1. Basic Information
   1.1 Désirée Number: HU0015.04
   1.2 Title: Integrated regional information system
   1.3 Sector: Cross-border co-operation
   1.4 Location: Gyor-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala counties in Western Transdanubia Region of Hungary.

2. Objectives

   2.1 Wider Objective:
   Increased cohesion within the Austro-Hungarian cross-border region with special regard to employment and regional development.

   2.2. Immediate Objectives:
   • Accelerated transfer of information and professional know-how between the Austrian and Hungarian institutions in the field of labour market policy and services.
   • Improved and concentrated access to regional information for inhabitants, economic, administrative and other institutional actors in the NUTS IV small regions of the border region on regional development, local economic development and traffic-related fields.

   2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA priority
   The objectives of the project are in line with the short term Employment and social affairs priority of the AP, as stated in Section 3.1. and the medium term economic and social cohesion priority as stated in Section 3.2. The objectives also reflect the priorities outlined in Chapter 5.2., Employment and social affairs section d. as well as 2.4., Information society of the NPAA.

   2.4. Contribution to National Development Plan
   • The project proposal is in line with the priorities identified in the National Development Plan.
   • This project is not geographically located in the NUTS II regions identified by the Hungarian Government for Economic and Social Cohesion under the Phare National Programme.

   2.5. Cross Border Impact
   The project will provide the inhabitants and institutions of the cross-border region with accurate and timely information on labour market activities and on topics relevant for the development of the Hungarian target region. This will facilitate harmonious development on both sides of the cross-border region. The project will contribute to creating fruitful dialogue and action on labour market issues during and after EU Accession.

   In 1998, an inter-state agreement on commuting employment in the border region was adopted between Austria and Hungary which makes commuting employment possible both for Austrian and Hungarian employees in the border region. This is an excellent working example of co-operation between labour markets on external EU
borders. IT development connected to commuting employment will utilise the Austrian experiences in EURES employment exchange methodology and techniques. Integrated regional information systems are operational on the Austrian side in all provinces. Through the establishment of a compatible regional information system in Hungary, the preconditions for using Internet and IT tools for cross-border activities will be established.

3. **Description**

3.1 **Background and justification:**

The Austrian-Hungarian Joint Co-operation Committee, the West Pannonia Euregion and the Austrian-Hungarian intergovernmental committees have clearly expressed the need for implementing the project component to integrate the labour market information systems. This will facilitate better integration and management of the labour market issues.

The project was first approved under the framework of the PHARE CBC Programme in 1998, but due to limited Phare CBC allocations, it was postponed to year 2000. Thus, labour centres in Western Transdanubia renewed the application, and in close co-operation with their Austrian partner institutions, they have taken on responsibility for this project, because its significance has not changed and, more important, the challenges of information society make the developments of the integrated labour market information system and digital public services more and more urgent.

Emphasising another aspect, there are at present 46 micro-regional associations for regional development in West-Transdanubia, where it is vital to enhance job and social security as well as equal opportunities on labour market. The mobility of the population is very low in West Transdanubia compared to the European average. Consequently it is necessary to bring the relevant information to the population of border region’s peripheries to improve competitiveness and local employment. Improved public availability of administrative services will also contribute to better life quality in these border regions.

The Regional IT Needs Analysis was completed very recently in the Western Transdanubia region. The needs analysis has justified the outstanding need to improve the information technology background of small regions in order to make EU regional policy work within the confines of small regions and local organisations in Western Transdanubia.

The regional development information sub-system was not implemented due to limited Phare CBC allocation in 1998, so it is prime time now to integrate the ongoing regional development information system developments in the region and to create a harmonised integrated regional information system with the neighbouring Austrian provinces – namely with Burgenland, Lower Austria and Vienna.

The Western Transdanubian region is the most progressive in Hungary to utilise information technology in opening up hitherto closed regional development policies towards the regional actors – widely promoting the principles of transparency, accountability and participation in regional policy within the border region. Recent developments of an all-round regional WEB-site (www.westpa.hu) and the first daily regional Internet newspaper all are exemplary in their nature within Hungary and most of CEE countries. The Western Transdanubian region is ready to enhance the inclusion of the small regions and communities into its regional information network.
and to provide the necessary IT training opportunity to all actors in regional development at county and local levels. The model case for participatory regional development is foreseen here, with the extensive use of Austrian know-how transfer in the cross-border region.

3.2 Linked activities:

3.2.1. The component **3.3.1 - regional employment information sub-system** will build on the achievements of the following projects:
- Co-operation in labour market policy between Austria and Hungary - Phare CBC AU-HUN 1995.

3.2.2. The component **3.3.2 – regional development information sub-system** shall make use of and take into consideration the outcomes of the following:
- Phare projects relating to IT within the West Transdanubian Region:
  - The Development of the Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Ferto-Hanság National Park and the Szigetköz Natural Protected Area - Tri-lateral Phare CBC Hungary-Austria-Slovakia Programme 1995
  - Development of Cross-Border Communication I. (VITECC) - Tri-lateral Phare CBC Hungary-Austria-Slovakia Programme 1995
  - Development of Cross-Border Communication II. - Tri-lateral Phare CBC Hungary-Austria-Slovakia Programme 1995
  - Zala County Forestry – Environmental GIS - Phare CBC Hungary-Austria Programme 1997. Small Project Fund
  - Establishment of Database of Szombathely and the Micro-Region for Public Use and Access through Internet Connection - Phare CBC Hungary-Austria Programme 1997. Small Project Fund

3.2.3. **The whole project** is also linked to measures mainly funded from Hungarian sources, as follows:
- National Programme for the Development of Information and Communication Infrastructure (NIS, NIIIF, DR, Inforégió etc.)
- National Telehouse Programme
- National Distance Working Programme
- Establishment of FVM TEIR Regional Development Information System
- Project aiming to create a regional IT strategy
- Regional action plan for institutional development and micro-regional capacity development
- Regional project for conjuncture and market analysis

3.3 Results:

The project will establish the **integrated regional information system** providing up-to-date information on employment and regional development. Two sub systems will be developed: the regional employment information system and the regional development information system. For both systems hardware will be acquired, software will be developed, training and publicity work will be carried out.

3.3.1 The **regional employment information sub-system** component is expected to facilitate co-operation on labour market issues during and after EU Accession. The
project includes the following main elements based on the IT needs analysis of the three Labour Centres

- **hardware development:**
  providing 25 servers, 30 workstations, 25 touch-on screens and 3 data projectors for the Gyor-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala County Labour Centres and its sub-offices and FITs (Employment Information Advisory Services)

- **software and communication development:**
  - software development for the effective internal knowledge-based information flow between the Labour Centres in the target region,
  - specialised software development for the public availability of administrative labour market services, such as information related to cross-border agreement on commuting employment, jobs available, training opportunities, employment related projects, events, career advisory and career orientation services.
  - providing the software and communication background for the regional publicity of labour market related issues including the establishment of a regional labour market web-site.

- **Related services:**
  - Collection, dissemination, evaluation, assistance and monitoring of “best practice” methods.
  - Establishment of a data bank of “Best practise projects”, the processing of the data shall be based on the four pillars of the European Union Employment directives. Best practise projects will be collected in the following four main areas:
    - Youth unemployment, preventing and managing long term unemployment, training and employment of the disadvantaged, disabled and ethnic minorities
    - New opportunities of job creation, e.g. employment projects in the field of nature protection, culture, information technology and distance working
    - Enhancement of the adaptability of enterprises and its employees
    - Equal opportunities for men and women
  - The collected best practice projects will be evaluated and the implementation of the feasible projects will be supported by the partner information services and through the organisation of Partner Exchange Workshops.
  - Technical assistance and training will be provided for labour market professionals and project managers on successful “Best practise” EU projects to acquire relevant experience and help its adaptation to the specific conditions of the target region.
  - The formulating series of workshops will serve as a contact pool between the Austrian and Hungarian labour market experts. 8 seminars and 2 three-day conferences will be organised for this target group.
  - The results achieved will be presented in printed materials, in CD ROM’s, in the established regional employment information Web site and in regularly organised workshops.

3.3.2. The **regional development information system** will provide information for inhabitants, economic, administrative and other institutional actors in the NUTS IV small regions of the border region on regional development, local economic development and traffic-related fields. The regional development
information system will be made available for the Phare Regional Development Implementing Agency. Based on the results of the Regional IT Needs Analysis the regional development information system will include:

- **hardware development:**
  The following equipment will be provided for
  - the micro-regions of the target region:
    - 46 network nodes with four terminals, software, a printer, a scanner, network peripheries, active components, a copy machine and a telex in each nodes
  - the three County Development Agencies of the region
    - 3 network nodes with two terminals, software, a printer, a scanner, network peripheries, active components, a copy machine and a telex in each nodes
  - the Regional Development Agency
    - 5 network nodes with two terminals, software, a printer, a scanner, network peripheries, active components, a copy machine and a telex in each nodes
    - 5 public touch screen terminal
    - 1 Web server with software, router and cables
    - 5 video conference nodes
    - 10 personal digital adapters
    - equipment for a regional training and practice centre for 14 persons (1 server with 14 workstations and a data projector),
  Phare assistance will contribute to the establishment of network nodes in the micro-regions of the target area, while hardware development in the three County Development Agencies and the Regional Development Agency will be supported from national co-financing.

- **software development and related services:**
  - launching of a wide-range micro-regional information service, establishment of a micro-regional database, creation of digital publicity, support of electronic services relating to regional development and local economic development, elaboration of a maintenance system.
  - elaboration and launching of 5 regional information-based social services in distance learning, distance working, digital public work, distance management and distance commerce.
  - IT and Internet related training courses for the target group: working out of an up-to-date curriculum, training course for training supervisors (14 persons), the creation of a tutoring system as well as training course for approx. 150 persons working at the established network nodes, for youngsters and people belonging to disadvantaged groups.

3.4 **Activities:**
To achieve economies of scale the purchases of the components of the two systems will be carried out in two contracting operations:

3.4.1. One supply contract for hardware, communication equipment and other devices.
3.4.2. One service contract for software development and other services. All software development and other service activities described under 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 will be procured through one single tendering and contracting operation.

4. **Institutional Framework**

The organisational framework of the regional employment information system includes the employment authorities, agencies and Labour Centres of Gyor-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala counties.

The organisational framework of the regional development information system includes the West Pannon Regional Development Agency, the three County Development Agencies as well as the NUTS IV small-regional development associations.

Overall project co-ordination will be ensured by the MARD, Regional Development Implementing Agency that will also be responsible for the proper and sound delivery of all project activities. Specifications for the supplies and service activities will be defined by the Implementing Agency in close co-operation with the above mentioned institutions.

The owners of the assets procured for the regional employment information system will be the Labour Centres of Gyor-Moson-Sopron, Vas and Zala counties.

The West Pannon Regional Development Agency, the three County Development Agencies as well as the NUTS IV small regional development associations selected by the West Pannon Regional Development Agency in agreement with the IA as the operators of network nodes in line with the results of the Regional IT Needs Analysis will become the owners of the assets procured for the regional development information system, as outlined in 3.3.2.

5. **Detailed Budget (MEUR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare support</th>
<th>National Co-financing</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>Institution Building</td>
<td>Total Phare (=I+IB)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.4.1 Supply Contract for hardware procurement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional employment information system</td>
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<td>0,208</td>
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<td>0,832</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.4.2 Service Contract for software and content service development</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional employment information system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional development information system</td>
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</table>

**Total** 2 2 0,667 2,667

**National co-financing includes:**

- For contract 3.4.1, co-financing will be provided from the central Labour Market Fund of the Ministry of Social an Family Affairs in an amount of
208,000 Euro and MARD Phare CBC national co-financing budget line in an amount of 200,000 Euro.

- For contract 3.4.2, co-financing will be provided from the central Labour Market Fund of the Ministry of Social an Family Affairs in an amount of 126,000 Euro and MARD Phare CBC national co-financing budget line in an amount of 133,000 Euro.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The project will be implemented under the overall co-ordination and supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, whose representative, Dr. Peter Szaló, Deputy Secretary of State, will be designated as PAO.

The Ministry for Agriculture and Regional Development, through its Phare Regional Development Implementing Agency will be responsible for all aspects of tendering and contracting as well as administrative and financial matters of the implementation.

Address:
Ministry for Agriculture and Regional Development
Phare Regional Development IA
1016 Budapest, Gellértguy u. 30-32.
Phone: +36-1-488-7171
Fax: +36-1-488-7188

6.2 Twinning
Not applicable.

6.3. Non-standard aspects
All contracting operations of the present project will strictly follow DIS procedures.

6.4. Contracts
The project will be implemented in one supply (1,632 MEUR) and one service contract (1,035 MEUR)

7. Implementation Schedule

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

8. Equal Opportunity
No discrimination between sexes will be made during project implementation. All beneficiary organisations are equal opportunity employers.

9. Environment
The project does not have any discernible effects to the environment.
10. Rates of return
Estimated globally as important.

11. Investment criteria

11.1. Catalytic effect:
The Phare contribution supports the establishment of an integrated regional information system, the connection to the EU information networks, establishment of common databases and the realisation of free movement of workforce. Without Phare support the objectives of this project would not be fulfilled.

11.2. Co-financing:
For contract 3.4.1, co-financing will be provided from the central Labour Market Fund in an amount of 208,000 Euro and MARD Phare CBC national co-financing budget line in an amount of 200,000 Euro.
For contract 3.4.2, co-financing will be provided from the central Labour Market Fund in an amount of 126,000 Euro and MARD Phare CBC national co-financing budget line in an amount of 133,000 Euro.

11.3. Additionality:
Phare support will not displace any other financiers.

11.4. Project readiness and Size:
Both contracts will be ready for tendering at the time of the signature of the Financing Memorandum. The project size is in line with the minimum project size requirement of 2 MEUR prescribed by the Phare 2000 Programming Guidelines.

11.5. Sustainability:
Beneficiary organisations will ensure that the project will be financially sustainable in the future, and established services and procured equipment will be maintained and operated by the County Labour Centres, the West Pannon Regional Development Agency, the three County Development Agencies and other selected organisations.

11.6. Compliance with state aid provisions
All actions financed by Phare will be carried out in line with the Phare DIS and will respect the state aid and competition provisions of the Europe Agreement.

11.7. Contribution to National Development Plan
Not applicable.

12. Conditionality and sequencing
The organisations operating the network nodes of the regional information system shall be selected by the West Pannon Regional Development Agency –being based on the regional IT needs analysis- until the signature of the FM. The selection criteria shall include the provision of financing for the operational costs of the network nodes.
Hungarian national co-financing for the hardware development in the three County Development Agencies and the Regional Development Agency is an indispensable precondition of the proper operation of the 3.3.2. regional development information system.

No other conditionalities are foreseen. The sequencing will follow heading 7. Implementation Schedule.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule
4. Reference to feasibility /pre-feasibility studies.
5. List of relevant Laws and Regulations
6. Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies
**Annex 1**

**LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROGRAMME**

Programme Number: HU0015.04

Programme Title: Integrated regional information system

Total Phare Budget: 2 MEUR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increased cohesion within the Austro-Hungarian cross-border region with special regard to employment and regional development</td>
<td>• Employment rate</td>
<td>• Statistical data of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• GDP growth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Assumption and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accelerated transfer of information and professional know-how between the Austrian and Hungarian institutions in the field of labour market policy and services.</td>
<td>• Number of best practice projects disseminated in the region</td>
<td>• Reports of Labour Centres in the relevant region</td>
<td>• Continuation of favourable economic climate within the target region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of visitors of the regional information system’s websites</td>
<td>• Reports of project managers</td>
<td>• Complementary support measures achieve their stated objectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs of Project</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hardware supply for the regional information system and for the regional employment information system.</td>
<td>• Equipment purchased and installed according to specifications and schedules as outlined in tender documentation</td>
<td>• Reports of project managers</td>
<td>• Positive attitude for using IT and Internet services among the target groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of the regional information system, regional employment information service system including related training and publicity</td>
<td>• Terminal users successfully participating in training schemes as planned</td>
<td>• Good co-operation among Labour Centres</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Workshops and seminars held for the dissemination of the “best practice” method</td>
<td>• Good co-operation among actors in regional development at regional and micro-regional levels as well as the potential data providers for the regional information system</td>
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<td>• Events of the Labour Market Expert Academy held</td>
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<td>• Content services developed for the regional information system and for the regional employment information system according to ToR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Inputs | |
|--------||

2 MEUR of Phare funding, 26% co-financing from the Labour Market Fund of the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs (0.334 MEUR) and the MARD Phare CBC (0.333MEUR) budget line.
## Annex 2

### Integrated regional information system

#### Detailed Implementation Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>2000</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.4.2. Service</td>
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<tr>
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| Design             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Tendering and      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| contracting        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Implementation     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
### Integrated regional information system

Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule (MEUR)

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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integrated regional information system

Reference to Feasibility Studies

1. The regional IT needs analysis “Assessing the regional IT capacities of Westren Transdanubia and its small regions” has been prepared by Excellence Rt. and is available at the West Pannon Development Agency, Hungary, 9400 Sopron, Templom u. 4.

   The analysis has investigated the level of IT equipment available at the small regional associations, their information needs and information supply capacities, their access to the internet as well as the staffs’ IT and internet related knowledge.

   The analysis has found that great disparities exist within the region concerning the IT situation of the small region associations, some of them do not even have a PC, the use of Internet is not common. Basic information essential for their operation is hard to get and in some cases not accessible in electronic format.

   The study has found that where a small regional information service is operated by the small regional association, the public awareness concerning regional matters is much higher and so these association work much more successful.

   The optimal development of the hardware, software and database has to be complemented with extensive training efforts.

2. The joint Labour Market Strategy of Eastern Austria and Western Hungary has been prepared in the framework of the project “Co-operation in labour market policy between Austria and Hungary” financed by Phare CBC AU-HUN 1995. The strategy is available at the Sopron Regional Office of the Implementing Agency (Hungary, 9400 Sopron, Templom u. 4.)
Annex 5

Integrated regional information system

List of Relevant Laws and Regulations

1. Act XXI/1996 on Regional Development and Physical Planning;
3. 1026/1999 Government Resolution on the development of the IT background of the Hungarian public administration system.
4. Law No. CXL /1997.on the protection of cultural goods, museal institutions, public libraries and public
Annex 6

Integrated regional information system

Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies

1. Hungarian answers to the challenges of the information society – issued by the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office in March 2000
2. Trends in socio- and info-communication - – issued by the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office in April 2000
3. eHungary – based on the eEurope strategy of the EU, issued by the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office in March 2000
4. West-Transdanubian Complex Regional Development Concept;