1. Basic Information

1.1. CRIS Number: 2002/000-603-01 and 2002/000-604-01
1.2. Title: Environmental protection and nature conservation in the Slovak-Hungarian border region through local initiatives
1.3. Sector: Environment
1.4. Location: Slovak - Hungarian border region

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall Objective
Conservation of the natural resources of the Slovakian - Hungarian border region, improvement of the environmental potential, thus improving living conditions of people in the area.

2.2. Project Purpose
- Improvement of contacts of environmental protection institutions, establishment of actual forms of long term co-operation
- Promotion of joint nature and environmental protection initiatives of local character (through the preparation and implementation of investment projects targeted at the improvement of environmental conditions)

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA priority
The objectives of the Grant Scheme are in line with APs and NPAAAs of both countries. The implementation mechanism will contribute to the preparation of central, regional and local authorities for the implementation of Structural Policies.

2.4. Contribution to the Joint Programming Document
The project is in line with Measure 1 (Environmental investments); Measure 2 (Environmental planning and monitoring) and Measure 3 (Co-operation in natural protection) of Priority 5 (NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT) of the Joint Programming Document (JPD).
2.5. Cross-border Impact

The project primarily supports projects of local initiatives that can directly contribute to the improvement of natural and environmental conditions of the direct border region and also have a strong cross-border impact.

Joint projects can be submitted from the entire area of counties constituting the border region, with restrictions the following:

- Investment projects should be initiated in the close-to-border territories (micro-regions/districts along or near to the border) thus investments will have a direct cross-border impact.
- Non-investment projects are welcome from the whole territory of the border region.

Both Implementing Agencies will take these aspects into consideration in the Call for Proposals and during the evaluation of the project proposals.

3. Description

3.1. Background and Justification

Since a large number of environmentally sensitive, protected areas and natural reserves are located in the border region, the issue of environmental protection and water-management play a pivotal role in the entire Slovakian- Hungarian border region. The conservation of the outstanding natural potential of the area is not only essential from the aspect of the improvement of living conditions of the population on both sides of the border but also for the special development potential of the region. In order to improve present environmental conditions and to prevent potential damages to the environment, it is necessary to prepare joint plans and to perform synchronised actions.

Despite some improvement in the quality of the environment during the last decade, there are still serious deficiencies in the environmental situation of the border region. Improvement of treatment of sewage water could not keep pace with the increasing amount of waste. Since environmental issues affect the whole border region regardless of national borders, assistance should be carried out in the framework of cross-border co-operation.

Preservation of bio-diversity is a common objective of environmental strategies in the region. Natural parks, natural reserves and other institutional forms for natural protection play an important role in attaining this goal. In order to harmonise the management and operation of these structures the project supports joint investments in nature protection. Priority will be given to those nature protection actions, which clearly contribute to the implementation of the EU acquis on nature protection, in particular the Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The establishment and development of a joint institutional network (e.g.: presentation sites, study paths, open-air schools) conveying natural values contributes to environmental awareness in the border region.
3.2. Linked Activities

Current Hungarian state support programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature protection</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Protection of nature and landscape</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment (MoE), Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conservation of bio-diversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protection of geological and morphological values and caves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conservation of landscape values</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exhibition of values of landscape and nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Restoration of classic agricultural activities and farming methods inline with environment protection management plans, contributing to the diversity of the landscape, introduction in protected natural areas</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment (MoE), Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extra expenditures of developments targeted at the protection of forests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wastewater collection and treatment</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local municipalities’ individual wastewater disposal investments (wastewater collection and treatment, sludge-treatment):</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment (MoE), Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Financing the preparations of investments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Financing the implementation of investments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity and quality protection of surface waters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Wastewater collection and treatment: implementation of projects above 1 billion HUF | Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Target Fund |
| Wastewater collection and treatment:                  |                                               |
| 1. Investment in wastewater public utility           | Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Target Fund |
| 2. Construction of wastewater treatment plant        |                                               |
| 3. Construction of municipal liquid waste cleaning plant |                                               |
| 4. Construction of sewage network                    |                                               |

| Construction and development of public water utilities (with the support of the Water Related Target Fund) | Ministry of Transport and Water Management |
| Support of the development of regional infrastructure: creation of local wastewater management with alternative treatment methods (in settlements with less than 2000 inhabitants) | Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, Rural Development Fund |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement of environmental awareness</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education in kindergartens 2001.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Slovakian state support programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment support in the environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Grant Scheme SR9810.01.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to capital investment projects in the private and public sectors linked to the areas:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The construction and upgrading of systems for collection, sorting, processing and disposal of hazardous and municipal waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The construction and upgrading of drinking water supply systems, waste water supply systems and waste water treatment plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The construction and upgrading facilities for the reduction of air pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The introduction and integrated environmental friendly technologies to prevent pollution at the source as well as to promote waste reduction to facilitate compliance with the EU’s integrated pollution prevention and control directive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Environment SR,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ activities of the State Environment Fund.

3.3. Results

The following quantifiable results will be achieved:

3.3.1. Studies and Human Resource Development:

- Impact assessments, Need assessments, Feasibility studies and other studies covering preparatory documents for environmental investment actions elaborated
- The management of connected protected areas and national parks harmonised
- Environmental information and awareness raising programs (related to the activities under 3.3.2.) implemented

3.3.2. Investment actions:

- Local wastewater disposal/wastewater treatment plants based on biological treatment or other nature friendly methods installed
- Nature-protection investments (revitalisation of rivers, development of nature protection demonstration areas etc.) implemented
- Joint environmental protection and nature conservation monitoring systems in the border region set up

3.4. Activities

The Grant Scheme will be implemented in two windows related to the results described under 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. The budget allocation between windows is indicative and can be revised during the project selection according to the quality of projects.
3.4.1. Window 1. Studies and Human Resource Development:

This window shall provide grants in an amount of € 50,000 – 150,000 for the procurement of services. Eligible activities are the following:

- Studies covering preparatory project development documents (Impact assessments, Need assessments, Feasibility studies, etc.)
- Harmonisation of the management of connected protected areas and national parks
- Environment protection related information campaigns

Organisations eligible for support will be non-profit or non-governmental organisations as follows:

- Non-profit organisations
- Municipal, educational institutions
- Bodies of the public administration (e.g. National Park Directorates)
- Co-operation, association of the above organisations.

Profit oriented organisations are not eligible.

Projects for support will be selected according to the following criteria:

- **CBC criteria:**
  - co-operation between Hungarian and Slovakian partners - common project preparation
  - expected environmental impact of projects

- **Formal selection criteria (in accordance with the evaluation grid of PRAG):**
  - studies, trainings and information campaigns prepared under this window of the Grant Scheme should be related to activities that are eligible under 3.4.2

**Relevance:**

- Conformity with relevant regional development plans and the Joint Programming Document.
- In case of information campaigns and training the relevance of the project to the needs of the target group.

**Methodology:**

- The preparedness and elaboration of the project proposal.
- Involvement of the partners in the elaboration and implementation of the project proposal.
- Realistic time-schedule for implementing of the project proposal.
- Well defined target group.

**Sustainability:**

- Further utilisation and long term sustainability of the project results.
- Beneficial social, economic and environmental impacts of the project results.
- Possible multiplier effects of the project results.

**Budget and cost effectiveness:**
- Reality and transparency of the financial plan of the project proposal.
- Justification of the planned budget,
- Cost effectiveness of the development.

**Management capacity and expertise:**
- Availability of the necessary personal, organisational and institutional capacity for the implementation of the project proposal.
- Developments implemented with the collaboration of various settlements or organisations (consortia).

**3.4.2. Window 2. Investment actions:**

This window shall provide grants in an amount of € 100.000 – 500.000 for the procurement of works, supplies and services. Eligible activities are the following:

- Solution of individual and harmless wastewater disposal and wastewater treatment in settlements/settlement parts (e.g. application of nature friendly treatment systems)
- Pre-treatment, utilisation and disposal of sewage sludge and municipal liquid waste
- Revitalisation of rivers, development of nature protection demonstration areas
- Rehabilitation and restoration of nature conservation sites
- Establishment and development of joint environmental protection and nature conservation monitoring systems
Organisations eligible for support will be non-profit or non-governmental organisations as follows:

- Non-profit organisations
- Municipal, educational institutions
- Bodies of the public administration (e.g. National Park Directorates)
- Co-operation, association of the above organisations.

Profit oriented organisations are not eligible.

Projects for support will be selected according to the following criteria:

- **CBC criteria:**
  - co-operation between Hungarian and Slovakian partners - common project preparation
  - environmental impact of projects

- **Formal selection criteria (in accordance with the evaluation grid of PRAG):**
  - Compliance with projects financed by other international aid schemes (e.g. ISPA, SAPARD), the technical content of the project proposal does not overlap with other internationally financed projects.
  - Consortium in case of joint application of several municipalities or organisations

- **Documentation required for application:**
  - Availability of studies justifying the rationality of the investment (feasibility study, cost-benefit analysis, environmental impact study if required).
  - Availability of effective construction plans, valid permissions of authorities (e.g. construction permit, water construction permit, environmental permit, resolution of decontamination).
  - Certification of settled land ownership conditions.
  - Statement of the competent environmental authority that the proposed developments (e.g. individual wastewater disposal) do not endanger the surface and groundwater.

**Relevance:**

- Conformity with relevant regional development plans and other regional planning systems (e.g.: wastewater disposal program).
- Conformity with the environmental/ technical logic of the EU acquis as outlined in the UWWT directive 91/271/EEC, when applicable.
- Projects that are decreasing pollution in nature protection areas.

**Methodology:**

- The preparedness and elaboration of the project proposal.
• Involvement of the partners in the elaboration and implementation of the project proposal.
• The necessity and rationality of the project proposal.
• Realistic time-schedule for implementing of the project proposal.
• An awareness raising activity related to the development is part of the project proposal.

*Sustainability:*

• Guaranteed sustainability of the developments implemented through the grant scheme.
• Beneficial social, economic and environmental impacts of the development.
• Possible multiplier effects of the development.

*Budget and cost effectiveness:*

• Reality and transparency of the financial plan of the project proposal.
• Justification of the planned budget,
• Cost effectiveness of the development.

*Management capacity and expertise:*

• Availability of the necessary personal, organisational and institutional capacity for the implementation of the project proposal.
• Developments implemented with the collaboration of various settlements or organisations (consortia).

3.5. *Lessons learned*

This programme is the first Hungary - Slovakia PHARE CBC programme to be implemented in the form of a *grant scheme*, nevertheless during the preparation of the project fiche the experiences of previous PHARE CBC programmes and other state support programmes (see 3.2 Linked activities) - especially in the field environmental protection and nature conservation - were taken into account. The recommendations of the 2001 OMAS Report Final Assessment (e.g. concerning the necessity of verifiable indicators) were also taken into consideration during the programming phase and will be carefully watched in the course of programme implementation.
4. Institutional Framework

Implementing arrangements are set up according to the Phare CBC rules. While the JCC is a common body to the Slovak and Hungarian parties, each country will keep its own implementation structure. However, in order to facilitate that joint projects are developed, implementation procedures should be harmonised.

In each country CBC programmes will be managed in accordance with the “Practical Guide to Phare, ISPA and SAPARD Contract Procedures”. The Call for Proposals is to be prepared by the two Contracting Authorities and is to be approved/endorsed by the JCC and the EC Delegations, respectively.

Formal decisions related to the projects are made by the Joint Evaluation Committee representing the national authorities and local institutions of the two countries.

The project selection criteria should be defined jointly by the two IAs. Although not only joint projects can be supported, the jointly prepared projects will be given priority through the project selection criteria. Implementation of direct investment projects – except for specially prepared joint projects – are possible in the close-to-border territories.

In Hungary, overall responsibility for the Phare CBC Programme Hungary-Slovakia will rest with the Prime Minister’s Office as the Contracting Authority of all sub-programmes of the Programme. The National Agency for Regional Development (NARD) under the Prime Minister’s Office will be the Implementing Agency of the project.

In Slovak Republic, responsibility for the Phare CBC Programme Slovakia - Hungary will rest with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR. The Regional Development Support Agency of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR will be responsible for the technical and financial management of the Grant scheme.
5. Detailed Budget (MEUR)\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>National Co-financing(^2)</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investment I</td>
<td>Institution Building IB</td>
<td>Total Phare (=I+IB)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For Hungary:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies and HRD – Hungary</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment actions – Hungary</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For Slovakia:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies and HRD – Slovakia</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment actions – Slovakia</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (Grant scheme)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The Prime Minister’s Office has been defined as the Implementing Authority for all measures to be implemented on the Hungarian side of the border in the framework of the JPD. In Phare terms, the National Agency for Regional Development of the Prime Minister’s Office with its Central Phare Regional Office in Budapest will be the Implementing Agency of the grant scheme. It will have the overall responsibility for all aspects of tendering and contracting as well as administrative and financial matters of the implementation.

**Implementing Agency in Hungary:**
National Agency for Regional Development of the Prime Minister’s Office

**PAO:**
Tamás Lunk

**Address:**
1016 Budapest, Gellértghy u. 30-32.

**Phone:**
+36 1 4887171

**Fax:**
+36 1 4887188

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\(^1\) The allocation between windows is indicative and can be revised during the projects selection according to the quality of projects submitted in terms of preparedness, CBC impact etc.

\(^2\) See below 11.2
The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development has been defined as the Implementing Authority for all measures to be implemented on the Slovakian side of the border in the framework of the JPD. The Regional Development Support Agency of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR will be responsible for the technical administrative and financial management of the Grant scheme.

**Implementing Agency in Slovakia:**
Regional Development Support Agency of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR

**PAO:**
Ing. Július Slovák

**Address:**
Špitálska 8, 816 44 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

**Phone:**
+421 2 5975 2819

**Fax:**
+421 2 5293 2809

6.2. Twinning

Not applicable

6.3. Non-standard aspects

The relevant Commission standards for the management of Grant Schemes described in the Practical Guide to Phare, ISPA & SAPARD contract procedures (PRAG) will be strictly followed during the implementation of the Grant Scheme.

6.4. Contracts

The Grant Scheme with two windows will be implemented through an open call for proposals, according to the stipulations of the PRAG on Grant Schemes. Beneficiaries will sign Grant Contracts with the PAO laying down the rules of the project implementation based on the list of supported projects approved by the IA and endorsed by the EC Delegation in case of the Phare co-financed projects. Tendering and contracting of the required services and supplies will follow the PRAG manual.

7. Implementation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing Memorandum</th>
<th>Publication of Call for Proposals</th>
<th>Start of project activity</th>
<th>Project Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last quarter 2002</td>
<td>1st quarter 2003</td>
<td>2nd quarter 2003</td>
<td>2nd quarter 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Equal Opportunity

Only such projects will be selected for support in the Grant Scheme that do not contain discriminatory elements and that are open for women and men on an equal basis.
9. Environment

The criteria for project selection include those, which deal with environmental impact of projects. Proposals for projects, which have potentially negative impacts, will be identified and removed from the project selection process. Such projects will only be considered again once they have been modified to reduce associated environmental problems to acceptable levels.

The activities covered by this grant scheme are directly related to the improvement of environmental conditions. The improvement of the surface and groundwater quality is expected due to less environmental load resulting from non-adequate wastewater, liquid and solid waste management.

The procedures for environmental impact assessment as set down in the EIA-directive³ are fully applicable for all investment projects under PHARE. If the EIA-directive has not yet been fully transposed, the procedures should be similar to the ones established in the above-mentioned directive. If a project would fall within the scope of annex I or annex II of the EIA Directive, the carrying out of the EIA-procedure must be documented⁴.

If a project is likely to affect sites of nature conservation importance, an appropriate assessment according to Art. 6 of the Habitats-Directive⁵ must be documented⁶. All investment projects shall be carried out in compliance with the relevant Community environmental legislation.

10. Rates of return

The individual project applications submitted to the IA for grants shall determine the rate of return of individual investments in the form of indicators.

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect:

The Phare contribution will help meeting the development needs outlined in the Joint Programming Document (JPD) of the Hungarian–Slovakian border region. Without Phare support, the steps and objectives included in the programme could be implemented only much later and at a much slower speed.

11.2 Co-financing:

The project will be jointly co-financed between Phare and national resources. The ratio - 75% Phare and 25% national co-financing - is binding and has to be applied to the final contract price.

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⁴ in Annex EIA to the corresponding investment project fiche
⁵ DIR 92/43/EEC; OJ 206/7; 22.7.1992
⁶ in Annex Nature Conservation to the corresponding investment project fiche
In Hungary, 25% of the total project cost will be financed from the Ministry of Agricultural and Regional Development. In Slovakia, 25% of the total project cost will be financed from the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development.

11.3 Additionality:
Financial support to be provided by Phare will not replace any other funding.

11.4 Project readiness and Size:
A draft of the Co-operation Agreement, Call for Proposal, Application form, Guidelines for applicants and Grant Contracts will be elaborated by all concerned organisations by the time of signing the Financing Memorandum. All documents shall be prepared according to the PRAG template and submitted to the Delegation for endorsement prior to the launch of the Call for proposals. Only projects ready for tendering can be supported.

The Fund will provide grants to projects in an amount of €50,000-150,000 (Window 1) and €100,000-500,000 (Window 2) in line with the document Programming Phare 2002 issued by the Commission. The Phare contribution to the Grant Scheme is €3.6 million and meets the minimum project size requirements.

11.5 Sustainability:
All infrastructures built through the grant scheme will be operated by the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will be responsible for the sustainability of the project and will provide the administrative staff and the necessary funds for the operational costs. The ability of the applicant to finance the long-term operation and maintenance of the infrastructural instalments shall be proved in the application and checked at the project selection phase.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions
All actions financed by Phare will respect the state aid and competition provisions of the Europe Agreement.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan
The project proposal is in line with the priorities identified in the National Development Plan.

12. Conditionality and sequencing
No conditionalities apply to this project.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period)
4. List of relevant Laws and Regulations
5. Template for the institutional framework/implementation arrangements in case of grant schemes
## LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR

### Environmental protection and nature conservation in the Slovak-Hungarian border region through local initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention logic</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall objective</strong></td>
<td>Decreased environmental pollution (% decrease in affected catchment areas)</td>
<td>Reports of the Central Statistics Office (KSH)</td>
<td>„Local/ border-region-consciousness“</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased environmental awareness of population</td>
<td>Reports and studies of MoE</td>
<td>Aspiration for a cleaner environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Changes in leisure activities balance</td>
<td>Local governments’ data</td>
<td>Readiness for self-organising and initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project purposes</strong></td>
<td>Increase (%) in (1) informal contacts (2) ad hoc forums (3) co-operation agreements (4) cross-border structures between environmental organisations</td>
<td>Reports of the Central Statistics Office (KSH)</td>
<td>Local community strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased number of households served by new wastewater installations</td>
<td>Surveys among beneficiaries (via questionnaires)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results</strong></td>
<td>Number of prepared investment projects</td>
<td>Reports from beneficiaries</td>
<td>Openness of environmental protection organisations and national parks for co-operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of established new contacts between environmental protection organisations</td>
<td>Monitoring reports</td>
<td>Knowledge of environmental protection techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of events targeting environmental consciousness and the satisfaction of participants (%)</td>
<td>Project dossiers</td>
<td>Capacities to enhance environmental consciousness among the population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newly established sewage and sludge treatment capacity (m³)</td>
<td>Questionnaires</td>
<td>Demand on improving public utility systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of joint projects (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of new partners involved in cross-border projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Studies and Human Resource Development:**
- Impact assessments, Need assessments, Feasibility studies and other studies covering preparatory documents for environmental investment actions prepared
- The management of connected protected areas and national parks harmonised
- Environmental information and awareness raising programs implemented

**Investment actions:**
- Local wastewater disposal/wastewater treatment plants based on biological treatment or other nature friendly methods installed
- Nature-protection investments (revitalisation of rivers, development of nature protection demonstration areas etc.) implemented
- Joint environmental protection and nature conservation monitoring systems in the direct border region set up
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Studies and Human Resource Development:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sufficient number and quality of project proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Studies covering preparatory project development documents (Impact assessments, Need assessments, Feasibility studies).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Availability of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harmonisation of the management of connected protected areas and national parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Transparent and effective project management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Environment protection related information campaigns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment actions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Solution of individual and harmless wastewater disposal and treatment in settlements/settlement parts (e.g. application of nature friendly treatment systems)</td>
<td>• Phare supports of EURO 1,8 million for Hungary and EURO 1,8 million for Slovakia + adequate national co-financing available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pre-treatment, utilisation and disposal of sewage sludge and municipal liquid waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Revitalisation of rivers, development of nature protection demonstration areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rehabilitation and restoration of nature conservation sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Establishment and development of joint environmental protection and nature conservation monitoring systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Waste water treatment (caused by population and by agriculture)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preconditions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The institutional structure and conditions of implementation do not change underway.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 2

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE IN THE SLOVAK-HUNGARIAN BORDER REGION THROUGH LOCAL INITIATIVES

Detailed implementation chart

<table>
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- Call for Proposals
- Project evaluation and selection
- Contracting (Grant contracts)
- Implementation and disbursement
Annex 3

Development of the Protection of the Environment and Nature in the Slovak-Hungarian Border Region through Local Initiatives

Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule (€ Million)

(Hungary)

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(Slovakia)

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE IN THE SLOVAK-HUNGARIAN BORDER REGION THROUGH LOCAL INITIATIVES

List of relevant Laws and Regulations

**In Hungary:**

- Act XXI/1996 on Regional Development and Physical Planning;
- Act no. LI. of 1995 laying down the general rules of environmental protection
- Act no. XLIII. of 2000 on waste management
- Act no. LVII of 1995 on water management
- Act no. LIII. of 1996 on nature protection

- Government decree no. 240/2000. (XII, 23.) on the nomination of sensitive surface waters and catchment areas in relation with municipal wastewater
- Government decree no. 33/2000. (III, 17.) on certain tasks related to activities affecting the quality of groundwaters

**In Slovakia:**

- Act no. 127/1994 on environmental impact assessment
- Act no. 138/1973 about water.
- Act no. 135/1974 on state administration at water management.
- Government Resolution no. 242/1993, which constitutive indexes admissible level of pollution water.
- Government Resolution no. 13/1987 about protection areas which the natural accumulation water.
- Act no. 23/1977 on scone of kind superficial and underground water.
- Public Notice no. 10/1977 on Water flows and their drainages.
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE IN THE SLOVAK-HUNGARIAN BORDER REGION THROUGH LOCAL INITIATIVES

Template for the institutional framework/implementation arrangements in case of grant schemes

- **The Hungarian and Slovak IAs (Implementing Agency):** Retain full responsibility for programme implementation respectively in Hungary and in Slovakia.

- **Two Secretariats shall be identified:** on the Hungarian side, the Regional Office in Budapest (in close co-operation with the Sopron and Eger Regional offices) of the National Agency for Regional Development. On the Slovak side the Secretariat will be established and nominated later by the Implementing Agency. The two secretariats will undertake in their respective country, the task of day-to-day technical management of implementation of projects and monitoring activities under the authority of the IA.

- **Rules, procedures and formats:** The Specific Guidelines based on the grant section of the Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa & Sapard contract procedures will be strictly followed.

- **Language:** The language of the grant contract is English and the official Hungarian/Slovak translation of the contract is attached to the signed English language contract. All communication between the Delegations and the Implementing Agencies will be in English including evaluation reports. The project applications will be submitted in national language with a short English summary according to the Specific Guidelines. All other project level documents, communication will be in national language.

1. **Preparation of the package of call for proposal, guidelines for applicants and application form according to the practical guide**

- The Secretariats from both countries will draft the Call for Proposals, the Guidelines for Applicants and the Application Form according to the indications of the Contracting Authorities and respective EC Delegations.

- Each CA/IA submits the final version of the documents to the respective EC Delegation for approval.

- EC Delegations endorse the documents.

2. **Publication of the call for proposal**

The IAs take all appropriate measures to ensure that the nationally and regionally publicised call for proposals reaches the target groups in line with the requirements of the Practical Guide.
3. **Project Selection Process**

- The Regional Offices collect and register incoming project proposals.
- The IAs select and approve the assessor teams (one for each country) for the assessment of administrative compliance, eligibility and assessment of technical and financial quality of proposals.
- The IAs (PAOs) nominate the Joint Evaluation Committee (non-voting Chairman, Secretary, and voting members).
- The IAs nominate the members of the Assessment Team and the Joint Evaluation Committee exclusively on the basis of their technical and professional expertise in the relevant area.
- The EC Delegations endorse the Teams of Assessors and the composition of the Joint Evaluation Committee. The EC Delegations nominate an observer to follow all or part of the proceedings of the Joint Evaluation Committee. Prior approval is needed from the Delegations for the participation of other observers.
- The Joint Evaluation Committee draws up its recommendations and decisions according to the assessor team's written assessment of each proposal on the basis of the published evaluation grid.
- The PAO of each country approves the evaluation report prepared by the Joint Evaluation Committee and forwards the evaluation report and any award proposals to the EC Delegations.
- The EC Delegations endorse (ex-ante) the evaluation report on the selection process and the final list of grants to be awarded.
- The IAs notify each applicant in writing of the result of the selection process.

4. **Contracting (PAO Designated in the Responsible Implementing Agency) for Each Country:**

- The format of the grant contract is drafted according to the Practical Guide using the standard grant contract format and its annexes.
- The format of the grant contract is to be approved by the Delegation (in cases where the call for proposals results in the award of a large number of grants which all have the same grant contract conditions)
- The PAO signs the grant contracts with the selected beneficiaries based on the final list of grants approved by the Delegation.

5. **Implementation of the Selected Projects by the Beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries subcontract suppliers of goods, services or works, in line with Phare procurement regulations annexed to the Grant Contract and in line with the Practical Guide.
6. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SELECTED PROJECTS**

The IA with the technical assistance of the Secretariat (Regional Office) receives and verifies the invoices and requests payment by the National Fund.

7. **MONITORING OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE BENEFICIARIES**

Standard Phare monitoring instruments will be used for monitoring purposes. Attention is drawn to the special duty of the Secretariat with regard to the day-to-day monitoring of the selected projects.