

TACIS

CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION

ACTION PROGRAMME 2005

Part II Border Crossings

1. IDENTIFICATION

<i>Budget Heading</i>	19.0602
<i>Total Cost:</i>	€ 4 million
<i>Legal basis:</i>	Council Regulation (EC, EURATOM) No 99/2000 of 29 December 1999 concerning the provision of assistance to the Partner States in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

2. REGIONAL UPDATE

2.1. A strategic framework for the Tacis Support to Cross-Border Cooperation and an analysis of the EUs external borders in the East can be found in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme for 2004-2006. The document was presented to the EU Member States at the Tacis Management Committee of 15 October 2003 and adopted by the Commission on 21 November 2003. This assessment is still valid and constitutes the basis of this proposal.

2.2. Since the enlargement of the European Union to 25 Member States, the direct external borders of the European Union with the countries of the EECCA region expanded substantially and now include four new EU borders with Russia and also a total of eight new EU borders with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

3. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

The Policy Context

3.1. The Tacis CBC programme directly reflects the policy objectives of the Commission Communications on **Wider Europe** and on **Neighbourhood Instrument**. Based on these policy orientations, the Tacis CBC programme aims at addressing issues related to common challenges arising from proximity such as economic development of the border areas, environment and communicable diseases, illegal immigration, trafficking and people-to-people contacts.

3.2. The Tacis 2005 CBC Action Programme is split in two parts, reflecting the two areas of co-operation within the 2004-2006 Indicative Programme (IP). The first part, concerning the **Neighbourhood Project Facility** with an allocation of € 39 million, was presented at the Tacis Committee on 8 July 2005. This is thus the second part, concerning **Border Crossings** with an allocation of € 4 million.

Priority on Border Management

3.3. Border Management on the EU/NIS borders is a key strategic issue, the importance of which has been significantly enhanced by the recent enlargement of the European Union. Clearly, a central part of effective border management is to ensure the proper functioning of the major international border crossing points. Tacis has supported a study which prioritised the assistance needs relative to the importance of a number of key points along the EU/NIS borders. In line with the agreed priorities, Tacis will focus assistance under the Cross-Border Co-operation Action Programme 2005 primarily on the EU/Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine borders

Proposed Activities

3.4. This Financing Proposal comprises two main components. Tacis will continue to support the financing of a Project Supervision Unit to oversee all works contracts financed through the Tacis Cross-Border Co-operation Programmes. Detailed descriptions of each of these projects are contained in the attached annexes (project fiches and logical frameworks). The main points are summarised below.

CBC Programme Supervision Unit

Tacis has provided assistance through both the CBC AP 2002, 2003 and 2004 to finance a programme supervision unit (PSU) to oversee all the works contracts to be funded through the CBC Programme. Tacis will continue to fund such a unit with financing also from the CBC AP 2005 programme. The aim is to provide proper technical supervision and facilitate the implementation of the works contracts for the following border crossing projects:

- Demarcation of Belarus Latvia and Belarus-Lithuania borders, Belarus
- Kozlovichi II Border Terminal, Belarus
- Lipcani approach road and border crossing, Moldova
- future projects

In particular, the PSU will ensure that these works contracts are conducted according to the agreed technical specifications, and within the agreed budget and timeframe. The PSU will undertake all necessary works in terms of reviewing preliminary and final design, will assist the Beneficiary to obtain the necessary building permits from the local authorities, will help with tendering for civil works and with the technical and financial supervision of construction contracts, as well as with the procurement of equipment, where appropriate.

Integration of Transport networks and border crossing points

The 2005 Action programme for Ukraine includes a transport project, aiming at extending the TEN-T to Ukraine and helping Ukraine to implement the works of the High Level group on extension of TEN-T.

This specific project under the CBC programme intends to assess, in the framework of the extension of TEN-T to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the necessary border improvements and to propose to the authorities of the three countries a strategy, which comprises a list of works and complementary measures and scenarios on how to achieve this.

Programme Conditionality

3.5 Assistance through this programme is provided on the basis of the existence of the necessary elements for the continuation of co-operation through assistance, in particular respect of democratic principles and human rights, as well as the obligations of the partner countries as set out in the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements, where appropriate.

4. PAST EC ASSISTANCE AND LESSONS LEARNT

4.1. The Court of Auditors (CoA) issued a critical report on cross border programmes in 2001. In light of this, many of the CoA recommendations have been incorporated into design and implementation of the CBC programme.

4.2. Support for building border crossings and related infrastructure, such as bridges and approach roads, has been a priority since the beginning of the CBC programme. Support for infrastructure has been accompanied by measures in the justice and home affairs and customs field to make border controls more efficient to combat illegal immigration and cross-border crime, such as drug trafficking or trafficking in human beings. Such support measures are also given particular attention in EC national cooperation programmes with the countries concerned.

4.3. Border crossings have been identified through a programming study in cooperation with the partner states (Russia, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine) during the development stage of the programme.

4.4. Through its CBC assistance, the EC has already contributed significantly to improving the situation at the (future) external EU borders. Waiting times are reduced and control efficiency is improved.

4.5. Border management improvement has been a priority since the beginning of the CBC programme and is still an important component of CBC Indicative Programme 2004-2006. The amount committed for construction works and equipment of the border posts included in this IP is € 54 million. Moreover, supervision of projects funded under the previous CBC programmes must be carried on.

4.6. An EC-appointed engineering company, responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the projects, has proved to be an indispensable element if international standards are to be met. Furthermore, the technical complexity of the civil works contracts and equipment specifications require a highly professional team of construction experts and equipment specialists.

5. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

5.1. Tacis is also financing through Cross-Border Co-operation Programme Part I, the participation of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova in the Neighbourhood Programmes (€ 39 million).

5.2. As regards the specific activities foreseen in this Financing Proposal (CBC Part II), it is important to underline that the EU is financing through the PHARE programme the construction of the Grzechotki border post, opposite Mamonovo II on the Polish side (€

13.5 million). Design of the facilities was well coordinated between both sides of the border with regard to traffic capacity.

5.3. Tacis is already financing a Project Supervision Unit (PSU) through allocations in the CBC 2002, 2003 and 2004 Action Programmes. The funding foreseen in this financing proposal allows for expanding the functioning of the PSU to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, which is essential for the effective implementation of the CBC-funded works contracts.

6. DONOR COORDINATION

6.1. Donor co-ordination as regards the external component will be ensured by the EC Delegations in Moscow, in liaison with the relevant authorities on the EU side of the border. As the focus of this Financing Proposal is the construction of one specific border crossing point, the principal co-ordination necessary is that between the two relevant EC instruments on each side of the border (see above), rather than with other donors. However, the EC Delegation will keep EU Member States and other major donors informed of progress.

7. COST AND FINANCING

7.1. Breakdown of Costs

Project Proposals	€ Million
1. CBC Programme Supervision Unit	2
2. Integration of transport networks and border crossing points	2
TOTAL	4