



Phare

Update n°1
1994 operational
programmes

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Introduction to Update n°1

Phare Updates aim to provide the interested public with clear and concise summaries of the programmes to be implemented by the partner countries with Phare support.

The programmes described in the following pages are the logical consequences of the priorities expressed by the partner countries in their Indicative Programmes. They have been given a favourable opinion by Phare's Management Committee and have been approved by the Commission. Phare Updates are published after each Management Committee meeting.

This copy contains summaries of the programmes approved by the Committee at its 29th meeting held on 4 May 1994.

Interested business people will find a full description of the contractual implications of these programmes in the 'Infocontract' series of brochures, also published by the Phare Information Office.

It must be remembered that Phare is a flexible and pragmatic programme implemented by the partner countries themselves. The emphasis of programmes described herein may accordingly change over time.

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The Phare Programme

The Phare Programme is a European Union initiative which supports the development of a larger democratic family of nations within a prosperous and stable Europe. Its aim is to help the countries of central and eastern Europe rejoin the mainstream of European development and build closer political and economic ties with the European Union.

Phare does this by providing grant finance to support the process of economic transformation and to strengthen newly created democratic societies. Phare also provides grant finance to help countries with Europe Agreements integrate with the European Union.

In its first five years of operation to 1994, Phare has made available ECU 4,283 million to 11 partner countries, making Phare the largest assistance programme of its kind.

Phare works in close cooperation with its partner countries to decide how funds are to be spent, within a framework agreed with the European Union. This ensures that Phare funding is relevant to each government's own reform policies and priorities. Each country takes the responsibility for running its own programmes.

Phare provides know-how from a wide range of non-commercial, public and private organisations to its partner countries. It acts as a multiplier by stimulating investment and responding to needs that cannot be met by others. Phare acts as a powerful catalyst by unlocking funds for important projects from other donors through studies, capital grants, guarantee schemes and credit lines. It also invests directly in infrastructure, which will account for more Phare funds as the restructuring process progresses.

The main priorities for Phare funding are common to all countries, although everyone is at a different stage of transformation. The key areas include restructuring of state enterprises including agriculture, private sector development, reform of institutions and public administration, reform of social services, employment, education and health, development of energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, and environment and nuclear safety. Under the Europe Agreements, Phare funding is being used to make laws compatible with European Union norms and standards, and to align practices.

All Phare countries

Regional cooperation on distance education

Duration	1 year
EU contribution	MECU 3
Responsible authority	Regional Human Resources Development Sector Group

Background

The educational systems of the central and eastern European countries are currently facing a number of common difficulties. Firstly, there is the inability of both secondary and higher education to open up to larger parts of the population, due in particular to the weak infrastructure of the traditional full-time educational establishments. Secondly, the systems are unable to adapt to the needs of rapidly changing economies, which necessitates accommodation to the new needs of professionals by means of short-cycle, post-secondary continuing education. Thirdly, there is the problem of the out-dated nature of adult education. Lastly, there is a need for more European study courses. While the traditional universities now increasingly offer such courses, more are needed at the postgraduate level and within the framework of general post-secondary continuing education.

Distance education is recognised as a means of overcoming these problems. This method of education is less expensive than traditional educational methods and requires fewer investments in infrastructure; it is therefore an effective and realistic means of promoting access to higher education for many people. Distance education is also flexible and diversified and so can be of great help in introducing job-oriented short-cycle education. It can also be easily adapted for continuing education and is an effective way of supplementing professional knowledge, in particular for in-service teacher retraining and for foreign language teaching. Distance education courses in European studies can contribute to mutual understanding between European countries and can further the integration process of the central and eastern European countries with the rest of Europe.

The present programme has its roots in the first meeting of the Human Resources Development Working Group, held under the aegis of Phare regional cooperation in March 1993, at which the Phare partner countries expressed unanimous interest in the subject of distance education as part of their overall policy for the education sector. Following this, a feasibility study was conducted to define and strengthen the consensus on the design and objectives of a regional project in this field and to assess the feasibility of such a project. On the basis of the positive conclusions of the feasibility study, the regional coordination meeting in November 1993 recommended a regional pilot action on distance education for 1994 and the regional Human Resources Development Sector Group endorsed the design of the project.

Programme objectives

The programme aims to

- develop the conditions which will allow the participating countries to interact and cooperate on a mutual basis, through establishing a network of national contact points and developing the necessary infrastructure in each participating country
- act as a catalyst for national policy formulation on distance education through measures for awareness raising, staff development, the presentation of existing models and the mechanisms of distance education
- define areas of common interest in which regional cooperation can support national policies, in terms of enhanced quality of outputs, speed of development and/or economies of scale
- develop and introduce two experimental courses to test the feasibility of the joint development of core course modules which can subsequently be adapted to national requirements and contexts.

Programme description

The following projects will be funded.

General measures and pilot courses **ECU 750,000**
Support will be provided for measures promoting distance education as a high quality and flexible educational instrument, for staff development programmes and for the assessment of needs. Two experimental pilot courses will be developed and multinational programme committees will be established.

Basic infrastructure ECU 2,000,000

Basic infrastructure for distance education in the participating countries will be developed, thereby building up a transnational network among the countries.

Regional coordination unit ECU 250,000

A regional coordination unit will be established, consisting of a multinational work force from participating countries. This component will also cover the expenses of the meetings of the project's management committee and of short-term technical assistance.

Implementation

The programme will be implemented by a coordinating unit to be based in Budapest, with a director nominated by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education and a small multinational work force from the participating countries. The coordinating unit will fall under the responsibility of a management committee, comprising representatives of the national ministries of education, which will adopt work programmes and progress reports and take major implementing decisions, including the use of funds. The Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education will act as a liaison point between the Management Committee and the regional Human Resources Development Sector Working Group within the framework of Phare regional cooperation. The regional Human Resources Development Sector Working Group will assess the progress reports of the Management Committee and will formulate opinions on proposals for further work submitted by the committee.

Procurement

Procurement of equipment will be undertaken either through open, or restricted invitations to tender if justified by the cost and technical specifications.

Provision of technical assistance will be sought through restricted invitations to tender, or direct agreements if justified by the nature and cost of the services required .

All tender dossiers and contracts will have to be submitted for approval to the European Commission.

All Phare countries

Trans-European cooperation for higher education (TEMPUS II)

Duration	3 years
EU contribution	MECU 97.9
Responsible authority	European Commission

Background

The TEMPUS programme was adopted in 1990 to stimulate the development of higher education in central and eastern Europe. To this end, TEMPUS finances Joint European Projects (JEPs) set up by one or more higher education establishments in a partner country with at least two institutions (of which one must be a higher education establishment) in two European Union Member States.

The priority areas of intervention by TEMPUS are agreed annually by the Commission and the relevant authorities of each partner country. These priorities are published in the guidelines for project proposals under the TEMPUS programme, which are made available to all interested groups in the partner countries and the European Union ⁽¹⁾.

Since 1990, TEMPUS has supported 750 JEPs with financial means made available from the national Phare budgets of the partner countries and, to a limited extent, from the multi-country Phare budget. These projects have involved around 32,000 teaching staff, 6,400 students and 1,800 institutions in central and eastern Europe and the European Union Member States. The overall impact of the first phase of TEMPUS will be the subject of an extensive external evaluation, due to be concluded by spring 1995.

On 29 April 1993, the Council of the European Union agreed to fund the second phase of TEMPUS and to extend the programme to the Tacis partner countries.

Programme objectives

Building on the experiences of the first phase of TEMPUS, the second phase is designed to enhance the contribution of the programme to the overall objectives of economic and social reform in the Phare and Tacis partner countries, in particular by helping to develop the systems of higher education in the partner countries through a balanced cooperation between their higher education institutions and those of the European Union Member States.

TEMPUS II will concentrate on the following specific issues:

- curriculum development and overhaul in priority areas
- structural reform of higher education institutions and their management
- the development of skill-related training to address some specific skill shortages through improved and extended links with industry.

Extensive discussions have taken place with the relevant authorities of each partner country to target future projects on priority areas in higher education, taking account of the overall objectives of the Phare Programme, each partner country's policy for economic, social and educational reform, and the need for an appropriate balance to be struck between the selected priority areas and the resources allocated to TEMPUS. Emphasis will also be placed on the dissemination of results in the partner countries in order to promote an optimal use of resources.

Programme description

TEMPUS II will support the following activities:

- Joint European Projects between higher education institutions in the partner countries and European Union partners to update or revise curricula, improve library facilities, develop and translate teaching materials, promote distance learning schemes and to promote mobility and exchanges of students for integrated study periods and/or placements in industry
- mobility and exchanges of teachers/educators in higher education institutions and enterprises to work as teachers, instructors or advisers
- complementary activities, such as the evaluation of the implementation of TEMPUS by the partner countries, the dissemination of the results of higher education restructuring and reform and the development of networks of university associations
- youth exchanges, visits to establish links with future partner organisations and training courses for youth leaders in the partner countries.

For the academic year 1994-95, the total budget proposed by the partner countries from their national Phare budgets for TEMPUS is MECU 94.5. In addition, MECU 3.4 will be provided to cover the technical assistance necessary to implement the programme.

⁽¹⁾ Available from the TEMPUS Office: 19 H Avenue des Arts, B - 1040 Brussels, tel (+32-2) 212 04 11/12, fax (+32-2) 212 04 00.

Implementation

TEMPUS II will be implemented by the European Commission. The Commission will sign a contract with an outside agency for the technical assistance necessary for the implementation of TEMPUS until 31 December 1994, after which the technical management of the programme will be entrusted to the European Training Foundation.

All Phare countries

Regional consumer protection programme

Duration	2 years
EU contribution	MECU 2
Responsible authorities	Université Catholique de Louvain (Centre de Droit de Consommation), Belgium International Organisation of Consumer Unions Programme for Economies in Transition (IOCU)

Background

The Consumer Institutions and Consumer Policy Programme (CICPP) was instituted in January 1994 to promote the role of consumer policy and consumer protection in a socially equitable market economy. The CICPP was set up in the framework of the regional quality assurance programme financed by Phare and EFTA.

The CICPP stimulates the introduction of a comprehensive framework of consumer protection throughout central and eastern Europe by means of education, assistance to legislative reform, institutional development and the provision of know-how, publications and information to government personnel, academics, lawyers and NGOs working in the area of consumer protection. The CICPP also aims to coordinate consumer legislation and policy with the European Union, EFTA and international (UN) guidelines and to introduce procedures on hazardous products banned in western Europe.

The CICPP will run until December 1994 and will then be followed up by the present consumer protection programme.

Programme objectives

The overall objectives of the regional consumer protection programme are to

- improve the safety and quality of goods and services produced and sold in central and eastern Europe and therefore to protect the safety, health and economic interests of consumers in the region and in the European Union

- stimulate and increase trade and facilitate the free movement of goods and services between the European Union and the central and eastern European countries
- implement the objectives of the Europe Agreements signed, or to be signed, with individual central and eastern European countries
- promote the coordination of consumer policy and legislation and the representation of consumer interests on a pan-European basis.

The specific objectives of the programme are to

- assist national initiatives which encourage the adoption of consumer protection legislation and an efficient system of consumer protection
- improve the institutional and legislative framework where this is inadequate
- improve the practical skills of consumer representatives (state employees, lawyers, judges, non-governmental organisations, research or university institutions)
- assess and improve the enforcement of laws, standards and regulations and develop strategies for their improvement
- improve public awareness of consumer rights amongst consumers and producers, retailers, wholesalers and importers.

Programme description

The programme is divided into three components:

Technical assistance for legislative and institutional reform

ECU 600,000

Monitoring of national legislation and policy, institutional and organisational structures and enforcement procedures will be continued. Assistance will be provided for drafting and/or amending legislation and policy, with reference to current European Union standards and policies, and for producing recommendations for improvements in the application and enforcement of consumer law and policy.

Training and education ECU 800,000

A series of conferences, workshops and seminars will be organised. They will concentrate on practical solutions to specific problems, drawing on the experience of European Union experts and on case studies from the European Union and partner countries. Placements and training sessions in western Europe will be organised to allow professionals working in the consumer's interest to broaden their skills and knowledge while observing practical applications in a European institution or organisation. Exchanges of officers and experts will also take place between consumer protection institutions.

A series of publications will be designed, including background documents and proceedings from training events, training materials for specific projects, case studies for judges, consumer advisers and lawyers, and information on the initiatives of consumer organisations in the region and on legal developments in the European Union and the partner countries themselves.

Research, survey and information work ECU 600,000

Continued support will be given for the development of an information network on hazardous products, allowing information to be regularly updated and circulated to relevant institutions and organisations in central and eastern Europe. Research will also be conducted to examine the sources and extent of the problem in individual countries, with a view to developing a work programme with a series of action points.

Research will be carried out to make operational the exchange of information on legal matters between the central and eastern European countries and the European Union.

Support will be given to measures to raise consumer awareness. Surveys to assess current awareness will be carried out. Public education programmes will be carried out in each partner country. They will circulate literature and organise consumer information days in major cities. A similar programme, run in cooperation with national and local chambers of commerce, will be conducted for businessmen, emphasising the benefits of responding to consumers' needs and explaining their duties and responsibilities.

Implementation

The programme will be implemented jointly by the Université Catholique de Louvain (Centre de Droit de Consommation) and the International Organisation of Consumer Unions Programme for Economies in Transition (IOCU). Terms of reference, work programmes, etc., will be drawn up in cooperation with organisations in the partner countries and will be approved by those organisations and the European Commission.

All Phare countries

Regional programme on copyright protection

Duration	2 years
EU contribution	MECU 2
Responsible authorities	Groupement Européen des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs (GESAC) International Association for Audiovisual Authors (AIDA)

Background

Formerly, the protection of copyright and of similar rights was subordinated to the rights of the socialist order. Thus, copyright protection was subject to the scrutiny of its conformity with the interests of the socialist state and economic planning. The transition to a democracy and a market economy makes it necessary to move to a system of copyright founded on the law of private property. However, attempts to adapt existing systems of copyright and performing rights have not been successful, due principally to the fact that those responsible have inappropriate experience in this field. As a result, considerable confusion has arisen, aggravated by the fact that the notion of intellectual property is essentially an abstract one in central and eastern Europe.

Programme objectives

The programme is designed to

- facilitate the implementation in central and eastern Europe of a level of protection for intellectual property (copyright, performing rights and protection against pirating) similar to that in the European Union and to facilitate the accession of the central and eastern European countries to international conventions on these issues
- help create and develop the cultural industry so as to encourage national and foreign investment in this sector
- facilitate and guarantee the free movement of cultural works and performances between central and eastern Europe and the European Union.

Programme description

The specific objectives of the programme are to

- introduce an effective system of legal protection and an adequate institutional framework
- facilitate accession to international conventions in this field
- establish more democratic organisations to represent the interests of authors and performers
- combat pirating and illicit reproduction and sales (in particular of audio and video cassettes)
- develop the know-how of those responsible for protecting copyright and performing rights
- promote awareness amongst the general public of intellectual property issues.

Technical assistance for the reform of the institutional and legislative framework

ECU 700,000

The programme will support audits to be conducted by experts with a view to proposing new management methods and a more appropriate organisation of the relevant institutional framework. Assistance will be provided to facilitate the process of reorganising and modernising existing institutions such as performing rights societies, cultural bodies and creative artist societies, cultural industries and bodies combating pirating. Measures will be taken to develop the effectiveness and credibility of these bodies and to bring their management systems into line with those in operation in the European Union.

Legal experts will help the relevant authorities in drafting and/or reforming relevant laws and regulations, taking into account the legislation of the European Union and its member states in this field.

Advice will be provided to governmental authorities and parliaments on intellectual property problems, to help them to adopt appropriate national legislation and to accede to the relevant international conventions. Assistance will also be given to encourage them to recognise the need for the democratic constitution of bodies responsible for protecting holders of intellectual property rights, the need to combat pirating and the need for legal and administrative authorities to support the protection of copyright and performing rights. This awareness-raising exercise may also be carried out for the media (press, TV, radio).

Training and promotion of awareness ECU 800,000

The programme will finance the exchange of officials and experts between the institutions of the European Union and its Member States and institutions in central and eastern Europe so as to promote regional cooperation and exchanges of information and know-how. The programme will also fund the participation of officials, judges and other experts from central and eastern Europe at international conventions dealing with copyright and related rights.

A training programme on copyright and performing rights will be organised in individual partner countries for the staff of local performing rights societies. Topics covered will include the collection and payment of royalties and the legal defence of rights. A training programme on the legal aspects of copyright and performing rights will also be organised in the partner countries to train and promote the awareness of officials, judges, lawyers, academics and other experts of the problems and techniques necessary to guarantee the effective protection of relevant rights.

The programme will also provide funding for more general seminars and conferences designed to raise public awareness on industrial property issues generally and on copyright.

The training and awareness-raising campaign will also aim to improve contacts and relations between artists, performers and producers.

Documentation and software ECU 300,000

The programme will fund the provision of relevant documentation and software, including texts of European Union legislation (European Union directives, regulations and proposals, judgements of the European Court of Justice and other relevant documents), texts of relevant national legislation of the European Union's Member States, texts of articles of association and rules of performing rights societies, materials relating to the seminars organised under the programme, and books on intellectual property.

Funding will also be available for the translation of relevant texts and partial funding may be provided for the supply of basic equipment to classify documentation in computerised form.

Implementation

The Groupement Européen des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs (GESAC) will have responsibility for implementing the programme. It will collaborate with the International Association for Audiovisual Authors (AIDA) to implement certain activities, in particular in relation to the audiovisual sector. GESAC will also collaborate with other organisations which have particular experience of certain aspects of the programme (such as IFPI to combat pirating or ARTIST as regards performers). GESAC will operate under the authority of the European Commission. Regular reports will be submitted to the Commission, which will approve work programmes.

All Phare countries

Research and development networking

Duration	2 years
EU contribution	MECU 4
Responsible authority	European Commission and designated national organisations

Background

The Research and Development (D&R) networking capacity of central and eastern European countries tends to be characterised by the diversity and incompatibility of different countries' approaches, by poor national coordination and by a lack of awareness of the international importance of networking, particularly in the European context.

Similar problems in the networking environment in the European Union prompted the Member States and EFTA countries to launch the COSINE programme in 1990. COSINE has helped to create a common, homogeneous and open infrastructure for computer-based communications for the European academic, industrial and governmental research community. In the light of COSINE's success in the European Union, it was decided in 1991 to extend it with Phare funds to Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and the former Czechoslovakia. Complementary actions are planned or have already been supported by Phare national funds.

Programme objectives

The main objective of the new programme is to extend the Phare 1991 R&D networking programme (COSINE) to Albania, the Baltic States and Slovenia and to provide further support services to Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Czech and Slovak Republics. Once implemented, an integrated international network service will link all the partner countries to the pan-European R&D networking environment (EuropaNet) and to the InterNet.

The programme will provide networking infrastructure and management facilities.

The specific objectives of the programme are to

- create a common and open networking infrastructure on the basis of common research networks to support the wider European research community

- integrate the functions and support services necessary to allow users to take full advantage of networking infrastructure
- enhance the functionality of the national networks by expanding their connectivity through the adoption of international networking standards
- integrate national research and development networking operations into the present pan-European research and development networking infrastructure
- achieve substantial cost savings by reducing the need for duplication of telecommunication lines, equipment and software.

Programme description

The programme will concentrate on enhancing and optimising research network capabilities in the following areas.

External connectivity (towards western Europe)

The 1991 COSINE programme provided Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and the former Czechoslovakia with the equipment and services required for networking. The new programme aims to locate access points, switches and nodes in the Baltic Republics and Albania to bring them into the EuropaNet. Interconnections will be planned to provide a reliable service, using a network design which connects each national research and development network to an appropriate point in the western European network. Since Slovenia already has a well-established networking environment, it is envisaged that resources for this country will concentrate on reinforcing the internal networking environment.

For the countries entering the programme, the first two years costs of the international lines from the nodes and their maintenance will be met by programme funds. Countries already networked will be required to contribute counterpart funds for networking services, to be determined on a case by case basis.

Regional connectivity (between the partner countries)

Regional connectivity may be incorporated into the programme design to encourage and facilitate cooperation between researchers in the central and eastern European countries at minimal cost. This component will be optional and demand-driven.

Internal connectivity (networking within the country)

Support will be given to the new countries entering the programme to strengthen their national research and development networks. Public bodies concerned with research and development issues (such as ministerial information offices, industrial organisations, technical libraries and documentation centres, national statistics offices, standards institutes) will be targeted. Particular attention will be paid to the geographical distribution of support and services within the countries, since present facilities tend to cluster in and around capital cities.

The allocation of the budget will be split in the following manner:

Extension to Albania, the Baltic States and Slovenia	ECU 1,000,000
Operational costs and upgrading	ECU 2,000,000
Additional infrastructure projects (for the new countries)	ECU 400,000
Programme management, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	ECU 450,000
Reserve	ECU 150,000

Implementation

The European Commission will execute the programme in collaboration with designated organisations in each of the partner countries. A specialist organisation will be contracted to implement the various measures and to coordinate the operations and services. A call for tender will be issued for equipment requirements, drawn up by the Commission following consultation with the nominated networking organisations. Tenders may be in separate lots according to the needs of the individual countries.

All Phare countries

Energy

Duration	2 years
EU contribution	MECU 13
Responsible authority	Romanian Ministry of Industry (sector coordinator)

Background

The Phare 1992 regional energy programme for MECU 7 concentrated on

- interconnection of the eastern and western electricity grids
- natural gas interconnection
- a regional study on petroleum refining and transportation
- management training and twinning
- training on legislation, regulation and strategy related to the implementation of the European Energy Charter.

In 1993, an additional MECU 5 was allocated to extend the electricity interconnection component of the 1992 programme to new partner countries and to initiate energy-saving activities in local communities.

The Copenhagen Council of June 1993 agreed to fund priority investments in trans-European infrastructure projects, including energy projects, and gave Phare new opportunities for supporting concrete proposals.

Programme objectives

At the regional energy plenary meeting held in Bucharest in November 1993, the partner countries agreed the following priorities for the 1994 budget:

- the interconnection of the European electricity, natural gas and oil networks
- a coordinated approach on energy and environmental issues in the coal sector
- the harmonisation of European energy policies and regional energy cooperation
- the development of twinning activities in the energy field

Programme description

Interconnection of the european energy networks ECU 2,000,000

The objective is to assess the technical and economic feasibility of investment projects to interconnect the electricity, natural gas and oil networks following up the master plans realised under the 1992 and 1993 programmes. The investments could be cofinanced by Phare and the International Financing Institutions. The master plan for the interconnection of natural gas networks is due to be completed by mid-1994 and will identify investment projects for which feasibility studies will be necessary. There is no need for a new allocation in 1994 for electricity networks interconnection activities but the principle of further allocations in the next years for feasibility studies and possible cofinancing of investments should be agreed.

Neither is there an urgent need for allocations from the 1994 budget for oil transport networks but feasibility studies and investment related activities may develop from 1995.

The existence of coherent environmental and safety standards in Europe as a whole is a necessary condition for the interconnection of energy networks to avoid the risk of transferring the most dangerous and polluting activities to regions where standards are weakest. As a result, this issue will be an integrated part of all future studies related to the interconnection of energy networks.

A coordinated approach on energy/ environment issues in the coal sector ECU 2,000,000

The objective is to develop an overall coal sector strategy for those regions where the intensive use of solid fuels creates serious environmental damage. This strategy will optimise the share of solid fuels in the energy balances of partner countries under economic, social and environmental constraints.

The project will be managed by a group of specialists from central and eastern European countries and from the European Union. The study will forecast the demand for solid fuel in central and eastern Europe in the framework of a least-cost approach, integrating the environmental constraints and allowing for the need to minimise the social impact of restructuring and the need to facilitate convergence between the central and eastern European countries and the European Union in the perspective of European integration. The potential for developing clean coal technologies will be assessed, together with the financial and economic factors involved. The study will also evaluate the possible assistance programmes proposed by the International Financial Institutions and will propose additional tools to better address the obstacles to the development of investment projects.

Harmonisation of european energy policies

ECU 1,000,000

This project will harmonise the energy policies of partner countries with those of the European Union Member States by reinforcing the existing dialogue. For this purpose, a strategic orientation document will be developed jointly by the European Commission and the by the partner countries.

Coordination of energy strategies in the Baltic Republics

ECU 1,000,000

Following the recommendations of the Energy Working Group of the G 24, the Baltic States have decided to coordinate their energy policies. Support will be provided by the Programme for this initiative.

Development of twinning activities

ECU 5,500,000

To follow the twinning programmes launched under the 1992 and 1993 programmes, additional funding will be provided for twinning programmes on

- the development of local energy consultancy companies
- the training and exchange of experience between officials responsible for licensing and monitoring energy companies
- setting up networking activities for national energy saving agencies.

Implementation

As Romania is the designated sector coordinator, a permanent programme Coordination Unit will be established in Bucharest. The unit will be responsible for advising the governments of the partner countries, for coordinating project follow-up with the International Financing Institutions, for managing and implementing new projects and for organising steering committee meetings and plenary sessions relating to the regional energy programme. The unit will fall under the authority of the Romanian Ministry of Industry and will be staffed by specialists from central and eastern European countries.

The usual procurement rules will apply.

All Phare countries

Regional industrial property programme (extension)

Duration	2.5 years
EU contribution	MECU 2
Responsible authority	European Patent Office

Background

This programme extends Phare's 1992 regional industrial property programme. It is part of a broader strategy to modernise the industrial property protection systems in the partner countries.

The 1992 programme, whose implementation started in February 1993, had one main objective: to raise the quality of industrial property protection to level similar to that in the European Union. This was effected by providing legislative and technical assistance to relevant institutions and professionals. The programme also aims to help achieve certain objectives of the Europe Agreements, in particular through facilitating the accession of partner countries to the European Patent Convention.

Programme objectives

The extension programme has the same aims as the 1992 programme. It is designed to

- improve patent and trademark protection
- bring industrial property legislation in the partner countries into line with that of the European Union's Member States and of the Member States of the European Patent Convention
- to help partner countries accede to the main international conventions on industrial property, including the European Patent Convention
- improve existing national institutions responsible for industrial property systems and help create relevant institutions in countries where no appropriate framework yet exists
- promote regional cooperation between the partner countries in the field of industrial property.

Programme description

The extension programme continues the work of the six main components covered by the 1992 programme:

Training ECU 800,000

Courses and seminars will be organised for the staff of national authorities and for relevant professionals, such as judges, patent attorneys and other specialists. Topics covered will include management, documentation, documentary search and electronic search techniques and substantive examination of patent applications in the European system.

Information technology ECU 600,000

Continued support will be provided for the development of common software to administer patent and trade mark procedures. Four software modules are currently being developed: administrative register of patent application, financial control and fees, European integration and trade marks.

Documentation, patent information, inter-office cooperation, technical assistance ECU 500,000

Work will continue on the modernisation of documentation centres so as to permit satisfactory novelty searches at minimum cost. Paper systems will be upgraded with CD-ROMs and on-line access to commercial databases.

The programme will also raise awareness of the importance of industrial property through the organisation of international symposia and the publication of patent specifications and trade marks on CD-ROM. Regional cooperation will be further developed through an exchange programme involving the offices in the region, in particular for examiners.

Know-how will be provided on project specification, tendering, implementation, legal and institutional advice, work programmes and the evaluation of results.

Implementation

The Project Management Unit established within the Directorate General for Legal and International Affairs at the European Patent Office will have responsibility for implementing the Extension programme and for coordinating this with existing national plans and the European Patent Office action plan. The European Patent Office will measure the effectiveness of the programme in collaboration with the partner institutions and will make regular reports to the European Commission.



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