Standard Project Fiche for Phare 2005

1. Basic information

1.1. CRIS number: 2005/017-456.02
1.2. Title: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS (JSPF)
1.3. Sector: Regional Development/CBC
1.4. Location: Cross-border region between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
1.5. Duration: 12 months

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall Objective(s):

- To support local development activities of a cross-border nature by involving local actors from the border regions and to enhance the capability of local communities and NGOs to develop and implement joint projects within the border region.

The scheme will strongly support concrete cross-border projects, which will promote “people-to-people” communication and enhance mutual understanding.

2.2. Project purpose

Encourage cross-border contacts and cooperation at regional and local level in the fields of cultural, educational and sports cooperation.

2.3. Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority

The people to people actions play a key part in the process of preparation of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for accession, in particular through the improvement of the administrative capacity of local/ regional actors. The project represents thus an important element in the preparations for implementation of EU regional policy and coordination of structural instruments. In addition, the project supports the social and economic integration of the eligible cross-border region not only within the national space, but also within the enlarged Europe.

2.4. Contribution to National Development Plan (and/or Structural Funds Development Plan/SDP)

The proposed grant scheme is in line with the National Economic Development Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria over the 2000-2006 period, and namely with priority 4 “Developing Cross-border Cooperation” under the indicative programme for “Balanced and Sustainable Regional Development”. The Bulgarian Government has planned to actively support and complement the
EU initiatives and programmes for cross-border cooperation, while seeking to incorporate the latter into the national framework for regional development planning and programming. The NEDP aims at achieving sustainable development of the entire border region rather than of some individual border areas. The main goal pursued under the above mentioned priority area refers to opening up new horizons, fostering the socio-economic development of the border areas and gradually overcoming the problems resulting from their isolated position at the country’s periphery.

2.5. Cross-border impact

The project is related to Priority 3, measure 3.1 (“People-to-people actions”) of the Joint Programming Document for Phare CBC/CARDS Neighbourhood Programme between the Republic of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the period 2004-2006. This measure is given an allocation of 10 to 20% of the total Programme’s appropriations, with the provision that actions will concern only small-scale, soft (non-investment) local projects (max EU contribution up to € 50,000) in one of the activities listed in Article 5 of Phare CBC Regulation.

The JSPF scheme promotes the elaboration of projects with a cross-border impact and encourages the development of linkages between local communities and organisations on both sides of the border. In general, the "people-to-people” aspects of the individual projects and the general direction of the fund guarantee a high degree of cross-border relevance of the scheme.

The proposed grant scheme project will enable development of joint or complementary projects with direct cross-border impact, which should be understood in terms of:

- joint development of project ideas;
- joint preparation of project application;
- joint implementation of project activities;
- joint co-financing of project activities on both sides of the border (Phare and CARDS) and assured sustainability by both cross-border partners of the results achieved.

3. Description

3.1. Background and justification

The inclusion of flexible funding mechanisms like Joint Small Project Fund (JSPF) aiming at small-scale interventions addressing identified local needs is an efficient instrument due to its popularity among local/ regional actors and a relatively quick implementation period.

The analysis of the border area has already identified the multicultural traditions of the eligible area and the common historical and cultural heritage as a major strength. It has also pointed out that there do already exist cross-border initiatives in the form of joint actions of local communities and NGOs.

Furthermore, the experience of the preliminary project ideas’ collection launched in May 2004 among local stakeholders for an evaluation of JPD measures, has clearly demonstrated that there is an abundance of small-scale (below € 50,000) people-to-people cooperation projects seeking support in the eligible cross-border area.

3.2. Sectoral rationale
N/A
3.3. Results
Sustainable partnership between local and regional actors in the border regions will be guaranteed:

- Approximately 13-20 individual small cross-border cooperation measures in line with Priority 3 of the Joint Programming Document for the period 2004-2006 completed
- Improved knowledge for the preparation and implementation of projects with the cross-border nature within regional and local agencies and communities
- Established links between cross-border actors from both sides of the border as a result of joint preparation and implementation of the Phare CBC/CARDS projects
- Increased awareness among citizens and communities about the positive effects of the cross-border cooperation

3.4. Activities
This grant scheme project is primarily aimed at encouraging a wide variety of occasions for the citizens of the eligible border area to get involved in cross-border cooperation primarily in the following priority areas:

- Development or establishment of facilities and resources to improve the flow of information and communication between border regions, including support for cross-border radio, television, newspapers and other media; support to improving information/knowledge for the development of public health and promotion of an integrated approach towards protecting and improving health

- Cultural exchange – those that already exist and that will be newly established between local groups on both sides of the border region; meetings and exchanges among young people; artist and sports activities; folk events and similar actions with the emphasis on the establishment of traditions and long-term cooperation

- Local employment, education and training initiatives, including a wide range of actions, such as promoting the mobility of citizens; innovative teaching and learning projects; networks of academic and professional expertise; designing joint study programmes, establishing networks, exchanging information, thus also promoting life-long learning for all citizens of the border region

- Justice, Freedom and security Enhancing cross border communication and prevention of crime in the border regions by developing training partnership projects on increasing the efficiency of border controls in the field of illegal immigration, illegal traffic of goods (including drugs, historical and cultural valuables, intellectual piracy referring to false documents), and other aspects of cross border crime etc. Schemes that help to create and intensify the skills through specialized training of bodies in charge of the fight against fraud, corruption, money laundering etc will be supported as well as projects supporting organisations, information networks and improvement of custom’s services.

The grants will only be made for projects whose immediate objective is non-commercial and strictly non-profit making. Under no circumstances may grant give rise to profits (i.e. it will be restricted to the amount required to balance income and expenditure for the project).

Eligibility criteria, eligibility of area, applicants and partners

Eligibility of area

The Grant Scheme is applicable for the following cross-border districts: Kjustendil and Blagoevgrad (for Bulgaria)
General criteria for eligibility

Only the projects falling into one of the following categories should be considered eligible to the grant scheme:

- Simple projects with a cross-border effect taking place mostly or exclusively on one side of the border but for the benefit of both partners impact;
- Complementary projects where an activity on one side of the border is accompanied by a similar activity on the other side;
- Integrated projects where partners on either side of the border contribute different elements to a single project.

In addition, projects should:

- be financially realistic and transparent;
- be ready for implementation;
- Phare/ CARDS contribution have to be between € 10 000 and € 50 000;
- minimum co-financing of 10% for Phare funds and 5% of CARDS funds;
- the same project proposal must not receive more than one EC-funded grant for the same activities
- under no circumstances be in contradiction with the long-term development plans of the municipality or the region (projects that are part of an overall strategy/plan for the development of the region/town/municipality will be prioritised);
- if possible, contain innovative approaches (e.g. pilot projects).

Beneficiaries:

Eligible applicants should be non-profit-making legal persons and might include local and regional authorities; associations of local and regional authorities; Euro regions; chambers of commerce, industry or agriculture; professional associations; trade union associations; non-governmental organisations; schools, colleges, universities etc.

The organizations eligible for support must be registered (or to have a branch office) in the following cross-border districts: Kjustendil and Blagoevgrad (for Bulgaria) and for the fYRoM: in Kratovo and Kriva Palanka (including the municipalities of Kriva Palanka and Rankovce), Radovish (Radovis, Konche, Podares) and Strumica (Strumica, Bosilevo, Vasilevo, Murtino, Novo selo), Berovo (Berovo, Pehcevo); Vinica (Vinica, Blatec); Kocani (Kochani, Zrnovci, Oblesevo, Ceshinovo, Orizari); Probistip (Probistip, Zletovo); Stip (Stip, Karbinci); Delcevo (Delcevo, Makedonska Kamenica) and Sveti Nikole, for the Republic of Macedonia territory.

The types of eligible expenditures as well as the list of organisations, which are entitled to apply for JSPF support, will be defined in the Joint Guidelines for Applicants – in accordance with the rules of PRAG and the Vademecum on Grant Management.

The grant scheme will be implemented through joint Call for Proposals and in compliance with the provisions laid down in the JPD. The maximum project duration of a single project under this grant scheme will be **12 months**.

The joint Call for Proposals will use funds, which are allocated to the NP under the EU Phare and CARDS programmes, and which will cover the respective eligible activities from the both sides of the border. The eligible applicant should prepare a joint application form in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines for Applicants.

The minimum grant for a single application to be contracted (under Phare) is **€ 10,000** while the maximum one is **€ 50,000**. Moreover, a grant may not exceed 90% of the total project costs. The
balance must be financed from the applicant’s or partners’ own resources, or from sources other than the European Community budget.

3.5. **Linked activities**

Bulgaria has concluded agreements on cross-border cooperation with Greece (since 1994, € 20 million per year) and Romania (since 1999, € 8 per year) in the framework of programmes INTERREG IIIA and Phare-CBC. In anticipation of the future EU external borders, an External Border Initiative in Bulgaria of € 4.12 million was allocated in 2003 to prepare new cross-border cooperation programmes from 2004 onwards between Bulgaria and Turkey, Serbia & Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The JSPF of the 2005 programme will be the second consecutive edition of this instrument in this area and will be based on the experience of the Joint Small Project Funds supported by previous programme in 2004, namely 2004-016-786.01.02 “People to People actions”.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has also significant experience in the development of cross-border cooperation with its neighbours (especially the € 37 million programme with Greece of 1996-1999), through line of different activities in which other international organisations have been involved, especially the Council of Europe and the European Union.

At the local level, there is a strong political will to develop cross-border projects and create new sustainable structures like "Euroregions" across the borders of Serbia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria, between the cities of Nish, Skopje and Sofia and their neighbouring regions. Also, more regular meetings of some local officials exist, there are concrete projects or ideas but need a better frame to implement them.

Both Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have already experience with the programming and implementation of the European Union Programmes. Such experience makes the two partner countries able at raising synergies and minding the utmost coherence with other ongoing Programmes financed by the EC.

3.6. **Lessons learned**

The project is the second of this type to be implemented between the two neighbouring countries with joint EU funding (Phare and CARDS). In regard to that there are some specific lessons which to be closely linked with the present project, and the respective Neighbourhood Programme. In addition to that, the previous experience of both countries under various other programmes could provide enough evidence for the achieved up to now.

Experience obtained from past and ongoing projects, especially experience from implementation of cross-border actions (and mostly those with grant schemes implementation), will be applied as much as possible. Experience gained from such programmes has shown that in-depth preparation of the Call for Proposals is needed. Further attention should be paid with the present NP, when this should be done jointly between the two countries. The successful utilization of funds under grant scheme type of operation depends mostly on the efficient capacity built not only at central level, but also at local and regional level where the actual implementation is carried out.

As evaluated by ECOTEC Bulgaria in the Interim Evaluation of the EU Phare Programme for the CBC Sector, lessons learned from previous programmes are:

1. Interaction on a local level through the JSPF is apparently much better, although there have not yet been any jointly funded “mirror” projects due to the centralized nature of implementation. At present, grant schemes do not contribute to capacity building of local administrations. The potential exists for this in the future if management is decentralized.
2. People to people grant schemes are an appropriate method to initiate and strengthen communication between communities on each side of the border. It would be relevant to use the JSPF as a tool to promote decentralization in preparation for post accession CBC funding.

3. With greater decentralization and operational budgets, the JSPF could contribute to the building of local administrative capacity and facilitate potential applicants in their preparation of projects.

4. Institutional framework

Key elements in the Neighbourhood programme (NP) are the joint programming process, the combination of Phare CBC and CARDS funds, the joint management structures, the joint call for proposals and the joint selection process.

The JSPF institutional framework is based on the principle of both countries being equal partners and with both countries having an equal role in the management structures. The joint management will ensure local ownership, wider involvement, better planning and will create the base for genuine cross-border activities.

As described in the JPD, the management structures will include: (a) the national authorities responsible for Programme coordination (Phare Programme Implementing Agency in Bulgaria, and Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; (b) the Joint Co-operation Committee and the Joint Steering Committee; (c) assisted by a Joint Technical Secretariat.

On the Bulgarian side, the responsibilities for Phare-CBC Programme are laid down with the Phare Programme Implementing Agency at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. It will be acting as a Contracting Authority with the overall responsibility for the programme implementation, as well as administrative, technical and financial management of the grant scheme. MRDPW as a coordinator for CBC programme is obliged also to monitor the physical and financial implementation of this project including Phare and co-financing payments, and report to the EC in regularly reports.

The MRDPW will ensure necessary human resources for the technical management of the JSPF and may delegate specific tasks to the Joint Technical Secretariat established in accordance with the JPD provisions and strictly following the PRAG rules.

On the Macedonian side, the PCU will be responsible for coordination of the country’s participation in the Neighbourhood Programme, and will ensure that rules under CARDS are being respected, will support the JTS in its activities and ensure efficient systems for implementation of the projects in close cooperation with the IA.
5. Detailed budget

5.1. Phare support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2005 - Investment support jointly co funded</th>
<th>Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€M</td>
<td>National Public Funds (1)</td>
<td>Other Sources (2)</td>
<td>Total Co-financing of Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment support – sub-total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total public funds</td>
<td>max 75 %</td>
<td>min 25 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2005 Institution Building support</th>
<th>JSPF</th>
<th>IB support</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.450</td>
<td>(3) 0.450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Contribution from national, regional, local, municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises.
(2) Private funds, FIs loans to private entities.
(3) The rate of the generally available maximum support (Phare funds) could not exceed 90 % of the total cost, while the rest has to be provided as own resources by the beneficiaries. The necessary minimum of 10 % co-financing for the projects will be provided by the beneficiaries. The total amount of co-financing and total budget for the projects will be defined after contracting.

With regard to the NP requirements for joint development, implementation and co-financing, the joint project ideas will be financed through both Phare and CARDS for the respective activities of the both sides of the border.

5.2. CARDS support

The joint projects will be financed through both Phare and CARDS for the respective activities of each side of the border. The CARDS allocation for this grant scheme will follow the same proportions per component as they are set out for the Phare ones.

The indicative CARDS allocations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2005</th>
<th>CARDS Support</th>
<th>IFI*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In €M</td>
<td>Investment Support</td>
<td>IB</td>
<td>Total CARDS (=I+IB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSPF</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>0.200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>0.200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The minimum co-financing requirements for CARDS are as follows:
- 10% co-financing for projects between € 50,000 – € 300,000
- 25% for more than € 300,000
- 5% for less than € 50,000
6. Implementation Arrangements

**The Republic of Bulgaria**

**Phare Programme Implementing Agency**
Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Address: 17-19 Cyril and Methodius St. 1202 Sofia
Director: Tzvetomira Lacheva – Deputy PAO
Contact Person: Hristo Medarov, Head of Phare CBC Department
Phone: +359 2 9405-237, Fax: +359 2 987 0737
E-mail: hmedarov@mrrb.government.bg
It acts as Contracting Authority for the Phare funds.

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**Contracting Authority**
European Agency for Reconstruction
Makedonija 11/I, 1000 Skopje
Tel: + 389 2 328 6782
Fax: + 389 2 312 4760

The Grant Scheme will operate on the basis of single call for proposals and single selection process covering both sides of the border. The Grant Scheme will be implemented according to the NP Implementing Guidelines issued by the Commission. Except when provided differently in the Implementing Guidelines, the award procedures provided in the PRAG will be implemented.

The standard and basic selection, implementation and monitoring process will be as follows:

**Preparation of the Package of Call for Proposal, Guidelines for Applicants and Application Form According to the Practical Guide**

- The JTS, under the supervision of the JSC, drafts the Call for proposals, the Guidelines for applicants and the Application form and other documents related to the implementation of the grant schemes.
- BG IA and FYROM PCU submit the final version of the documents to the respective EC Delegation/EAR for approval.

**Publication of the Call for Proposals**

The BG IA and the FYRoM PCU, with the assistance of the Joint Technical Secretariat, take all appropriate measures to ensure that the nationally and regionally publicised call for proposals reaches the target groups in line with the requirements of the Practical Guide.

**Project Selection Process**

- The Joint Technical Secretariat collects and registers incoming project proposals.
- The BG IA and the FYRoM PCU designate a joint Evaluation Committee for the assessment of administrative compliance, eligibility and assessment of technical and financial quality of proposals.
- Members of the joint Evaluation Committee are designated exclusively on the basis of technical and professional expertise in the relevant area.
- The EC Delegation and EAR endorse the joint Evaluation Committee. The EC Delegation and EAR will participate as observer in the proceedings of the joint...
Evaluation Committee. Prior approval is needed from the Delegation/EAR for the participation of other observers.

- If necessary, the Evaluation Committee could be assisted by Assessors designated by the BG IA and the FYRoM PCU and endorsed by the EC Delegation and EAR.
- The joint Evaluation Committee assess each proposal on the basis of the published evaluation grid, draws up its recommendations and decisions in the form of an evaluation report and transmit it to the Joint Steering Committee.
- The Joint Steering Committee formally approves the evaluation report and the award proposals and transmits them (with recommendations, as appropriate) to the BG IA and the FYRoM PCU for onwards transmission to the EC Delegation and EAR. The JSC is not entitled to change the Evaluation Committee's scores or recommendation and must not alter the evaluation grids completed by the evaluators.
- The EC Delegation and EAR approve the evaluation report on the selection process and the final list of grants to be awarded.
- The JTS notifies each applicant in writing of the result of the selection process.

**Contracting**

- The format of the grant contract is drafted according to the Practical Guide using the standard grant contract format and its annexes.
- The format of the grant contract is to be approved by the EC Delegation and EAR (in cases where the call for proposals results in the award of a large number of grants which all have the same grant contract conditions).

Given the different financial rules applicable to each side of the border (decentralised versus centralised), the contracting procedures will be different for the projects (or part of them) co-financed by Phare CBC or Cards:

**In the Republic of Bulgaria:**

- The EC Delegation only approves the evaluation report, the list of proposed projects (budget, duration, beneficiaries etc as per Practical Guide), and the standard contract format, not the contracts themselves irrespective of their budget.
- The IA sign the grant contracts with the selected beneficiaries based on the final list of Phare CBC grants approved by the EC Delegation. The language of the grant contract is English.
- The grant contracts should normally be issued within 3 months of the decision of the Joint Steering Committee.
- Copy of the signed grant contracts will be available at the Bulgarian IA.

**In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:**

- The EAR formally confirms the decision of the Joint Steering Committee/PCU. In all cases, the EAR retains the right of final approval of projects (or part of projects) co-financed by Cards. In doing so, it will ascertain that the conditions for Community financing are met.
- The EAR issues the grant contracts with the selected beneficiaries from the side of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, normally within 3 months of the decision of the Joint Steering Committee.
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SELECTED PROJECTS BY THE BENEFICIARIES

- Beneficiaries subcontract suppliers of goods or services, in line with Phare procurement regulations annexed to the Grant Contract and under the Practical Guide (PRAG).
- The projects will be subject to ex-post control by the EC Delegation and EAR pursuant to the Practical Guide.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SELECTED PROJECTS

The JTS will collect and verify the technical reports and requests for payments from the beneficiaries and forward them to the relevant Contracting Authority for payment (Bulgarian IA for Phare CBC and EAR for CARDS).

MONITORING OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE BENEFICIARIES

Project implementation will be monitored through the Joint Steering Committee. The project monitoring and reporting process will be harmonised so that all projects will be monitored according to standard procedures. Project monitoring and evaluation will be based on periodic assessment of progress on delivery of specified project results and towards achievement of project objectives. All reporting and evaluation must differentiate between Phare CBC and Cards expenditure, although in the framework of a single reporting structure. Monitoring reports are submitted to the Joint Co-operation Committee. Attention is drawn to the special duty of the Joint Technical Secretariat with regard to the day-to-day monitoring of the selected projects.

The EC Delegation and EAR reserve the right to organise field visits and to monitor on a case-by-case basis the projects selected under the grants schemes.

6.1 Twinning
N/A

6.2 Non-standard aspects
There are no non-standard contracts or tender procedures envisaged within this project.

6.3 Contracts
The grant scheme will be implemented via one single (joint) Call for Proposals simultaneously launched in Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The number of the individual grant-contracts to be signed will vary depending on the number of the proposals received for each component and the respective grant amounts approved for funding.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
January 2006

7.2 Start of project activity
May 2006

7.3 Project completion
May 2007

8. Equal Opportunity
Being focused on cohesion, interactions and networking, the project is also concentrated in widening the range of development opportunities in favour to those categories of people that have a scarce access to them: women, young people, weaker sphere of population, minorities and groups.

9. Environment
The border area between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is renowned for the presence of well-preserved natural environment. On one hand, the wilderness of the territory represents an obstacle to cross border communication and transports, on the other the natural resources are a significant potential for development still only partially exploited. The common exploitation of such potential is to be taken into serious consideration especially in terms of the possible impact that actions can have on the environment and especially when the environment itself represents a resource for industry, rural economy, agriculture and tourism.

10. Rates of return
N/A

11. Investment criteria
11.1 Catalytic effect
Without Phare assistance, the project would not be implemented in the near future, because of the lack of funds.

11.2 Cofinancing
The beneficiaries of the People to people actions project will contribute with at least 10% of the total budget of the total cost of the projects.

11.3 Additionality
No other financing sources from the private sector or from IFIs were available for financing this project.

11.4 Project readiness and size
The project can be launched according to the implementation chart (Annex 2).

11.5 Sustainability
The development of the border region is part of government’s strategy of maintaining good relations with neighbours.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions
The project respects the state aids provisions.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan
The proposed grant scheme is in line with the National Economic Development Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria over the 2000-2006 period, and namely with priority 4 “Developing Cross-border Cooperation” under the indicative programme for “Balanced and Sustainable Regional Development”.

11
12. **Conditionality and sequencing**

The project will start after signing of the Financial Memorandum between Bulgaria and the European Union for 2005. All documentation required for launching joint Call for Proposals (Application Pack) will be prepared by the JTS by December 2005 and will be submitted to the respective EC Delegation/EAR for approval. After obtaining the formal endorsement of the Application Pack the grant scheme implementation will start.

**Annexes to Project Fiche:**

1. Logical Framework in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule
**ANNEX 1**

**LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR**  
Project Title:  
**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS (JSPF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Contracting period expires 30.11.2007</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires 30.11.2008</th>
<th>Total budget:</th>
<th>Phare budget:</th>
<th>€M 0,450</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Overall objective(s)**

To support local development activities of a cross-border nature by involving local actors from the border regions and to enhance the capability of local communities and NGOs to develop and implement joint projects within the border region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater awareness of Phare CBC/CARDS NP</td>
<td>National/Regional Reports</td>
<td>Continued Government commitment to developing cross-border cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive attitude towards cross-border co-operation to solve common concerns and to utilise potentials</td>
<td>Implementing Agency reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special pre and post surveys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent EU evaluations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Project purpose**

- Encourage cross-border contacts and activities at regional and local level in the fields of cultural, educational and sports cooperation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and types of formally constituted partnerships and other long-term cooperation arrangements across the border increasing (at least 20 %)</td>
<td>Monitoring Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Progress Reports</td>
<td></td>
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**Results**

- Approximately 13-20 individual small cross-border cooperation measures in line with the priorities of the Joint Programming Document for the period 2004-2006 completed
- Improved knowledge for the preparation and implementation of projects with the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and type of projects successfully carried out.</td>
<td>Individual project progress reports</td>
<td>Sufficient project management skills on behalf of the beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of socio-economic and cultural organisations</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published and disseminated information on cross border activities, etc.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cross-border nature within regional and local agencies and communities

- Established links between cross-border actors from both sides of the border as a result of joint preparation and implementation of the Phare CBC/CARDS projects
- Increased awareness among citizens and businesses about the positive effects of the cross-border cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Funding for eligible actions: cultural exchanges, youth and sports, training, conferences and seminars, planning and development studies, justice and home affairs, etc. | Implementation of the grant scheme in line with the provisions of the PRAG and the JSPF Guidelines for Applicants; At average 13-20 individual grant contracts signed. | - Sufficient number of good quality project proposals  
- Co-finance contributions available when required |

Preconditions
The documentation, necessary for the launching of the grant scheme prepared by the signing of the FM
ANNEX 2
IMPLEMENTATION CHART

*Project title: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS (JSPF)*

ANNEX 2 - Implementation Time Chart

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS (JSPF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Joint Small Projects Fund / People to people actions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

T = Tendering        C = Contracting        I = Implementation/works
ANNEX 3
CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE BY QUARTER

*Project title: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ACTIONS (JSPF)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in € m (provisional)</th>
<th>Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in € m (provisional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0,360</td>
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