STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

1.1 CRIS Number: BG2003/004-937.01.03
1.2 Title: Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma
1.3 Sector: Political Criteria
1.4 Location: Republic of Bulgaria (selected areas with high proportion of disadvantaged minority communities)

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective:
- To contribute to the implementation of the health and education parts of the Framework Programme for the Equal Integration of the Roma in Bulgarian society.

2.2 Project Purpose:
- To improve access to quality education and health care for vulnerable minority groups with a special focus on Roma: 1) the adaptation of the curricula of pre-school, primary (grades 1 to 8) and secondary education (grades 9 to 12); 2) the pre-qualification of teachers and qualification of teacher assistants to work in multicultural environment; 3) the improvement of the material base of selected integrated kindergartens and schools; 4) the qualification of medical staff to work in multicultural environment; 5) support to preventive health care services; 6) health promotion and education for vulnerable minorities groups.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

Accession Partnership
A revised Accession Partnership was adopted in November 2002. Based on the analysis of the European Commission’s 2002 Regular Report on progress made by Bulgaria towards accession, the Commission considered that the time had come for a further revision of priorities and intermediate objectives identified in the Accession partnership:

AP (short term priority):
- The AP short term priority is to “continue to implement the Roma Framework Programme with particular attention to providing necessary financial support, significant strengthening of the National Council of Ethnic and Demographic Issues, and ensuring equal access to health, education and social security.

NPAA (priority objectives are aimed at meeting the Copenhagen criteria): In June 2001, Bulgaria presented a revised National Programme for the Adoption of the acquis (NPAA), in which it outlines its strategy for accession, including how to achieve the priorities of the Accession partnership. In the introduction on Integration of Roma Population it is stated that efforts will be made “for fulfilling the obligations of the government on improving the Roma situation and encouraging the tolerance and mutual understanding between the Bulgarian citizens from different ethnic and religious groups.”
NPAA 2002
The Government shall support the implementation of projects for improving the disadvantaged minority communities’ living standards, in addition to housing, education, employment and counselling.

2.4 Contribution to the implementation of the Programme of the Government.
The Government’s commitment to tackle minority issues is reflected in its Programme issued on 2 November 2001. The Programme sets as a priority the integration of minorities in Bulgarian society and the development of the Bulgarian ethnic model.

The Government has made considerable progress in the implementation of its Programme. With this respect a working group for the elaboration of a draft comprehensive law on the prevention of discrimination was established by the NCEDI and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in the middle of March 2002. The draft covers grounds (race, sex, disability, age etc.) according to the EU directives, and its material scope (employment, occupation, education etc.). The draft was made by experts from ministries, state agencies and activists from human rights and minorities NGOs and agreed with the line ministries. The draft anti-discrimination legislation was approved by the Council of Ministers in September 2002 and submitted to the Parliament and approved by the relevant parliamentary committees by the end of 2002. At present the adoption by the Parliament of the Anti-discrimination legislation is being facilitated by the Phare 2001 twinning light project.

It must also be noted that the first National Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was finalized and approved by the Council of Ministers in February 2003.

In order to strengthen significantly the administrative capacity of the NCEDI in accordance with the political criteria under the Accession Partnership, the secretariat of the NCEDI is being transformed into a government executive body with substantial competence and adequate staffing. In this respect the NCEDI drafted an ordinance for establishing a State Agency for Minorities and agreed it with the line ministries. This objective is due to be implemented in 2003 so that the proposed project under this fiche will be implemented, coordinated, monitored and evaluated by the newly established body for minorities.

Education
The major obstacle to the integration of some minorities is lack of access to equivalent levels of education and qualification. The Programme of the Government of Bulgaria (PGB), in its evaluation of the status of the Bulgarian education system concludes that it “continues to segregate…children from minority groups”. One way to bring about the preconditions for the social, economic and cultural integration can be through the orientation of the education policies towards the specific education needs of school-children from minority background, through establishing proper institutional mechanisms and undertaking specific measures and activities, aimed at creating equal access to education of children from a minority background.

One of the 6 priorities of the PGB in the field of education and science is “to ensure quality education and access to all, including minority groups”. To achieve this objective, a Consultative Council on Education of Children and Schoolchildren from Minority Groups was regulated by the Minister’s of Education Order No RD 09-319/09.05.2002.
It will be a permanent interinstitutional, state-public consultative body operating on an expert level. It will consult the minister on the following issues:

a) Adoption and implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren from Ethnic Minority Groups in Bulgaria;

b) Recommendation of concrete measures to integrate schools from Roma neighborhoods and ensuring easier integration of Roma children into mainstream schools;

c) Development and recommendation of a specific education policy for revising the curricula with intercultural and integrative contents.;

d) Co-ordination of the above mentioned activities with the NGOs;

e) Creating of a database for nationally significant education initiatives of state institutions, NGOs in the field of education for children from ethnic minorities groups.

The Consultative Council consists of experts from the Ministry of Education and Science, NCEDI, other state institutions, leading NGOs as well as recognized scientists with personal achievements in the field of integration by educational measures and minority issues.

An expert group established in March 2002 and composed of experts from the Ministry of Education and Science has formulated a draft Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren from Ethnic Minority Groups in Bulgaria. This draft Strategy is currently being agreed with the main participants in the Consultative Council. The Ministry of Education and Science adopted in October 2002, for the school year 2002 – 2003, the Attachment 10 “Guidelines on the integration of minority children and pupils” in October 2002.

The Guidelines specify the particular constraints to integrating Roma students into the Bulgarian Education system as:

1. Isolation of Roma children in schools situated in Roma neighbourhoods.
2. Academically successful children from Roma ethnic background are being transferred to specialised institutions.
4. The mother language is not being taught in the classroom.
5. Low literacy and qualification rates of the elder Roma.

The following strategic goals, related to the integration of children and pupils from Roma ethnic background, have been put forward:

1. Transfer students from schools situated in Roma neighbourhoods and establishing an opportunity for equal access to quality education.
2. Phasing out of the existing practice to place mentally fit children in specialised schools for mentally retarded children.

The Ministry of Education and Science has also decided that the position of “Assistant Teacher” will be introduced as of 1 January 2003. It is envisaged that the Ministry will fund 500 such positions whose job descriptions were elaborated under Phare BG 9907 “Promoting the Integration of the Roma”.

This project supports the implementation of the policy of the Government by:

- Developing/adapting the curricula and educational materials of pre-school and secondary education so that they include intercultural and integrative contents;
- Implementing a qualification/pre-qualification programme for education system staff to introduce a teaching methodology adapted to a multicultural environment and to enable the delivery of a curriculum with an intercultural and integrative contents;
• Improving the material base of a number of integrated kindergartens and schools located in areas characterized by ethnically mixed populations in order to raise their attractiveness for students and foster better school attendance and reduced dropout rates by Roma children.

Health
In April 2001, the Government of Bulgaria adopted a National Health Strategy and an Action Plan for the period 2001-2006. The health assessment of the population contained in the National Health Strategy indicates a particularly negative trend in the health of the Roma with this group having considerably higher than average risk of poor health and early death. One of the groups most exposed to the identified risk factors are ethnic minorities and particularly the Roma. Thus the Strategy concludes that “special attention should be attached to the health problems and special needs of the Roma ethnic community in the first place (on account of its numbers and aggravated economic and social status)”. The first strategic priority of the Action Plan for the period 2001-2006 is to implement “Measures for Improving the Health of the Nation”, including reducing infant mortality, restricting the incidence rate and the mortality caused by socially significant diseases and reducing the health risk factors for disadvantaged social groups. The Ministry of Health is currently implementing the Action Plan. For instance, with regards to tuberculosis specifically, the Ministry has adopted a National Programme for the Prevention, Early Diagnosing and Treatment of Tuberculosis (NPPEDDT). The latter envisages active screening and immunization, health awareness and media campaigns, medical check up with digital fluorographs for the vulnerable minorities groups in epidemic regions. In this respect, the Ministry of Health developed a Methodology Guidelines for Diagnostics of Tuberculoses. For the implementation of the Programme the Government allocated 1.4 mln. USD in 2001 and 300 000 USD for centralized medication supplies in 2002 and 2003.

In accordance with The Act for National Health Care for the obligatory immunizations and reimmunizations, the Ministry of Health, has drafted a Programme for Fighting Epidemic and Parasitic Diseases (the programme will be developed into a permanent nationwide screening of epidemic diseases, public awareness campaigns and upon outbreak of epemics establishment of temporary immunization focal points and preventive care units) and a Regulation for amending and supplementing the Order No2 for types of immunizations and their time table in the Republic of Bulgaria. The Ministry of Health opened immunization points in each of the 28 Hygiene Epidemiologic Institutes in the country that would provide for immunizations free of charge. However, these institutes lack the capacity to effectively reach the Roma. It is envisaged that they will have the capacity with 5 preventive care units to provide preventive health care services in 15 areas with dominating Roma population.

In its component dealing with health, the PGB notes a disturbing increase in the mortality rate and a general deterioration of the health indicators in the Roma population. The actions the PGB envisages to address these prioritized problems are:
• Identification of the health risk factors for these groups;
• Development and implementation of specific programmes for these groups, including prevention through health education and continuous monitoring;
• Capacity building of the GPs for working with such groups
This project supports the implementation of the National Health Strategy and an Action Plan (2001-2006) and of the PGB by:

- The professional qualification of physicians and nurses in specific health Roma problems is improved implementation of curricula for health education of medical universities and nursing colleges. Integration is promoted through better institutional know how of Roma health problems;
- Communication between the Roma community and medical specialists is improved by training of mediators, which leads to better prophylactics and diagnosis;
- Equipping the healthcare system with preventative and diagnostic equipment to better extend services to the Roma community.

**Contribution to the implementation of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society (Framework Programme).**

This project will contribute to the implementation of parts of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma in Bulgarian Society adopted in 1999, which is a short and medium term priority in the EU Accession Partnership. In particular, the project will foster integration of Roma into Bulgarian society by addressing action points of the Framework Programme related to:

**Education** (implementation of efficient measures for providing free access to quality education of Roma children in integrated kindergartners and schools; support and stimulation to the introduction in the national education system of preparatory classes for Roma children, which shall facilitate their adaptation and integration in mixed classes. Introduction of teacher assistants from the Roma community, who will help in the process of teaching of the Roma children);

**Health care** (in order to accomplish a satisfactory level of health condition for Roma people, it is necessary to intensify the programmes for health education and stimulate the active involvement of Roma in them);

This project will support improved vulnerable minorities access to state provided Education and Health services by strengthening the capacity of the Ministries of Education and Health to deliver equivalent services to the Roma community.

**2.5 Cross Border Impact:** no direct cross-border impact is foreseen.

**3. Description**

**3.1 Background and justification:**

**Education Status of Vulnerable Minority Groups**

The latest census about the population, the dwelling fund and the agricultural farms carried out on 1 March 2001 indicates that the Bulgaria’s total population is 7 928 901 people. Out of these, in accordance with the methodology used by the National Statistics Institute, the ones who identified themselves as belonging to the Roma ethnic group are 370 908 (4,68%). One has to take into consideration that there are around 350 000 people (according to experts’ estimates), who are perceived by their neighbours as Roma, but they themselves oppose that identification and identify themselves as Turks, Bulgarians and in a small percentage as Rumanians. As a rule, they share the same social characteristics, typical for the majority of the Roma population. All other ethnic groups amount to 121,773 (1,5%). The number of people who did not identify their ethnic origin is 67,640 (0,8%).

The rapid impoverishment of the Roma communities resulted from the high unemployment levels, which accompanied the reform of the Bulgarian economy. Unemployment affected about
two thirds of the working age adult Roma population and around half of the adult Turks. The growing unemployment and impoverishment of the Roma community was coupled by a sharp deterioration in the education level of young Roma.

For the implementation of the Phare project BG0104.01 – Roma Population Integration the NCEDI undertook an independent analysis on the state of the national education for the main ethnic minority groups. This analysis clearly indicates the current needs for 1) improving the school attendance of the Roma and other children facing problems with their integration into the mainstream and 2) providing for equal access of Roma children to equivalent quality education. The report’s conclusions mentioned hereafter are drawn on the presented statistical data by the National Statistical Institute according to the last census, expert recommendations from the Ministry of Education and Science and Science and previous sociological surveys.

Between 1992 and 2000 the share of Roma with either only elementary or primary education increased by 15.5% and 15.2% respectively. In 1999 the share of school dropout Roma children reached 72% in 9 big Roma ghettos. A representative sociological survey of the Roma communities showed that, in 1994, 52% of healthy Roma children aged from 7 to 16 did not attend school (90,000 children). The share of adult illiterate Roma increased by 60.6% between 1992 and 2000.

High levels of unemployment and extreme poverty are clearly one explanation for the alarming evolution of the state of Roma education in Bulgaria. The other has to do with the overall deterioration of the Bulgarian education system, which has affected all Bulgarian children, but particularly those from ethnic minority groups. Reduced central and municipal funds made available for education have had the following effects:

- Deterioration of the material base of schools making them conducive to a learning environment;
- Withdrawal of the state from providing free textbooks for school children attending the compulsory education level up grade 8 (the high price of textbooks particularly affected the Roma and Turkish communities which are the poorest in the country);
- Reduction of extra-curriculum hours for Bulgarian language training in primary school up to grade 4 (this again affected mainly the Roma and the Turkish communities).

The lack of a coherent policy on ethnic integration in the Bulgarian education system has meant:

- Curriculum and training materials do not promote pluralism and ethnic integration;
- Inadequate teaching methodology that does not take into account the mixed ethnic composition of classes;
- Lack of qualification of teachers in working in a multiethnic environment;
- Prejudiced attitudes towards children originating from ethnic minorities;
- Absence of special measures to deal with the specificity of children originating from minority groups (language training);
- Absence of measures to assist poor Roma families in meeting the costs related to sending their children to school;

Poor Bulgarian language proficiency is a critical obstacle to social and economic integration. Currently only 14% of Roma households speak Bulgarian at home. Furthermore, only 12% of the Roma children have access to pre-educational training (mainly due to financial constraints). The language difficulties of children originating from minority groups combined
with teachers who do not speak Roma or Turkish is a direct contributor to problems following school curricula and consequently encourages truancy and early dropout.

According to Ministry of Education and Science and Science data (2000) in 300 schools in Bulgaria, Roma students constituted between 50 and 100% of the student body. This reflects a growing tendency of segregation of Roma children at the school level given that parents of other ethnic origins are reluctant to send their children in schools with high proportions of Roma children. This evolution is due to prejudice, but also due to the fact that segregated schools have a poor image and the consequent popular belief of low education levels. Many schools in Bulgaria actually have a 100% Roma class composition.

**Health Status of Vulnerable Minority Groups**

Healthcare reform in Bulgaria brought to light some very alarming tendencies in Roma health: high morbidity, high mortality, low life expectancy. The average life expectancy among the Roma is 10 years less than the average for the country. These tendencies have been observed for more than a decade, but have become particularly pronounced in recent years due to overwhelming poverty, poor nutrition, permanent stress and lack of proper sanitary conditions.

Infectious diseases have become a particularly serious problem for the Roma in Bulgaria. The most common among them are tuberculosis and viral hepatitis. According to the data presented by the St. Sofia Pulmonary hospital, 30% of the patients treated there are from Roma origin. Dr Turnev’s study on common health problems among the Roma in the town of Kyustendil, Senovo and Tulovo demonstrates the high percentage of tuberculoses of the Roma population where approximately 25% of the cases involve children. According to data submitted by Dr. M. Dimitrova from the specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Pulmonary Diseases in Sliven, 60% of the tuberculosis patients are Roma. Viral hepatitis is also a serious problem for Roma neighborhoods where incidents of Hepatitis A and B are very high. The number of disabled Roma is six times higher than the rest of the Bulgarian population.

The relations between the medical staff and the Roma communities is hampered by the often present problem that many general practitioners (GPs) who work in Roma neighborhoods are not familiar with the cultural differences and traditions of their patients. Poor Bulgarian language skills only aggravates the problem.

The main risk factors for Roma health have been identified as:
- Poverty and thus inability to pay tariffs and to buy medicines
- Poor nutrition
- Lack of basic sanitary conditions
- Bureaucratization of the medical treatment and direct or indirect discrimination
- Lack of prevention activities
- Low education, including health education

**EC Regular Reports Assessment of the Problems**

Minority problems have always been a concern of the Bulgarian authorities due to evident human and moral considerations. However, since the country’s invitation to joint the EU in 1999, the matter has taken on an additional dimension related to Bulgaria’s need to meet the Copenhagen criteria for accession. While since 1999 the Bulgarian authorities have taken some positive steps towards improving the situation of the Roma, the EC Regular Reports for Bulgaria consistently highlight the need for further efforts to improve the social condition and
integration of minorities and to protect minority rights in order to meet the political criteria for membership.

The latest EC Regular Report for Bulgaria (2002) states that the Accession Partnership priorities are only partially met and that the Roma continue to suffer from social inequalities, limited participation in education, segregated schools with low-quality education and poor facilities. The Report stresses that efforts need to be made combat segregation and encourage integration. Also, the Report highlights issues related to limited Roma access to health care.

This project directly addresses the social and political issues mentioned above. Component 2 of the project will contribute to the reform of the Bulgarian education system towards pluralism and ethnic tolerance by adapting its curricula, building capacities and improving the material base of a number of integrated kindergartens and schools. Component 3 of the project will support the Detailed Action Plan for Roma health that will improve their health status and quality of life. This project under its component 3 will equip the healthcare system to enable it to provide better access by the Roma community to preventive healthcare services, health promotion and education.

The project will follow the “Guiding Principles” established by the EU, OSCE and the Council of Europe.

3.2 Linked activities:

MATRA/Government of the Netherlands 1998 (US $ 1,315,000/ongoing) – Integrated project for Roma community change aiming at promoting sustainable development of Roma low income communities through stimulating their involvement in local decision making.

The project is complementary to the US $ 500,000 IDF grant from the World Bank aimed at: 1) strengthening policy development, monitoring and evaluation capacity of the NCEDI; 2) building the capacity of the NCEDI at the central and local level; 3) promoting public awareness and policy development. Within the framework of the Capacity Building of NCEDI Component of the IDF Grant the following projects are implemented:

Assessment of the Implementation of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society and Elaboration of an Operational Action Plan (The absence of which is a major obstacle to the implementation of the Framework Roma Programme for which the Government of Bulgaria restated its commitment). The Civil Association ‘Parliament “Roma”’, comprising of eleven Roma non-governmental organisations carries out this assignment. The contract is to be concluded by June 2003.

Survey of the Major Problems Facing Economically Depressed Regions with Mixed Population, an Assessment of Existing National, Regional or Municipal Policies and Elaboration of a Strategy for Development of the Regions with Mixed Population (which is of great significance for the implementation of the commitments outlined in the Government Programme with regard to the reintegration of minorities). The Proposed Strategy with particular activities and policy measures for the development of the regions with mixed population shall be produced. The proposed National Strategy will then be forwarded to the relevant ministries and government bodies for review, comments and suggestions with the objective to adopt the Strategy on Developing Regions with Mixed Minority Population as a government decision on which state policies targeting minorities will be developed and to propose particular engagements and tasks to the relevant government bodies. The non-governmental organization Anti-poverty Information Center NGO implements the assignment.
Evaluation of the Existing Educational Policies and Practices to Grant Equal Access to Education to Children from Minorities and Elaboration of Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Solutions of the Educational Issues of Minorities (which is important for the development of the Government policy regarding the education of minorities school children).

The project’s objective is to elaborate a thorough assessment of the current state of the education provided to minorities, the effect of the various policies, mechanisms, reforms and activities applied on the quality of the education, an assessment of the local school network and the reflection of the changes upon the communities and the educational institutions. These assessments will be used to detail policy recommendations and elaborate an action plan for the Ministry of Education and Science and Science and the NCEDI for equal access to education of schoolchildren with minority background.

Phare 1999 – BG 9907 (EURO 500,000/completed) – Promoting the integration of the Roma by improving access to education for Roma and assisting in the improvement of Roma housing and living conditions. 1) Access to education for Roma - 50 teachers were qualified and 50 teacher assistants trained to work in integrated classes; a job description for teacher assistants drafted and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science for approval; elaborated and published a notebook for the Roma students from the preparatory classes; elaborated a guide to the textbooks in history for grades 1-4 involving elements of the Roma culture and history and before the start of the new academic year 100 teachers and teacher assistants were qualified to use it.

2) Improving living conditions in Roma quarters: it included an amendment of the general town-planning scheme as well as architectural design, structural engineering, electrical power, sewage system and water in two pilot areas: Stara Zagora and Pazardjik and construction of 11 houses for socially disadvantaged Roma families.

Japanese Fund for Social Development (EURO 1,400,000/ongoing) – Enhancing the Welfare of Children in Bulgaria. With funds from the Japanese Fund for Social Development and the support of the World Bank the Ministry of Education and Science and Science in cooperation with the NCEDI is implementing Component 3, Part 1 from this project. The latter aims at preparing children at pre-school age from disadvantaged families (predominantly from Roma minority ethnic background) to enter their first grade at school. The first stage of the project was implemented in the summer of 2002 – four-month training for 1,335 in 6 municipalities. Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Russe, Varna and Shuen. All the children who participated in these trainings subsequently enrolled in first grade. A follow-up 8 month programme for the 2002 – 2003 school year is envisaged with a target of helping over 2500 disadvantaged children to complete the pre-school education.

Phare 2001 – BG 0104.01 (EURO 2,325,000/ongoing) – Roma Population Integration. The project has three components: 1) Education – improved school attendance for Roma children (focusing on implementation of requalifying 300 school masters and qualifying of 100 Roma teaching assistants to work in integrated classes with Roma children); 2) Bridging activities that aim at increasing opportunities for young Roma to become civil servants, developing public awareness strategy and positive images campaign and 3) Formulation of an anti discrimination law and regulations for its implementation.

Phare 2001 – BG 0104.02 (EURO 1,100,000/ongoing) – Ensuring Minority Access to Health Care (the beneficiary is the Ministry of Health). The project involves the creation of a sustainable Roma health promotion scheme, improved access to health care in 15 towns and
health issues awareness campaigns directed to the Roma community. For both components, the NCEDI and Roma NGOs have a leading role in the Steering Committee of the project. In relation to this project a Background Study for the Roma Health Status is being implemented. Under this project medical equipment and furniture for 15 GP practices will be delivered, health services for predominantly Roma population provided. And finally, medical staff and Roma mediators will be trained aiming to health promotion amidst Roma population.

World Bank Loan BUL4000 – Health Sector Restructuring Project. Under this project all rural general practices throughout Bulgaria were equipped with sufficient and modern medical apparatus. Some of them were refurbished.

Phare 2001 – BG 0102.06 (EURO 4,863,000/ongoing) – Social Inclusion (the beneficiary is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy). Out of this budget: 1) EURO 966,000 are for the development of Roma information and cultural centres, literacy and numeracy training for Roma minorities; 2) EURO 1,333,000 are for job creation programmes for Roma minorities. For both components, the NCEDI and Roma NGOs have a leading role in the Steering Committee of the project.

Phare 2002 – BG 0204.01 (EURO 6,000,000/starting in 2003) – Urbanisation and Social Development of Area with Disadvantaged Minority Populations. The project’s objectives are to improve access to public services and reduce unemployment of minority communities in the target areas by: 1) building public technical and social infrastructure, including public utility infrastructure (water supply and sewerage systems, electricity network), street infrastructure, a kindergarten and a community centre; and 2) implementing a vocational training and temporary employment scheme as well as a pilot business support initiative. As a pre-condition for the implementation of the project a background study for Roma housing is carried out by a framework Contractor of the EC.

3.3 Results:
The following results are expected to be achieved:

**Education Integration**

**Curriculum development**

- Curriculum and education materials developed for mandatory pre-school programmes to ensure that pre-school programmes facilitate Roma education.
- Pre-school, primary and secondary school curricula and education materials being revised and adapted to facilitate Roma education.
- A menu of extra-curricular activities and corresponding programmes to supplement educational process in the integrated classes.
- Curriculum and qualification/pre-qualification materials for pre-school teachers, school teachers and teacher assistants developed for working in multicultural environment.
- Curriculum and training materials for pedagogic specialties at University level developed for working in multicultural environment.
- Curriculum and qualification/pre-qualification materials for pre-school and school inspectors developed for working in multicultural environment.
**Capacity building**
- Pre-qualification of 600 pre-school teachers and schoolteachers and qualification of 200 teacher assistants implemented to accomplish adequate learning environment for Roma children.
- Qualification of 60 pre-school and school inspectors implemented to ensure the vulnerable minorities integration into the mainstream educational system.
- Seminars for 30 University lecturers in the pedagogic fields implemented to introduce multicultural education in the regular university training.

**Improvement of the material base**
- Material base of 20 schools and 10 kindergartens located in 5 rural and 10 urban areas characterized by ethnically mixed population renewed to improve the education standard at Roma majority schools.

**Health Integration**

**Curriculum development**
- A curriculum for medical specialties at 5 Universities (Sofia, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Pleven and Varna) and 14 nursing colleges (Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Velyko Turnovo, Vratza, Dobrich, Pleven, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Sofia and Shumen) to equip students to better work with the Roma community.
- A curriculum for the training of mediators between the health care system and the Roma community developed.

**Capacity building**
- A training programme for 30 University lecturers and 28 nursing colleges lecturers to teach students in working with the Roma community implemented.
- A training programme for 150 mediators between the health care system and the Roma community implemented.

**Support to the Outreached Preventive Healthcare System**
- 5 preventive health care mobile units procured to promote improved preventative health practices in Roma communities.
- 2 preventive care units equipped with mobile digital X-ray devices procured to ensure earlier detection of preventable/controllable medical threats in Roma communities.

**Provision of preventive healthcare services and health promotion and education**
- Preventive health care services programme implemented in 5 pilot regions directed at increasing the proportion of Roma population having access to such programmes.
- Health promotion and education programme implemented in the same regions to improve prevalence of preventative health practices in Roma communities.

3.4 Activities

3.4.1 Technical Assistance, Monitoring and Evaluation – Project Component 1 (Institution Building) – 380 000 Euro

A technical assistance (TA) component will be introduced in order to facilitate all the project activities implementation and particularly enhance the administrative capacity of the NCEDI.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will technically assist the joint PIU represented by the Ministries of Health and Education, NCEDI and Roma experts on a day to
day basis to enable them in developing appropriate strategies and mechanisms of implementation of project’s activities, preparation of tender documentation, monitoring and evaluation activities and bottleneck resolution. The TA shall be realized by short-term national and international consultants who will address, through mentoring and/or twinning with PIU staff, the specific technical needs of the project.

The project will be subject to ongoing monitoring by UNDP through the above-mentioned PIU. The monitoring will consist of regular reviews of the status of project activities, project progress in relation to the approved work-plan, identify areas for improvement and propose recommendations for the optimization of project activities (if required) in order to ensure timely, quality and efficient results. The findings and recommendations will be contained in a monitoring report, which will be presented for approval to the NCEDI, the Ministries of education and health and the EC Delegation.

The project, towards its end, will also be subject to a UNDP external evaluation exercise. A team of external evaluators contracted by UNDP will conduct an assessment of: 1) Performance (effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness); 2) Overall success (impact, sustainability, contribution to capacity development); 3) Strengths and weaknesses; 4) Lessons learned; and 5) Recommendations. The external evaluators will prepare a report, which will be presented to the NCEDI, the Ministries of education and science as well as health and the EC Delegation.

3.4.2 Educational Integration – Project Component 2

3.4.2.1 Curriculum Development (Institution Building)

Development of an adapted curriculum and education materials for pre-school programmes

The activities will include development of an educational plan, curriculum and support materials for regular preschool education programmes. The education materials will include books and educational games, audio and video tapes for children. The educational materials will include elements specific to Roma culture, such as Roma stories, songs, dances, etc. Also, the curriculum and the support materials will be designed in such a way as to encourage a diversification of communication means (drawing, singing, story telling) and maximum interaction between children, including children from different ethnic groups. These activities will be aimed at supporting Roma children learning the Bulgarian language.

Revision and adaptation of the pre-school, primary and secondary school curricula and educational materials, including introduction of intercultural and integrative education for children

The existing pre-school, primary and secondary school curriculum will be reviewed in the light of the needs to modernize both in terms of substance (conveying positive information on the history and culture of minorities) and methods of teaching and delivery to take into account the mixed ethnic composition of classes and the fact that some children may not master the Bulgarian language. In particular, interactive methods will be developed, including the use of modern teaching techniques, use of computers and audio/video channels. Intercultural and integrative education will be introduced, including topics on Roma history and culture. It is expected that a more modern Bulgarian school will be more attractive to all children, including Roma.

The adaptation of the curricula will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the study, which has been initiated under the World Bank’s IDF Grant – “Evaluation of the
Existing Educational Policies and Practices to Grant Equal Access to Education to Children from Minorities and Elaboration of Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Solutions of the Educational Issues of Minorities”.

Development of a menu of extracurricular activities and of adapted programmes for the activities

The draft Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren of Minority Ethnic Communities envisages the mobilization of resources from the World Bank, the European Union and other donors for, among other activities, the improvement of existing extracurricular activities. The draft strategy sees extracurricular activities as a means to consolidate the learning acquired during class hours. Extracurricular activities can also be regarded as means to raise the attractiveness of the school system to children from the Roma minority, as well as to strengthen interpersonal relations among children of all ethnic groups.

The project, taking into account the results of the study carried out under the World Bank IDF grant project, will develop a menu of extracurricular activities and programmes which will not only have an educational character but also a recreational one.

Development of a special curriculum for school dropouts

The project will develop a special curriculum and special teaching materials for school dropouts. The objective will be to provide a second chance to school dropouts to obtain a qualification and in the worst case to provide them with sufficient education so that they can at least qualify for vocational training courses.

Curriculum development and qualification/pre-qualification materials for pre-school teachers, schoolteachers and teacher assistants

Teachers and teaching assistants require special qualifications and a special methodology to work in multiethnic classes, including knowledge of Roma culture and identity, provision of special assistance to Roma children, motivation of Roma parents to assist children in their schooling, etc.

The project will develop a curriculum for the qualification/pre-qualification to enable pre-school teachers, schoolteachers and assistants to attain in a short time the skills that will make their work more successful in mixed classes, gain knowledge about the cultural specificities of minorities and form skills to implement integrative and interactive education, including interethnic conflict resolution. This curriculum will include training on interethnic conflict resolution in school environment, as recommended in the draft Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren of Minority Ethnic Communities.

Curriculum development for pedagogic specialties at University level

The draft Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren of Minority Ethnic Communities identifies as a strategic activity that all the students in the pedagogic specialties at University level undergo training to raise their qualification in the educational, social and cultural problems of the Roma and other minority groups as well as to assimilate the methodology required for working in a multicultural environment.
Curriculum development and qualification/pre-qualification materials for pre-school and school inspectors

A complementary and necessary activity is the development of a curriculum and qualification/pre-qualification materials for school inspectors. The latter will play a key role in making sure that the new curricula are implemented and in monitoring relations between children and between children and teachers.

Mechanisms of implementation of the activity
The project will establish a team of national and international experts to implement this activity. The team will review the existing situation, including by relying on existing experiences and studies such as that initiated under the World Bank’s IDF Grant. The team will also review the international experience and best practices in the field including in Western and Eastern European countries.

The team of experts will hold intensive and extensive consultations with the Ministry of Education and Science, teachers, assistants, NGOs active in the field, Roma NGOs and parents. In particular, joint expert groups will be established for the development of each type of curricula and teaching material. The recommendations of the team of experts will be presented, discussed and endorsed at a national conference gathering all stakeholders. Following endorsement, the project will proceed with the technical preparation of the curricula and teaching materials, in collaboration with the technical departments of the Ministry of Education and Science.

3.4.2.2 Capacity Building (Institution Building)
Implementation of qualification and pre-qualification courses for pre-school teachers, schoolteachers and teacher assistants

Curricula will be developed and training will be implemented for those teachers and assistants who work in areas characterized by ethnically mixed populations to ensure improved school attendance rates.

Implementation of qualification and pre-qualification courses for pre-school and school inspectors

Qualification/pre-qualification courses for those school inspectors responsible for areas with ethnically mixed populations will be implemented using the curricula developed by the project.

Seminars for University lecturers in the pedagogic fields

The sustainability of the project will be ensured through integrating seminars for University lecturers in the pedagogic fields so that the next wave of schoolteachers is prepared to teach in a multiethnic environment in the context of its regular University training and does not have to go through qualification/pre-qualification courses such as those supported by this project.

Mechanisms of implementation of the activity
Once the curricula, training and qualification/pre-qualification materials are ready, the project will identify appropriate institutions (institutes, NGOs in the area of Roma issues) where it will train trainers. This identification will involve a thorough review of the relevant institutions, including issues of material base, geographical location taking into account areas
with a concentration of vulnerable minority groups, capacity and experience of pedagogical staff etc. A number of institutions will be selected and in each institution a number of trainers will be trained in the new curricula. The project will then organize, together with the selected institutions, the implementation of the national training programmeme through the trainers trained by this project.

3.4.2.3 Improved Material Base of Kindergartens and Schools (Investment)
The project will improve the material base of 10 kindergartens and 20 schools in 10 urban and 5 rural areas characterized by ethnically mixed populations so as to raise the attractiveness of these institutions for children of all ethnic groups and to increase Roma attendance and reduce the number of dropouts. Before this activity start a feasibility study will be justified by the NCEDI and implemented under the Phare 2003 Project Preparation Facility for a thorough review of the schools material base, geographical location, taking into account areas with a concentration of vulnerable minority groups, capacity and experience of pedagogical staff as well as the municipalities involvement in the vulnerable minorities’ groups integration into the mainstream schools. Criteria for the selection of kindergartens and schools and detailed budget estimates for the investments shall be elaborated as well.

Investments for improvement of the material base could include:
- works (school repairs and refurbishing, current water, central heating, technical facilities for meals provision);
- educational equipment (TV, video and audio players, computers and additional educational IT items);
- furniture and educational materials;
- consumables for education activities aimed at fostering the integration of Roma.

All the training activities described under 3.4.2.2 will imperatively take place also in 5 urban areas and 5 rural areas whose kindergartens and schools will be refurbished.

Mechanisms of Implementation of the Activity
The selection of the 20 schools and the 10 kindergartens will be done on a competitive basis using criteria such as, the size of Roma population in the community, level of school related problems of the Roma children, status of education buildings and pedagogical equipment, local resources for the project implementation (qualified teachers, Roma partners, potential Roma teachers, etc.). The final selection of beneficiary municipalities will be done by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the project on the basis of the recommendations of an Expert Group nominated by the NSC.

The results of the educational component will be thoroughly assessed and lessons learned from the project activities. Following the above, the resources for reintegrating vulnerable minorities’ children into the mainstream education will be allocated by the Ministry of Education and Science.

3.4.3 Health Integration – Project Component 3

3.4.3.1 Curriculum Development (Institution Building)
Development of a curriculum for medical specialties at 5 Universities (Sofia, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Pleven, Varna) and 14 nursery colleges (Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Velyko Turnovo, Vratza, Dobrich, Pleven, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Sofia and Shumen) to teach students in working with the Roma community
The project will develop a special module to raise current and future medical staff’s qualifications in the educational, social and cultural problems of the Roma and other minority groups and provide them with the knowledge and skills required for working in a multicultural environment.

*Development of a curriculum for the training of mediators between the health care system and the Roma community*

It is believed that a mediator between the Roma community and the health care system is required until a significant change in attitudes and relationships takes place. This is why the project will identify the specific functions of the mediator and will develop a curriculum for the training of mediators.

**Mechanisms of Implementation of the Activity**

The implementation of this component will take place with the support of a team of national and international experts. The team will review the international experience and best practices in the field including in Western and Eastern European countries. The team of experts will hold intensive and extensive consultations with the Ministry of Health and NGOs, including Roma NGOs, which are active in the field. Joint expert groups (with representatives of social medical departments from the 5 Medical universities, National Centre of Public Health, Ministry of health and other relevant institutions) will be established for the development of each type of curricula and teaching material. The recommendations of the team of experts will be presented, discussed and endorsed at a national conference gathering all stakeholders. Following endorsement, the project will proceed with the technical preparation of the curricula and teaching materials, in collaboration with the technical departments of the Ministry of Health.

### 3.4.3.2 Capacity Building (Institution Building)

*Delivery of seminars for 30 University and 28 nursery colleges’ lecturers to teach students in working with the Roma community at 5 Universities(Sofia, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Pleven, Varna) and 14 nursery collages in Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Velyko Turnovo, Vratza, Dobrich, Pleven, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Sofia and Shumen*

The sustainability of the project will be ensured through integrating the seminars for University and colleges lecturers who are to deliver the training under the special module to raise the medical staff’s qualifications in working in a multicultural environment.

**Mechanisms of Implementation of the Activity**

Once the curricula, training and qualification/pre-qualification materials are ready, the project will identify appropriate institutions (institutes, NGOs) for delivering seminars for university and nursing colleges’ lecturers.

### 3.4.3.3 Equipment of the Health System to Ensure Better Access by the Roma Community to Preventive Health Care Services (Investment)

One of the issues related to health condition of the Roma community has to do with the general lack of motivation (due to limited health education and/or discrimination) and financial means (due to extreme poverty) to visit the healthcare services. In remote rural areas, there arises the additional problem of the remoteness of health care centers. The combination of the above factors, together with poor nutrition, lack of hygiene, substandard housing and sanitation particularly in the urban Roma quarters (no running water, no sewerage systems),
give rise to epidemics, poverty related diseases (tuberculosis) and a high incidence of early deaths.

In view of the above, the Government wishes to establish outreach preventive care units to provide preventive health care services and intervene rapidly in cases of major epidemics. Five preventive health care units will be procured under the project to conduct medical interventions in Roma quarters and remote rural areas, implement immunization campaigns, conduct preventive examinations and take urgent anti-epidemic measures. Two preventive mobile care units equipped with digital x-ray devices (fluorographs) will be procured under the project to take preventive measures against tuberculosis.

Mechanisms of Implementation of the Activity
The exact technical specifications of the preventive care units will be formulated by experts of the Ministry of Health. A tender procedure will be launched for the procurement of the units in accordance with EC rules and procedures.

3.4.3.4 Implementation of a Pilot Programme of Preventive Health Care Services Provision, Promotion and Education in Favour of Roma Communities (Institution Building)
The mobile preventive care units procured by the project will be used for the implementation of a pilot programme of preventive health care services provision, promotion and education in favour of the Roma communities. The programme will be implemented in selected areas characterized by a high concentration of Roma communities. Ministry of Health is responsible for the implementation of immunization, diagnostic and preventive programme in the pilot regions, through the selected 5 Hygiene Epidemiologic Inspectorates (HEIs). Ministry of health provides financing for staff's salaries, consumables and vaccinations.

Mechanisms of Implementation of the Activity
An expert group will develop criteria for the selection of the 5 pilot regions, which will benefit from the programme. These criteria could include indicators such as incidences of tuberculosis, hepatitis, poliomyelitis and mortality rate. The areas characterized by the highest incidences of disease and mortality will be selected for the implementation of the programme. The implementation of the pilot programme will be funded by the project.

The results of the pilot programme will be thoroughly assessed and lessons learned will be drawn from the pilot activity. Following the above, the provision of preventive health care services provision, promotion and education in favour of Roma communities will be mainstreamed in the Ministry of Health regular activities and funding from the Ministry of Health budget will be ensured.

3.5 Lessons Learned
The NCEDI should ensure that at least 50% of the membership of the steering committees for BG-0104.01 (Roma Population Integration) and BG-0104.02 (Ensuring Minority Access to Health Care) consist of Roma members. It should promptly establish a steering committee for BG-0104.01.

The steering committees to the above mentioned projects were appointed by and with the participation of the NCEDI. The steering committee of the Phare project BG-0104.01 consists of 4 Roma experts (one from the Ministry of Education and Science) out of 7. The NCEDI had also promoted the establishment of Roma advisory committees to assist the steering committees of BG 9907 (already completed), BG-0102.06 (Social Inclusion implemented by
the MLSP – two advisory committees for both components - Roma Job Creation and Roma Cultural Centers) and BG-0104.02 (implemented by the Ministry of Health) in order to ensure larger involvement of the Roma community in the projects implementation.

**Implementation capacity of the NCEDI to effectively manage and monitor projects in this area.**

The NCEDI is the mandated body to co-ordinate government policies, programmes and funds related to ethnic issues, and to facilitate the dialogue and interaction between ethnic minorities, government and civil society. The work of the NCEDI is being assisted by a Secretariat administration consisting of four officers, of which two chief experts (one of them from Roma origin) and one technical assistant is managed by the secretary of the Council. The capacity of NCEDI has been significantly enhanced by the IDF Grant – Ethnic Minorities’ Integration TFO23842 for the amount of 483 000 USD (to be finalised by 22 June 2003). For the implementation of the activities under the IDF Grant as a beneficiary the NCEDI has appointed for various periods of time six consultants, of which four are presently providing consulting services.

The NCEDI will ensure that during the project implementation, the beneficiaries adequately address the minorities’ issues as well as actively involve representatives of the minorities in project duration.

**Relevance of Roma integration projects with the Government strategy.**

The education activities under Phare 1999 and 2001 are a part of a coherent national education strategy. The Ministry of Education and Science legalized the status of assistant teachers and allocated a budget for 500 ones. The national education system lacks qualified master teachers and trained assistant teachers to work in the integrated schools. Revised curricula with multicultural contents are not available as well. Under the Phare project BG9907 - 50 master teachers and 50 assistant teachers were qualified, a job description for assistant teachers elaborated and presented to the Ministry of Education and Science, notebook for Roma culture and history elaborated. Under the Phare project 2001 – Roma Population Integration, 300 master teachers will be requalified and 100 assistant teachers qualified to work in integrated classes. Proper curricula and educational materials for integrated kindergartners, pre-schools and schools will be elaborated in accordance with the National Strategy for the Integration of Children from Ethnic minorities under the proposed Phare 2003 project.

**Greater involvement of Roma and their representative organizations in identification of the needs, the project design preparation and implementation.**

At the end of last year the NCEDI addressed this important issue by holding 3 Roma round tables in the field of health and 2 in Roma education jointly with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Science, extended participation of the Roma community and their professional organizations, prominent NGOs and international donor organizations. Many concrete proposals for implementation under the Phare 2003 were agreed, such as:

- Integrated projects had to be implemented for addressing different but related issues co-managed synergistically, linking for example health with education and employment generation projects;
- Stressing the importance of the university education in qualifying the teachers to work in integrated classes with Roma pupils;
- Realization that pre-school education is essential to improving education opportunities for Roma children;
- Training of Roma mediators to work between the health care system and Roma community;
- Active screening of socially significant diseases with outreach methods such as preventive care units.

4. Institutional Framework

Implementing Agency: CFCU within the Ministry of Finance

Overall project management with support from Ministries of Education and Health.

Beneficiary Ministries: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health

Members of the National Steering Committee, project implementation of respective component.

Project Governing Body: National Steering Committee NSC

Chaired by Minister Without Portfolio, Overall coordination of implementation of project through NCEDI, ensures that the project addresses national priorities, follows best practices, transparent management structure and in accordance with the needs and priorities of the NCEDI.

Beneficiary: National Council of Ethnic and Demographic Issues NCEDI

NCEDI’s role will be to coordinate project implementation between the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health by establishing a joint PIU. This will be done on the guidance of the NSC and with the support of UNDP.

Advisory/Support Body United Nations Development Programme

Technically assists the implementation of project and the working of the PIU. Ensures that the technical assistance component of the project follows international best practices, has a transparent management and decision making structure, fulfils donor administrative and financial requirements, fulfils donor procurement requirements, fulfils donor reporting requirements. Reports to CFCU and NSC in EU Format.

Project Secretariat: Project Implementation Unit. The project will be implemented by the joint Project Implementation Unit (PIU) situated at the NCEDI. This PIU shall be presented by the beneficiary Ministries of Education and Science and Health as well as the NCEDI and Roma experts.

Technical Support and Capacity Building to the NCEDI and Ministries of Education and Health – provides expert technical advice and expertise, assists in the design of tender documentation, reference for consultants, monitors quality of technical work undertaken, assists in the launching of a study to establish appropriate curriculum development, publicises the programme, assists in ‘bottleneck resolution’, maintains regular working contact with EC Delegation and Ministries of Education and Health and CFCU,

Administrative Management Support to NCEDI and Ministries of Education and Health – assists in the administrative and activity reports with technical guidance from UNDP, assists in preparation of end of project evaluation (second quarter 2006) ensures NSC meetings are held at least quarterly and plays the role of secretariat to the NSC.

Institutional support– provides technical and administrative advice to the NCEDI to assist in coordinating the project activities through Ministries of Education and Health within the ambit of the project purpose and in accordance with the donor requirements. Provides institutional strengthening support through undertaking institutional assessments, providing mentoring and organizational training to build the project management capacities of the ministries and the NCEDI.
Other recipients:
The municipalities in Bulgaria (there are 263 of them) constitute the basic administrative and organisational centres of economic and political processes. The project’s main partners and beneficiaries at the local level will be the municipalities. The project will contribute to resolving local social problems and to reducing sources of social tension. The active co-operation of the municipalities will be sought in all aspects of project activities.

Final beneficiaries:
The final beneficiaries of the project will be the Ministries of health and education, targeted municipalities and minority populations.

5. Detailed Budget (in MEUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>IB</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Co-financing</th>
<th>UNDP Co-financing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Technical Assistance*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Activities 1 to 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>4.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Project staff, administrative support and monitoring costs, internal travel, operations and maintenance, reporting costs, audit, ongoing monitoring, evaluation and sundries. Equipment of the PIU is also included.

The national co-financing will be provided by the State budget.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency
The implementing agency of the project will be the CFCU. The Project Authorizing Officer will be the Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Finance; Rakovski Blv 102, 1040 Sofia (tel: +359 2 9859 2772; fax: +359 2 9859 2773; e-mail: cfcu@inet.bg).

The substantive co-ordination of the project will be the responsibility of the Senior Authorising Officer who will be Mr. Michail Ivanov, PhD, Secretary to the NCEDI in the Council of Ministers; Dondukov Blv 1, 1194 Sofia (tel: +359 2 940 20 15; e-mail: m.ivanov@government.bg). The beneficiaries of the project will be the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health.

UNDP will provide technical assistance for the implementation of the project. The implementation of the project shall follow the rules set out in the Practical Guide to PHARE Contract Procedures and other instructions issued by the Commission.

UNDP will provide technical assistance to the NCEDI, Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Health for the technical implementation of the project as well as ensure institutional support through monitoring and evaluation. For the implementation of TA component Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed as a contract that will set out the detailed modalities for fund transfers to UNDP for the technical assistance. This MoU will be endorsed by the EC Delegation.
The funding for the technical assistance provided by UNDP will be channelled to a separate UNDP EURO interest bearing account (to be reported against on a quarterly basis).

The overall co-ordination of the project will be performed by a National Steering Committee (NSC) which will be the inter-institutional decision making body for the project. The NSC will be chaired by the Minister Without Portfolio or his representative. It will be represented by Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, NCEDI, 3 Roma NGOs, and UNDP. The EC Delegation and CFCU shall be observers in the NSC meetings.

The NSC will meet at least once a quarter to review the project’s progress, approve the National Project Directors’ quarterly reports and work plans and take strategic decisions related to both substantive and financial aspects of project implementation. Decisions in the NSC will be taken by consensus. In the absence of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health and UNDP, the NSC will have to be reconvened.

Due to the complexity of the project, ie diversity of interventions in several areas of the country characterized by a difficult situation (social, psychological etc) which may lead to more difficult project implementation conditions and involving a grant scheme, the disbursement period will be extended by one year to ... 2007. Previous experience with comparable projects in this sector justifies such an approach. Grant schemes are still relatively new in Bulgaria

6.2 Twinning: N.A.

6.3 Non-standard aspects:
The support of UNDP will be ensured through the signing of a contract called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CFCU and UNDP. The MoU will be endorsed by the EC Delegation. Such a non-standard procedure has already been used in relation to the UNDP involvement in the EU funded Beautiful Bulgaria II- and Urbanisation and Development of Areas with Disadvantaged Minority Populations projects and has been endorsed by the European Commission/Brussels.

6.4 Contracts
Expected number of contracts:
One service contract in the format of MoU between CFCU and UNDP concerning the EU funds for technical assistance (to be endorsed by the EC Delegation). The MoU will set out the detailed modalities for funds transfers to UNDP, utilization and reporting.

One Project Document (in the UNDP standard format) between the NCEDI and UNDP concerning the technical assistance component of the project.

Contracts To Be Awarded Through Phare Tendering procedures:
One supply contract on behalf of Ministry of Health between CFCU and contractor.
One supply contract on behalf of Ministry of Education and Science between CFCU and contractor.
One works contract on behalf of Ministry of Education and Science between CFCU and contractor.
One service contract on behalf of Ministry of Health between CFCU and contractor.
One service contract on behalf of Ministry of Education and Science between CFCU and contractor.
7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals: 1\textsuperscript{st} quarter 2004

7.2 Start of project activity: 1\textsuperscript{st} quarter 2004

7.3 Project Completion: July 2006.

1. Equal Opportunity
The project will ensure that equal opportunities are provided to women both in the management of the project and in its employment promotion activities.

2. Environment: N.A.

10. Rates of return: N. A.

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:
The Catalytic effect of the project has several dimensions, as follows:
- Support the implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Children and Schoolchildren from Ethnic Minority Groups in Bulgaria.
- Support the implementation of the National Health Strategy and Action Plan for Roma Health for the period 2001-2006.
- Support the implementation of the Framework Programme for the Equal Integration of Roma in Bulgarian society

11.2 Co-financing:
The state budget will co-finance this project as indicated in the detailed budget table (MEUR 0.91) in parallel with the Phare funds, and in accordance with the PRAG manual. UNDP’s financial contribution will be 0.15 EURO.

11.3 Additionality:
The project does not displace any other financiers, be it from the IFIs or the private sector.

11.4 Project readiness and Size:
All necessary actions will be taken by the beneficiary ministries and UNDP to ensure that when the Phare 2003 funding becomes available, the conditions for its rapid disbursement will be met. The overall project budget is 4.93 MEUR (including the co-financing).

11.5 Sustainability:
The sustainability of the project will be ensured by activities being integrated into the daily workings of the beneficiary institutions and through its replication under the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into the Bulgarian Society and the Government’s Education Strategy and the Health Strategy. The Ministry of Education and Science provides the necessary resources for the implementation of mandatory pre-school education and measures for the reintegration of the vulnerable minorities’ children into the mainstream education system. All activities foreseen and supported by the project are relevant to the health priorities set in the Government Programme, National Health Strategy, National programme for prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and Programme for Fighting Epidemic and Parasitic Diseases and are also financially ensured for a certain period
of time. Maintenance of the equipment purchased under this project will be ensured by the
Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health and municipalities.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions: N. A.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan: N. A.

12. Conditionality and sequencing
Conditionality
The Delegation needs to approve, before implementation commences, the institutional and
implementation arrangements, including the adequacy of staffing and resourcing of the bodies involved
in implementation, robust arrangements for ensuring sound management of EU funds and any
operating guidelines, Memoranda of Understanding required. The pre-conditions for the project’s
activities start are as follows:
• The national authorities will make available 0.91 MEURO as a financial contribution to
  the project following an application to the Ministry of Finance by beneficiary institutions.
• Adoption of an Elaborated Action Plan for Implementation of the Framework Programme
  for Equal Integration of Roma into the Bulgarian Society.
• Adoption of the Integration Strategy for Children and School Children from Ethnic
  Minority Groups in Bulgaria.
• Development and Adoption of the Detailed Action Plan for Roma Health - elaborated by
  the kind assistance of the Council of Europe and it has been broadly discussed with the
  representatives of the Roma community.

Important milestones in project implementation:
First Tenders launched in the 2nd quarter of 2004

Milestones of the project in terms of impact:
Completion of activities in July 2006
Annex D

REFERENCE TO FEASIBILITY STUDIES

PROBLEMS CONCERNING EDUCATION OF ROMA PEOPLE IN BULGARIA - Needs Assessment Report under the Phare project BG0104.01 – Roma Population Integration on the state of the national education for the main ethnic minority groups (available).

BACKGROUND SURVEY ON URBANIZATION AND HOUSING IN ROMA NEIGHBORHOODS – project preparation of the Phare project 2002 – Urbanisation and Social development of Areas with Dominating Minorities Population. The study has the objectives to provide a clear picture of the existing living situation in the areas with dominating minorities population; to survey existing Roma housing and urbanization policies; to extend possible know-how and expertise upon the good territorial planning and urbanisation practises towards improving the Roma minorities’ living conditions favouring at the same time their integration into the mainstream society. The background study is due to be finalized by the selected Framework Contractor by April 2003.

SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE HEALTH PROFILE OF THE ROMA POPULATION under the Phare project 2001 – BG 0104.02 Ensuring Minority Access to the Health Care. The survey is expected to conduct a detailed "need analysis" examining the health and health related needs of the Roma ethnic minority. The project also aims to account for the cultural specifics forming the attitude to health awareness. The goals of the project are to provide a health profile of the Roma population; assess the awareness of the existing health system (rights and obligations) among the Roma population; measure the present degree of the health awareness; evaluate the access to information and health services and provide a strategic action plan to address the issues as defined. The survey is due to be finalized by the selected Framework Contractor by May 2003.
Annex E

Legislative framework in terms of the education and health care for the vulnerable minorities groups in the Republic of Bulgaria

- “Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities” of the Council of Europe;
- “Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society” – adopted through an agreement, signed by 75 Roma organizations and a government representative on 7 April 1999, and followed by a decision of the Council of Ministers from 22 April 1999 (Protocol 18, item 14);
- The Programme of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria “People are the wealth of Bulgaria”, Section “Integration of Minorities”;

National legislation and strategic programmes concerning the health of vulnerable minorities:

3. Developed Methodology Guidelines for Diagnostics of Tuberculoses.
6. Order No RD09-514 dated 03.07.2000 of the Ministry of Health according to the paragraph 18 of the Act for National Health Care for regulating the obligatory immunizations and reimunizations.
7. Draft Programme for Fighting Epidemic and Parasitic Diseases – under consideration by a working group of the Ministry of Health. It will regulate the permanent nationwide screening of epidemic diseases, public awareness campaigns and upon outbreak of epidemics establishment of temporary immunization focal points and preventive care units.
8. Draft Regulation for amending and supplementing the Order No2 for types of immunizations and implementation schedule in the Republic of Bulgaria.
9. National Programme For the Children of Bulgaria adopted by the Council of Ministers. For the implementation of this programme a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN SDU and the Ministry of Education signed and in force from 1 July 2002 in the part concerning introduction of life skills-based health education into the school curriculum.

National legislation and strategic programmes concerning the vulnerable minorities’ education:

1. Primary and Secondary legislation of the National Education Act.
2. Regulation No4 dated 18 September 2000 for Pre-school Education and Training.
4. The Order No 6 of the Ministry of Education dated 19 August 2002 for the education of children with specific educational requirements and chronic diseases.
Annex F
Statement of Beneficiaries’ Capacity

Ministry of Education and Science

Director of Intellectual Development and Cultural Integration Department.
Experience in education and cultural areas in the state and municipality structure. Experience and partnership with NGO sector.

State expert in the Intellectual Development and Cultural Integration Department.
Experience in education and cultural areas in the state structure. Experience and partnership with NGO sector. Experience in creating, implementing and coordinating of education’s projects.

Chief expert in the Intellectual Development and Cultural Integration.
Experience in education and cultural areas in the state structure. Experience and partnership with NGO sector.

Senior expert in the Intellectual Development and Cultural Integration.
Experience in education and cultural areas in the state structure. Experience and partnership with NGO sector.
Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health has accumulated a significant experience and has built capacity for international project management, including project definition according to set health priorities, management of big investment projects, coordination of activities between donor institutions under multi-institutional funding of planned activities, organization and carrying out of international and local tenders. The management and coordination of projects with international funding is performed by the Department of "Project Administration and Management", which is part of the Directorate of International Cooperation and European Integration in the Ministry of Health.

The Department has 10 full-time experts. Part of the Department is structured in Health Policy Analyses Unit. This unit is created under World Bank Project "Restructuring of Health sector in Bulgaria", and the staff of the unit has passed adequate training and qualification on health policy, health economics and health care administration. The unit is contributing to the elaboration of health policy documents and analyses, activities related to strategic planning, as well as to the definition of projects according Bulgarian health priorities.

Until 2001, another part of the department functioned as separate structure - Project Management Unit (PMU), dealing with the management and coordination of activities under mentioned above World Bank Project. The overall experts of the Department have acquired the necessary training and qualification on project management. 5 experts passed internationally training on World Bank procedures for investment projects management, including procedures for tendering and contracting of implementing agencies, as well as financial management. 4 experts were trained on project fiche and terms of reference elaboration and PHARE bidding and contracting procedures (PRAG). The experts are subject to continuous training and qualification through participation in health management, public health and healthcare administration courses and programs in Bulgaria, as well as in universities and schools of public health abroad - in USA, UK, Greece, Spain, Holland, Hungary etc.

Every expert knows written and spoken English, as well as other western languages.

The experience of the department is directed to the management and coordination of projects in three main areas of implementation:

1. Management of investment projects:
   - Project for Restructuring of the Health Sector, funded by the following organizations: World Bank (26 MUSD), Council of Europe Development Bank (11 MUSD), PHARE Program (2.3 MUSD) and 7.7 MUSD from the Republican Budget, has been started in 1996. The project has been entirely managed by the PMU, that is part of the department. The activities have supported the reform in the primary health care (PHC), emergency medical care and the blood transfusion network by provision of refurbishment works, supply of equipment for the PHC, for the Emergency Medical Care Centres and for the Centres for blood transfusion. The personnel of these health institutions have been trained. Information system for the blood transfusion network was build. The project has completed its activities by the end of 2001 and evaluated by World Bank “highly satisfactory” for the overall achievement of the results.
   - Project “Ensuring Minority Access to Health Care” with the amount of 1.1 MEURO funded by PHARE 2001 Program. A study of the health status for the Roma population is foreseen to be made. Refurbishment activities for GP practices in 15 towns are also to be performed in the framework of the project. Medical equipment and furniture for 15 GP practices, providing health services for predominantly Roma population, will be supplied. And finally, medical staff and Roma mediators will be trained aiming to health promotion amidst Roma population.

2. Management and coordination of the projects directed toward improvement of the administrative capacity of the health system:
   - In total, 17 PHARE projects (estimated 25 MEURO) have been realized during the period 1992-2000. In the framework the projects supported the health care system with medical equipment, ambulances, computers and office furniture, as well as training of the staff.
   - Twinning project “Radiation Protection and Safety at the Medical Use of the Ionizing Radiation” in the amount of 2.7 MEURO funded by the PHARE 2001 Program. The project supports harmonization of the Bulgarian legislation with the acquis in accordance with the ionizing radiation in relation of medical exposure.
   - Twinning project “Assistance to the implementation of the EC directives on drinking water, bathing water, surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water and methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of water” estimated 2.2 MEURO funded by the PHARE 2001 Program. The project foresees supply of laboratory equipment for monitoring of drinking water and is managed jointly with Ministry of Environment.

3. Projects directed to implementation of National Health Strategy according to health priorities:
• Project BUL/98/005 Elaboration and implementation of National Strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention, funded by UNDP;
• Support to the National Health Strategy for Reproductive Health, funded by UN Population Fund.

The Department performs also the overall monitoring of internationally funded projects within the network of the Ministry of Health, as well as in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.
Annex C

Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (MEUR) (including the co-financing)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1.Q.04</th>
<th>2.Q.04</th>
<th>3.Q.04</th>
<th>4.Q.04</th>
<th>1.Q.05</th>
<th>2.Q.05</th>
<th>3.Q.05</th>
<th>4.Q.05</th>
<th>1.Q.06</th>
<th>2.Q.06</th>
<th>3.Q.06</th>
<th>4.Q.06</th>
<th>1.Q.07</th>
<th>2.Q.07</th>
<th>3.Q.07</th>
<th>4.Q.07</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Annex B

Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma

Project implementation chart
### LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL INTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE MINORITY GROUPS WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ROMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider Objective(s)</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| To contribute to the implementation of health and education parts of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of the Roma in Bulgarian Society | • School attendance of vulnerable minorities groups (especially Roma) in line with national average.  
• Improved material basis of 20 schools and 10 kindergartens located in ethnically mixed population to bring them in line with existing standards;  
• Frequency and level Interaction between the health care sector and vulnerable minority groups in line with national norm;  
• Improved active preventive health care services in 5 regions with a high proportion of Roma ensures Roma health patterns in line with national norm; | • Ongoing project monitoring conducted every 6 months by an external expert  
• Terminal External Evaluation of the Project  
• Report on the implementation of the Framework Programme, which will be prepared by the Agency for Minorities in 2005/2006 (successor of the NCEDI)  

**Project Number**

- Total Budget: 4.93 MEUR
- Phare contribution: 3.87 MEUR

**Programme name:** Annex A – Logical framework  
**Date of drafting:** March 2003

**Contracting period expires:** Nov 2005  
**Disbursement period expires:** Nov 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Objective (Purpose)</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• to Integrate and preserve the ethnic and cultural identity of vulnerable minority children and pupils through high quality education and extra curriculum activities;</td>
<td>• Increased number of vulnerable minorities children with a special focus on Roma pupils integrated in the mainstream schools;</td>
<td>• Ongoing project monitoring conducted every 6 months by an external expert</td>
<td>• Before the project start elaborated Action Plan for the Implementation of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into the Bulgarian Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• to establish preconditions for a more successful integration into the mainstream schools and socialisation of youth from the different vulnerable minority groups;</td>
<td>• improved health status of the Roma population.</td>
<td>• Terminal External Evaluation of the Project</td>
<td>• Adoption of the Integration Strategy for Children and School Children from Ethnic Minority Groups in Bulgaria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• to turn the cultural diversity into both a source and a factor for knowledge of the other, mutual and spiritual development of young people and establish favourable environment for mutual respect, tolerance and understanding;</td>
<td>• to support the preventive health care services, health promotion and education;</td>
<td>• EC Regular Report for Bulgaria (2005/2006)</td>
<td>• Development and Adoption of the Detailed Action Plan for Roma Health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• to support the preventive health care services, health promotion and education;</td>
<td>• to develop curricula for training of mediators between the healthcare system and the Roma community and their qualifying;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• to develop curricula for training of mediators between the healthcare system and the Roma community and their qualifying;</td>
<td>• to equip the healthcare system so that it can provide better access by the Roma community to prevention healthcare services;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Indicators of Achievement*</td>
<td>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</td>
<td>Assumptions and Risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to education and health care services for vulnerable minority groups in line with national average;</td>
<td>Improved school attendance of vulnerable minorities groups with a special focus on Roma by: developed curricula for pre-qualification of 600 teachers, 60 school inspectors and 200 assistant teachers for 200 pre-school, primary and secondary mixed classes;</td>
<td>Ongoing project monitoring conducted every 6 months by an external expert</td>
<td>There is no staff turnover at the NCEDI and the future Agency for Minorities (assumption)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapted curricula of pre-school education and secondary education, qualified/pre-qualified teachers and teacher assistants;</td>
<td>Improved material base of 20 schools and 10 kindergartners located in 10 urban and 5 rural areas characterised by ethnically mixed population;</td>
<td>Terminal External Evaluation of the Project</td>
<td>Good co-operation with minority groups and their representatives at the local level prevails (assumption)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved material base of selected kindergartens and schools with ethnically mixed classes;</td>
<td>Improved interactions between health workers and the Roma by training of 30 university and 28 nursing colleges lecturers to teach students in working with the Roma;</td>
<td>Interim Evaluation of the European Union Phare Programme</td>
<td>Efficient project co-ordination between all parties is ensured (assumption)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapted curricula, training and qualification/pre-qualification materials for delivering seminars for university and nursing colleges' lecturers;</td>
<td>150 mediators trained to assist in bridging gap between Roma and health institutions.</td>
<td>EC Regular Report for Bulgaria (2005/2006)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified medical staff working with vulnerable minorities groups and addressing minority health needs;</td>
<td>preventive health care services programme implemented in 5 regions with a high proportion of Roma with the help of modern outreach techniques - 5 preventive health care units procured and 2 preventive care units equipped with mobile digital X-ray devices.</td>
<td>Visitation and service records or preventive health units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adapted curriculum for the training of mediators between the health care system and the Roma community;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma access to preventive health care services, health promotion and education in line with national average;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Means</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Assumptions and Risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity 1 – Technical assistance, (Institution Building)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1. Establish a joint PIU situated at the NCEDI.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2. Ensure Ongoing and terminal External Project Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity 2 – Educational Integration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1. Curriculum Development (Institution Building) and educational materials for pre-school, primary and secondary education programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.2. Implementation of qualification and pre-qualification courses for pre-school teachers, schoolteachers and assistants, school inspectors and University lecturers in the pedagogic fields.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3. Improved Material Base of integrated Kindergartens and Schools (Investment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity 3 - Health Integration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1 Curriculum Development (Institution Building) for medical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One service and one supply contract according to the PRAG manual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.22 MEUR (Phare funding)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.07 MEUR (National Co-financing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.09 MEUR (UNDP funding)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.95 MEUR (Phare funding)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.38 MEUR (National co-financing for the supply contract)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.70 MEUR (Phare funding)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government funding for the project is approved and made available on time (assumption)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>specialties at University and nursing colleges level to teach students in working with the Roma community and mediators.</td>
<td>0.46 MEUR (National co-financing) 0.06 MEUR (UNDP co-financing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Implementation of a training programme for University and nursing colleges’ lecturers to teach students in working with the Roma community and mediators.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Equipment of the Health System to Ensure Better Access by the Roma Community to Preventive Health Care Services (Investment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Implementation of a Pilot Programme of Preventive Health Care Services Provision, Promotion and Education in Favour of Roma Communities (Institution Building)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preconditions**
- National co-financing secured

* Must be **quantified** and **measurable**
Annex G

Legislative framework in terms of the education and health care for the vulnerable minorities groups in the Republic of Bulgaria

- “Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities” of the Council of Europe;
- “Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society” – adopted through an agreement, signed by 75 Roma organizations and a government representative on 7 April 1999, and followed by a decision of the Council of Ministers from 22 April 1999 (Protocol ? 18, item 14);
- The Programme of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria “People are the wealth of Bulgaria”, Section “Integration of Minorities”;

National legislation and strategic programmes concerning the health of vulnerable minorities:

10. Act for National Health Care.
12. Developed Methodology Guidelines for Diagnostics of Tuberculoses.
15. Order No RD09-514 dated 03.07.2000 of the Ministry of Health according to the paragraph 18 of the Act for National Health Care for regulating the obligatory immunizations and reimmunizations.
16. Draft Programme for Fighting Epidemic and Parasitic Diseases – under consideration by a working group of the Ministry of Health. It will regulate the permanent nationwide screening of epidemic diseases, public awareness campaigns and upon outbreak of epidemics establishment of temporary immunization focal points and preventive care units.
17. Draft Regulation for amending and supplementing the Order No2 for types of immunizations and implementation schedule in the Republic of Bulgaria.
18. National Programme For the Children of Bulgaria adopted by the Council of Ministers. For the implementation of this programme a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN SDU and the Ministry of Education signed and in force from 1 July 2002 in the part concerning introduction of life skills-based health education into the school curriculum.

National legislation and strategic programmes concerning the vulnerable minorities’ education:

7. Primary and Secondary legislation of the National Education Act.
8. Regulation No4 dated 18 September 2000 for Pre-school Education and Training.
10. The Order No 6 of the Ministry of Education dated 19 August 2002 for the education of children with specific educational requirements and chronicle diseases.