Standard Summary Project Fiche
Project Number CZ 9901.01

FV31/5/99

Title
Improvement of Relations between the Roma and Czech communities

Sub-Programme
Strengthening the Democratic System, the Rule of Law, Human Rights and the Protection of Minorities

Geographical Location
Commissioner for Human Rights - Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Affairs
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

Objectives
The general objectives of this Project are to:

- encourage a more open approach to different cultures, particularly in the younger generation;
- raise the awareness of the Czech public, including opinion makers, about the Roma community;
- reduce the level of anti-Roma prejudice and discrimination, thus contributing to an increased acceptance of the Roma community into broader society.

Specifically, it is envisaged that the above objectives will be achieved by:

- promoting educational activities within all levels of the state educational system;
- training advisors and assistants in Roma issues for the state administration and educational sectors;
- conducting research on inter-ethnic relations;
- supporting a media-based public awareness raising campaign.

Most importantly, the Project intends to take a novel, pro-active and positive approach in dealing with the discussion of human rights and minority issues, leading to the broader understanding and acceptance of pluralistic and multicultural attitudes. This approach includes concepts such as the training and use of influential opinion makers, the use of positive analogies and of informed, non-coercive communication strategies.

Institutional Framework
The Office of the Government is responsible for carrying out the Government’s key projects concerning minorities and human rights. It comprises the Department for Human Rights, which in its turn is formed by the administrative apparatus of three bodies: the Council of Ethnic Minorities, the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Affairs, and the recently established Council for Human Rights.

The issues of addressing and ameliorating racism, intolerance and prejudice are of central concern to the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Affairs (established Sept. 17, 1997, by Government
Resolution No. 581), which is responsible for co-ordinating Government policies on the Roma. They are, however, equally topical for the Council of Ethnic Minorities, which represents the Roma alongside other minorities resident in the Czech Republic, and to the Council for Human Rights (established Dec. 9, 1998, by Government Resolution No. 809).

Therefore, the three units have worked closely in the preparation of the Project, and are expected to continue sharing responsibilities related to the Project throughout its period of implementation. The Czech Government declared its commitment to the improvement of Roma integration in its Resolution No. 686 of Oct. 29, 1997, which took note of the Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in the Czech Republic and Government Measures Assisting its Integration in Society, submitted by then Minister without Portfolio, Mr. Pavel Bratinka. The report stated that there was urgent need for action to improve the social status of this ethnic group, and produced a number of recommendations.

A follow-up report, approved by Government Resolution No. 643 on September 30, 1998, led to specific tasks being assigned to various Ministers. Furthermore, the Government has adopted Resolution No. 34 of January 11, 1999, concerning a campaign against racism. The Resolution calls for the Commissioner for Human Rights to announce a public competition for the agency/agencies which will carry out the campaign, the expenses of which should not exceed 10 MCZK (approx. 0.3 MEUR).

Description

Having a single strategic goal, this 0.5 MEUR Project consists of four integrally linked Sub-Projects: (1) Educational Activities within the State Educational System; (2) Training for Roma Advisors and Assistants; (3) Research on Inter-Ethnic Relations; (4) Media-Based Educational Campaign.

1. Educational Activities within the State Educational System

This 0.25 MEUR Sub-Project(1) concerns both the support and development of multicultural education where it already exists (e.g., Plzen, West Bohemian University), and the creation and implementation of such programs where they have not yet been introduced.

For these activities, the Sub-Project will utilise both existing materials and those which will be created within the framework of the Project itself. A number of similar activities are currently being carried out both by NGOs and by state educational institutions. The experience of many valuable initiatives which could be considered as pilot projects will certainly be taken into account. However, such activities demand consistent financial, material and personal inputs. Thus, the proposed Sub-Project will assure the continuation of once launched initiatives, as well as take on the task of effectively co-ordinating the application of all relevant activities on a broader national level.

The Sub-Project will be carried out in the following steps:
a) the current situation will be described, that is, stock will be taken of existing projects/experience, including, if possible, the experience of other candidate countries, the use of international donors etc., in the time frame of 3-4Q/1999;

b) a strategy for the application of designed activities within state education will be defined in the time frame of 1-2Q/2000, in collaboration with educational institutions;

c) the strategy is to be implemented from 3Q/2000 to 2Q/2001 (school year 2000-2001), with possible extension until the end of 2001, depending on support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports;

d) at the end of the Sub-Project (4Q/2001), recommendations based on achieved outcomes will be made.

Groups to be targeted include:

- **Teachers and future teachers** (undergraduate and graduate students of Pedagogic and Social Work) at Pedagogical Faculties, Philosophical Faculties, and Faculties of Social Sciences of Czech institutions of higher education. While multicultural education has already been introduced to the curricula of some institutions of higher learning, in others it is still lacking, and where it does exist, it varies considerably in content and quality. Thus, there is ample room for significant improvement for this field. The target group, estimated at a minimum of 500 students per year, should consist of 5th-6th semester undergraduates as well as of graduates in the process of specialisation.

- **Students of selected secondary schools**, particularly vocational/professional schools, where the situation is widely recognised as meriting urgent attention due to the fact that extremist views, inspired by skinhead groups, are evident in this environment. At the secondary school level, therefore, the long-term goal - assisted by the current Sub-Project - is the creation of a curriculum for multicultural education. The target group is estimated at a minimum of 1000 students per year.

- **Pupils of primary schools** (12-14 years), in selected regions, enabling these children to gain first contacts with other (Roma) cultural groups not as part of the regular curriculum, but as a school-sponsored extra-curricular activity. Joint extra-curricular activities for Roma and non-Roma children would also be included. At present it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of pupils who could be involved.

Preliminary consultations with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports are under way through its representative - Deputy Minister - on the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Affairs.

2. **Training for Roma Advisors and Assistants**

As in the above Sub-Project, the intended focus on the training of professionals in the educational and state administration spheres stems from the recognition that the influence of such professionals can produce an impact which is both long-term, and which can extend far beyond their immediate environment.

Within the state sector, therefore, there are three categories of professionals dealing with Roma affairs, who are themselves both Roma and non-Roma. These are:

- **Roma advisors**, who deal with Roma issues on the level of district/county (okresní úrad),
• Roma assistants in state administration,

• Roma educational assistants at primary schools.

To these professionals, this 0.1 MEUR Sub-Project(2) aims to offer:

a) local training in multicultural education and social work,

b) in justified cases, training abroad,

c) education in the Romanes language, that is:
   • basic education in Romanes for those who do not yet speak the language,
   • courses of written Romanes for those Roma who do speak the language, in order to contribute to the strengthening of ethnic identity and encourage the enlargement of a Romany group that is literate in Romanes.

3. Research on Inter-Ethnic Relations

Some sociological research based on random sample questionnaires concerning inter-ethnic relations has been carried out over the last decade, including: Ethnic Climate of Czech Society (1994, 1996); National and Ethnic Relations in the Czech Border Regions (1996); National Identity (1996); and Roma Community in the Opinions of Representatives of the State Administration (1997). The need for further research in this field through this 0.05 MEUR Sub-Project (3) is apparent, however, for the following reasons:

• the dynamics of the development of public opinion in time need to be documented. At present this may be relevant to the recent Roma migration to Britain, which received wide media attention, but its impact has not been evaluated yet.

• the media-based public-awareness raising campaign, to be addressed in Sub-Project 4, will require more specific information than the existing research provides, that is, an analysis of differences in attitudes between various target groups in the population, which differ in age, education, occupation, location, etc., in order to choose adequate communication strategies. For this, it will be necessary to work with a random sample of not less than 1800 respondents. While maintaining some „core“ questions from previous research for comparability, the proposed research is to focus on areas other than attitudes, such as levels of actual experience.

• So far, research has only concerned almost exclusively the attitude of the majority to minorities, not the attitudes and experiences of Roma themselves. Such research, therefore, could provide useful knowledge for the better understanding of Roma perceptions of their own problems, and such understanding is in turn essential for the content of planned multicultural education and media campaigns.

Admittedly, the application of standard quantitative techniques in studying the Roma community is beset with methodological difficulties, including the need for researchers who are suited to work in a Roma environment. This part of the research would thus have to be carried out in several selected localities (a pilot project was carried out in Most-Obrnice in 1998 with the support of county authorities). In addition, while it is acknowledged that statistically equivalent samples of the Czech/ Roma populations cannot be made, this research would still aim to maintain at least partial comparability with the research that has described the opinions of the majority.
A first phase the research can be envisaged as **preliminary** to the launching of the media-based campaign in Sub-Project 4. It is intended that a second phase should also provide a **follow-up** which might aid the evaluation of chosen communication techniques and strategies of the campaign.

Preliminary consultations have already been carried out for future co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has announced a grant supporting basic research on the Evolution of Relations of Czech Society and the State towards the Roma after World War II.

### 4. Media-Based Public Awareness Campaign

The major role of the media as opinion makers is beyond dispute. The aim of this **0.1 MEUR** Sub-Project(4) is to effectively complement Sub-Project 1, dealing with institutional education, by „informal“ public awareness-raising channelled through the media. Apart from simple messages about the unacceptability of racism, a multitude of arguments for the appreciation of the intrinsic value of different cultures should also be presented as an essential basis for inter-cultural tolerance.

As mentioned above, the Czech Government has declared its support for a campaign to address racism, which, rather than employing advertising techniques, should be conducted through concentrated yet subtle public relations efforts in the media. This campaign is to be supervised by the Department for Human Rights of the Office of the Government, and is assured of financing of up to 10 MCZK. (approx. 0.3 MEUR).

This theme of the Government campaign and the goals of the present Sub-Project overlap to a significant degree. Although the Government campaign will also target, apart from anti-Roma sentiments, other forms of racism, discriminatory practices and xenophobic attitudes, the Government is aware that changing the attitudes towards the Roma community is to be the main focus of its campaign. The Government campaign is to finish by December 31, 1999. Co-financing from PHARE should allow the campaign to enter a second stage in 2000, thus not only extending its duration, but also making it possible to take into account the evaluation of initial results.

As already mentioned, information gained through research conducted in the first phase of Sub-Project 3 is considered to be a preliminary step to the launching of this media campaign, while a subsequent research phase of Sub-Project 3 should enable evaluation of the effectiveness of the communication strategies and techniques used.
Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Project</th>
<th>Inst. Build. (IB)</th>
<th>Invest. (I)</th>
<th>Total Phare</th>
<th>Recipie nt</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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IB = Institution Building, I = Investment, IFI = International financial Institution

Co-financing for 1999 is approved for the Media-Based Campaign. Co-financing of other parts of the Project is expected from the sources of 2000 and 2001 State Budgets, particularly from the chapters of the Office of Government and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Implementation Arrangements

Responsibility for the administration related to the procedural aspects of procurement, contracting and accountancy will rest upon the CFCU. Responsibility for the administration related to the preparation, technical control and implementation will rest with the Office of the Government.

Implementation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of Project activity</td>
<td>3Q/1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Campaign Against Racism</td>
<td>1Q/2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>4Q/2001</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the Project will be guaranteed.

Rates of Return

Not applicable

Investment Criteria

Not applicable

Conditionality and Sequencing

Support envisaged in Sub-Project 4 to the Governmental media campaign is to rely on research of Sub-Project 3.
Annexes to Project Fiche

1. Logframe Matrix
2. Detailed Cost Breakdown for Sub/Projects
3. Detailed Implementation Chart
4. Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project
5. Relation of Project with Previous Phare Activities and On/Going Projects Financed from Other Sources
### Strengthening the Democratic System, the Rule of Law, Human Rights and the Protection of Minorities

**Programme number:**

**Date of drafting:**

**Cont. exp. date:**

**Disb. exp. date:**

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#### Immediate Objectives

- gain more profound knowledge of the public’s actual approaches towards Roma
- promote tolerant attitudes towards Roma through increased understanding of their culture
- reduce the level of anti-Roma prejudice and discrimination in Czech society, thus contributing to an improvement of relations between the Czech and Roma communities

#### Indicators of Achievement

- increasing tolerance of cultural difference in the society
- a more pluralistic multicultural approach
- nation wide improvement of mutual perception and tolerance

#### Sources of Information

- reports, surveys, data collections
- policy patterns of central and district levels
- media programmes

#### Assumptions and Risks

- professional and motivated staff

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of Projects</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research, extensive data collection</td>
<td>better knowledge of Roma minority’s attitudes in Czech society, public awareness/raising channeled through media, more tolerant attitudes towards minorities in the society educational activities targeted at teachers and prospective teachers, students at secondary schools, Roma advisors</td>
<td>surveys and reports on the results of the research, media programmes, activity and feedback reports</td>
<td>limited co-financing resources from the state budget, openness of the educational institutions and media to cooperate, Phare 1997 project’s results</td>
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<td>Analysis</td>
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## Annex 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sub-Project</th>
<th>Institution Building (IB)</th>
<th>Investment (IN)</th>
<th>Total Phare (= IB + IN)</th>
<th>Recipient Co-financing</th>
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### Cumulative Quarterly Contracting Schedule (MEUR)

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Relation of Project with Previous PHARE Activities

The current Project is closely linked with activities planned in COP 1997, which include Project Tolerance/ Anti-Racism Campaign. These activities are envisaged as pilot projects requiring follow-up and nation-wide extension.