restructuring and equipment of the agency and especially the training and the improvement of the qualifications and re-qualification of the personnel. Last but not least, the multi-annual approach will allow the efficient introduction of the contemporary methods of cross-border surveillance and cross-border pursuit in direct co-operation with the similar agencies of the 4 neighbouring countries.

ANNEX 5

LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The legal basis of the activity on state border guard, the control on abiding the border regime and the legal powers of the Border Police officers are regulated by:

- The Ministry of the Interior Act (MIA) and the Rules for its Implementation, in which the functions, the bodies and the legal powers of National Border Police Service (NBPS) MOI are exhaustively described;
- Penal Code, in which are incriminated the illegal border crossing, the illegal trafficking in human beings, the documentary crimes and other related to them actions;
- The Aliens Act, which regulates the conditions and the order for foreign nationals entering, staying in, or leaving the Republic of Bulgaria and their rights and obligations as well;
- The Rules for the Implementation of The Aliens Act, which clarifies the details of the conditions and the order for foreign nationals entering, staying in, or leaving the Republic of Bulgaria;
- The Maritime Territories, Interior Waterways and Ports of the Republic of Bulgaria Act, which regulates the legal regime of the maritime territories of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Black Sea, and on these territories the Republic of Bulgaria administers sovereignty, defined sovereign rights, jurisdiction and control;
- The Refugees Act which regulates the order and the conditions for conceding a refugee status, the rights and the obligations of the refugees, the state bodies and their competencies on the protection of the refugees in the Republic of Bulgaria as well;
- The Bulgarian Identity Documents Act, which regulates the conditions and the order for issuing, using and preserving of the Bulgarian identity documents of Bulgarian citizens and foreigners;
- Ordinance of the Council of the Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria No 104/25.05.2002, by which was adopted Decree for the Border Control Check Points which defines the organization, the activity and the run of the Border Control Check Points and the interaction between the Border Control Bodies in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Ordinance of the Bulgarian Council of the Ministers No 97/11.05.2002, by which was adopted Decree for the conditions and the order for issuing of visas
- Law for Protection of the Classified Information, In force 04.05.2002 ;
- Law for Protection of Personal Data, In force 01.01.2002.

The legal provisions, concerning the border management can be related to the most recent legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria and there is a striving to encompass all the aspects of the border control.

ANNEX 6

LIST OF THE RELEVANT STARTEGIC PLANS AND RESEARCHES

1. Concept for the Development of the National Border Police Service for the Period 2001-2004, approved by the Minister of interior

2. Strategy of the National Border Police Service for Strengthening of the Future External Borders of the Republic of Bulgaria and Requirements for Technical Assistance for 2004-2006, confirmed by the Director of the National Border Police Service- last updated version.

- 3. Governmental Programme of Republic of Bulgaria
- 4. National Programme for Adoption of acquis (NPAA)
- 5. Shengen Action Plan
- 6. Strategy for Administrative Reform
- 7. Programme for Implementation of the Strategy for Administrative Reform
- 8. Strategy for Electronic Government

9. Concept for Improvement of the Administrative Services in the Light of the Principle "One Window" Payment.

10. National Strategy for Counteraction of Crimes.

11. National Strategy for Counteraction of Corruption.