1. **Basic Information**

1.1 CRIS Number: **2003/005-630-05**

1.2 Title: “Water quality management of Arda River”

1.3 Sector: Environment

1.4 Location: Bulgaria, South Central Region, Kardjali district, Greece, Prefecture Evros

2. **Objectives**

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

- To promote co-operation between the affected border regions and thereby to contribute to the establishing of co-operation networks among counterpart organizations and entities on both sides of the border;
- To continue the implementation of the acquis with particular emphasis on water quality in respect of Directive 2000/EEC for establishing of framework for Community action in the field of water policy; Convention on protection and use of the cross-border water currents and the international lakes signed on 92/13.03.1992 with a decision of the Council of Ministries
- To continue strengthening administrative, monitoring and enforcement capacity at the regional level.

2.2 Project purpose:

To establish a working partnership between the stakeholders of Bulgaria and Greece based on European standards for integrated management, monitoring and pollution prevention of Arda River waters.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority:

- **Accession Partnership Medium -Term Priority**
  - Complete transposition and implementation of framework and sector legislation according to pre-defined timetable.
  - Integrate sustainable development principles into the definition and implementation of all other sector policies.

- **Accession Partnership Short Term Priority**
  - Continue transposition of framework legislation in the water, air and waste sectors, prepare and implement detailed directive specific approximation programmes; strengthen implementation structures, particularly at the regional level.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan :NA

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project has direct cross-border impact and will be developed in a cross-border region of Arda River valley. Partnership for Arda River water management will be established in the both sides of the border. A co-operative system for integrated monitoring will be created and local people will be trained for bio-indicators for water quality. Preconditions for reduction of Arda River pollution will be developed.
3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

The process of implementation of Water Framework Directive has started successfully in some of the European member states. Bulgaria as a future MS is in a process of harmonisation of EU legislation and National water law has been adopted. The implementation of the new requirements on national level is in a progress, but there are difficulties on regional level. The six Basin Directorates has been established but their stuff is still not in operation. The stakeholders on local level are not familiar with their new role and responsibilities. River Basin Boards are not created yet.

As Arda River is cross border river the Directive requires creation of an integrated water management plan. There is lack of exchange of information and experience between Bulgarian and Greek stakeholders from the region. The monitoring of the Arda River is not integrated and the results are not shared between the both sides of the border. The local experts are not familiar with the European standards for water management.

The Bulgarian Birds Protection Society was involved during the project preparation, especially in the process of planning monitoring activities.

3.2 Linked activities:

- Municipality of Kardjali prepared a project “Partnership for Cleaner Arda River” and applied for funding for it from program Phare-CBC 01.06.07 – soft projects.
- Feasibility study for identification of sensitive areas in Arda River basin.

3.3 Results:

- Concerted forum of Bulgarian and Greek stakeholders for integrated management of Arda River, creates the Basin Board and executive body.
- The Basin board members, local experts and other target groups will be trained in implementation of the new Water Framework Directive.
- A study for basic state of water quality of Arda River and river side ecosystems will be prepared.
- An integrated scheme for cross-border monitoring of water quality of Arda River, and riverside ecosystems will be developed.
- An information network with common data base for ecological status of Arda River, updated with monitoring data will be created.
- A program with priority activities for the Arda River, will be approved by the Basin Board.
- Public awareness for the new water legislation will be increased.

3.4 Activities:

1) Establishment of Arda River Cross-border Basin Board; 4 sessions will be held and a program with priority activities will be developed.
2) Identification of needs:
   - Analyses of institutional and administrative capacity;
   - Assistance in setting up a Working Groups;
   - Elaboration of training programmes;
   - Preparing and holding training modules for EU standards of water management for all stakeholders.
3) Research and assessment of basic state of the Arda River and riverside ecosystems.
4) Evaluation and drafting technical specification for the necessary technical equipment for cross-border monitoring system and information for Arda River.
5) Preparing and approving a plan for integrated monitoring.
6) Organizing a system for integrated monitoring and training of local people for monitoring by bio-indicators.
7) Supplying of necessary technical equipment for monitoring equipment and car.
8) Creating and maintaining an information network database, website and internet forum of Basin Board
9) Public awareness campaigns.

All the activities with exception of N7 will be developing by Service contract – International restricted tender for technical assistance – 2 years. Activity N7 will be developing by Supplies contract - simplified procedures for monitoring equipment and car.

3.5 Lessons learned:
Legislation implementation can be successful if it is based on adequate updated information, analysis, planning, management, coordination and participation of stakeholders and public.

4. Institutional Framework

The Bulgaria CBC Implementing Agency is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW). The Municipality of Kardjali will be responsible for the technical implementation of the project and will establish Project Steering Committee with the participation of Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of regional development and public work and Basin Directorate.

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Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Kardjali
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6600 Kardjali, Bulgaria
Phone (+359 361) 62 951
E-mail: vicemayor@mail.bg

5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Co financing*</th>
<th>IFI*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance for Strengthening administrative capacity for integrated water management and monitoring</td>
<td>0.460</td>
<td>0.460</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment supplying</td>
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<td>0.040</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<td>0.050</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td>0.460</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.170</td>
<td>0.670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The Project shall be managed under the PRAG. The Implementing Agency (IA) is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW). Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW), Phare CBC IA will be responsible for:

- Preparation of Tender Documents;
- Organization of the Tender Procedures;
- Financial management of contracts

Municipality of Kardjali will be responsible for:

- Preparation of ToR:
- Participation in Tender evaluation procedures:
- Technical management of contract in close cooperation with Phare CBC

6.2. Non-standard aspects

The Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions (May 2003) will be strictly followed.

6.3. Contracts

The expected number of contracts is 2 as follow:

- Service contract – For technical assistance – 630 000 EUR.
- Supplies contract - simplified procedures for the technical equipment and car – 40 000 EUR.

7. Implementation Schedule

- 7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals - January 2004
- 7.2 Start of project activity - July 2004
- 7.3 Project completion – June 2006

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity for men and women to participate in all the components of the project will be ensured.”

9. Environment

The mayor environmental effect from the project will be reduction of pollution of river Arda ensured by proper management and integrated monitoring.

10. Rates of return N/A

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:

Bulgaria and Greece according to their geographical position share common river basins. The preparation of such environmental projects with major importance for both countries is extremely important to reduce environmental pollution. This also leads to environmental improvement, cross-boundary fellowship and to development of project financial management skills. Without Phare assistance, the project would have never take place due to a lack of fund.
11.2 Cofinancing:
The project is co-financed by the National Fund, which will provide 25% of the total cost of the project.

11.3 Additionality:
For the preparation of such environmental projects concerning the common rivers basins only PHARE funding is being sought or utilized. No other financing sources from the private sector or from IFIs were available for financing this project.

11.4 Project readiness and Size:
The preliminary studies are completed and the implementation of the project can start according to the implementation chart (Annex 2).

11.5 Sustainability:
The project will be sustainable in the long term, because the created executive body of the Basin Board will continue operation with the help of Municipality of Kardjali

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions:
It is confirmed that all aspects of the above mentioned studies is open to competitive tender within the European Union and PHARE recipient countries, and all PHARE procedures regarding competition and transparency are fully complied with.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan: NA

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The performance of the studies should comply with the European Standards according to Water Framework Directive and be coordinated with the European Pilot Project Scheme for the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

**ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)
2. Detailed implementation chart (compulsory)
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period) (compulsory)
## Phare log frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project</th>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>PHARE – CBC BG-GR 2003/ 000-630-05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total budget: 0.670 MEUR</td>
<td>Phare budget: 0.500 MEUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall objective

- To promote co-operation between the affected border regions and thereby to contribute to the establishing of co-operation networks among counterpart organizations and entities on both sides of the border;
- To continue the implementation of the acquis with particular emphasis on water quality in respect of Directive 2000/EEC for establishing of framework for Community action in the field of water policy; Convention on protection and use of the cross-border water currents and the international lakes signed on 92/13.03.1992 with a decision of the Council of Ministries;
- To continue strengthening administrative, monitoring and enforcement capacity at the regional level.

### Project purpose

- To establish a working partnership between the stakeholders of Bulgaria and Greece based on European standards for integrated management, monitoring and pollution prevention of Arda River.

### Objectively verifiable indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website, media, written materials.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The municipalities from the higher flow of Arda River are involved in the Basin Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration with Basin Directorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Concerted forum of Bulgarian and Greek stakeholders for integrated management of Arda River, creates the Basin Board and executive body. A program with priority activities will be approved | • 16 Bulgarian and 8 Greek representatives of the targets group comprise the Basin Board. 4 sessions are provided. Approved program | • Formally registered Board with approved by-laws. | • Effective work of Basin Board for better quality of Arda River.  
• Monitoring results are used for decision-making process.  
• The knowledge for EU water management standards are implemented in practice. |
| • The Basin board members, local experts and other target groups will be trained in implementation of the new Water Framework Directive | • A program for integrated monitoring of Arda River is prepared.  
• Assessment of basic state of Arda River and riverside ecosystems is prepared.  
• Bulgarian and Greek representatives of the target groups are trained for water management EU standards. | • Protocols of the sessions of Basin Board.  
• Certificates for successful completed training.  
• Protocols with the monitoring results  
• Protocol for approved assessment of basic state of Arda River. |
| • A study for basic state of Arda River and river side ecosystems will be prepared | • | • | |
| • An Integrated cross-border monitoring of Arda River, and riverside ecosystems will be developed | • | • | |
| • An information network with common data base for ecological status of Arda River, updated with monitoring data will be created | • | • | |
| • Public awareness campaigns for the new water legislation will be increased | • | • | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Preconditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To fulfill the project of Municipality of Kardjali “Partnership for Cleaner Arda River” through Phare-CBC 01.06.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 2 – Detailed implementation chart

*Project title* “Ensuring opportunities for cross-border water management in the middle and lower flow of Arda River”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tendering and contracting</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation:</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Project Stearing Committee meetings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Establishment of Arda River Basin Board; 4 sessions will be held</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Identification of educational needs, preparing and holding training modules for EU standards of water management for 4 target groups: Basin board members; local administration; industry and NGO.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research and assessment of basic state of the Arda River and riverside ecosystems.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Evaluation of existing cross-border monitoring system and information for Arda River. Preparing and approving a plan for integrated monitoring.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Organizing a system for integrated monitoring and training of local people for monitoring by bio-indicators.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Supplying of necessary monitoring equipment</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Creating and maintaining an information network database, website and internet forum of Basin Board</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Public awareness campaigns.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D = Design/Tender preparation
C = Contracting
I = Implementation/works
### Annex 3 – Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

**Project title**: Ensuring opportunities for cross-border water management in the middle and lower flow of Arda River

#### Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Total Phare Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.460</td>
<td>0.460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>0.500</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.500</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Total Phare Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance implementation</td>
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<td>0.100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total disbursement:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0.140</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.230</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.310</strong></td>
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