1 BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 CRIS Number: HR2006/018-113/2/1
1.2 Title: Roma Support Project – Phase II
1.3 Sector: 15150
1.4 Location: Croatia
1.5 Duration: 36 months

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Overall Objective(s)

To enhance and facilitate active and full participation of the Roma national minority in the economic, cultural and social life of Croatian society, while preserving their own identity, culture and tradition.

2.2 Project Purpose

To improve environmental and general living conditions in three Roma settlements in Međimurje County.

2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPIEU Priority

Introduction
Following recent national accomplishments related to the implementation of the Copenhagen criteria and the political conditions set by the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), the European Commission (EC) gave a positive Avis on the Croatian candidacy for EU membership on 20 April 2004. The Avis provides a detailed overview and assessment of Croatia’s ability to meet the political and the economic membership criteria, as well as Croatia’s ability to adopt and implement the acquis communautaire. The European Council’s Decision of 18 June 2004 granted the Republic of Croatia the status of a candidate country for membership in the European Union and in its Decision of 17 December 2004 the European Council set a date for the opening of negotiations on membership. On October 3rd 2005 Croatia started the negotiating process with EU.

The Accession Partnership

Accession Partnership updates European Partnership in order to identify renewed priorities for further work, on the basis of the findings of 2005 Progress Report on Croatia’s preparations for further integration with the European Union. In Accession Partnership (AP) short-term priorities are expected to be accomplished within one to two years, and medium-term priorities are expected to be accomplished within three to four years. The medium-term priorities in relation to human rights and protection of minorities are exclusively dedicated to the Roma national minority, as follows (Paragraphs 3.2 of the AP):

“Ensure continued respect for minority rights. Continue improving the situation of the Roma through strengthened implementation of the relevant strategy, including the
provision of the necessary financial support at national and local levels, antidiscrimination measures aimed at fostering employment opportunities, increasing access to education and improving housing conditions.

The National Programme for the Integration into the European Union

The 2006 National Programme for the Integration of the Republic of Croatia into the European Union (NPIEU) is the fourth annual plan that the government has made. It demonstrates its commitment to the EP to accomplish the short and medium term priorities in relation to human rights and minorities quoted above. Reference is made in paragraph 1.3.2 to the Avis and the EP that the integration of (Serbian and) Roma national minority deserve special attention.

In relation to the Roma national minority, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a National Programme for the Roma in 2003. In 2004 a Commission was set up to monitor its implementation, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and including 8 representatives of the Roma. The National Programme is designed to systematically assist the Roma with a series of short-term, mid-term and long-term measures designed to improve their living conditions and ensure their equality with other citizens of Croatia.

In line with the National Programme for the Roma, the Office for National Minorities carries out seminars to train the young Roma to participate in the decision-making process, to exercise their rights, to get acquainted with the rights originating from the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards, to attain their higher participation in social life and to acquaint the Roma with their culture, customs and language. Seven seminars to train the young Roma were organized till now.

With a view to implementing the National Programme for the Roma, the Office for National Minorities finances the Roma associations, which take active part in the protection and promotion of the rights of the Roma and their complete integration.

Funds for the implementation of the National Programme for the Roma have been increased in the State Budget of the Republic Croatia for 2006. HRK 11,880,670.00 has been allocated, which is an increase of 430 % over the previous year.

The Republic of Croatia has also acceded to the Decade for the Roma launched by the World Bank and the Open Society Institute. An Action Plan for the Roma for the period 2005-2015 was adopted in February 2005. Within the framework of the Decade for the Roma, measures in the fields of education, employment, healthcare and housing have been determined.

2.4 Coherence with National Development Plan

Not applicable

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1 For further details see section 3.1 below
2.5 Cross Border Impact

Not applicable

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Background and Justification

Problem statement
Roma have been contributing to European culture and values just as other European people, but despite this asset, they have been experiencing widespread discrimination in all areas of life. To improve the living conditions of the Roma communities, new strategies need to be developed in order to ensure that they have equality of opportunities in areas such as civic and political participation, as well as developmental sectors, such as housing, education, employment and health.

In Croatia, the Roma are a national minority which, according to the 2001 census, make up 0.21% (or 9,463 persons) of the population. However, according to estimates, a significantly larger number of Roma live in Croatia, perhaps as many as 30,000 to 40,000. The reason for this difference is that Roma tend to declare themselves as members of some other nationality or the majority group, or do not register at all. Due to their generally poor education and non-inclusion in formal forms of work, their specific way of life and other characteristics, the Roma are marginalised economically, spatially and socially, not integrated into Croatian society and suffer discrimination in all fields of public life.

National minorities in Croatia

Croatia has ratified the relevant United Nations’ instruments for human rights protection, such as the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and has concluded bilateral agreements on protection of national minorities with Hungary, Italy, and Serbia and Montenegro.

Furthermore, Croatia has ratified all the conventions of the Council of Europe addressing human rights and the rights of minorities. In addition it has put in place a number of relevant legislative provisions (such as The Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, The Act on Education and Training in the Language and Script of National minorities) as well as specific measures to guarantee the respect of those rights.

The Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities (CLNM) – referred to in the short-term priorities of the EP – sets the domestic legal framework for minority rights in Croatia. National minorities are guaranteed the right of having up to eight representatives in the Parliament, and to be reserved seats on a proportional basis at local government level. The census and any recent electoral registers are used to calculate this allocation.

Additionally, the CLNM establishes Councils of National Minorities at local, regional and state level. They are consultative bodies that provide opinions and proposals on relevant minority issues. The Councils are intended to improve contacts between

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2 See Annex 5 for a comprehensive overview of relevant laws and regulations
minority groups and government agencies at all levels, and at local level are funded by municipality or county budgets.

The role of the Council of National Minorities at the national level includes making proposals and giving opinions to the bodies of state government, and the allocation of funds for cultural initiatives of minority associations, which allows for a first concrete participation of minorities in the decision-making process. Members of the Council are appointed by government for a period of five years. The Council has one president and two vice presidents. The Government is expected to work closely with the National Council of National Minorities in implementing the CLNM.

At central Government level, the Government Office for National Minorities is the body responsible for the implementation of the Constitutional Law and for supporting the adoption of legislation regulating minority concerns. The Office performs a range of duties including the analysis of international conventions regulating minority rights, monitoring the situation of minorities in Croatia, and promoting the implementation of new policies and programmes.

Another central element in the CLNM structure are the advisory Councils of National Minorities at the local level. The members of the Councils are elected every four years by the minority population; different minority groups elect the members of different Councils. During the last elections for local Councils of National Minorities, held on 15 February 2004, the turnout was around 8 per cent of the total minority population. Up to now, 262 councils have been officially established. Technical assistance is in the process of being procured to improve the capacity of established National Minority Councils (in Areas of Special State Concern) to effectively implement their mandate, and actively contribute to the integrated development of the local communities that the minority groups they represent are part to.

**Government Sector Strategy**

*a) The National Programme for the Roma*

In 1999 the GoC initiated drafting a programme with the intention to address and resolve these problems of the Roma in a systematic manner, with a view to improving their living conditions as fast as possible and to ensure the social inclusion of the Roma while preserving their tradition and culture. The programme was prepared over a four year time span and included intensive consultation with the Councils of the Roma national minority, representatives of Roma associations, Members of Parliament representing national minorities, local and regional self-government, human rights associations, and relevant ministries and state bodies. The draft was shared with representatives of the Roma during four topical seminars and was publicly discussed, especially with the competent bodies of the counties where the Roma live. The resultant “The National Programme for the Roma” (NPR) was adopted by the Government of Croatia (GoC) in October 2003.


In parallel with the implementation of the measures proposed in the NPR, the Republic of Croatia declared that it was prepared to join several other European

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3 Draft Terms of Reference, Support to Councils of National Minorities in Areas of Special State Concern (CARDS National Action Programme 2003 Croatia) – May 2005
countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro) and participate in the Roma Decade 2005-2015 that had been initiated by the World Bank and the Open Society Institute. The Government Office for National Minorities (GOfNM), in co-operation with relevant line ministries, Roma associations and other stakeholders prepared an *Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015* that was adopted by the GoC and published in March 2005. The Action Plan further details the NPR in four areas: education, health care, employment and housing/infrastructure. Each year, the ministries and other relevant government bodies responsible for the execution of particular tasks, determine which measures will be implemented the following year and submit their proposals to the Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Programme for Roma.

**Assistance provided to the Roma national minority**

The GOfNM started allocating funds for reconstruction and improvement of Roma settlements from 1998 onwards. In cooperation with the local authorities several improvements were made (such as providing electricity in some areas, repair power supplies, water supplies) but these were not on a structural and comprehensive scale⁴.

As indicated above, the willingness of the Croatian government to improve the Roma situation in Croatia has noticeably increased over the past years – as shown with the approval of relevant laws and legal instruments, the installation of minority councils, publication and adoption of the NPR and the Decade Action Plan. Another example of this progression is the fact that in Međimurje County (that has the greatest concentration of Roma in Croatia, about 6,000 or 5% of the total county population) the local authorities have recently initiated the full legalisation of all illegal Roma settlements, opening the door for structural improvement of the living conditions in these settlements.

**Project rationale**

The project specifically targets infrastructure improvements in three Roma settlements (Pribislavec (municipality of Pribislavec), Lončarevo (municipality of Podturen) and Piškorovec (municipality of Mala Subotica) in the Međimurje County. The infrastructure works will be carried in three Roma settlements in order to improve the living conditions of the local population there. Particularly, the project will provide assistance to develop proper water and waste water system, electricity networks and roads. The relevant Detailed Urban Plan (DPU) and the Technical Specifications are currently being under elaboration by the Međimurje County.

### 3.2 Sector rationale

The overall objective of the Government Sector Strategy (GSS) in relation to the Roma national minority is “To enhance and facilitate active and full participation of the Roma national minority in the economic, educational, cultural and social life of Croatian society, while preserving their own identity, culture and tradition”. The NPR and the Decade Action Plan propose detailed measures (particularly in the fields of education, health care, employment and housing/infrastructure) that, if implemented together and comprehensively, should lead to achieving the overall objective.

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⁴ See section 3.5 below for further details
The presently proposed project is perceived as a partial implementation of the GSS and is directed at improvement of Roma settlement infrastructure in Međimurje County that has legalised Roma settlements in Pribislavec, Podturen (settlement Lončarevo) and Mala Subotica (settlement Piškorovec). This positive example motivated the other Counties with Roma settlements in their jurisdiction to follow suit in the coming years. County of Rijeka and County of Slavonski Brod started the Project for the legalisation and improvement of Roma settlements, Rijeka has 3 and Slavonski Brod 2 Roma settlements.

Additional projects need to be developed and implemented in subsequent years. It is planned to develop and propose for funding subsequent projects in the area of education, employment and health in 2007. In future it is planned to continue infrastructure upgrading in the following settlements: Domašinec, Goričan, Kotoriba, Orebić, Krušanj and Mursko Središće. The aim is to improve the infrastructure and housing in all Roma settlements in the country, assuming that other Counties will follow this example of Međimurje County.

This current project will be implemented in Pribislavec (municipality of Pribislavec), Lončarevo (municipality of Podturen) and Piškorovec (municipality of Mala Subotica) with 2006 PHARE grant 2.5 MEUR and national co-funding: 1.7 MEUR.

3.2.1 Identification of project

Both the NPR and the Decade Action Plan are in line with the AP’s medium-term priorities as described in section 2.3 above. The presently proposed project contributes to addressing several of the priorities identified in the NPR and the Decade Action Plan, and conforms to the AP’s medium-term priorities.

In particular, reference is made here to measures proposed in the NPR related to “Town and Country Planning” (Chapter XIII); and to a number of goals and activities in the fields of housing/infrastructure (pp 48-60) that are defined in the Roma Decade Action Plan.

The project will be implemented in three Roma settlements (Pribislavec, Lončarevo and Piškorovec) in the Međimurje County. This is perceived to contribute to improving the living conditions of the Roma national minority in Croatia, ultimately enabling their active and full participation in the economic, educational, cultural and social life of Croatian society, while preserving their own identity, culture and tradition.

The infrastructure improvement has been developed as a result of Međimurje County’s decision to initiate and complete legalisation of all Roma settlements within its jurisdiction. It is the first county in Croatia that has taken this step and it is hoped that, by improving the Roma settlements, other counties will follow this example of legalisation.

The infrastructure improvement component has been developed in close consultation with the Međimurje County Prefect’s Office, the city and municipality officials where the Roma settlements are located and with members of the Roma community residing in these settlements. In view of this participatory process it is expected that, in addition to improving the general conditions and living standards of the Roma
communities concerned, cooperation and understanding between Roma communities and their local governments will be enhanced. The project is briefly described below.

*Improvement of infrastructure in three Roma settlements in Međimurje County.*

Infrastructure improvement in Roma settlements aims at improving environmental and general living conditions through the construction of roads, culverts, supply of water and electricity, sewerage and other facilities and services. Infrastructure improvement is, however, not only conceived as physical improvement of settlements, but also as an opportunity and mechanism that aims at building or strengthening partnerships between the local authorities and Roma communities, working side by side to achieve a better or improved living environment with adequate facilities. The preparation of detailed plans for improvement was prepared with full involvement of the Roma communities in the planning and decision making process. Members of the Roma community will also be involved in the local monitoring and coordination of activities as well as contribute to the execution of the works. This process is perceived as a first step on the way to empowerment of Roma communities and, ultimately, to their full participation in Croatia’s civil society at all levels. In cooperation with Croatian Employment Services, Roma community will be strongly involved in the improvement of infrastructure by participating in constructions and in works related to the improvement of the environment.

The improvement of the settlements will be undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act as well as the Local and Regional Self-Government Act. This includes drawing-up, adoption and implementation of documents on environmental planning and the improvement of the site and comes under the authority of the units of local self-government. Attached is analysis of Roma settlements from a demographic and social point of view.

The detailed urban plans (Detaljni Plan Uređenja, DPU) have been developed. The legalisation (zoning plan, landownership, construction permits, house registration papers, etc) of the settlements is in preparatory process.

It is planned to involve the representative of Roma community in monitoring and coordination activities. The selected Contractor will be required to develop cooperation with these representatives and involve them in coordination and monitoring activities.

### 3.2.2 Sequencing

In relation to the infrastructure the DPU and cost estimates are completed and detailed designs, Bill of Quantities, Technical Specification are in preparatory process for these settlements.
3.3 Results

3.3.1 Improvement of infrastructure in three Roma settlements in Međimurje County

3.3.1.1 Purpose

To improve environmental and general living conditions in three Roma settlements in Međimurje County.

3.3.1.2 Results

1. Infrastructure improved in three Roma settlements in Međimurje County, contributing to better environmental and living conditions.

2. As a result of the participatory process of infrastructure development and execution, improved cooperation and understanding between municipal authorities and Roma communities in 3 municipalities of Međimurje County will be achieved. Strengthening the awareness of Roma people of the importance of work and contribution to the community.

3.4 Activities

Infrastructure improvement in 3 Roma settlements in Međimurje County

1) Legalisation process of each Roma settlement completed and properly documented.

2) Establish a working group consisting of Roma representatives and local authorities in/for each settlement;

3) Undertake joint assessment of and reach agreement on specific infrastructure requirements in each settlement, in conformity with prevailing standards and technical specifications;

4) Prepare detailed urban plan (DPU)

5) Prepare detailed designs, Bill of Quantities and Technical Specifications for all infrastructure works (water supply, sewerage, roads, electricity, etc);

6) Identify and agree on a joint supervision system for the improvement and construction activities

-----At the present time the above activities are done by the GoC to support this project-----

7) In each Roma settlement, make a list of skilled and unskilled labour available for participating in, contributing to construction and improvement activities

8) In year 1, undertake the tendering and contracting procedure in accordance with EU guidelines for works contracts for a total amount of Euro 3,571,429 for implementation and completion of all infrastructure works for Pribislavec, Lončarevo and Piškorovec in Međimurje County.

9) In year 2, undertake construction works in accordance with the plan, the Bills of Quantities and the Contracts. Undertake the supervision of the works. In cooperation with the representatives of the local communities provide monitoring of the activities and the results reached.

10) In year 3, accomplish all scheduled works and process the final payments.

The infrastructure improvement component will be undertaken in accordance with the EU rules for the works contracts. The County Office will be the “Employer” and provide the “Engineer” required for supervising the construction works. The assets
will be owned by the Municipality or City where the Roma settlements are located. Operation and maintenance will be part of the regular government services while services received will be paid for by the Roma community.

3.5 Linked Activities

**EU-PHARE** – Phare 2005 Project “Active Employment Measures for Groups Threatened by Social Exclusion”

The purpose of the Project is to promote economic and social cohesion by increasing the employability and to carry out active labour market measures for the most vulnerable groups in Croatian Society, among them Roma.

Phare 2005 - “Roma Support Project”

The project contains two components: (i) the infrastructure improvement in Nedelišce municipality (Trnovec - Parag 1 and Parag 2), and (ii) the education component in order to increase the participation of the Roma nationality in the formal education system. In 2005 and 2006 lengthy discussion took place involving all stakeholders regarding the preparation of the necessary technical and legal documentation. It is expected to commence the planned activities in 2007 after completion of the tender procedures.

**EU CARDS – none**

**EIDHR 2001**

Ongoing project implemented by the Croatian Law Centre that provides legal support to the Roma

**Government of Croatia**

In order to help improve living conditions of the Roma national minority and create preconditions for systematic exercise of their rights, between 1998 and 2005 the Government of the Republic of Croatia through the GOfNM allocated funds for reconstruction of Roma settlements. The Government tried to implement this goal in cooperation with local government units and counties. The following counties may be mentioned as examples:

- Koprivnica-Križevci County (HRK 250,000 for low-voltage electrical power line in the Roma settlement near Drnje, the County contributed the same amount)
- Sisak-Moslavina County (HRK 310,000 for reconstruction of the Roma settlement in Capraška Poljana and for the repairs of the power and water grid)
- Međimurje-County (the Office remitted HRK 875,700 for completion of the renovation of Roma settlements, municipal infrastructure, road infrastructure and the Roma Cultural Centre in Čakovec)
- Donja Dubrava (HRK 1,210,00 for creation of conditions of the housing integration of the Roma in the local community. This area was flooded and in need for urgent solution of housing for Roma families with children the funds were allocated from the State Budget for the County of Međimurje and surrounding area)
- Bjelovar-Bilogora County (HRK 170,000 were remitted to the municipality Grubišno polje district for the construction of the water-supply grid in the Roma settlement of Stalovica)
- Osječko-Baranjska County, City of Belišće (HRK 50,000 for construction of the road and renovation Roma Cultural Centre in Bistrinci)
- County Brodsko-Posavska (HRK 50,000 for the Roma settlements in Slavonski Brod)
- County of Varaždin (HRK 120,000 for the renovation of Roma settlement in Petrijanec)

Another example is that of Međimurje County that has initiated legalisation of all Roma settlements, thus providing an incentive for other counties to do the same.

The OGoNM encouraged the City of Zagreb to establish more intensive cooperation in order to solve the problems of the Roma national minority. The OGoNM remitted HRK 1,000,000 to the City of Zagreb for the construction of the Roma Cultural Centre. The City of Zagreb has determined the location of the future Centre, but the county programmes for the improvement of the life of Roma (envisioned by the National Programme for Roma) have not yet been drafted.

Other Donors
Apart from small and incidental donations from a variety of sources (both private and institutional) of interest to the present project is the “Roma Education Pilot Project” in Baranja and Karlovac Counties that is being implemented with support of the Open Society Institute (OSI) Croatia. This project started in Međimurje County. The 3 year programme started in 2004 and will continue through 2006. It covers support to pre-schools (including teacher salaries, meals, transport), community education activities, (building of community centres), teacher training and an after-school tutoring programme. Ministry of Science, Education and Sport is preparing project for scholarships for secondary and higher education. This would help with the improvement of the education as well as their interest for the education and employment.

3.6 Lessons Learned

As indicated above, Roma settlements in Croatia are basically illegal. Little experience has therefore been gained with undertaking comprehensive infrastructure upgrading works in these settlements, also due to the fact that settlements need to be legalised first before any major interventions can be undertaken in this respect. The decision of Međimurje County to legalise the settlements is the first opportunity in Croatia to gain experience on a more comprehensive scale and it is expected that other counties may follow this example as soon as (positive) results become visible. The settlements Parag 1 and Parag 2 (Municipality of Nedelišće - Pilot project, Phare 2005) are good example for the settlements Pribislavec, Lončarevo and Piškorovec, because those 2 settlements have their DPU (detailed urban plan) and all necessary documents.
4 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4.1. Introduction

The implementation of the “National Programme for Roma” is monitored by a Commission that is presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister and composed of representatives of ministries, government offices, state institutes, 7 representatives from local and regional level Roma Councils, and others (see p. 72 of the National Programme for Roma). The GOfNM provides professional and administrative tasks and acts as the secretariat for the Commission. The Commission reports annually to the GoC.

Monitoring of the Roma Decade Action Plan 2005 – 2015 is entrusted to a Working Group, headed by the GOfNM and includes representatives of ministries, the Croatian Employment Service and four representatives from Roma councils and NGOs (see p. 61 of the Roma Inclusion Action Plan 2005 -2015). The GOfNM provides professional and administrative support and acts as the secretariat for the Working Group.

4.2. Implementation capacity of the beneficiary

Due to the limited implementation capacity the original proposal has been reduced to the current one and this took place after several meetings with stakeholders involved.

4.3. Implementation Structure

This project is now limited on the infrastructural component that includes 3 settlements in the Međimurje County: (Pribislavec (municipality of Pribislavec), Lončarevo (municipality of Podturen) and Piškorovec (municipality of Mala Subotica). The education part was dropped as the education part of PHARE 2005 did not yet start.

For this project, the Working Group (under the leadership of the GOfNM) established for the purpose of monitoring the Roma Decade Action Plan is deemed the most appropriate body for monitoring and advising on the implementation of the proposed activities. It includes representatives from the Ministries and institutions that are relevant to the implementation of this particular project, including the following:

• The Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction;
• The Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development; and
• Representatives from Roma Councils and NGOs

The GOfNM will act as implementing authority and be responsible for coordination and monitoring of the currently proposed project. More in particular, its tasks will be to:

• Provide technical advisory expertise – if and when required – for the implementation of the project;
• Direct, facilitate and stimulate participation of lower level institutions in the implementation of the project;
• Ensure proper co-ordination of project components;
• Ensure commitment of the GoC to (the implementation of) the project;
• Regularly monitor progress.
• Organise Working Group/Project Steering Committee meetings every 6 months to discuss the project, or more frequent if the situation so demands.

The GoFM needs to be further strengthened in terms of human resources in order to undertake and successfully complete these tasks. The day-to-day management of the project will be the responsibility of the EU Cooperation Officer of the GoFM who reports directly to the Head of Office. The EU Cooperation Officer will, however, require further training to adequately discharge her tasks and duties.

The CFCU is planned to act as the Contracting Authority for this project. Specifically it will be responsible for:
• Tendering and contracting activities in line with the EC PRAG requirements;
• Publishing and updating the relevant information on the relevant website;
• Establishing the Evaluation Committee in accordance with the EC PRAG;
• Reviewing and approving all relevant documents including the Tender Dossier, the Contracts Dossier, the Evaluation Reports, and the Contractors’ Reports.

At the Medimurje County level the County Governor’s Office is responsible for providing monthly progress reports to the GoFM while municipalities within the county where the Roma settlements are located are required to provide monthly progress reports to the County Governor’s Office.

Each Roma settlement in the project area will appoint a project coordinator/contact person who will be responsible for the following:
• To cooperate with the local authorities and other project officials
• To provide support and facilitate project implementation and organise (availability of) labour from amongst the Roma communities benefiting from the project.

4.4. Overlap with CARDS/PHARE projects

There is no overlap
Diagram 1: IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

NATIONAL LEVEL

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development

WORKING GROUP
Roma Decade Action Plan

STEERING COMMITTEE
Roma Support Project
Government Office for National Minorities

Ministry of Finance
CFCU
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
Delegation of the European Commission

COUNTY LEVEL

Međimurje County Representative
(Infrastructure Component)

MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Međimurje County 3 Municipalities
(Infrastructure Component)

ROMA SETTLEMENTS

Roma representative
Roma settlements in Međimurje County
## 5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Public Funds</td>
<td>Other Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 – Investment support jointly co funded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2006</td>
<td>2.500.000</td>
<td>1.071.429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment support – sub-total</td>
<td>2.500.000</td>
<td>1.071.429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total public funds</td>
<td>max 70 %</td>
<td>min 30 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 6. Implementation Arrangements.

### 6.1. Implementing Agency

Implementing Agency  
Ministry of Finance  
Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU)

Programme Authorising Officer  
Mrs Vladimir Ivandić  
Assistant Minister  
Central Finance and Contracting Unit  
Ministry of Finance  
Katančićeva 5  
10000 Zagreb  
Tel: +385 1 4591 – 245  
Fax: +385 1 4591 – 075  
E-mail: cfcu@mfin.hr  
Croatia

Senior Programme Officer  
Government Office for National Minorities  
Ms Milena Klajner, Head of Office  
Mesnička 23
6.2. Twinning

Not applicable

6.3. Non-standard Aspects

All aspects of project procurement and implementation will be carried out in full compliance with the competitive tender/contract procedures outlined in the EC PRAG.

6.4. Contracts

- Contract 1 for a maximum of €3,571,429: Infrastructure activities in 3 settlements – Pribislavec, Lončarevo and Piškorovec (works contract).

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Start of Tendering</th>
<th>Start of Activity</th>
<th>Completion of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Roma national minority has always been disadvantaged and this project attempts to improve their opportunities and thus contribute to bringing these at equal level with opportunities that exist for all Croatian citizens. This relates in particular to improving their living conditions, and reducing the drop out rate substantially.

In addition, and based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

9. ENVIRONMENT

Positive impact on the environment and environmental health will be achieved by implementing the infrastructure activities in the 3 Roma settlements in Međimurje County. At the present time, no garbage collection and sewerage systems exist in these localities while other municipal services (such as electricity and water supply) are also unavailable.
10. **Rates of Return**

The investment component of this project concerns improvement of small infrastructure works (community roads, drainage, culverts, sewerage, water supply, and other) in Roma settlements and is intended to improve their living environment.

11. **Investment Criteria**

11.1. **Catalytic Effects**

Improvement of the living conditions of the Roma national minority (and other minorities in the country) is a priority accession driven action and requires investments that are currently beyond the financial capacity of the GoC.

11.2. **Co-financing**

Co-financing of the execution of the proposed project will be done by the Government Office for National Minorities and Međimurje County Office from their government budgets.

11.3. **Additionality**

Not applicable

11.4. **Project Readiness and Size**

The Project procurement documentation will be prepared by March 2006.

11.5. **Sustainability**

Operation and maintenance (O&M) of completed infrastructure works will become part of the regular O&M budget of the (local) government. In addition, beneficiaries will pay for services provided, such as water supply, electricity, garbage collection.

11.6. **Compliance with State Aids Provisions**

Not applicable

12. **Conditionality and Sequencing**

There are several preconditions attached:

- Full support ensured from the local communities to the planned infrastructure works;
- The Work Group for project coordination established and fully operational under the lead of the GofNM (meat at least 3 times in 2006).

**Annexes to the Project Fiche**

Annex 1 – Logical Framework Matrix
Annex 2 – Detailed Implementation Chart
Annex 3 – Contracting and Disbursement Schedule
Annex 4 – Reference to Feasibility/Pre-feasibility Studies
Annex 5 – List of Relevant Laws and Regulations
Annex 6 – Reference to Relevant Government Strategic Plans and Studies
Annex 7 – List of settlements in Međimurje County
## ANNEX 1: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

### ROMA SUPPORT PROJECT

**Programme name and number**  
**PHARE 2006**  
**HR2006/018-113/2/1**

**Governmental Office for National Minorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total budget: 3,571,429€</td>
<td>PHARE budget: 2,500,000€</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Overall objective

**To enhance and facilitate active and full participation of the Roma national minority in the economic, educational, cultural and social life of Croatian society, while preserving their own identity, culture and tradition.**

**Objectively Verifiable Indicators**

- Increased integration and acceptance of Roma in local municipalities
- Improved living conditions for the Roma population in 3 settlements in Međimurje County

**Sources of Verification**

- Annual Reports of the Government Office for National Minorities

#### Project purpose

**To improve environmental and general living conditions in 3 Roma settlements in Međimurje County.**

**Objectively Verifiable Indicators**

- Access to and utilisation of new or improved utilities/roads by Roma communities in 3 settlements in Međimurje County

**Sources of Verification**

- Annual Reports of the Government Office for National Minorities
- Project progress reports and final project report
- Project Mid Term and Final Evaluation Reports

**Assumptions**

- The spatial and housing programme ongoing and sufficient funds allocated
- Further strategic efforts/complementary projects are undertaken in compliance with the Roma Decade Action Plan 2005-2015
- Application of targeted active labour
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Infrastructure improved in 3 Roma settlements in Međimurje County, contributing to better environmental and living conditions</td>
<td>- Number and type of works completed, functioning and accessible/affordable to Roma communities</td>
<td>- Annual Reports of the Government Office for National Minorities</td>
<td>- Works executed to design, standard and certified by government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cooperation between government authorities and 3 Roma communities continuing beyond project life</td>
<td>- Project progress reports and final project report</td>
<td>- Roma communities willing to contribute labour and cooperate with contractors and authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. As a result of the participatory process of infrastructure development and execution, improved cooperation and understanding between municipal authorities and Roma communities in 3 municipalities of Međimurje County will be achieved</td>
<td>- Cooperation between government authorities and 3 Roma communities continuing beyond project life</td>
<td>- Project Mid Term and Final Evaluation Reports</td>
<td>- Roma population actively involved in all activities, particularly in the construction works.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) In each Roma settlement, make a list of skilled and unskilled labour available for participating in, contributing to construction and improvement activities</td>
<td>1 Contract: Construction works</td>
<td>- Competent company/experts engaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) In year 1, undertake the tendering and contracting procedure in accordance with EU guidelines for works contracts for a total amount of Euro 3,571,429 for implementation and completion of all infrastructure works for Pribislavec, Lončarevo and Piškorovec in Međimurje County,</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Tendering/procurement carried out without delays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) In year 2, undertake construction works in accordance with the plan, the Bills of Quantities and the Contracts. Undertake the supervision of the works. In cooperation with the representatives of the local communities provide monitoring of the activities and the results reached.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Roma population actively involved in all activities, particularly in the construction works.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4) In year 3, accomplish all scheduled works and process the final payments.

Preconditions
Full support ensured from the local communities to the planned infrastructure works;
The Working Group for project coordination established and fully operational under the lead of the GoFNM (meet at least 3 times in 2006).

Annex 2: Indicative Implementation Chart by quarters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Contract N.1 - Works in 3 settlements (3 lots)</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 3 – Contracting and Disbursement Schedule (PHARE funding only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Cumulative contracting schedule by quarters in MEUR (provisional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract N.1- Works in 3 settlements (3 lots)</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL (EUR):</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarters in EUR (provisional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract N.1 - Works in 3 settlements (3 lots)</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL (EUR):</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 4: PRE-FEASIBILITY AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Not applicable

ANNEX 5: REFERENCE LIST OF RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette – No. 41/01)
2. The Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (Official Gazette – No. 155/02)
3. The Act on the Use of the Language and Script of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette – No. 51/00)
4. The Act on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette – No. 51/00)
6. The Constitutional Act on Amendments of the Constitutional Act on the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette – No. 29/02)
7. The Act on Local and Regional Self-Government (Official Gazette, Nos. 33/01 and 60/01)
8. The Act on the Election of Representatives to the Representative Bodies of the Units of Local and Regional Self-Government (Official Gazette Nos. 33/01, 10/02 and 45/03)
9. The Act on the Amendments to the Act on the Election of Members of Representative Bodies of Local and Regional Self-government (Official Gazette, No. 155/02)

ANNEX 6: REFERENCE LIST OF RELEVANT STRATEGIC PLANS AND STUDIES

The latest estimate by the County Office of number of Roma in Međimurje County is close to 6,000.