



Phare



Programme and contract information 1995

Multi-country and
cross-border
programmes N°1

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Introduction

With this brochure Phare aims to provide the interested public with clear and concise summaries of the programmes to be implemented by the partner countries with Phare support. It also aims to point the business community in the direction of potential opportunities.

The programmes described in the following pages are those that apply to a number of countries simultaneously. Multi-country programmes involve several partner countries, while cross-border cooperation programmes involve a partner country and a Member State of the European Union. They have been given a favourable opinion by Phare's Management Committee and have been approved by the Commission. Phare programme and contract information brochures are published after each Management Committee meeting.

This copy contains summaries of the programmes approved by the Committee at its 35th meeting on 30 March 1995, its 36th meeting on 16 May 1995, and its 37th meeting held on 5 July 1995.

Cross-border cooperation programmes aim to promote cross-border cooperation between regions of central and eastern European countries and adjacent regions of the European Union Member States. The Phare Programme on cross-border cooperation aims to help these regions to overcome specific development problems stemming from their relative isolation in the national economy and to address wider environmental problems. It aims to encourage the creation and development of cooperation networks on either side of these borders and the establishment of links between these networks and wider European Union networks.

Please bear in mind, however, that the publication of the business-related information in these pages does not commit the partner country or the Commission either to adhere to a fixed timetable for implementation or to follow exactly the outlines traced below. Individuals or companies wishing to obtain more detail on the contractual implications of these programmes should contact the relevant Programme Management Unit that is responsible for the implementation of the approved programme. Only individuals or companies registered and resident in European Union Member States or Phare partner countries will be considered for implementing the tasks set out.

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What is Phare?

The Phare Programme is a European Community 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 through future membership of the European Union.

Phare does this by providing grant finance to support its partner countries through the process of economic transformation and strengthening of democracy to the stage where they are ready to assume the obligations of membership of the European Union.

In its first five years of operation to 1994, Phare has made available ECU 4,248.5 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 Community. This ensures that Phare funding is relevant to each government's own reform policies and priorities.

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 integration process progresses.

The main priorities for Phare funding are common to all countries, although every one is at a different stage of transformation. The key areas include restructuring of state enterprises including agriculture, private sector development, reform of institutions, legislation and public administration, reform of social services, employment, education and health, development of energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, and environment and nuclear safety.

For countries which have signed Europe Agreements, Phare funding is also focused on meeting the conditions required for membership of the European Community. In particular this concerns preparation for participation in the European Union's internal market and development of infrastructure, especially in border regions.

Community Action for Cooperation in the field of Economics (ACE)

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 35 on 30 March 1995.

Duration	to end September 1998
Amount	ECU 10 million
Implementing body	ACE Programme Rue de la Loi 26, B-1040 Brussels Tel (+32-2) 280 17 40 Fax (+32-2) 280 14 06 Mrs Joeke Abbing, ACE Programme Manager

Main components

Grants ECU 9 million

Funding for research cooperation and know-how transfer between economists from the European Union and the Phare countries:

research grants	ECU 3,500 per man month
fellowships per month	ECU 3,500 per month
scholarships per annum	ECU 10,000 per annum
conference participation	ECU 1,000 per participant
conference organisation	ECU 20,000 per conference

Dissemination of results ECU 0.2 million

Funding of the cost of disseminating results of grant activities

Other activities ECU 0.8 million

Administration	ECU 600,000
Evaluation and audit	ECU 100,000
Reserve	ECU 100,000

Background

Economic research in certain areas was already well developed in several Phare countries by the end of the 1980s. Major research areas were the economics of planning, analysis of possible models for non-private enterprises, incentive schemes for enterprises and individuals, foreign trade and international relations under central planning.

However, due to the constraints of the old economic and political system, a number of research areas crucial to

the transition to a market economy were underdeveloped. Therefore, little research existed on systemic reform issues such as privatisation and the creation and operation of financial markets, or on macroeconomic issues such as the operation of monetary policy and exchange rate management under conditions of convertibility. Similar gaps existed in social issues such as unemployment and social protection in the context of a market economy. At the same time, economic research in the European Union on the transition to a market economy was limited and failed to keep pace with the rapid changes in the Phare countries.

As a result, much needed to be done to increase research on the reform process in the Phare countries, necessitating the involvement of experts both from the European Union and from the Phare countries.

In addition to the lack of appropriate knowledge and methodologies in research and analysis, the old political ideology and general isolation from the international research network impeded economic research institutions from meeting the needs of the reform process. Research was also separate from higher education. Furthermore, there is still a severe lack of resources for the development of projects in the research institutions, which are suffering in any case from a brain drain of personnel to the higher-paid private sector.

While efforts have been made to restructure and redirect research activities, the general lack of financial and human resources and the lack of efficient mechanisms to carry out the reforms are posing major obstacles to change.

The ACE programme promotes the exchange of experience and knowledge of economics between academic and professional economists from the Phare countries and their counterparts in the European Union. The programme provides support for joint research projects, fellowships, scholarships and conference participation and organisation. Funding between 1990 and 1994 amounted to ECU 22.5 million. The programme is very well known in the academic and research communities both in the European Union and the Phare countries. It has had a substantial impact on research into the economics of the transition to market economies. ACE's specific quality is its ability to stimulate the field of economics research at a multi-country level. The programme is complemented by Tempus, which supports higher education reform and curriculum development for all sciences, including economics.

Programme objectives

The new ACE programme aims to develop the capacity of the Phare partner countries for economic research in areas of importance for the economic reform process.

Programme description

The programme will concentrate on activities designed to develop cooperation in research, the transfer of know-how and the dissemination of research results.

Grants will be provided for

- joint research projects between academic and professional economists, with participants from two or more European Union countries and at least one from a Phare country (ECU 3,500 per man month maximum with at least 50 per cent to be allocated to Phare country beneficiaries)
- fellowships for academic and professional economists from Phare countries to enable them to teach and/or carry out research and training in academic institutions in the European Union (ECU 3,500 maximum per month)
- fellowships for academic and professional economists from the European Union to enable them to teach and/or carry out research and training in academic institutions in Phare countries (ECU 3,500 maximum per month)
- scholarships for postgraduate students from Phare countries to enrol in PhD programmes in the European Union (ECU 10,000 maximum per annum)
- the cost of participation by academic and professional economists from Phare countries to enable them to make an effective contribution to international conferences (ECU 1,000 maximum per participant)
- the cost of organising international conferences in Phare countries (ECU 20,000)
- the cost of disseminating research results through the ACE journal and other vehicles distributing knowledge about ACE and its results. (ECU 200,000).

Priority will be given to proposals on the basis of their

- scientific quality
- relevance to the economic reform process
- involvement of several European Union and Phare countries
- high level of dissemination of knowledge in Phare countries.

Priority research topics will be

- issues concerning the implementation of economic reform, notably in the fields of financial services, the labour market, social protection and agriculture
- economic liberalisation and reform, such as privatisation and entrepreneurship, price liberalisation, subsidies, taxation, fiscal and monetary policies, external trade, wages and incomes, innovation and technological change
- economic integration issues
- managerial aspects of the reform of the private and public sectors.

Implementation

The European Commission will contract the administration of programme implementation to an independent management agency. The network of partner country ACE coordinators already established will be maintained to ensure the quality and relevance of the projects.

Applications for grants must be submitted to the European Commission by individuals or institutions from the European Union or Phare countries. The application and evaluation procedure is likely to take place in the summer of 1995.

Social protection reform programme for the Europe Agreement countries

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 35 on 30 March 1995.

Duration	to end June 1997
Amount	ECU 10 million
Implementing body	Government ministries and social insurance administrations in each country. Please see the 'Phare Address book' for further details.

Main components

Project fund **ECU 7.6 million**

Funding of multi-country measures promoting social protection reform, to strengthen the relationship and exchange of information between institutions of the Europe Agreement countries and the European Union and to promote European Union best practice.

Administrative mechanism **ECU 200,000**

Funding of various bodies:

an advisory board and a pool of executive experts to assess and implement projects

a management agency for day-to-day administration

an inter-institutional commission for each Europe Agreement country to propose projects and oversee implementation

bilateral joint evaluation missions to assess reform processes and needs.

Other activities **ECU 400,000**

Evaluation and audit **ECU 100,000**

Reserve **ECU 300,000**

Background

Most countries which have signed Europe Agreements have introduced some primary and secondary legislation connected to social protection restructuring. However, many important issues and policy changes still need to be confronted.

It is now also clear that the scale of the reform needed is far greater than was originally anticipated. The number of people living at poverty level has increased, resulting

in increased demands from low income families, the aged and the disabled on income support. Existing legislation is not always fully consistent with macroeconomic requirements, nor does it meet pressing political and social needs. Moreover, implementation has proved to be far more difficult than imagined, in particular against the background of inadequate management and administration together with the lack of technical know-how and increased work-loads. Sub-sector reforms have not been coordinated horizontally and therefore inconsistencies have arisen. These problems have been exacerbated by macroeconomic and budgetary constraints, which may in any case necessitate down-scaling of benefits.

Core reforms are needed to strengthen the short- and long-term equilibrium of social insurance systems and to target benefits at vulnerable groups. Improvements are needed in policy development and the phasing of implementation. Substantial efforts are required to improve institutional structures, procedures and management and to encourage compliance. At the same time, steps must be taken to ensure that social protection reforms are compatible with macroeconomic and fiscal policy, capital market developments and performance-oriented labour market policies.

Phare is supporting social protection reforms in most of the Europe Agreement countries but a more comprehensive reform approach, based on partnership and cooperation, is now needed to supplement these initial efforts at national level with increased support on policy assessment, development and dialogue. This would involve a cross-sectoral approach aimed at overcoming the problems posed by inter-sectoral blockages and stagnating reforms. Emphasis would be on integrating all institutional bodies involved in social protection financing, benefit design, benefit delivery, administration and other areas. The transfer of know-how and support in policy coordination and implementation, based on European Union best practice, would make a substantial contribution to the success of reform efforts and prepare the target countries for integration with the Union.

Programme objectives

The long-term objective of the programme is to establish and develop viable social protection systems in countries that have signed Europe Agreements

- in line with overall macroeconomic development
- with a view to ultimate compliance with European Union provisions on social protection.

The immediate objectives are to

- assess the performance of social protection systems in countries with Europe Agreements in view of changing needs in a market economy context and European Union best practice
- improve policy analysis and reform through the exchange of knowledge and experience between social policy managers in the Europe Agreement countries and the European Union
- develop the legislative and policy decision-making process on the basis of best European Union practice and in line with the overall development of the national social protection system
- establish an administrative mechanism to assess project and reform proposals.

Programme description

Project fund **ECU 7.6 million**

A project fund will be established to support multi-country measures promoting social protection reform, such as

- conferences, workshops and round table discussions
- development of specialist training courses and curricula, training and study visits
- research activities
- publications
- public awareness campaigns
- short-term and ad hoc technical support measures
- small-scale public procurement.

Efforts will be made to strengthen the relationship and exchange of information between institutions of the Europe Agreement countries and the European Union, with emphasis on promoting European Union best practice.

Typical sub-sectors to be covered are:

- social insurance, in particular retirement and other benefits, unemployment insurance, accident and sickness insurance
- family allowances and universal non-contributory social benefits
- social assistance, in particular cash benefits, benefits in kind, personnel support
- health delivery and financing.

Administrative mechanism **ECU 2 million**

The following bodies will be established:

- a programme advisory board and a pool of executive experts to assess, monitor and implement projects; this will involve experts from the European Union and representatives from European Union ministries, the European Commission and the Europe Agreement countries
- an independent programme management agency to carry out the day-to-day administration, including planning, organising and implementing actions, as well as all administration, monitoring, reporting and internal auditing relating to the programme
- an inter-institutional commission on social protection for each Europe Agreement country to propose projects and to coordinate and supervise programme implementation at national level; this will involve representatives from relevant ministries, administrations and social partners, as well as private insurance representatives
- bilateral joint evaluation missions to assess the key characteristics and pace of the respective national social protection reform processes and to identify reform needs and support needs; these will be conducted by the pool of experts set up under the advisory board.

Implementation

The programme will be managed centrally by the European Commission, through the Brussels Operational Unit in charge of this sector. All logistical aspects will be the responsibility of an independent programme management agency. The project fund and the pool of experts will be set up and administered by the agency.

Proposals for projects and project funding must be made by the inter-institutional commissions to be set up in each Europe Agreement country and by the programme advisory board.

Programme for telecommunications and posts

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 36 on 16 May 1995.

Duration	3 years
Amount	ECU 7 million
Implementing body	Secretariat of the Phare Multi-country telecommunications programme Committee of Posts and Telecommunications Gourko street 6, PO Box 1352, Sofia, Bulgaria Tel (+359-2) 88 95 23 Fax (+359-2) 87 40 50 Mrs V Damyanova, Coordinator

Main components

Legislation and regulation ECU 1.8 million

Creation of a policy forum and a regulation observatory to serve as information sources, as part of the process of aligning telecommunications and postal legislation with that of the European Union.

ECU 800,000

Cooperation on inter-regional issues relating to spectrum management and frequency monitoring to help alignment with international standards and practices.

ECU 600,000

Activities for the postal sector to encourage conformity of standards, technical requirements and regulatory control with European Union practice.

ECU 400,000

Postal operators ECU 2.8 million

Human resource development and training for preparing transportation and trans-border letter delivery strategies. End-to-end quality service measurement systems for identifying market opportunities and marketing strategies.

ECU 1,800,000

Promotion of exchanges of ideas with industry leaders to re-engineer parcel and express mail systems (EMS) services to promote spin-off improvements in cross-border working.

ECU 550,000

Cooperation in the field of motor transport fleets to encourage maximum standardisation and containerisation in all forms and to raise standards to those of the European Union.

ECU 450,000

Telecom operators ECU 1.4 million

Activities to encourage harmonisation of tariffs and reduce disparities from one region to another, using European Union approaches and practices to provide a cost-based generic solution.

ECU 700,000

Development of alternative models for rural telephony to encourage expansion of telephone services, especially in remote or sparsely populated areas.

ECU 700,000

Programme management ECU 1 million

Reinforcement of the programme coordination unit, in particular with experts from central and eastern Europe and the European Union.

Background

The central and eastern European countries need to restructure the legislative and regulatory environment in the post and telecommunications sectors, since deficiencies in these areas can impede social and economic development generally.

Legislation and standards need to be harmonised and policies developed in line with those of the European Union, to pave the way for an open market in telecommunications and postal services and to encourage private sector finance for further development. National telecommunications and postal operators also need to interact with international bodies, in order to encourage a multi-country approach in improving international links and services and aligning these with international standards and agreements.

Considerable work has been carried out under national Phare-funded programmes but key institutional issues need to be addressed. These are difficult to resolve without complementary measures being taken in neighbouring countries.

Phare initiated a multi-country programme for the telecommunications sector in 1992, which concentrated on training activities. Apart from economies of scale, this programme has enabled participants to share views on common problems and to collaborate in finding solutions which meet individual national needs while complying with agreed international standards.

The new programme will expand on the 1992 programme and will enable the partner countries to fulfil wider objectives. It will also address issues in the postal sector, which has so far received little funding. A preparatory phase, approved in mid-1994, was designed to produce detailed specifications for particular projects

identified by the partner countries as being within priority areas and to draw up a process for overall coordination of a new multi-year programme.

The new programme will support two of the policy decisions taken at the Essen Summit, in facilitating the process towards accession to the European Union and in developing trans-European networks and cross-border cooperation.

The programme will help to establish common positions between the central and eastern European countries themselves and between them and the countries of the European Union, by improving the flow of information concerning legislative developments in the European Union and the exchange of views on these. It will foster the development of internationally agreed practices and standards, by enabling postal and telecommunications operators to establish common approaches leading generally to better operations and improved quality. It will also encourage collaboration in developing ideas and research on new services and in examining methods of attracting investment and providing services to market sectors which are economically unattractive but socially important, such as rural telephony.

The programme is the first phase of a broader five-year programme, which is to be implemented in three separate phases.

Programme objectives

The overall objectives of the programme are to

- improve internal operational efficiency within the partner countries
- foster operational and institutional links between the partner countries and the European Union
- encourage the development of common strategies to introduce new technologies and services.

The specific objectives are to

- develop discussions with the European Commission on approximating legislation, with a view to furthering integration with the European Union
- facilitate harmonisation of spectrum frequency monitoring and management, in particular in border areas
- facilitate the development of common regulatory practices in the postal area
- pursue training and the development of common tools and mechanisms for postal operation in line with international standards

- develop tools and procedures for telecommunications tariff analysis, to encourage transparency and linkage of tariffs to costs
- explore alternatives for developing rural telephony in remote areas and investigate technical and financial operational and institutional issues.

Programme description

Legislation and regulation ECU 1.8 million

Approximation and harmonisation of legislation

ECU 800,000

As part of the process to approximate and harmonise telecommunications and postal legislation and regulation in line with that of the European Union, two related actions will be undertaken to serve as information sources during the approximation process:

- the creation of a policy forum on European Union legislation on telecommunications and posts
- the creation of a regulation observatory of progress on harmonisation of legislation.

The policy forum will provide a vehicle for multilateral and multi-directional exchanges. It will foster cooperation among the central and eastern European countries themselves, and between them and the European Union countries. Emphasis will be on the needs of the central and eastern European countries in their relations with the European Union.

The regulation observatory will encourage comparisons on progress on harmonisation, and will promote dialogue between the European Commission and central and eastern European countries in this area. The observatory will also serve as one of the sources of information for multi-country discussions held within the framework of the policy forum.

Spectrum management and frequency monitoring

ECU 600,000

Cooperation will be encouraged in a variety of areas, including

- inter-regional issues of spectrum management and frequency monitoring to enable the partner countries to overcome common problems and benefit from each other's experience
- helping the countries to observe international standards and practices, in particular in line with the requirements of the European Radio Communication Conference, of which most countries are now members

- streamlining frequencies in border regions
- developing standard procedures in line with European Union standards and monitoring methods.

Postal sector conversion ECU 400,000
Activities will concentrate on encouraging conformity of standards, technical requirements and regulatory control with European Union practice. This will involve

- progressive reforms to the postal sector
- improvements to services and facilities
- definition of appropriate harmonised regulatory frameworks and strategic approaches in a competitive market environment.

Postal operators ECU 2.8 million

Human resource development and training ECU 1.8 million
Activities will concentrate on

- defining, agreeing and implementing transportation and trans-border letter delivery strategies which meet internationally agreed quality and service levels
- developing end-to-end quality service measurement systems, in particular to ensure that international mail receives the same treatment and service levels as domestic mail
- identifying market opportunities and implementing marketing strategies with a view to improving the revenue-earning capability of postal operators.

Re-engineering parcel and EMS services ECU 550,000
Support will be provided to enable exchanges of ideas with industry leaders to promote spin-off improvements in cross-border working, using the benefit of experience from the European Union.

Motor transport fleet ECU 450,000
Support will be provided to encourage maximum standardisation and containerisation in all forms and to raise standards to those of the European Union, with emphasis on trans-border container standards and tools for container tracking and routing.

Telecom operators ECU 1.4 million

Tariffs ECU 700,000
Support will concentrate on measures to encourage harmonisation of tariffs and to reduce disparities of service tariffs from one region to another, using European Union approaches and practices to provide a cost-based generic solution.

Rural telephony ECU 700,000
Activities will concentrate on developing alternative models for rural telephony development to encourage expansion of telephone services, especially in remote or sparsely populated areas. Particular attention will be paid to the possibility of providing multi-country services via microwave and satellite-based infrastructures.

Programme management ECU 1 million
The programme coordination unit already set up in Bulgaria will need to be reinforced to ensure that the programme is properly implemented, especially since more responsibility will be delegated to the unit. The unit will be expanded with experts from central and eastern Europe and the European Union. Funding will also cover exceptional costs expected during the initial phases of the programme, as well as the cost of organising meetings, travel expenses, producing documentation and other ancillary items.

Implementation

The European Commission will have responsibility for overall management and financial control of the programme. It will also define overall strategy and direct and coordinate activities under national and multi-country programmes.

A multi-country programme steering committee will represent the partner countries and will recommend the allocation of funds within specific programmes. It will also identify and propose actions to be undertaken within the strategy and direction defined by the Commission.

The programme coordination unit already set up will ensure that projects are properly developed and implemented. It will issue terms of reference, organise calls for tender, evaluate proposals and issue contracts to successful tenderers. It will also act as a secretariat for the purposes of organising meetings and providing information and discussion documents.

Multi-country programme for the energy sector

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 35 on 30 March 1995.

Duration	to end 1997
Amount	ECU 9 million
Implementing body	Multi-country Phare Programme Coordination Unit Romanian Ministry of Industries 152 Calei Victoriei, Vth floor, room 5 71 101 Bucaresti 1 Tel (+40-1) 312 2005 Fax (+40-1) 312 20 06 Mr I Lencz, Team leader

Main components

Energy policy	ECU 2.5 million
Black Sea coordination	ECU 1 million
Harmonisation of energy statistics	ECU 0.75 million
Baltic Energy Centre	ECU 0.75 million
Energy efficiency	ECU 3 million
Cooperation between local communities	ECU 2 million
Legislative framework for heat supply	ECU 1 million
Integrated environment approach	ECU 0.75 million
Black Triangle coordination	ECU 0.75 million
Inter-connection of energy networks	ECU 2 million
Pre-investment studies	ECU 2 million
Management and evaluation of the programme	ECU 0.75 million

Background

The existence of reliable energy supplies is a prerequisite for attracting foreign investment and for the recovery of sustainable economic growth in central and eastern Europe.

Inter-connection of energy networks, improvement of energy efficiency and the promotion of modern technologies will play a key role in the transition of the economies of the central and eastern European countries, by accelerating their integration into the European Union and encouraging compliance with European Union standards on energy saving and environmental protection.

All the central and eastern European countries have commenced the reform of their energy sectors, by progressively adopting more cost-efficient energy pricing systems, developing new regulations and commercialising and restructuring energy companies. However, energy policies based on a realistic demand approach, taking account of the considerable potential for energy saving, are not yet fully implemented in most countries.

There is also an enormous need for investment to rehabilitate and modernise production units, upgrade them for environmental purposes and to improve transport and distribution networks. The countries are unlikely to be able to mobilise adequate financial resources on their own.

Therefore, there is a need for a coordinated approach in the energy sector among the central and eastern European countries, allowing economies of scale, rationalisation of energy supply schemes and sharing of experience.

The programme will be based on the activities of the 1992, 1993 and 1994 programmes and will be closely coordinated with other European Union programmes, such as Thermie and Synergy. The programme complies fully with the Edinburgh growth initiative, the 1993-1997 Phare orientation paper and the Commission's Green Paper on a European Union energy policy.

Programme objectives

The overall objective of the programme is to facilitate cooperation in the field of energy among the Phare partner countries and between them and the European Union.

The specific objectives of the programme are to

- stimulate improved coordination, dialogue and convergence on energy policies in the perspective of European integration
- promote cooperation in developing pro-active energy saving policies and the drawing up of guidelines for the legislative framework on heat supply
- develop an integrated approach to designing environmentally-friendly energy strategies at international level
- facilitate the preparation of investment projects for energy networks.

The activities proposed focus on a limited number of high priority issues so as to direct the limited funds available to projects having a direct effect on the mobilisation of public and private infrastructure investments and on improving institutional capabilities in the energy sector.

Programme description

Energy policy ECU 2.5 million
Black Sea coordination ECU 1 million
 Phare will fund projects promoted by the new Black Sea Energy Centre, created with the support of the Thermie and Synergy programmes. The Centre was formed to help coordinate energy strategies for the Black Sea region. Funding will be available for projects involving Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and those countries of the region which are beneficiaries of the Tacis programme.

Harmonisation of energy statistics ECU 750,000
 Phare will help to coordinate efforts to restructure energy statistics, so as to ensure compatibility of the emerging systems of data collection and treatment with the Eurostat guidelines.

Baltic Energy Centre ECU 750,000
 Phare will support the coordination of energy policies and investment in the three Baltic countries through the Baltic Energy Centre, providing technical expertise for developing master plans in the energy field. This initiative comes in the wake of the G-24 recommendations.

Energy efficiency ECU 3 million
Cooperation between local communities ECU 2 million
 Funding will be provided to follow up the networking programme for local communities on energy efficiency, set up through the ECOS/Ouverture programme in 1993. The programme has aroused interest in a large number of towns and regions throughout central and eastern Europe.

Legislative framework for heat supply ECU 1 million
 Phare will support specific legislative and market-oriented activities relating to heat supply, including district heating, to serve as the basis for updating national policies in this field.

Integrated environment approach ECU 750,000
Black Triangle coordination ECU 750,000
 Phare will fund activities to facilitate the coordination of energy strategies in the Czech Republic and Poland designed to reduce air pollution from coal and lignite combustion in the Black Triangle area. Existing environment programmes are currently blocked due to a lack of coordination of energy policies.

Inter-connection of energy networks ECU 2 million
Pre-investment studies ECU 2 million
 Phare will follow up the conclusions of the 1992 energy inter-connection studies and related 1993 projects, by funding pre-investment feasibility studies for financing by the international financing institutions and possible co-financing from Phare national programmes. Particular fields of interest are the further development of gas and electricity networks, the transfer of conversion stations to the interface between the extended UCPTÉ and their eastern neighbours and the continuation of electricity exchange between the New Independent States (NIS) and the Phare countries after inter-connection with UCPTÉ.

Management and evaluation of the programme ECU 750,000

Implementation

Previous multi-energy programmes were directly managed by the European Commission in Brussels, in close coordination with the sector coordinator in Romania. In mid-1994, it was decided to establish a programme coordination unit in Bucharest to deal with programme administration, management and implementation.

The activities of the programme will be closely coordinated with the political level and the operational departments of the Ministry of Industries, which is responsible for energy in Romania, and the appropriate authorities of the other partner countries.

Technical support and training services will be selected through restricted invitations to tender or by direct contract depending on the cost and expertise sought. Participation in tenders will be open to all natural and legal persons of the Member States and the Phare partner countries.

Multi-country cooperation in distance education

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1997
EU contribution	ECU 5 million (1995) ECU 5 million (1996)
Implementing body	Programme Coordination Unit P O Box 508, H - 1438 Budapest 70 Tel (+36-1) 344 0312 Fax (+36-1) 343 01 64 Mr András Szuczsz, PCU Director

Main components

Trans-regional network of study centres	ECU 4 million
40 study centres, approximate cost at ECU 80,000 each	ECU 3.2 million
11 national contact points, approximate cost ECU 40,000 each	ECU 450,000
Staff development programme	ECU 350,000
Course development	ECU 5 million
Course in European studies	ECU 600,000
40 course modules, approx. cost ECU 110,000 each	ECU 4.4 million
Strategy development	ECU 500,000
Advanced technologies study	ECU 250,000
Links to EU policies	ECU 100,000
Harmonisation of legislation and accreditation policies	ECU 150,000
Programme management and coordination	ECU 500,000

Background

This programme builds on a pilot programme financed with ECU 3 million from the 1994 budget, itself based on a feasibility study carried out in 1993. Other Phare-funded initiatives in this area were funded under the Tempus programme and a Hungarian programme launched in 1994.

The distance learning initiative was designed to tackle the following problems confronting all Phare partner countries:

- too little flexibility and diversity in the available post-secondary education programmes, which are characterised by academic orientation and long study cycles
- the collapse of the adult education systems, previously carried out by enterprises, which were outdated and over-specialised.

Distance education can help solve these problems. First, it allows people who did not enter full-time higher education to learn at advanced levels. Secondly, it diversifies higher education by offering new short-cycle programmes. Thirdly, it can provide continuing education to adults wishing to diversify or upgrade their skills. Finally, when based on a good market analysis, distance learning can offer these services in a very cost-effective manner.

The pilot programme has already developed detailed work programmes, developed the network of national contact points, launched pilot projects in all partner countries to develop course modules and set up the first study centres. It also runs promotional and training programmes, has developed European studies, and set up the programme secretariat. An independent evaluation carried out in February 1995 concluded that the pilot programme was well conceived and well run and recommended that a full-scale programme be set up.

Programme objectives

This programme aims to promote multi-country cooperation in the field of distance education by helping to establish a regional network of distance education study centres. It aims to develop distance education course modules relevant to transition economies and will help draft a long-term strategy for the sector.

Programme description

Trans-regional network of study centres ECU 4 million

This component has as its goal the launching of a functioning delivery system for distance education in all the participating countries. To do this, it will set up 40 operational study centres and develop the skills of the required personnel (tutors, curriculum developers and administrators). The centres will be linked with existing higher education institutions and will build on existing distance education initiatives whenever possible. The Steering Committee of the programme will select the centres through a competitive procedure held among eligible institutions. Quality assurance, long-term financial viability and links to similar units in the EU will be key selection criteria.

- poor participation in post-secondary education compared to OECD countries

When actually setting up the centres, the programme will provide the following:

- training of trainers and tutors' programmes (topics: student support, multi-media, tele-teaching, foreign languages)
- basic equipment
- an analysis of market needs
- electronic links
- literature and documentation.

Course development **ECU 5 million**

This component will develop:

- a full modular study programme in European Studies, paying particular attention to modules dealing with issues of European integration and law ECU 600,000
- develop 40 distance education modules dealing with economics, business, law, trade, foreign languages, and the roles of technology and services

ECU 4.4 million

Both sets of courses will be designed by a group of experts from the EU and the partner countries. At least three institutions from the partner countries must be involved in the design of each module. The selection of course projects will be made by the Steering Committee following a competitive process. The programme will finance the development of the modules which will subsequently have to be self-financing.

Strategic development **ECU 500,000**

This component will finance the following:

- a study of the role of advanced technology in distance education in the partner countries, including the telecoms infrastructure, the educational infrastructure and the potential links with EU networks and Phare programmes active in related areas (telecoms, Trans-European Networks (TENs)). The study will generate operational and financial scenarios ECU 250,000
- the development of links with EU policies in this area, notably in relation to the Socrates programme and the Fourth Framework Programme ECU 100,000
- the promotion of the transnational harmonisation of legislation and the international accreditation of distance education providers or courses. Where advisable, this component will collaborate with the OECD and the Council of Europe ECU 150,000

Implementation

A Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of each of the participating countries, will decide on all main implementation issues and on the selection of programmes. The Chair, which will be held by the Hungarian representative, will act as Programme Authorising Officer.

The Programme Coordination Unit will run the programme under the supervision of the committee and will work according to the rules laid down in the Phare Decentralised Implementation Manual and the manual for Contract and Procurement Rules. Each of the eleven national contact points will coordinate all activities in his or her country, and working groups of national contact points will be formed to cooperate on specific topics.

The implementation of this programme will be monitored for the European Commission by the Turin-based European Training Foundation.

The allocation of the 1996 finance is conditional upon a positive independent assessment of the programme.

Multi-country cooperation in higher education

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1995
EU contribution	ECU 3.5 million
Implementing body	Programme Coordination Unit (to be set up in Bratislava)

Main components

Internationally accepted education indicators **ECU 700,000**

Experts	ECU 250,000
Costs of participation of CEEC trainees	ECU 400,000
Equipment, rent, administration	ECU 50,000

Development of quality assurance standards **ECU 1.3 million**

Transnational peer reviews	ECU 300,000
Institutional quality projects	ECU 300,000
Training, legislative review	ECU 350,000
Preparation and distribution of manual	ECU 50,000
Quality assurance focus: European studies	ECU 300,000

Diploma equivalence and transnational course credits **ECU 1.2 million**

Training and information on ECTS	ECU 450,000
Preparation and publication of manual	ECU 50,000
Literature and NARIC network links	ECU 300,000
Compilation of CEEC higher education data	ECU 400,000

Coordination, management and administration **ECU 300,000**

Coordination unit costs	ECU 130,000
Know-how	ECU 110,000
Steering Committee costs	ECU 60,000

Background

Since 1990, there has been an explosion of transnational cooperation in higher education in the central and eastern European countries. Typical activities have included student and staff exchanges, retraining of teachers, the development of new courses, the expansion of libraries and so on. International help for such initiatives has been considerable: Phare's Tempus programme alone has already contributed over ECU 514 million.

Most of these activities have taken place at the level of university departments, with few attempts to systematise the experience gained across the whole higher education sector. However, this would be particularly desirable, as it would not only allow a gain in efficiency but also mirror similar developments taking place in the European Union. Helping to develop this transnational educational space, with agreed standards and recognised qualifications, is what the present programme is about. It builds on a pilot project financed from the 1994 Phare multi-disciplinary fund and run with the OECD's secretariat which defined the major issues and identified areas for further collaboration.

Programme objectives

The programme aims to promote a system of internationally accepted education indicators, to set up transnational quality assurance mechanisms, and to promote the equivalence and recognition of diplomas and courses across borders.

Programme description

Internationally acceptable indicators for education **ECU 700,000**

National education policies tend more and more to be developed with reference to international targets, which presuppose the availability of reliable and internationally comparable educational data. These are still only patchily available in central and eastern Europe, seriously constraining the capacity of ministries of education to develop appropriate policies and of western European partners to develop their cooperation programmes in the most efficient way.

This component will help solve this problem by training about 120 experts in the art of collecting and analysing educational data and by preparing a manual for the dissemination of that knowledge by these trained experts. Training will be based on the INES and the EUROSTAT statistical models. The trainees will be chosen on the basis of their own background and the competence of their organisation to apply the information collection model that was taught.

Quality assurance in higher education **ECU 1.3 million**

Ensuring that higher education programmes offer courses of internationally recognised high quality is essential to most countries' long-term competitiveness. Consequently, most partner countries are trying to develop quality assurance policies. Different models are

being mooted in different countries and quality needs are still being refined. There is a need for testing different models and comparing experiences. This component will support pilot projects and training activities in these areas which will include:

- peer reviews to compare selected subjects across countries
- projects to introduce quality mechanisms to higher education institutions
- training in the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms
- a comparative review of legislation
- the preparation of a manual
- a study of the quality assurance situation of the new field of European Studies.

Most activities will be carried out jointly by institutions from at least three partner countries and one EU Member State. The component will be carried out in cooperation with a quality assurance programme currently being implemented in the EU.

Equivalence and recognition of foreign diplomas and course credits **ECU 1.2 million**

Transnational student mobility and the increase in knowledge that follows can only become reality if different countries recognise each other's diplomas and grant course credits for each other's programmes. In the framework of the Erasmus programme, EU Member States have established National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC) and have adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

This component aims to establish similar arrangements in the partner countries. To do so, the programme will train officials from ministries and other concerned institutions in NARIC and ECTS procedures. It will help develop a code of good practice, widen the network of NARIC-like centres, and collect consistent information on the region's higher education programmes. This programme will collaborate with Tempus and Socrates on the testing of new ECTS mechanisms.

Certain activities will be carried out in collaboration with the OECD, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

Implementation

A Steering Committee, composed of representatives of each partner country, will meet under the chairmanship of the representative from Slovakia. It will approve work programmes and progress reports and select projects.

The programme will be implemented on a day-to-day level by the Programme Coordination Unit in Bratislava. The programme will be monitored for the Commission by the European Training Foundation. Independent experts, selected through a competitive bidding process, will monitor the progress of the programme and carry out an 'ex post' evaluation.

The usual Phare procurement rules will apply.

Tempus II: Trans-European Cooperation Scheme for Higher Education

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 36 on 16 May 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1998
EU contribution	ECU 96.1 million
Implementing body	European Training Foundation Villa Gualino Viale Settimio Severo 65 I - 10133 Torino Tel (+39-11) 630 22 22 Fax (+39-11) 630 22 00 e-mail: info@etf.it Mr Peter de Rooij, Director Ministries of Education and Tempus offices in each partner country (please see the Phare Address book for details)

Main components

Funds will be made available to

- support Joint European Projects (JEPs)
- provide grants for individual mobility of teaching staff
- finance complementary measures
- support the Tempus offices in the 11 partner countries.

The funds will be allocated as follows

	ECU million
Albania	3.5
Bulgaria	12.0
Czech Republic	6.0
Estonia	1.5
Hungary	12.0
Latvia	2.0
Lithuania	3.5
Poland	30.0
Romania	18.0
Slovakia	5.0
Slovenia	2.6

Background

Tempus, which started life in 1990, was designed to help the partner countries develop their higher education systems. In its first phase (from 1990 to 1994), Tempus made ECU 429.75 million available to its partner countries. These funds allowed 750 Joint European Projects between institutions from Member States of the European Union and from the partner countries to go ahead. These have involved 32,000 teaching staff, 19,000 students and 1,800 different institutions.

The decision to launch a second phase, Tempus II, was taken in April 1993. Tempus II has been re-designed to complement the partner countries' general reform objectives through a better definition of each country's priorities and a concerted effort to disseminate results as widely as possible. Furthermore, Tempus will be embedded in the pre-accession strategy developed for the associated countries. This means that more resources will be devoted to projects in relevant areas such as law, technical standards, the *acquis communautaire* and the mutual recognition of post-secondary diplomas. Because part of the pre-accession strategy involves opening up Community programmes to the associated countries, it also means that Tempus allocations to these countries will be phased out over the coming years and replaced by their participation in programmes such as Leonardo or Socrates.

There is a Tempus office in each partner country. Its job is to help the Ministry of Education, the European Commission's main interlocutor, select projects, implement and monitor the programmes and handle information and the dissemination of results.

Programme objectives

To promote the development of higher education systems.

To support collaborative efforts between western and eastern higher education institutions.

Programme description

This programme will finance three groups of activities.

- Joint European Projects between higher education institutions in the Member States of the European Union and the partner countries. The Tempus offices will encourage projects that aim at revising curricula, improving libraries, developing or translating teaching material, exchanging staff or students or placing students in industry.
- Placements in western European institutions for teaching staff of higher education institutions of the partner countries.
- Other activities, including strategic planning, institutional development, the dissemination of results, joint European networks, and others.

Implementation

Ministries of Education, assisted by Tempus offices in their countries, will be responsible for the preselection of projects.

The programme will be implemented by the European Training Foundation (ETF), responsible to the European Commission. A Tempus Committee, composed of representatives of the Member States, meets once a year with representatives of the partner countries to help the ETF implement the programme.

The Commission will contract independent experts to evaluate the efficiency of the programme. A system of site visits, which have been taking place since 1992 to evaluate the impact of individual projects, will be continued.

The usual procurement rules apply.

LIEN: the Link Inter-European NGO programme

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1997
EU contribution	ECU 10 million
Implementing body	CEV•EEP Rue de l'Industrie 42/10 B-1040 Brussels Tel (+32-2) 511 75 01 Fax (+32-2) 514 59 89

Main components

Grant support to Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) micro-projects **ECU 2 million**
Grants for central European NGOs only.
Each grant worth from ECU 3,000 to ECU 10,000.

Grant support to NGO macro-projects **ECU 7 million**
Grants for working transnational partnerships between different NGOs.
Each grant worth from ECU 10,000 to ECU 200,000.

Management, promotion, monitoring and evaluation **ECU 1 million**

Background

An unavoidable side-effect of the transition process throughout central and eastern Europe has been the collapse of the state and enterprise social safety nets. At the same time, there was a significant rise in unemployment and poverty. Women, the elderly and children are among the chief victims of this social degradation process. To cope with this situation will take more than the ongoing reorganisation of the public sector. Private initiatives are also required, particularly those carried out by NGOs.

This programme builds on the experience gained by Phare since 1991 with a variety of programmes designed to support NGO initiatives, notably the 1994 version of LIEN. It attempts to help central European NGOs establish a safety net for those people most badly affected by the transition process and, by doing so, to help develop social solidarity and strengthen civic society.

Programme objectives

This programme will stimulate the initiatives of NGOs trying to set up programmes to benefit the weakest in society. It will support such initiatives directly by giving grants and will help the NGOs involved to become more professional. The programme has three specific objectives:

- to support initiatives designed to help women, particularly those dealing with health, reproductive health and employment issues
- to support initiatives that try to help the unemployed, minorities, the handicapped and other marginalised groups
- to support initiatives that will develop health and social support for particular target groups (AIDS sufferers, the homeless, drug addicts etc.).

Programme description

The programme will achieve its objectives by co-financing projects designed by registered NGOs. Because many different types of NGO have projects worthy of grant support, a micro-project facility will be available to complement the more established grant-giving facility of the macro-projects.

Grants will be awarded following a competitive application process. A contractor will design, publish and disseminate promotional material to ensure maximum publicity for the programme. The same contractor will run the public calls for applications. A group of experts will carry out a pre-evaluation of the applications and the Commission will then select the winning projects.

The following criteria will influence the selection of successful projects: the importance of the needs to be satisfied, the seriousness of the pre-project survey, evidence of involvement of the target group in project design, the level of collaboration between NGOs, the quality of the proposed implementation and monitoring mechanisms, the experience of the applicant, and the potential for replication of the project.

In addition to the costs of the project itself, the following types of cost may be financed from the EU contribution: central costs if directly related to the project and operational costs if they consist of training and the transfer of know-how. Capital costs, equipment and infrastructure costs will not be financed. Projects of a partisan nature or dealing with emergency relief will not be eligible for support.

Micro-project facility **ECU 2 million**

This facility is designed to fund projects carried out by small NGOs at local levels. The programme will contribute up to 90 per cent of the cost of a project. The grant size will go from ECU 3,000 to a maximum of ECU 10,000. Projects must be carried out within a year of a grant being received. Three to four calls for applications will be launched every year.

Macro-project facility **ECU 7 million**

This facility will fund projects run by a working partnership of NGOs from different countries. To be eligible, the mix of regional origin of the participating NGOs can be EU-CEEC, CEEC-New Independent States or CEEC-CEEC. The programme will contribute up to 80 per cent of the cost of a project. Up to 10 per cent of the cost may be supplied in kind by the participants; the rest must be cash. The grant size will go from ECU 10,000 up to a maximum of ECU 200,000. Projects must be carried out within two years of a grant being received. Two calls for applications will be launched every year.

Implementation

The programme will be managed by a framework contractor based in Brussels. The contractor will be supervised by the European Commission and will be assisted by the EU Delegations in the partner countries.

The micro-project schemes will be implemented by Civil Society Development Foundations where these exist, and by the EU Delegation or the contractor where they do not.

An independent expert will carry out an evaluation of both schemes.

Multi-country transport programme

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1998
EU contribution	11.5 ECU million
Implementing body	Multi-country Coordination unit Ministry of Transport Nábřeží L. Svobody 12, 110 15 Praha 1 Tel (+42-2) 23 03 10 77 Fax (+42-2) 23 03 10 78 Ms H Martniovská, Programme manager

Main components

Training	ECU 5 million
Integrated management and technical training Air traffic service training	
Pre-investment activities	ECU 4 million
Approximation of standards and legislation	ECU 1.8 million
Management, coordination and monitoring	ECU 0.4 million
Contingencies	ECU 0.3 million

Background

All Phare partner countries were starved of investment in the transport sector in communist days. They are now having to build up their transport infrastructure at a rapid rate. Phare transport programmes have played an increasingly important role in this job and, by extension, in the integration of central and eastern Europe with the European Union.

In 1992, the European Investment Bank's (EIB) trans-European lending facility was established to develop trans-European networks (TENs) in the Phare countries. In June 1993, the European Council authorised the Commission to use up to 15 per cent of Phare funding to invest directly in infrastructural measures. This ceiling was raised to 25 per cent in December 1994.

Since 1992, Phare multi-country programmes have committed ECU 75 million to transport programmes, the

largest beneficiaries of which were projects to eradicate transport bottlenecks by modernising border crossings.

The European Council, meeting at Essen in December 1994, stated that Phare would play a growing role in the development of pan-European infrastructure projects, trans-European networks and the approximation of legislation and standards. In the light of this statement, the National Coordinators of the Phare Programme, meeting at Warsaw in March 1995, decided there was a need for a multinational initiative concentrating on training, pre-investment actions and the approximation of standards and legislation. The present programme is the Commission's response to that requirement.

Programme objectives

This programme has three main objectives:

- to facilitate investment in transport projects by financing a number of pre-investment studies
- to strengthen pan-European collaboration in transport by introducing a common training strategy
- to help harmonise and approximate legislation and standards.

Programme description

Training **ECU 5 million**
There will be two components to the training programme: management and technical training and air traffic control.

Integrated management and technical training
This component will train trainers and transport professionals in the following topics: management, economics and finance, project management, statistical analysis, engineering and operations, and legal frameworks. The courses will be delivered in multi-topic modules at three regional centres. The content of certain courses will vary to reflect the special needs of each of the three regions.

Air traffic service programme
In 1992 and 1993, Phare financed some training courses provided by Eurocontrol's Institute for Air Navigation Services. This component will build on that experience by concentrating on the following topics: English language training, ICAO-standard controller procedures, ATS automation and instructor training. Other topics that could be addressed, depending on individual needs, are: flow management, search and rescue, and meteorology.

Pre-investment activities for**Trans-European Networks ECU 4 million**

Infrastructural investments are, almost by definition, the responsibility of national governments. However, to develop a coherent approach to infrastructural investment programmes close multinational collaboration is essential. To help the partner countries plan their sections of the main transit routes foreseen as part of the trans-European networks, this component will

- finance a limited number of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies
- help the partner countries to develop ways to attract private sector capital to transport projects
- provide funds to follow up the recommendations of the Road Safety Workshop held at Budapest in October 1994.

Support for the approximation**of legislation and standards ECU 1.8 million**

This component will concentrate on the following three activities:

- a series of regional workshops to introduce harmonised procedures and standards based on the "acquis communautaire" to transport officials. This will include study visits to the EU
- a technical cooperation facility to supply the partner countries at short notice with expert advice on a variety of topics related to Community legislation
- a project to introduce existing International Maritime Organisation regulations pertaining to safety and the environment to the maritime sector of the partner countries.

Implementation

The European Commission will implement this programme in close collaboration with the Programme Coordination Unit. The Multi-Country Transport Programme Liaison Group will meet regularly to review the programme. Independent experts will be contracted to carry out an 'ex post' evaluation of the programme.

Goods and services will be purchased following the usual Phare procurement rules.

Multi-country programme for the environment

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration to 31 December 1997

EU contribution ECU 20 million

Implementing body Programme Coordination Unit and Liaison Office,
Miklos ter 1, H-1035 Budapest
Tel (+36-1) 250 3401
Fax (+36-1) 250 34 03
Programme Management Units and Programme Coordination Units throughout the Phare region (please see the 'Phare Address Book' for full details)

Regulatory aspects	ECU 20,000
Preparation of 1996-funded work	ECU 50,000
Management	ECU 130,000

Management, contingencies, project preparation ECU 0.7 million

Main components

CEEC collaboration with the European

Environmental Agency ECU 7 million

Extension of CORINE landcover and biotopes: implementation ECU 1.5 million

Training, follow-up, dissemination of CORINE extension ECU 0.8 million

Participation of CEEC experts at EEA events ECU 1 million

Setting up of National Focal Points ECU 1.2 million

Topic centres ECU 1 million

Implementation of EEA projects ECU 1 million

Management, contingencies ECU 500,000

Agricultural remote sensing, related monitoring (MERA) ECU 4 million

Grants and capacity building - Regional Environmental Centre ECU 1 million

Compliance with international conventions ECU 1.3 million

Danube basin - new tributaries pre-investment programmes ECU 800,000

Black Sea programme ECU 500,000

Black Triangle programme ECU 5 million

Grants: environmental revolving fund ECU 3.6 million

Special projects ECU 500,000

Management and contingencies ECU 900,000

Remediation concepts for uranium mines ECU 1 million

Inventory ECU 650,000

Database ECU 150,000

Background

Phare responded early on to the environmental catastrophes in central and eastern Europe. It launched its first multi-country programme for the environment in 1991 with ECU 20 million. The programme was extended in 1992 with ECU 26 million. Both programmes were geared to solving problems that were common to at least three partner countries and therefore complemented substantial national environmental programmes. Multi-country projects supported so far have included regional initiatives such as the Black Triangle, Black Sea or Danube River Basin programmes; pan-European data collection programmes like CORINE and Remote Sensing, and many others.

Each of these initiatives is managed by a different body, usually in a different partner country. They are coordinated from Brussels and monitored by a liaison group which meets twice a year. At its last meeting, the group adopted the five groups of proposals that form the body of this programme. Some of the five are entirely new initiatives, others extend existing programmes.

Programme objectives

The broad objective is to help the partner countries tackle together those environmental issues that affect at least three of them. Beyond that generality, each group of proposals has the following specific objectives.

The 'Promotion of Closer Integration with the EU' group of proposals falls squarely within the pre-accession strategy for the CEECs approved by the European Summit at Essen. It includes three objectives: to help CEECs collaborate with the European Environmental Agency (EEA), to expand remote sensing activities and to support the Regional Environmental Centre for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Budapest (REC). Each aims to help the CEECs integrate more closely with the EU, either by encouraging them to cooperate with EU agencies, by letting them participate in EU programmes or by boosting the capabilities of their environmental NGOs.

The second set of proposals aims to help the partner countries comply with the international conventions they have signed. The third aims to boost regional coop-

eration. The fourth aims to show how it is possible to deal with environmental liabilities that slow or prevent investment. The fifth aims to enhance local capacity for planning, preparing and managing future projects.

Programme description

CEEC collaboration with the European Environmental Agency ECU 7 million

Closer European integration in the environmental field depends crucially on the compatibility of information systems and the smooth flow of information prepared to mutually agreed standards. In the EU, this job is the responsibility of the Copenhagen-based EEA. This component will help the partner countries get involved in the EEA's work by funding the following two types of project

- to extend the CORINAIR, Landcover and Biotopes projects to new countries (Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia)
- to finance the participation of all eleven partner countries in the following EEA programmes: an air emissions inventory, the setting up of air quality monitoring networks, and the setting up of inland water monitoring networks.

Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing (MARS) and related environmental applications (MERA) ECU 4 million

MARS was launched within the European Union in 1991 and has become a valuable tool to build up a body of reliable, environmentally useful data. MERA, which includes MARS and additional monitoring specifically geared to the environment, was launched in six countries through the 1992 Phare Programme. This component will fund an extension to MERA in the original six countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Belarus, Romania, Slovakia) and extend it to the five other partner countries. In addition, in the original six, this component will help build up the capacity to recognise quickly significant changes in land use and disseminate that information.

Regional Environmental Centre: Capacity building and grants to NGOs ECU 1 million

This component will help the REC boost the capacities of environmental NGOs in the partner countries in four ways, by setting up

- a grant programme for NGOs, to be used to fund their small projects and boost their institutional development
- a junior fellowship programme

- an information dissemination programme
- a training and advisory programme for NGOs.

Compliance with international conventions ECU 1.3 million

This component will help the partner countries to fulfil their international obligations in the framework of the Danube Action Plan and the Black Sea Convention.

- Danube river basin: this component will improve water monitoring, accident warning systems, regional research programmes and pre-investment actions. In particular, it will finance a monitoring and assessment programme; the completion and calibration of an accident warning system; regional environmental studies; a programme of applied research; legislative reform; implementation of the Strategic Action Plan and support to the Programme Coordination Unit.
- Black Sea Programme: this programme, managed through the Global Environmental Facility from Istanbul, extends beyond Phare regional boundaries to include Tacis and other countries. This component will fund equipment for a monitoring network, the development of economically acceptable coastal management techniques, further participation of the public and NGOs, an assessment of the extent of diffuse pollution, an assessment of the potential for aquaculture and a study programme of coastal erosion.

Black Triangle programme ECU 5 million

The Black Triangle, an area of high industrial activity located around the borders of Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, now has an operational air monitoring network funded through previous Phare programmes. This programme will finance three further initiatives

- a monitoring system of trans-national pollution
- a decision support system for environmental management based on the joint air monitoring system
- a revolving fund to attract environmental investment. Funds will be made available as seed capital through the environmental revolving funds in the Czech Republic and Poland. These funds will be managed by banks which will themselves bear a share of the risk. Four types of financing will be available: grants, loans, interest payment support and loan guarantees.

Remediation concepts for uranium mines ECU 1 million

This component will be implemented in two phases. The first will collect information on the liabilities that arise

from past uranium mining, create a graded database of sites, compare the licensing and regulatory aspects of uranium mining in the partner countries with those in force elsewhere, and propose pilot projects. The second phase will procure liability modelling software, assess rehabilitation options, identify the required monitoring systems, establish cost evaluation procedures, establish a set of rehabilitation management procedures and carry out the pilot projects identified in the first phase.

**Project management, preparation
of future actions and pilot projects ECU 0.7 million**

Implementation

The European Commission is responsible for this programme. A Steering Group of representatives from the Phare countries will provide guidance and ensure coherence. Its work will be coordinated by the Programme Coordination Unit in Budapest. The various components will be implemented by different PMUs and PCUs coordinated by the Liaison Office. The Uranium Mines component will be implemented by the Budapest PCU. The Budapest PCU/Liaison Office will be the disbursement authorising body for this programme. Programme management will be decentralised. The usual procurement rules apply.

Czech Republic

Cross-border cooperation programme with Germany

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1998
EU contribution	ECU 25 million
Implementing body	Department of Cross-border Cooperation Ministry of Economy Letenská 3, 110 00 Praha 1 Tel (+42-2) 24 51 12 79 Fax (42-2) 53 79 47 Mr Karel Hyndrak, Head of Department

Main components

Transport	ECU 10.3 million
Development of cross-border road links	ECU 6.9 million
Development of cross-border rail links	ECU 3.4 million
Technical infrastructures and utilities	ECU 3.4 million
Energy system modernisation	ECU 2.3 million
Architectural rehabilitation	ECU 1.1 million
Environment	ECU 6.3 million
Sewage and waste water systems	
Economic development	ECU 1.4 million
Tourism development	
Agriculture and rural development	ECU 700,000
Forest rehabilitation	
Human resources	ECU 400,000
Vocational training and education	
Interdisciplinary studies and technical support	ECU 2.5 million
Programme management, audits, monitoring, evaluation	

Background

The Czech Government policy on border regions falls within its regional and spatial policy. The Government

is committed to supporting the development of regions that have relatively high unemployment and specific economic development and adjustment problems.

The Government is also keen to promote friendly relations with neighbouring countries and to promote cooperation in all border regions. In particular, in view of the objective of integrating the Czech Republic into the European Union, the Government has stressed the importance of coordinating and developing joint programmes in the Czech-German border regions.

Two fields of activity are of particular importance in the Government's policy on the border regions adjoining Germany. The first is to develop road and railway infrastructures to link the Republic to the trans-European transport system and to increase the capacity of border crossings. The second priority is to improve the environment in highly polluted regions, in particular northern Bohemia and the Sokolov district, and to reduce cross-border air and water pollution.

Commission Regulation N° 1629/94 on cross-border cooperation between the Member States and central and eastern European countries in the framework of the Phare Programme provides the rules for financing actions of a structural nature in the border regions of those central and eastern European countries sharing a common border with Member States, in harmony with the European Union structural policies and with INTERREG II in particular.

The 1995 cross-border cooperation programme will co-finance those actions having a cross-border impact and related to the INTERREG II programme, in those areas of the border regions of northern and western Bohemia in the Czech Republic that have a common border with Germany. The programme has been designed on the basis of the declaration of intent signed by the Czech and German authorities to provide a basis for agreement on the coordination of cross-border activities, in particular in relation to INTERREG II activities on the German side of the border. The programme will contribute to the integration process started under the Europe Agreement through the promotion of cross-border cooperation with Germany.

The measures expand those instigated under the 1994 cross-border cooperation programme with Germany, which included six projects for transport infrastructure at border crossings and environmental infrastructures.

Phare contribution to total cost	ECU million Phare	ECU million Total cost *
Transport		
development of cross-border road links	6.90	9.30
development of cross-border rail links	3.40	4.70
Sub-total	10.30	14.00
Technical infrastructures and utilities		
energy system modernisation	2.30	3.09
architectural rehabilitation	1.10	1.91
Sub-total	3.40	5.00
Environment - sewage and waste water systems	6.30	8.60
Economic development - tourism development	1.40	1.90
Agriculture and rural development - forest rehabilitation	0.70	1.71
Human resources - vocational training and education	0.40	0.60
Inter-disciplinary studies and technical support		
programme management, audits, monitoring, evaluation	2.50	-
Total	25.00	34.30

* Total co-financing from Phare, Czech Government (committed to a minimum contribution of 25%) and others.

Programme objectives

The programme aims to develop cross-border cooperation in those regions of the Czech Republic which share a common border with Germany, concentrating on

- support for activities that will facilitate the preparation of the Czech Republic for accession to the European Union
- overcoming problems in the border region such as peripherality, through improved transport links, the reduction of environmental pollution and the provision of the necessary infrastructures
- the promotion and continued development of the economic potential of the border region, thereby reinforcing existing structures and increasing the competitiveness of Czech enterprises and generally reviving economic life on both sides of the border so as to support the coexistence of the respective populations.

In order to achieve these objectives, activities will be directed towards the following priorities:

- transport
- technical infrastructure and utilities
- environment
- economic development
- agriculture and rural development

- human resources
- interdisciplinary studies and transfer of know-how.

The regions/districts that will be eligible for funding are

- Liberec
- Česká Lipa
- Decin
- Usti nad Labem
- Teplice
- Most
- Chomutov
- Karlovy Vary
- Sokolov
- Cheb
- Tachov
- Domazlice
- Klatovy
- Prachatice
- Litomerice
- Louny.

Programme description

Transport **ECU 10.3 million**

Road projects

- construction of a bypass at Rumburk (Decin district) 4.4 km long, including earthworks and bituminous road surfacing, three bridges, noise protection facilities, relocation of public utility networks and demolition **ECU 3.5 million**
- construction of a bypass at Vojtanov (Cheb district), involving relocation of a section of the E49 international road adjacent to the border **ECU 1.7 million**
- bridge and road rehabilitation at Zelezná Ruda-Bayerisch Eisenstein (Klatovy region), involving widening the road at the border crossing **ECU 550,000**
- reconstruction of the access road to the new border crossing at Modava-Neurehefeld **ECU 550,000**
- reconstruction of road I/2543 at Klíny-Mn'šek leading to the border crossing **ECU 600,000**

Railway network

- electrification of the single track Cheb-German border section, to modernise and speed up passenger and freight transport on the main west-east Paris-Nuremberg-Prague route involving 25 kV and 50 Hz electric traction and regulation of the line to achieve the necessary parameters of permeability and rail-loading gauge and to increase the critical running speed to 120 km per hour **ECU 3.4 million**

Technical and utility infrastructures **ECU 3.4 million**

Energy system modernisation - gas

- construction of a high pressure gas pipeline and a local medium pressure network in the Sumava National Park area, connecting Lazistě, Volary and Lenora to the gas network (Prachatice district), including a 21 km-long line of DN 200 and 6.7 km-long line of DN 100 PN 40, with an operational working pressure of 4 Mpa and a minimum transport capacity of 20,000 m³ **ECU 1 million**
- expansion of the high pressure gas pipeline system of the West Bohemian Gas Company Ltd through Skalná, Plesná and Luby (Cheb district) and construction of pressure regulating stations and secondary medium pressure pipelines **ECU 1.3 million**

Architectural rehabilitation

- reconstruction of Metternich's castle at Kynzvárt (Cheb district), including construction of unimpeded access for disabled people, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the chapel, equipment of the library with a modern register, information systems and computer technology, and reconstruction and rehabilitation work to secure access to the west wing of the castle **ECU 850,000**
- reconstruction of the 12th century Church of the Ascension of the Virgin Mary at Kladruby, including restoration of paintings **ECU 250,000**

Environment **ECU 6.3 million**

Sewage and waste water

- construction of a sewage network and a mechanical-biological waste water treatment plant at Vseruby (Domazlice district) **ECU 1.2 million**
- construction of a mechanical-biological sewage treatment plant and a network of sewage collectors at Chrástava (Liberec district) **ECU 1 million**
- construction of a 1.8 km sewer to the waste water treatment plant at Liberec **ECU 2.2 million**
- construction of a sewage plant and rehabilitation of the water supply system at Krompach **ECU 200,000**
- construction of a sewage collector at Varnsdorf **ECU 400,000**
- construction of a sewage system and waste water treatment plant at Filipov/Jirikov **ECU 410,000**
- construction of a waste water treatment plant and sewers at Česká Kubice and Folmava **ECU 650,000**
- construction of a sewer system at Zelezná Ruda **ECU 240,000**

Economic development **ECU 1.4 million**

Tourism development

- construction of an 11.9 km cycle route from Litomerice to Libochovany, from the state border along the Elbe river, facilitating access to cultural monuments and important landscapes in the České Stedohoi mountains and the Zernosecké lake **ECU 700,000**
- development of a tourist information system for Nysa/Neisse, including development of a tourist plan, creation of an info-centre and an information system, training of staff, setting up a regional orientation system and developing information materials **ECU 450,000**

- improvements to and construction of tourist, cycle and ski routes in the Sumava National Park
ECU 250,000

Agricultural and rural development ECU 700,000

- rehabilitation of 250 ha of the Krušné Hory forest in the Ore Mountain region, with the temporary substitution of declining spruce trees affected by environmental pollution with new robust species (such as birch, Colorado spruce, dwarf pine, mountain ash, alder, aspen) and the reintroduction of indigenous tree species (such as European beech, European larch, maple, Norway spruce, Scotch pine and fir) which produce high quality timber and assist water management
ECU 700,000

Human resources ECU 400,000

- establishment of a study and information centre and a language training centre at the Technical University of Liberec to support cooperation with the International Institute of Higher Education in Zittau
ECU 250,000
- development of scientific cooperation between the Nysa Euro-region universities in Northern Bohemia, Germany and Poland on a trilateral basis
ECU 100,000
- support for the European international student symphony orchestra comprising musicians from 12 music schools from the three Nysa Euro-region countries
ECU 50,000

Interdisciplinary studies and technical support ECU 2.5 million

- support for additional implementation requirements for programme management and essential audits, monitoring and evaluation, to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the programme, including additional expertise for the programme management unit.

Implementation

The Ministry of Economy of the Czech Republic will have overall responsibility for the programme and has established a Programme Management Unit to assist it in its tasks. Other national and local government organisations will be involved in the setting of priorities, project selection and implementation through a joint programming and monitoring committee, which has been established to provide an ongoing mechanism for coordination and complementarity. The committee will be responsible for final project selection and will play the principal role in ensuring overall coordination between the two Governments in the planning and implementation stages of the programme. It will be the principal forum for the joint programming of cross-border activities under Phare and INTERREG. The committee involves the appropriate authorities from the Czech Republic and Germany.

Poland

Cross-border cooperation programme with Germany

Approved by the Phare Management Committee at meeting N° 37 on 5 July 1995.

Duration	to 31 December 1998
EU contribution	ECU 49 million
Implementing body	Department of Trans-border Cooperation, Office of the Council of Ministers Al Ujazdowskie 1-3, 00-583 Warsaw Tel (+48-2) 694 75 87 Fax (+48-2) 694 73 79 Mr R Grabowski, Director

Main components

Transport	ECU 27.2 million
Construction or upgrading of road links	ECU 20 million
Construction or modernisation of border crossings	ECU 7.2 million
Environment	ECU 11.62 million
Waste water treatment	ECU 8.01 million
Solid waste management	ECU 2.57 million
Management of national parks	ECU 1.04 million
Municipal infrastructure	ECU 4.15 million
Utilities infrastructure for encouraging housing development	ECU 2.7 million
Renovation and construction of heating systems	ECU 1.45 million
Economic development	ECU 1.17 million
Tourism development	ECU 0.92 million
SME services	ECU 0.25 million
Agriculture	ECU 1.65 million
Improving the quality of agricultural products	ECU 1.65 million
Human resources	ECU 440,000
Creation of education and training centres	ECU 330,000
Support for special social groups	ECU 110,000
Implementation, management and audit	ECU 1.8 million
Euro-regions' small fund	ECU 960,000

Background

The Polish government attributes great importance to cross-border cooperation between the regions of Poland and those located on the other side of the borders. Special attention is paid to cooperation between regional and local authorities as well as those economic operators who are active in the border regions.

The strategy for developing the border regions is related to the Government's main strategic economic objectives of achieving close links with the European Union leading to full membership, and of fulfilling a role as a bridge between the European Union and the New Independent States (NIS). Therefore, the greatest importance is attached to the development of the western border region adjacent to Germany, which also constitutes the border with the European Union. The priority policies oriented towards the development of border regions are aimed at alleviating obstacles to the free flow of persons, services and goods across the border, including creating and upgrading border crossings and rationalising customs procedures.

Commission Regulation N° 1629/94 on cross-border cooperation between the Member States and central and eastern European countries in the framework of the Phare programme provides the rules for financing actions of a structural nature in the border regions of those central and eastern European countries sharing a common border with Member States, in harmony with European Union structural policies and with INTERREG II in particular.

The 1995 cross-border cooperation programme will finance actions of a structural nature in those border regions of Poland which share a common border with Germany. The programme has been designed on the basis of the regional development strategy agreed by the Polish and German authorities, at both national and local/regional level. The projects all have a sound cross-border impact and are consistent with the measures of the operational programmes related to INTERREG activities on the other side of the border. The measures continue those instigated under the 1994 cross-border cooperation programme with Germany, which mainly included the construction or modernisation of access roads to border crossings to alleviate bottlenecks at crossing points. In addition, other regional development measures will be funded under the new programme. The German authorities, using their own and possibly INTERREG II financial sources, have complementary measures to those proposed under this programme.

Phare contribution to total cost	ECU million Phare	ECU million Total cost *
Transport		
construction or upgrading of road links	20.00	31.76
construction or modernisation of border crossings	7.20	11.36
Sub-total	27.20	43.12
Environment		
waste water treatment	8.01	49.61
solid waste management	2.57	4.50
management of national parks	1.04	3.92
Sub-total	11.62	58.03
Municipal infrastructure		
utilities infrastructure for encouraging housing development	2.70	6.00
renovation and construction of heating systems	1.45	2.54
Sub-total	4.15	8.54
Economic development		
tourism development	0.92	4.29
SME services	0.25	1.84
Sub-total	1.17	6.13
Agriculture - improving the quality of agricultural products	1.65	2.06
Human resources		
creation of education and training centres	0.33	0.43
support for special social groups	0.11	0.11
Sub-total	0.44	0.54
Implementation, management, audit, evaluation	1.80	1.81
Euro-regions' small fund	0.96	0.96
Total	49.00	237.55

* Total co-financing from Phare, Polish Government and others.

Programme objectives

The programme aims to develop cross-border cooperation in the regions of Poland which share a common border with Germany, concentrating on the following fields of activity:

- transport, including the construction or upgrading of road links and border crossings
- environment, including waste water treatment, solid waste management and management of national parks
- municipal infrastructure, including utilities infrastructure for encouraging housing development and the renovation and construction of heating systems
- economic development, including tourism development and the development of SME services
- improving the quality of agricultural products
- human resources, including the creation of education and training centres and support for special social groups

- additional implementation, management and audit needs
- creating a small fund for Euro-regions.

The regions that will be eligible initially for funding are the voivodships of

- Szczecin
- Gorzów Wielkopolski
- Zielona Góra
- Jelenia Góra.

Programme description

Transport **ECU 27.2 million**
Construction or upgrading of road links

- modernisation of roads 132 and 133 between Gorzow Wielkopolski and Kostrzyn/Kietz, including the construction of bypasses, overbridges, carriageways and a new junction; pavement widening, design and land acquisition (Gorzow Wielkopolski voivodship)
ECU 6.5 million

- modernisation of roads 274 and 275 leading to the border crossing in Gubinek/Gubin (Zielona Góra voivodship), including the construction of bypasses, overbridges, carriageways; design and land acquisition ECU 9.7 million
- modernisation of national road 117 leading to the border crossing Rosowko/Rosow (Szczecin voivodship), including road works, design and land acquisition ECU 2 million
- modernisation of regional road Lesna-Miloszow (Jelenia Góra voivodship), including reconstruction and widening ECU 1.8 million

Construction or modernisation of border crossings

- modernisation of the railway border crossing Kunowice/Rzepin-Frankfurt/Oder (Gorzow Wielkopolski voivodship), including construction of an improvement load point, a standardisation freight handling point, an emergency wagon repair area, environmental protection facilities for dangerous goods, a pedestrian subway, lengthening two platforms, as well as purchase of 120-tonne wagon scales ECU 6 million
- construction of the road border crossing at Rosowko/Rosow (Szczecin voivodship), including construction of a new customs building, the provision of electric supply and sub-station and the provision of security facilities ECU 1.2 million

Environment ECU 11.62 million

Waste water treatment

- construction of a waste water treatment plant in Zielona Góra (Zielona Góra voivodship) and the provision of a 10.7 km collector channel, using mechanical-biological treatment including biological dephosphatising, denitrification and nitrification ECU 2.3 million
- construction of a common sewage treatment plant for Gubin and Guben (Zielona Góra voivodship), including a main inlet, a pumping station, rainwater retention tanks, aerated sand removal, primary and secondary sedimentation tanks, activated sludge tanks and a dewatering and composting plant ECU 3.3 million
- construction of a common sewage plant in Pomorzany/Szczecin (Szczecin voivodship), starting with mechanical and chemical treatment and including construction of a treatment plant, a pumping station with pressure mains and a further pumping station ECU 1 million

- construction of small plants in Sulecin, Rzepin and Slonsk (Gorzow Wielkopolski voivodship) and in Ujazd (Jelenia Góra voivodship) ECU 1.41 million

Solid waste management

- construction of a plant for municipal waste and utilisation of refuse materials in Jedrzychowice (Jelenia Góra voivodship), including funding of a bed filter press and associated equipment, a vibrating biostabiliser and screen, electromagnetic and hard parts separators, drum venting equipment, a cyclone-type dust collector, a raw compost mixing machine and an electrical controller ECU 2.52 million
- establishment of a municipal waste landfill and monitoring system for Gozdnica (Zielona Góra voivodship) ECU 50,000

Management of national parks

- water quality improvements to the Gunica river in the area of the Swidwie biosphere reserve (Szczecin voivodship), including studies on and implementation of a new sewage system and modernisation or construction of a new purification plant ECU 1 million
- reconstruction of the Muzakowski Park in Leknica (Zielona Góra voivodship) ECU 40,000

Municipal infrastructure ECU 4.15 million

Measures to promote housing development

- provision of a new housing infrastructure in Keszyca through the conversion of an former Soviet army base into flats for 2,500 inhabitants (Jelenia Góra voivodship), including construction of a sewage treatment system, a heating system exchange and a gas supply system, together with modernisation of access roads ECU 1.45 million

Renovation and construction of heating systems

- modernisation of the district heating station in Zgorzelec (Jelenia Góra voivodship), including the construction of a fluidised bed boiler with approximately 32 MW thermal power rating ECU 2.7 million

Economic development ECU 1.17 million

Tourism development

- small projects in tourism infrastructure, including the creation of a cross-country skiing centre in Jakuszyce, the construction of cycle tracks, the development of a tourism information network in the Jelenia Góra voivodship and the carrying out of a study of tourism infrastructure development in the border region ECU 920,000

SME services

- activities on the model conversion of two former Soviet military bases into an industrial trade centre (Odra/Oder - Nysa/Neisse - Bobr/Bober Euro-region - Zielona Góra voivodship) ECU 250,000

Agriculture ECU 1.65 million

Development of a quality and monitoring system for agricultural products passing through the Polish-German border, including the creation of a system for collecting reliable data and indicators of monitoring agricultural and food products, training of state inspection personnel employed at border crossings and regional laboratories, as well as purchase of necessary equipment

Human resources

Creation of education and training centres

- establishment of a Polish-German Centre of Nature Education in the lower Odra/Oder river valley ECU 330,000

Support for special social groups

- organisation of a festival for the handicapped in Lubsko (Zielona Góra voivodship) ECU 10,000
- organisation of a Euro-eco meeting ECU 100,000

Implementation, management and audit ECU 1.8 million

Additional implementation requirements

- essential audits and management, including checking of technical specifications and studies as required

Euro-regions' small fund ECU 960,000

Limited grants for small-scale projects encouraging cross-border cooperation through a fund to be managed locally by Euro-regions, regional authorities and municipality representatives.

Implementation

A joint programming and monitoring committee, composed of the appropriate authorities from Poland and Germany, will play the principal role in ensuring overall coordination between the two Governments in the planning and implementation stages of the programme. It will be the principal forum for the joint programming of cross-border activities under Phare and INTERREG. The committee will undertake joint project selection in the context of the programme and will also monitor and coordinate the implementation of these activities.

Special working groups consisting of representatives of local/regional authorities and/or ministries and other relevant Polish and German institutions will coordinate the implementation of the projects on both sides of the border.

A programme Steering Committee has been established to identify projects and monitor the programme as a whole. It consists of the Council of Ministers, the Central Planning Office, the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the voivods, local governments and the European Union delegation.

The Office of Trans-border Cooperation at the Council of Ministers' Office will have responsibility for the overall coordination and financial responsibility of the programme. A Programme Management Unit has been established for this purpose under the responsibility of the Director of the Office for Trans-border Cooperation.



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