Standard Summary Project Fiche

1. Basic Information
   1.1 CRIS Number: BG2003/004-937.01.04
   1.2 Title: Improvement of quality of life of people with mental disabilities
   1.3 Sector: Political Criteria
   1.4 Location: Bulgaria

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):
Encouraging social integration of people with mental disabilities through community based services

2.2 Project purpose:
Development and improvement of alternative medical, social and educational services for people with mental disabilities

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority:
Ensure further measures are taken to improve community care services for children.
Ensure the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The project focuses on the following issues covered by the NEDP 2000 – 2006:
“The key priority in the field of social assistance relates to the development of social services. The reform in this direction aims at providing elderly people, children, women, disabled people, ethnic minority groups, socially isolated and poor people with equal access to the resources of the society.

With respect to the equal access to education of all social groups irrespective of gender, age and ethnic identification, the key priorities shall be the following:

- Overcoming social marginalization through education and training by involving all interested stakeholders – trainees, parents, local administrations and social partners in order to ensure attractive education and training oriented to the needs of the labour market. Special attention will be paid to the marginal social groups;
- Education and training of people with special needs; involving all interested stakeholders – trainees, parents, local administrations and social partners in order to ensure attractive education and training oriented to the needs of the labour market. Special attention will be paid to the marginal social groups;
- Education and training of people with special needs;
- Improvement of the facilities and elaboration of special curricula. In parallel, qualification and re-qualification of teachers employed in these type of schools will be carried out. The goal is successful reintegration and socialization of disadvantaged people.”
2.5 2002 Regular Report on Bulgaria’s Progress towards Accession:

“As regards children’s rights, in February 2002, Bulgaria became a party to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In May 2002, Bulgaria ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption. It entered into force in September 2002. The State Agency for Child Protection has been functioning for one year. However, enforcement and implementation of the Child Protection Act seems to be difficult, due to the weak authority and capacity of the Agency, the poor capacity of local child protection departments and the lack of effective co-ordination between the Ministries involved. Necessary secondary legislation has not yet been adopted and there remain some contradictions between the Child Protection Act and other relevant laws. As a consequence, the Act has not yet led to improved protection of children, especially those in institutions (e.g. children’s homes and special schools). The measures on promoting and facilitating a community-based childcare approach and non-institutional care in the Act have not yet been enforced and consequently there is little change in the high number of children in institutions, despite the Act’s aim. Living conditions in institutions continue to be inadequate. Some changes have been made to the Family Allowances Act to ensure that child benefits are better targeted towards low-income families. Bulgaria needs to continue and strengthen its efforts in reform of the child care system, ensuring that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is fully respected and that the best interests of the child are reflected and children are placed in institutions only as a last resort.

As regards socially vulnerable people, living conditions in institutions in particular for the mentally handicapped (social care homes) and psychiatric hospitals give serious cause for concern. Conditions are very poor with overcrowding and shortages of sanitary facilities, medication, staff and, in some cases, food. There are also reports of ill-treatment. It is important to ensure that such institutions provide decent living conditions and that inhuman and degrading treatment of those in care is prevented.”

In October 2000, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgment in the case of Varbanov v. Bulgaria, establishing a violation of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, by ruling that his detention in a psychiatric hospital was arbitrary. Deficiencies in Bulgarian legislation were identified but the law has still not been changed.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

At the end of 2002 the Bulgarian Government has adopted a New Strategy in Social Policy. Among the main priorities of this Strategy are: deinstitutionalization and decentralization of the services for people in unequal position; development of alternative services which will be rendered in the community; To make full use of the existing social institutions and gradually transform them into day care centers for provision of social care services. The Strategy also envisages to be decreased the number of the people in institutions with 20% by the end of year 2004, as well as decrease in the number of the institutions as a whole.

Delivering social care services at the home of the sick person and on the territory of the community as an alternative to the institutional care, as well as decrease in the number of the people in institutions with 1/3 by the end of 2005, are also among the priorities of the National Programme for the Mental Health of the Citizens of Republic of Bulgaria 2001 – 2005, adopted
by the Council of Ministers in 2001. The Program also envisages development of regional programmes for mental health, appliance of the public-health approach towards the people with mental disabilities, implementation of psycho-social rehabilitation and introduction of new up-to-date medical technologies.

The amendments in the Social Assistance Act entered into force on 01.01.2003. This has laid down the legal basis for the decentralization of the activity connected with delivering social care services. The specialized institutions for children and adults with disabilities under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) passed under the management of the municipalities but the subsidies from the state were preserved. With the amendments was created a real opportunity for the NGOs and the private sector to take active part in the process of delivering and development of social care services and in the process of co-operation with the state and municipal bodies. A Social Assistance Agency was established, which will carry out the control over the observance of the criteria and the standards for delivering social care services. The amendments in the Social Assistance Act led to the establishment of legal prerequisites for the deinstitutionalization of the services – an advantage was given to the development and delivering of alternative to the institutional care services, closer to the community, without breaking off the family environment. The process of harmonization of the legislation in the field of social protection and social integration of the people with mental disabilities as well as of all groups in unequal position will continue. Forthcoming is the adoption of amendments and complementation of the Child Protection Act as well as adoption of National Strategy for Equal Opportunities for the People with Disabilities and of a new Integration of the People with Disabilities Act. A Strategy for reformation of the cares for children and adults with mental disabilities in Bulgaria will be elaborated and adopted. This Strategy will define the priorities and will describe in details the responsibilities of all institutions involved in the process of overcoming the discrimination and resocialization of the people with mental diseases in Bulgaria.

Despite the existence of strategic documents and legal prerequisites, the transition from institutional care to services which leave the person in his community and family environment, is still not realized. At present the care for people with mental disabilities is carried out mainly in state and municipal specialized institutions. For now the specialized institutions are the only opportunity in Bulgaria for bringing up children with disabilities, abandoned by their parents. The “foster family” measure exists, but it is not very popular and the practice is limited. 3 300 children from 0-3 years of age are accommodated in Homes for medical-social care under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health; 5 400 children with mental and physical disabilities are placed in specialized institutions managed by the municipalities; 11 776 are the children with different forms of disabilities in the institutions of the Ministry of Education and Science. By now there is no official statistics for the number of children with disabilities looked after in the family environment and are not covered by the educational system. The percentage of institutionalization of adults is quite high – 4 000 people are accommodated in specialized institutions for adults with backward mentality and psycho diseases. The existing system for care for children and adults in the institutions is archaic, expensive and low-efficient. The social institutions are located in remote areas, mainly in small villages. The specialized psychiatrical institutions create in the accommodated there persons a vision for dependence on other people and helpless. The provision of minimal care and the lack of individual space in the state and municipal social institutions, as well as the lack of stimulus for development, infringe upon the fundamental human rights. The procedure for diagnostication of the children and adults with mental disabilities is imperfect. There is a lack of new, modern and uniform system of methods for examination which to be applied compulsory in every single case. There is also no system for early diagnostic of the mental diseases as well as for stage and compulsory diagnostic and observation over the years. In this way in the social institutions are often accommodated children
with imprecisely determined diagnoses or even without diagnosis. Most of them remain in the system till the end of their life as from the children homes they are transferred into homes for adults with mental diseases.

The children in the institutions do not receive the necessary quality education. Most of the children with light mental disabilities are studying in subsidiary schools (under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Science) under special programmes, but they are not forming competitive mature persons. Integrated training of children with specific educational needs is applied only in single cases. The conventional school is still not accessible for children with specific educational needs: the architecture is not adapted; the access to the educational content is limited because of the lack of methods for training of such children, adequate textbooks, pedagogues trained to work with these children, there isn’t a practice for preparation of individual training plans. There is also a lack of supporting environment and services which will facilitate the children and their families in their integration – opportunities for additional classes in the school and outside it, resource teachers, classes in the free time, etc.

At present, a number of alternatives to the residential care for children and adults with disabilities exist. There are Day Care Centers for children and adults with mental disabilities under the jurisdiction of MLSP, Day Care Centers for children within the Medical and Social Care Homes of the Ministry of Health and Day Care and Rehabilitation Centers established and run by NGOs. Although they have proved their efficiency and quality, their capacity by now is limited. The Day Care Centers are necessary but insufficient step towards the full social integration of the people with mental disabilities.

The long-term consequence from the existing approach towards the people with mental disabilities, no matter whether they are in institution or are living in the community, is lasting social isolation, incompetitiveness on the labour market and lack of social skills. The reform of the system for delivering social care services to people with mental disabilities in Bulgaria will contribute to the satisfaction of their medical, social, educational and labour needs and will lead to improvement of the quality of their life and social inclusion.

3.2 Linked activities:

"Child Welfare Reform” project financed by the EU in the framework of Phare Programme 2000 is currently commenced. Particularly, it aims at developing of family support services and reforming the management of 14 institutions dealing with children with disabilities, both physical and mental in 10 pilot municipalities. The successful implementation of the project will improve the living conditions and the quality of childcare provided in view of the European standards and good practice. Under Phare 2000, the following linked activities are envisaged:

- Technical Assistance to reform childcare services in 10 pilot municipalities and reform management of 14 institutions dealing with children with disabilities;
- Provision of equipment in terms of medical devices, particularly Physical Training Centers and Snoozle Centers, for a number of institutions dealing with children with disabilities.

However, an additional assistance and support with respect to the mentally disabled children is necessary. Still there are existing problems that need to be addressed, such as:

- Experience in other municipalities different than the 9 covered – improvement of living conditions and training of staff with respect to the standards of child care;
- Addressing the issue of the proper diagnosis of children who enter the system;
- Integrated education in light of the issue of equal access to education;
- Right to education and health (access and quality of health care);
• Human dignity of children;
• Public awareness to these children – different but human beings;
• Working with families and social support schemes;
• Special target group – children with psychic diseases in the family – public health issue.

? G 0102.06 - “Social integration” project aiming at:
• Easing the training and work of people with disabilities;
• Establishment of Business centre for people with disabilities;
• Development of specific approach for identification employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

3.3 Results:

(A) Expected results from the TA

**Prepared legislative documents, instructions, programs and action plans:**
• Harmonized legislation in compliance with the best practices and standards of the EU (including gate keeping mechanisms; improved legal framework for placement and detention in institutions);
• Developed and adopted by the Municipal Councils Municipal Action Plans for reformation of the system engaged with the problems of mental health in each of the pilot municipalities;
• Developed methodical instructions for diagnostication of children and adults with mental problems and assessment of their educational needs;
• Worked out programmes for complex rehabilitation and resocialization of children and adults with different stage of mental disease, in conformity with the opportunity for individualization;
• Elaborated individual educational programs for 50 children aiming integrated training;
• Elaborated model for specialized psychiatric and psychological support for mentally disabled children, placed in specialized institutions;

**Training activities:**
• Elaborated curricula for training of medical personnel, social workers and candidates for foster families;
• Conducted training of 240 people medical personnel, social workers, personnel from the specialized institutions and special schools, and resource teachers;
• Training and support to professional foster families, ready to look after mentally disabled child;
• Conducted training of 86 inspectors from the Agency for Social Assistance, the State Agency for Child Protection and the Regional Educational Inspectorates;

**Public awareness campaign:**
• Developed design of public campaign at municipal and national level aiming at change in the attitude of the society towards the people with mental disabilities;

**Preparation of Grant scheme:**
• Guidelines for grant applicants;
• Conducted public campaign for the grant schemes;
(B) Delivering of alternative services for mentally disabled people.

About 20 grants up to a maximum 300000 euro for providing alternative forms of social care services. The eligible grant projects will be related to services such as:

- Establishment of at least 2 Day Care Centers for children with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities;
- Establishment of at least 3 Day Care Centers for adults with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities;
- Establishment of 2 Sheltered homes in two pilot municipalities, in which will be accommodated small groups of adults with mental disabilities, entered out of specialized institution;
- At least 2 Kindergartens adapted to be appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities;
- At least 2 Schools adapted to be appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities;
- Provision of campaign raising the social awareness for people with mental disabilities including: changing societies’ attitude towards the people with mental disabilities, motivation of people to become a foster families, etc.

3.4 Activities:

The project activities will be preceded by a PPF financed project that will contribute to the current project results and objectives. The PPF will be used for:
- assessment of the municipalities’ needs and opportunities to provide alternative community based services for the people with mental disabilities;
- preparation in cooperation with the State Agency for Child Protection of standards for social services for children with mental disabilities;
- support to the Child Protection Departments (within the Agency for Social Assistance) for establishment of registers for children with disabilities;
- development of model for establishment of Day Care Centers for mentally disabled children and adults;
- development of model for establishment of Sheltered Home for mentally disabled adults;
- development of model for transformation of existing specialized institutions into Day Care Centers.

The project will be implemented in 4-5 pilot municipalities. They will be selected on the base of the set of criteria. Some of the most important criteria will be:

- existence of specialized institutions for mentally disabled children and adults;
- higher percent of people with mental disabilities in the municipality;
- underdeveloped alternative social services directed to the people with mental problems;
- insufficient level of local, national and international financial support in the municipality directed to the above-mentioned targeted group;

The pilot municipalities will be selected prior to project commencement. The assessment will be conducted through PPF and results will be submitted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The proposed municipalities will be approved by the Project Steering Committee.
Project objectives and results related to the institutional building and acquis related investments will be achieved through TA support. The most important activities that are expected to be set out in the TA contract will be:

**Preparation of legislative documents, instructions, programs and action plans:**
- Harmonization of the Bulgarian legislation in compliance with the best practices and standards of the EU:
  - Establishment of legislation concerning the rights and the integration of mentally disabled people in compliance with the European legislation;
  - Synchronization of the primary and the secondary legislation in the field of protection of mentally disabled people in Bulgaria;
  - Establishment of uniform legislation, regulating the activity, subordination and control over the system of specialized institutions for people with mental disabilities
  - Changed (improved) legal framework for placement and detention in institutions. The law on this needs to be changed to avoid arbitrary detention or violations of the right to a fair trial.\(^1\)
- Development and adoption by the Municipal Councils Municipal Action Plans for reformation of the system engaged with the problems of mental health in each of the pilot municipalities;
- Development of methodical instructions for diagnostication of children and adults with mental problems and assessment of their educational needs. These instruction should be prepared with the compulsory participation of all necessary specialists and will describe the process of taking a decision for direction of a patient to special training and rehabilitation programmes, the process of follow out the development of the disease and adaptation of the necessary medical treatment;
- Elaboration of programmes for complex rehabilitation and resocialization of children and adults with different stage of mental disease, in conformity with the opportunity for individualization;
- Elaboration of individual educational programs for 50 children aiming integrated training;
- Elaborated model for specialized psychiatric and psychological support for mentally disabled children, placed in specialized institutions;

**Training activities:**
- Elaboration of curricula for training of medical personnel and social workers in skills for work and care for people with mental disabilities in new conditions;
- Elaboration of curricula for training of families – candidate for foster families;
- Training and support to professional foster families, ready to look after mentally disabled child;
- Conduction of training of 90 people from the pilot municipalities in development of individual programmes for complex rehabilitation and integrated education;
- Conduction of training of 30 inspectors from the Agency for Social Assistance aiming at the effective implementation of control over the observance of the criteria and standards for delivering social care services for people with mental disabilities;

---

\(^1\) In October 2000, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgment in the case of Varbanov v. Bulgaria, establishing a violation of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, by ruling that his detention in a psychiatric hospital was arbitrary. Deficiencies in Bulgarian legislation were identified but the law has still not been changed.
• Conduction of training of 28 inspectors from the Regional Educational Inspectorates aiming at the effective organization and control over the work of the system of schools and kindergartens;
• Conduction of training of 28 inspectors from the State Agency for Child Protection aiming at the effective implementation of control over the observance of the criteria and standards for delivering social care services for mentally disabled children;
• Conduction of training of 100 people personnel from the specialized institutions for people with mental disabilities and social workers in the new methods of work – individual approach, introduction of individual plans, up-to-date communicational methods for work with people with mental disabilities as well as for work with future adoptive parents, biologic and foster families;
• Conduction of training of 30 people personnel from the specialized schools in the new methods of work – preparation of individual educational programs, assistance the education of integrated children, up-to-date communicational methods for work with children with mental disabilities;
• Conduction of training of 20 people with pedagogical education for resource teachers;

Public awareness campaign:
• Development of design for public campaign at municipal and national level aiming at change in the attitude of the society towards the people with mental disabilities;

Preparation of Grant scheme:
• Development of guidelines for grant applicants;
• Organization and conduction of the awareness campaign related to the grant scheme implementation.

(B) Delivering of alternative services for mentally disabled people.

Generally, activity B includes the provision of alternative social services on a community based approach. The financial support for the alternative services will be implemented through grant scheme instrument.

The Grant scheme will be available for non-profit organizations, municipal institutions, NGOs and other organizations demonstrating capacity to deal with the problems of mentally disabled people.

The grant amounts will be up to a maximum of 300,000 Euros.

Criteria for the eligible applicants and the guidelines will be elaborated by the TA together with the key partners under the project (described in item 4). Some of envisioned criteria will be provision of appropriate buildings, proved abilities for dealing with mentally disabled people, clear commitment and strong evidence for sustainability of the activities after the end of the project funding.

The promotional campaign of the Grant Scheme will be organized and carried out by the TA together with the PIU and project partners described in item 4.

A call of proposals will be opened for the potential applicants. An Evaluation Committee appointed by the MLSP (Contracting authority) will evaluate the submitted applications. The final decision will be made by the PSC.
The grant scheme will support activities eligible for financing and preliminary approved by the PSC. The Eligible activities under the scheme would be:

- **Establishment of at least 2 Day Care Centers for children** with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities. The successful applicants should provide appropriate premises to be converted into Day Care Centers. The main eligible costs for the establishment of these centers will be:
  - Refurbishment and renovation of the provided premises;
  - Delivering of appropriate equipment for services envisioned such as medical appliances, furniture, one mini bus;
  - Management of the Day Care Center;
  - Provision of the complex of services to the children with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities targeted to the creation of conditions for fully servicing of users during the day, related to satisfying their daily, educational, rehabilitational needs, as well as their needs for free time, personal contacts and social skills. The Centers will support the families of mentally disabled children to take care of them in family environment by consultations, training and etc. The Centers will also provide mobile services (social – pedagogical support to the families of mentally disabled children).

It is proposed that the total funds to be devoted for the establishment of the Day Care Centers for children will be 500 000 euro of the total grant scheme budget.

- **Establishment of at least 3 Day Care Centers for adults** with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities. The successful applicant should provide appropriate premises to be converted into Day Care Centers. The main eligible costs for the establishment of these centers will be:
  - Refurbishment and renovation of the provided premises;
  - Delivering of appropriate equipment for services envisioned such as medical appliances, furniture, one mini bus;
  - Management of the Day Care Center;
  - Provision of the complex of services to the people with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities targeted to the creation of conditions for fully servicing of users during the day, related to satisfying their daily and rehabilitational needs, as well as their needs for free time, personal contacts and social skills. The Centers will support the families of mentally disabled adults for improvement of family environment by consultations, training and etc.

It is proposed that the total funds to be devoted for the establishment of the Day Care Centers for adults will be 750 000 euro of the total grant scheme budget.

- **Adaptation of at least 2 Kindergartens** appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities. The main eligible costs for the establishment of these centers will be:
  - Appropriate reconstruction and renovation;
  - Training of teachers;
  - Awareness campaign among other children, their families and other representatives of local communities;
  - Preparation of some specific training programs, materials and hand-outs where they are needed;

It is proposed that the total funds to be devoted for the establishment of the Kindergarten will be 280000 euro of the total grant scheme budget.
• Adaptation of at least 2 Schools appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities. The main eligible costs for the establishment of these centers will be:
  o Appropriate reconstruction and renovation;
  o Training of teachers;
  o Awareness campaign among other children, their families and other representatives of local communities;
  o Preparation of some specific educational programs, materials and hand-outs where they are needed;
  o provision of resource teacher, training according to special individual curricula

It is proposed that the total funds to be devoted for the establishment of the schools will be 290 000 euro of the total grant scheme budget.

• Establishment of at least 2 Sheltered homes in two pilot municipalities, in which will be accommodated small groups of adults with mental disabilities, entered out of specialized institution. The mentally disabled people will live there an independent life with professional support of specialists (social workers from Social Assistance Departments, medical specialists and etc.). The successful applicant should provide appropriate premises to be converted into Shelter Homes. The main eligible costs for the establishment of these homes will be:
  o Refurbishment and renovation of the provided premises;
  o Delivering of appropriate equipment and furniture;
  o Provision of the services to the people with mental disabilities, which will assist them to create social skills for independent way of life.

It is proposed that the total funds to be devoted for the establishment of the Sheltered homes for adults with mental disabilities will be 400 000 euro of the total grant scheme budget.

• Provision of 5 grants (within the targeted municipalities) for campaigns raising the social awareness for people with mental disabilities including: changing societies’ attitude towards the people with mental disabilities, motivation of people to become a foster families, etc. The maximum grant size will be 10000 euro.

The proposed budget allocation is indicative and in the process of preparation of the Grant scheme documentation it could be further specified.

3.5 Lessons learned:
• As the project “Child Welfare Reform” under Phare 2000 is currently being implemented and evaluations have not been conducted, specific lessons and findings are not available. Nevertheless all findings drawn by the implementation of this project will be taken into account in the implementation of the current project;
• Grant scheme approach for delivering alternative social services through municipal or/and non-profit organizations and/or others was introduced during the implementation of the project “Child Welfare Reform”, financed jointly by the EU Phare program, the WB, JSDF, and national co-financing. Despite the fact that the scheme is still being implemented, at present, it is considered by the WB and the Bulgarian Government as highly appropriate mechanism for provision of alternative forms of social services.
4. Institutional Framework

The key parties under the project will be the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Health (MH), the Ministry of Education and Science, Agency for Social Assistance (ASA), State Agency for Child Protection (SACP), the pilot municipalities.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is the Implementing Agency (respectively contracting authority) of the project as it is mandated to be IA under PHARE Program in social and human resources development sector.

The MLSP will manage and administrate the project through the Program Authorizing Officer (PAO). The Directorate “Pre-accession Funds, International Programs and Projects” (DPFIPP) will be acting as administration of the IA / PAO.

The PAO

The PAO has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the programme is implemented fully in line with the Financing Memorandum and government policy in terms of sound administrative and financial management of the project, including tendering, contracting, disbursement, accounting, payment and reporting procedures and monitoring of the project.

MLSP - IA

The overall administrative and financial management is the responsibility of the MLSP. The latter include:

- Preparing and submission of procurement documentation based on inputs from the PIU, contracting and contracting procedures of works, supplies, goods and grants;
- Negotiations of contracts;
- Accounting, payments, and financial control for the contracts and grants;
- Overall monitoring and evaluation of the project activities;
- Preparation of quarterly and ad hoc reports on project status and fund management.

The PIU

The PIU will be in charge of the technical implementation and day-to-day administration of the project. The PIU under the project will be established at the MLSP jointly with experts from the MH, MES, ASA, SACP.

Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee will oversee the implementation of the project. It will provide strategic project direction and guidance to the key institutions involved in the project. The Project Steering Committee comprises representatives of MLSP, MH, MES, ASA, SACP, Ministry of Finance, the National Association of the Municipalities. The Deputy-Minister of Labour and Social Policy responsible for the social assistance sphere will chair the PSC.
5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment IB</td>
<td>Total Phare (=I+IB)</td>
<td>National Cofinancing</td>
<td>IFI*</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>400000</td>
<td>400000</td>
<td></td>
<td>400000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant scheme</td>
<td>1600000</td>
<td>1600000</td>
<td>670000</td>
<td>2270000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1600000</td>
<td>400000</td>
<td>2000000</td>
<td>670000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

The Implementing Agency (IA) is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy through the directorate “Pre-accession Funds, International Programs and Projects”.

The PAO will be:
Mr. Radoslav Bozadzhiev
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy
2 “Triaditsa” Str.,
Sofia 1051, Bulgaria
Phone: (+359 2) 933 24 59;
Fax: (+359 2) 986 13 18
E-mail: rbozadzhiev@mlsp.government.bg

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: Not applicable

6.3 Non-standard aspects: PRAG procedures will be followed in all contracting

6.4 Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CONTRACT</th>
<th>PROJECT ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Technical Assistance – 1 contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant scheme</td>
<td>Grant scheme for provision of alternative social services – estimated number of grants about 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 PPF completed by February 2004
7.2 Target regions defined – February 2004
7.3 Commencement of the project (organizational arrangements completed) – January 2004
7.4 Start of tendering for TA and service contract: first quarter of 2004
7.5 Start of call of proposals: first quarter of 2005
7.6 Start of project activities under the grant: third quarter of 2005
7.7 Project completion – July of 2007

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity is a fundamental principle of the project. Ensuring equal opportunity will be embodied in every sub-project and at every level of implementation.

9. Environment – N/A

10. Rates of return - N/A

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:

The project will encourage non-for-profit legal entities and NGOs to provide services for children and adults with mental disabilities and their families.

11.2 Co-financing:

The successful candidates in the grant scheme will be required to provide appropriate premises for the social centers establishment.

11.3 Additionality:

EU financing will be additional to that allocated to the national scheme through the Bulgarian national budget.

11.4 Project readiness and Size:

The project budget exceed the minimum of 2 MEURO required by Phare programme for the investments projects.

11.5 Sustainability:

The Government takes the commitment to develop alternative type of services base on community approach. All activities of the project will be sustained through the existing funding arrangements including the national budget, the municipalities’ budget in line with the Bulgarian legislation. Furthermore, all grants applicants will be required to provide strong evidence for sustainability of the services delivered.
As stated under item 3 of this document, a strategy for reformation of the care for children and adults with mental disabilities will be adopted (this should be done prior to project commencement).

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

The activities within the project will be implemented in accord with the Article 92(3)(a) of the Treaty of Rome with respect to regional aid in an Objective 1 Member States.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan – See item 2.4

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The PPF results need to be delivered before project commencement.

The selection of the pilot municipalities where the project will be implemented need to be done by MLSP together with its partners prior to project commencement.

Key milestones will be:

- Establishment of PSC and PIU - by December 2003;
- Selection of the pilot municipalities;
- Signing of the contract with the TA
- Calls for proposals and entry into the contracting phase under the grant scheme;
- Implementation of activities;
- Final Evaluation Report;
# Phare log frame

## LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT – Improvement of quality of life of people with mental disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall objective</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Encouraging of social integration of people with mental disabilities through community based service | • Increased number of people with mental disabilities who are benefited from the delivered alternative services;  
• 20 % decrease of people residents in the specialised institutions by the end of project activities;  
• 10 % growth of the children with mental disabilities who live in family environment;  
• at least 50 integrated children in kindergartens and integrated classes in schools; | • Reports from MLSP, MH, MES, ASA, SACP;  
• Ex-post survey. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project purpose</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Development and improvement of alternative medical, social and educational services for people with mental disabilities | • Increased number and variety of the new services for people with mental disabilities and their families developed and provided;  
• Better public opinion concerning the overall conditions of the people with mental disabilities in the regions covered by the project. | • Reports from MLSP, MH, MES, ASA, SACP;  
• Official reports from international institutions;  
• Social assessment |
### Results

#### Expected results from the TA

**Prepared legislative documents, instructions, programs and action plans:**
- Harmonized legislation in compliance with the best practices and standards of the EU;
- Developed and adopted by the Municipal Councils Municipal Action Plans for reformation of the system engaged with the problems of mental health in each of the pilot municipalities;
- Developed methodical instructions for diagnostication of children and adults with mental problems and assessment of their educational needs;
- Worked out programmes for complex rehabilitation and resocialization of children and adults with different stage of mental disease, in conformity with the opportunity for individualization;
- Elaborated individual educational programs for 50 children aiming integrated training;
- Elaborated model for specialized psychiatric and psychological support for mentally disabled children, placed in specialized institutions;

**Training activities:**
- Elaborated curricula for training of medical personnel, social workers and candidates for foster families;
- Conducted training of 240 people medical personnel, social workers, personnel from the specialized institutions and special schools, and resource teachers;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>number of legislation documents developed;</td>
<td>• PIU reports;</td>
<td>• Availability of suitable buildings to be converted into social centers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>developed and adopted 5 Municipal Action Plans;</td>
<td>• Reports from MLSP, MH, MES, ASA, SACP;</td>
<td>• People willing to use the benefits of the alternative services – families and people with mental disorders;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>developed methodical instructions for diagnostication of children and adults with mental problems and assessment of their educational needs;</td>
<td>• Ex-post survey.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 children and 5 programmes for complex rehabilitation and resocialization of adults;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual educational programs for 50 children aiming integrated training;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>model for specialized psychiatric and psychological support for mentally disabled children, placed in specialized institutions;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curricula for training of medical personnel and social workers;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curricula for training of families – candidates for foster families;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 professional foster families trained and supported;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240 people medical personnel, social workers, personnel from the specialized institutions and special schools, and resource teachers trained;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 inspectors from the ASA, the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Training and support to professional foster families, ready to look after mentally disabled child;
• Conducted training of 86 inspectors from the Agency for Social Assistance, the State Agency for Child Protection and the Regional Educational Inspectorates;

Public awareness campaign:
• Developed design of public campaign at municipal and national level aiming at change in the attitude of the society towards the people with mental disabilities;

Preparation of the Grant scheme:
• Guidelines for grant applicants;
• Conducted public campaign for the grant scheme;

(B) Delivering of alternative services for mentally disabled people.

About 20 grants between up to a maximum 300000 euro for providing alternative forms of social care services. The eligible grant projects will be related to services such as:

• Establishment of at least 2 Day Care Centers for children with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities;
• Establishment of at least 3 Day Care Centers for adults with chronic psycho disorders and mental disorders;
• 2 Day Care Centers for children with chronic psycho disorders and mental disabilities;
• 3 Day Care Centers for adults with chronic psycho disorders and mental
- Establishment of 2 **Sheltered homes** in two pilot municipalities, in which will be accommodated small groups of **adults** with mental disabilities, entered out of specialized institution;
- At least 2 **Kindergartens** adapted to be appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities;
- At least 2 **Schools** adapted to be appropriate for integration of children with mental disabilities;
- Provision of campaign raising the social awareness for people with mental disabilities including: changing societies' attitude towards the people with mental disabilities, motivation of people to become a foster families, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) TA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Procedure for TA selection;</td>
<td>• Service contracts;</td>
<td>• Eligible organizations willing to participate in the grant scheme;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contracting with the successful candidate;</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Eligible organizations willing to apply for the service contract under the project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Execution of TA contract.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Delivering of alternative services for mentally disabled people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Preparatory work for call of proposals for grants providing alternative services;</td>
<td>Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execution of the grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preconditions**
- Phare financing
## Appendix 2

Implementation Chart – **Improvement of quality of life of people with mental disabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification of the pilot regions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational PIU</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational PSC</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedures for TA selection and contracting</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call of proposals for grants providing alternative social services</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants execution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENTS SCHEDULES – Improvement of quality of life of people with mental disabilities

Figures in MEURO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>31/03/04</th>
<th>30/06/04</th>
<th>30/09/04</th>
<th>31/12/04</th>
<th>31/03/05</th>
<th>30/06/05</th>
<th>30/09/05</th>
<th>31/12/05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracted</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursed</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.188</td>
<td>1.308</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>31/03/06</th>
<th>30/06/06</th>
<th>30/09/06</th>
<th>31/12/06</th>
<th>31/03/07</th>
<th>30/06/2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursed</td>
<td>2.216</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 4

Institutional capacity

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) is mandated to act as Phare Human Resources Development Implementing Agency as of January 2003. This is stipulated for the first time in the Council of Regional Development Decision, adopted on 12/11/2000 and most recently confirmed in the Council of Ministers Decision ? 607 adopted on 05/09/2002 concerning a “Conception for Extended Decentralized Implementing System for Phare and ISPA Programs”.

In April 2001, the Council of Ministers amended the MLSP Code of Practice and created formally the Directorate “Pre-accession Funds and International Programs and Projects” (DPFIPP). As determined by the MLSP’s Code of Practice, the DPFIPP main functions include: organization, coordination and management of programs and projects financed by EU pre-accession funds.

The DPFIPP will act as Phare IA based on the capacity built under SMAEP’99 Phare project as well as on the experience of Phare projects from 2000 to 2002. In the period concerned the DPFIPP has grown in experience, knowledge and skills for implementing EU pre-accession funds assistance.

Currently the DPFIPP comprises of 35 people at national level. There are 10 civil servants and 25 people on civil contracts. In this respect the latest amendment of MLSP Code of Practice from 12/11/2002 stipulates that the staff of the DPFIPP increases from 10 civil servants up to 25. Thus the MLSP will take the opportunity to maintain the human capacity from the SMAEP IA and other projects on a sustainable base as it will appoint the core staff as civil servants within the structure of the DPFIPP. The majority of the staff has around 2-3 years of experience and have attended general and specialized training courses on EU pre-accession and structural funds management according to specially developed and implemented Human Resources Development Strategy.

Furthermore DPFIPP have other 24 people working in the regional structures of the two projects – SMAEP’99 and Vocational Training’00. The people from these regional structures and the whole regional experience will be used in the management and implementation of the future projects. It is envisioned those people to be offered by the Employment Agency to be attached to the Labor Offices and Regional Employment Services which are the EA’s local structures and will be used in the technical implementation of the project.

On the other hand DPFIPP has developed and applied different kind of manuals and procedures for programming coordination, transparency and publicity, clients and partners’ complaints, procedures for reporting, rules for work with the TA, procedures for financial management, procedures for procurement, for contracting and contract amendments, Steering Committees convening, system for monitoring, job descriptions, strategy for human resources development within the directorate. All these documents are part of an Internal Procedures Manual.

All above-mentioned is a part of a grown institutional capacity and confidence within the MLSP and DPFIPP which was confirmed in the KPMG’s final report for “Verifying Phare IA’s Capacities for Managing Grant Schemes Projects” from September 2002. The reports
states that “in view of the IA’s track record of similar programs and its experience in managing grant schemes, the Auditor would recommend to the EC Delegation the undertaking of the necessary steps for ‘accrediting’ the MLSP’s IA and waiving the ‘ex-ante’ control, which should however be postponed until implementation of the actions recommended to comply with the minimum criteria, stipulated in Art 12.2 of the EC Regulation 1266/99”.
Annex 5

GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM 2001-2005

Social Assistance and Social services

Objectives
• Stimulating of the alternative forms of social care – from care in the institutions towards community-based and non-institutional care;
• Improvement of the quality of life and social integration;
• Preparing people with disabilities for independent way of life and respectively their inclusion in the society;
• Provision of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in their inclusion in the economic and social processes and ensuring of their individual choice;
• Improvement of the child welfare through development of alternative services for child protection and provision of support to their families;
• Elaboration of mechanism for delivering of social services through active involvement of NGOs;
• Increasing of the competitiveness of the supplied social services;
• Prevention against social isolation and discrimination of the disadvantaged groups;
• Improvement of the social infrastructure in order to meet the required quality of the supplied social services;
• Establishment of Day Care Centers, Rehabilitation Centers, Consulting Centers substituting the current institutions;
• Equal spatial and profile distribution of the different social centers.

Long-run measures
• Implementation of the National strategy for equal chances for the people with disabilities
• Establishment of Day Care Centers in one third of municipalities
• Decreasing number of people in institutions
• Implementation of the Municipal strategies for development of services for children and their families;
• Implementation of the adopted program for improvement of the existing social infrastructure

Health for everybody

Improvement of the mental health of the people

Objectives
• Introduction of modern principles of prevention and medical treatment of the mental diseases;
• Humanization and sociologization of the psychiatry

Long-run measures
Establishment of 10 modern centers such as Day hospitals for servicing people with chronic mental disabilities and reactive mental disorders.