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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

concerning the Community position within the Association Council  
on the participation of Poland in Community programmes in the fields of *training,*  
*youth and education*

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

concerning the Community position within the Association Council  
on the participation of the Slovak Republic in Community programmes in the fields  
of *training, youth and education*

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(presented by the Commission)

## **Explanatory Memorandum**

All Additional Protocols to the Europe Agreements concerning the Central European Countries' (CEC) participation in Community programmes have now entered into force.

The Commission already submitted proposals for Council Decisions concerning the Community position within the Association Council on the participation of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education.

Poland and the Slovak Republic have now also confirmed their interest to participate in these programmes as well as their willingness to pay their financial contribution thereto. Both countries intend to spread this contribution over their national budget and their Phare allocation.

The draft Decisions of the EC-Poland and the EC-Slovak Republic Association Councils adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland and the Slovak Republic in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education, are similar - apart from the amounts involved - to those which have been recently adopted for the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. The main articles concern the following:

- Poland and the Slovak Republic shall participate in all measures and actions of Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates, in principle on the same footing as the Member States of the Community (Articles 1 and 2)
- a minimum number of partners from EC Member States will be required for all transnational projects (Article 3) proposed by Poland and the Slovak Republic.
- Poland and the Slovak Republic shall set up or make available national structures and mechanisms in order to implement their participation (Article 4)
- the financial contribution of Poland and the Slovak Republic is defined in Article 5 and in the Annex
- best efforts shall be made to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers etc. (Article 6)
- Poland and the Slovak Republic shall be associated to the monitoring of their participation in the Programmes (Article 7)
- Poland and the Slovak Republic shall be invited to coordination meetings prior to the meetings of the Programmes Committees; they will be informed about their results (article 8)
- the Decision shall apply for the duration of the Programmes (Article 10)

**Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION  
of .....**

97/0224 (CNS)

**concerning the Community position within the Association Council  
on the participation of Poland in Community programmes in the fields of *training,  
youth and education***

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 126 and 127, in conjunction with Article 228(3) first paragraph thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part, has been concluded by decision of the Council and the Commission of 4 december 1995,

Whereas, according to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, Poland may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training, youth and education and, pursuant to Article 2, the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be decided by the Association Council,

Whereas, Council Decision (94/819/EC) of 6 December 1994 establishing an action programme for the implementation of a European Community vocational training policy, (hereinafter called "Leonardo da Vinci"<sup>1</sup>), and in particular Article 9,1 thereof, Decision (818/95/EC) of 14 March 1995 of the European Parliament and the Council adopting the third phase of the "Youth for Europe"<sup>2</sup> programme and in particular Article 7,4 thereof and Decision (819/95/EC) of 14 March 1995 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Community action programme in the field of education (hereinafter called "Socrates")<sup>3</sup> and in particular article 7,3 thereof, provide that these programmes shall be open to the participation of associated Central European countries in accordance with the conditions set out in the Additional Protocols to the Association Agreements on participation in Community programmes,

Whereas, during the joint meetings of Education Ministers held in Luxembourg on 23 October 1995 and in Brussels on 21 November 1996 in the framework of the Structured Dialogue between the European Union and the associated Central European Countries the Parties reconfirmed their willingness to extend the participation in Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates to these countries,

<sup>1</sup> O.J. n° L 340 of 29.12.1994

<sup>2</sup> O.J. no. L87 of 20.04.1995

<sup>3</sup> O.J. no. L87 of 20.04.1995

**Draft Decision n°..../97 of the EC-Poland Association Council of .....1997  
adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in  
Community programmes in the fields of *training, youth and education***

**THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**

Having regard to the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other,<sup>1</sup>

Having regard to the Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part concerning Poland's participation in Community programmes, and in particular Article 1 and 2 thereof;<sup>2</sup>

Whereas according to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, Poland may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training, youth and education;

Whereas pursuant to Article 2 of the Additional Protocol the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be decided by the Association Council;

Whereas during the joint meetings of Education Ministers held in Luxembourg on 23 October 1995 and in Brussels on 21 November 1996 in the framework of the Structured Dialogue between the European Union and the associated Central European Countries parties reconfirmed their willingness to extend the participation in Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates to these countries;

**HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:**

Poland shall participate in the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates according to the attached terms and conditions which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

Done at

For the Association Council  
The Chairman

<sup>1</sup> OJ N° L 374 of 31.12.1993

<sup>2</sup> OJ N° L 317 of 30.12.1995

**Article 6**

The Member States of the Community and Poland shall make every effort to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between Poland and the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.

**Article 7**

Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission and the Community's Court of Auditors in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to Articles 10, 9 and 8 of Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates decisions respectively, the participation of Poland in the programmes shall be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission and Poland. Poland shall submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community to this end.

**Article 8**

Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Article 6 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci, article 6 of the Decision on Youth for Europe and article 4 of the Decision on Socrates, Poland shall be invited to coordination meetings on any question concerning the implementation of this Decision prior to the regular meetings of the Committees. The Commission shall inform Poland about the results of such regular meetings.

**Article 9**

The language to be used as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the programmes, shall be one of the official languages of the Community.

**Article 10**

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates programmes (until 31 December 1999).

**Article 11**

This Decision shall enter into force the first day of the month following its adoption by the Association Council.

management of the programme by the Commission stemming from Poland's participation.

6. The financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the Community shall apply, notably to the management of the contribution of Poland.  
After the entry into force of this decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission shall send to Poland a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to the costs under the Decision.  
This contribution shall be expressed in ECU and paid into an ECU bank account of the Commission.  
Poland shall pay its contribution to the annual costs under this Decision according to the call for funds, at the latest three months after the call for funds is sent. Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by Poland on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Monetary Cooperation Fund, for the month of the due date, for its operations in ECU<sup>3</sup>, increased by 1,5 percentage points.
7. Poland shall pay the supplementary administrative costs referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 from its national budget.
8. Poland shall pay 3 % (1997), 13% (1998), 23% (1999) of the remaining costs of its participation in the programmes from its national budget.  
Subject to regular PHARE programming procedures, the remaining 97 % (1997), 87% (1998) and 77% (1999) will be paid from Poland's annual PHARE Programmes.

The above mentioned programmes are not intended to form an exhaustive list as the process for opening them up has only recently begun. Other Community programmes, notably in the fields of culture, health and social policy, energy, the environment, etc, have been or will shortly be opened up to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, probably during 1997.

#### 4.2 Period covered and arrangements for renewal

Up to the accession of the country concerned to the European Union, but dependent on decisions taken as regards the budget after 1999.

### 5. CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

#### 5.1 Non-compulsory expenditure

#### 5.2 Differentiated appropriations

#### 5.3 Type of revenue involved:

Since the first paragraph of Article 3 of the Additional Protocol stipulates that Poland itself will meet the costs resulting from its participation, it will be invited to transfer its contribution to item 6091 of the EU's budget receipts. However, as the second paragraph of Article 3 states that the Community may supplement Poland's contribution (by up to 10% of the National Indicative Programme), Poland will contribute only part from its national budget, with the remainder being charged to heading B7-503.

### 6. TYPE OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

- 100% subsidy
- subsidy for joint financing with other sources in the public and/or private sector
- no provision for all or part of the Community contribution to be reimbursed

As far as revenue is concerned, provision for Poland's contribution to cover the cost of its participation is made under item 6091. The revenue will be allocated to the items for expenditure on the three programmes in question and, where appropriate, to the relevant items of operating expenditure.

The total revenue expected is given under item 7.4.

7.3 Operational expenditure on studies, expert meetings, etc., included in Part B:  
None

7.4 Schedule for multiannual operations

Amounts to be charged to item B7-503

	1997	1998	1999	subsequent years	TOTAL
Comm. app.	11,419,810	16,005,390	14,526,050	0	41,951,250
Pay. app. (*)					
1997	9,005,286				9,005,286
1998	2,059,491	13,367,637			15,427,128
1999	281,641	2,272,102	12,101,397		14,655,140
subsequent years	73,392	365,651	2,424,653		2,863,696
Total	11,419,810	16,005,390	14,526,050	0	41,951,250

(\*) Schedule based on the method of payment currently applying to these programmes.

The foreseeable annual receipts are as follows:

Item 6091	1997	1998	1999	subsequent years	TOTAL
operational part	353,190	2,391,610	4,338,950		7,083,750
administrative part	823,660	1,287,650	1,319,650	0	3,430,960
Total	1,176,850	3,679,260	5,658,600		10,514,710

## 8. FRAUD PREVENTION MEASURES; RESULTS OF MEASURES TAKEN

All the Commission's contracts, agreements and other legal commitments provide for on-the-spot checks by the Commission and Court of Auditors. Among other things, the beneficiaries of the operations are obliged to file reports and financial statements. These are analysed from the point of view of their content and the eligibility of the expenditure in line with the objective of Community financing.

The anti-fraud provisions of the basic budget headings apply to this heading too when adapted to the case of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.



In the field of vocational training, the principal aim of the Leonardo da Vinci programme is to implement a vocational training policy which supports and supplements the action of the Member States. The main objectives of the programme are to:

support the improvement of the vocational-training systems and arrangements in the Member States by: improving the quality of initial vocational training and the transition of young people to working life, improving the quality of the Member States' continuing vocational training arrangements, supporting vocational information and guidance, promoting equal opportunities for men and women in vocational training, improving the quality of vocational training arrangements for persons disadvantaged on the labour market, for example owing to socio-economic, geographical or ethnic factors or by physical or mental disabilities or a lack of qualifications or insufficient qualifications such that they are at risk of social exclusion;

support for the improvement of vocational training measures including university/industry cooperation, concerning undertakings and workers: innovation in vocational training, with a view to taking into account technological change and its impact on work and the necessary qualifications and skills, investment in continuing vocational training for workers, the transfer of technological innovation in the context of cooperation between undertakings and universities in the field of continuing vocational training, the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women;

support for the development of language skills, knowledge and the dissemination of innovation in the field of vocational training.

In the area of youth policy, the overall objective of the Youth for Europe programme is to contribute to the educational process of all young people through activities which complement those taking place in the Member States or provided at Community level in the fields of education and training. The specific objectives of the programme are to:

promote youth exchanges for young people aged 15 to 25 living in one or several Member States;

support initiatives and innovative projects of Community interest or of a transnational nature set up by young people for young people, which allow them to play an active and acknowledged role in society and to develop their personal abilities, creativity, sense of solidarity and independence;

create favourable conditions for meetings of a high standard and ensure the high quality of all measures taken under the programme;

support the training of youth leaders to enable young people to benefit from high-quality common measures related to the general objectives of the programme;

step up cooperation among Member States and between them and the Commission through exchanges of experience and joint initiatives at Community level, and thus to support Member States in their endeavours to improve the quality of services and measures for young people, in particular through activities aimed at providing young people with information about the objectives of the programme;

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

The administrative resources required will actually be mobilised following the annual Commission Decision on the allocation of resources, taking account in particular of manpower and additional amounts granted by the budgetary authority. The supplementary needs can not, in any case, prejudice the decision that the Commission will need to take concerning:

- a) the request of new posts in the framework of the APB
- b) the resources allocation

### 10.1 Impact on the number of posts

Type of post	Staff required to manage the operation		including		duration
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	using existing resources of the departments concerned	using additional resources	1995-1999
Officials or temporary staff					
A	1A			1A	
B	1B		1B		
C	1C		1C		
Other resources					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>from 1997</b>

### 10.2 Overall financial impact of the additional human resources

(in ECU)

	Total	Method of calculation (total cost of the action for the period 1997-1999)
Officials Temporary staff Other resources (indicate budget heading)	300,000	100,000 ECU/year = 300,000 ECU (Titles A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,000</b>	

The expenses concerning the human resources needed to carry out this task that will be met through the allocation of the existing resources are estimated to :

two officials (1B, 1C) = 145,000 ECU/year =  
435,000 ECU (Titles A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5)

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97/0225(CNS)

**concerning the Community position within the Association Council  
on the participation of the Slovak Republic in Community programmes in the fields  
of training, youth and education**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 126 and 127, in conjunction with Article 228(3) first paragraph thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, has been concluded by decision of the Council and the Commission of 4 December 1995,

Whereas, according to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, the Slovak Republic may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training, youth and education and, pursuant to Article 2, the terms and conditions for the participation of the Slovak Republic in the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be decided by the Association Council,

Whereas, Council Decision (94/819/EC) of 6 December 1994 establishing an action programme for the implementation of a European Community vocational training policy, (hereinafter called "Leonardo da Vinci"<sup>1</sup>), and in particular Article 9,1 thereof, Decision (818/95/EC) of 14 March 1995 of the European Parliament and the Council adopting the third phase of the "Youth for Europe"<sup>2</sup> programme and in particular Article 7,4 thereof and Decision (819/95/EC) of 14 March 1995 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Community action programme in the field of education (hereinafter called "Socrates"<sup>3</sup>) and in particular article 7,3 thereof, provide that these programmes shall be open to the participation of associated Central European Countries in accordance with the conditions set out in the Additional Protocols to the Association Agreements on participation in Community programmes,

Whereas, during the joint meetings of Education Ministers held in Luxembourg on 23 October 1995 and in Brussels on 21 November 1996 in the framework of the Structured

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. n° L 340 of 29.12.1994

<sup>2</sup> O.J. n° L 87 of 20.4.1995

<sup>3</sup> O.J. n° L 87 of 20.4.1995

**Draft Decision n°..../97 of the EC-Slovak Republic Association Council of .....1997  
adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Slovak Republic in  
Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education**

**THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**

Having regard to the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other,<sup>1</sup>

Having regard to the Additional Protocol to the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part concerning the Slovak Republic's participation in Community programmes, and in particular Article 1 and 2 thereof;<sup>2</sup>

Whereas according to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol, the Slovak Republic may participate in Community framework programmes, specific programmes, projects or other actions notably in the fields of training, youth and education;

Whereas pursuant to Article 2 of the Additional Protocol the terms and conditions for the participation of the Slovak Republic in the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be decided by the Association Council;

Whereas during the joint meetings of Education Ministers held in Luxembourg on 23 October 1995 and in Brussels on 21 November 1996 in the framework of the Structured Dialogue between the European Union and the associated Central European Countries parties reconfirmed their willingness to extend the participation in Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates to these countries;

**HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:**

The Slovak Republic shall participate in the European Community programmes Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates according to the attached terms and conditions which shall form an integral part of this Decision.

For the Association Council

Done at

The Chairman

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1. O.J. N° L 359 of 31.12.1994

2. O.J. N° L 115 of 9.5.1996

The rules governing the financial contribution of the Slovak Republic shall be those set out in the Annex, which constitutes an integral part of this Decision. The Association Committee shall be entitled to adapt this contribution whenever necessary.

#### **Article 6**

The Member States of the Community and the Slovak Republic shall make every effort to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, university administrators, young people and other eligible persons moving between the Slovak Republic and the Community for the purpose of participating in activities covered by this Decision.

#### **Article 7**

Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission and the Community's Court of Auditors in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes pursuant to Articles 10, 9 and 8 of Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates decisions respectively, the participation of the Slovak Republic in the programmes shall be continuously monitored on a partnership basis involving the Commission and the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic shall submit to the Commission relevant reports and take part in other specific activities set out by the Community to this end.

#### **Article 8**

Without prejudice to the procedures referred to in Article 6 of the Decision on Leonardo da Vinci, Article 6 of the Decision on Youth for Europe and Article 4 of the Decision on Socrates, the Slovak Republic shall be invited to coordination meetings on any question concerning the implementation of this Decision prior to the regular meetings of the Committees. The Commission shall inform the Slovak Republic about the results of such regular meetings.

#### **Article 9**

The language to be used as regards the application process, contracts, reports to be submitted and other administrative arrangements for the programmes, shall be one of the official languages of the Community.

#### **Article 10**

This Decision shall apply for the duration of the Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates programmes (until 31 December 1999).

#### **Article 11**

This Decision shall enter into force the first day of the month following its adoption by the Association Council.

Slovak Republic's annual contribution will be:

- 270.000 ECU in 1997 for participating in actions AI and BI;
- 464.000 ECU in 1998 and 702.000 ECU in 1999 for participating in all the actions of the programme, except Action D.

From these sums, a yearly amount of 40.000 ECU will cover supplementary administrative costs related to the management of the programme by the Commission stemming from the Slovak Republic's participation.

6. The financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the Community shall apply, notably to the management of the contribution of the Slovak Republic.

After the entry into force of this decision and at the beginning of each following year, the Commission shall send to the Slovak Republic a call for funds corresponding to its contribution to the costs under the Decision.

This contribution shall be expressed in ECU and paid into an ECU bank account of the Commission.

The Slovak Republic shall pay its contribution to the annual costs under this Decision according to the call for funds, at the latest three months after the call for funds is sent. Any delay in the payment of the contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by the Slovak Republic on the outstanding amount from the due date. The interest rate corresponds to the rate applied by the European Monetary Cooperation Fund, for the month of the due date, for its operations in ECU<sup>1</sup>, increased by 1,5 percentage points.

7. The Slovak Republic shall pay the supplementary administrative costs referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 from its national budget.
8. The Slovak Republic shall pay 50% of the remaining costs of its participation in the programmes from its national budget.

Subject to regular PHARE programming procedures, the remaining 50% will be paid from the Slovak Republic's annual PHARE National Indicative Programmes.

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<sup>1</sup> Rate published monthly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* - C series

The Additional Protocol with the Slovak Republic entered into force on 1 July 1996 and provides for the Slovak Republic's participation in the three programmes concerned from 1997.

The above mentioned programmes are not intended to form an exhaustive list as the process for opening them up has only recently begun. Other Community programmes, notably in the fields of culture, health and social policy, energy, the environment, etc, have been or will shortly be opened up to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, probably during 1997.

#### 4.2 Period covered and arrangements for renewal

Up to the accession of the country concerned to the European Union, but dependent on decisions taken as regards the budget after 1999.

### 5. CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

#### 5.1 Non-compulsory expenditure

#### 5.2 Differentiated appropriations

#### 5.3 Type of revenue involved:

Since the first paragraph of Article 3 of the Additional Protocol stipulates the Slovak Republic itself will meet the costs resulting from its participation, it will be invited to transfer its contribution to item 6091 of the EU's budget receipts. However, as the second paragraph of Article 3 states that the Community may supplement the Slovak Republic's contribution (by up to 10% of the Country Operational Programme), the Slovak Republic will contribute only part from its national budget, with the remainder being charged to heading B7-503.

### 6. TYPE OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

- 100% subsidy
- subsidy for joint financing with other sources in the public and/or private sector
- no provision for all or part of the Community contribution to be reimbursed

As far as revenue is concerned, provision for the Slovak Republic's contribution to cover the cost of its participation is made under item 6091. The revenue will be allocated to the items for expenditure on the three programmes in question and, where appropriate, to the relevant items of operating expenditure.

The total revenue expected is given under item 7.4.

7.3 Operational expenditure on studies, expert meetings, etc., included in Part B: None

7.4 Schedule for multiannual operations

Amounts to be charged to item B7-503

	1997	1998	1999	subsequent years	TOTAL
<b>Comm. app.</b>	1.555.000	2.212.000	2.331.000	0	6.098.000
<b>Pay. app.<sup>(*)</sup></b>					
1997	1.175.685				1.175.685
1998	321.868	1.769.694			2.091.562
1999	44.837	378.561	1.858.944		2.282.342
subsequent years	12.610	63.745	472.056		548.411
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.555.000</b>	<b>2.212.000</b>	<b>2.331.000</b>		<b>6.098.000</b>

(\*) Schedule based on the method of payment currently applying to these programmes.

The foreseeable annual receipts are as follows:

Item 6091	1997	1998	1999	subsequent years	TOTAL
<b>operational part</b>	1.555.000	2.212.000	2.331.000		6.098.000
<b>administrative part</b>	240.000	320.000	320.000		880.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.795.000</b>	<b>2.532.000</b>	<b>2.651.000</b>		<b>6.978.000</b>

8. FRAUD PREVENTION MEASURES; RESULTS OF MEASURES TAKEN

All the Commission's contracts, agreements and other legal commitments provide for on-the-spot checks by the Commission and Court of Auditors. Among other things, the beneficiaries of the operations are obliged to file reports and financial statements. These are analysed from the point of view of their content and the eligibility of the expenditure in line with the objective of Community financing.

The anti-fraud provisions of the basic budget headings apply to this heading too when adapted to the case of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.



innovation in the context of cooperation between undertakings and universities in the field of continuing vocational training, the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women;

support for the development of language skills, knowledge and the dissemination of innovation in the field of vocational training.

In the area of youth policy, the overall objective of the Youth for Europe programme is to contribute to the educational process of all young people through activities which complement those taking place in the Member States or provided at Community level in the fields of education and training. The specific objectives of the programme are to:

promote youth exchanges for young people aged 15 to 25 living in one or several Member States;

support initiatives and innovative projects of Community interest or of a transnational nature set up by young people for young people, which allow them to play an active and acknowledged role in society and to develop their personal abilities, creativity, sense of solidarity and independence;

create favourable conditions for meetings of a high standard and ensure the high quality of all measures taken under the programme;

support the training of youth leaders to enable young people to benefit from high-quality common measures related to the general objectives of the programme;

step up cooperation among Member States and between them and the Commission through exchanges of experience and joint initiatives at Community level, and thus to support Member States in their endeavours to improve the quality of services and measures for young people, in particular through activities aimed at providing young people with information about the objectives of the programme;

promote exchanges with young people from non-member countries with which the Community has concluded in particular cooperation agreements.

## 9.2. Grounds for the operation

### - *Need for Community financial aid*

In view of the high cost of participation in the programmes and the Slovak Republic's precarious budgetary situation, assistance from PHARE as provided for in Article 3(2) of the Additional Protocol is essential.

### - *Choice of ways and means*

With a contribution from PHARE, supplemented by one from the national budget, the Slovak Republic's integration in the programmes concerned will put it on an equal footing with the current EU Member States. The integration of the Slovak nationals in Community networks will make a definite contribution to preparing the Slovak Republic for future membership.

### - *Main factors of uncertainty which could affect the specific results of the operation*

Since projects will be selected according to qualitative criteria, it will only be possible to measure the real impact on the basis of Slovak firms' capacity to respond to the calls for proposal to be launched by the Commission under the three programmes.

## 9.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the operation

The monitoring and evaluation procedures included in the Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe and Socrates programmes (notably in respect of evaluation, as included in the decisions establishing the three programmes) will also cover operations financed for Slovak beneficiaries.

**10.3 Increase in other operating expenses as a result of the operation**

(in ECU)

Budget heading (No and title)	Total	Method of calculation (total cost of the action for the period 1997-1999)
A1178/A238 - technical assistance	679 000	6% of the additional funds to be managed by the agencies assisting the Commission with the 3 programmes
A1300 -missions	30 000	3 missions per year per programme
A2500 - meetings	30 000	Participation of a Slovak representative in 3 annual meetings per programme
A2510 - compulsory meetings	141 000	Based on the EUR15 budget required in 1996, cost of the additional presence of Slovak representatives
<b>Total</b>	<b>880 000</b>	

The above expenditure will be met from the receipts (article 4§2, third indent of the financial regulation) received from the Slovak participation in Community Programmes (see § 5.3 of the financial statement).