COMMISSION DECISION
OF 1998

Establishing a Multi-Beneficiary Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme in 1998,

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 of 18 December 1989 on economic aid to certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 753/96 of 22 April 1996, and in particular Article 9 thereof,

Whereas Regulation No 3906/89 lays down the rules and conditions for the granting of economic aid to certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe,

Whereas the measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Aid for Economic Restructuring in certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe,

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme described in the Annex to the present decision is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The maximum amount of Community assistance shall be 5.0 MECU to be financed through Budget line B7-500.

Done in Brussels,

For the Commission
PHARE MULTI-BENEFICIARY PROGRAMME
FINANCING PROPOSAL

STATISTICAL COOPERATION

1. IDENTIFICATION

COUNTRY: All Phare Beneficiary Countries
PROGRAMME: Phare Statistical Cooperation
YEAR: 1998
PHARE CONTRIBUTION: 5 MECU
IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITIES: European Commission
EXPIRY DATE: October 31, 2000 (contracting)
October 31, 2001 (payments)
SECTOR: AA
GROUP: O
BUDGET LINE: B7-500
TASK MANAGER: E. Castrinakis DG IA
N. Wurm Eurostat (DG XXXIV)

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The purpose of the Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme is to improve the provision of official statistics relating to CECs, particularly in the pre-accession context. Between 1991 and 1997, 23.5 MECU was allocated to the Programme. In 1997, it was agreed to that a total of 34 MECU should be earmarked for the period 1997 to 1999. So far, 12 MECU have been allocated from the 1997 budget. The current proposal represents the second allocation from this plan.

2.2 This second tranche will form a bridge to a further allocation expected from the 1999 budget. The objectives are to:

- provide comparable, timely and relevant statistics in certain priority policy areas during the enlargement process, and;

- to transfer know-how concerning the statistical requirements of membership of the EU (the *acquis communautaire* in statistics) in all areas.

2.3 The Programme will finance cooperation activities involving the agencies responsible for collecting and disseminating official statistics in CECs (referred to here as the National Statistical Offices (NSOs)). These activities will include study visits, consultancies, training secondments and courses, participation in seminars and technical working groups, dissemination of statistical data, and specific sectoral pilot projects in key areas. Details of these activities and projects are given in section 7 and Annex 2.
2.4 An independent assessment report on the Phare Multi-Country Statistics Programmes was carried out by the OMAS consortium in 1996/97, and rated the Programmes as successful. Recommendations made in the report and corrective actions identified were addressed in the 1997 Programme, and will be followed through into this Programme. The executive summary is attached at Annex 3.

2.5 The Commission will be responsible for the Programme, with Eurostat (DG 34) taking delegated management responsibility with guidance from DG IA.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reliable statistics are essential for the enlargement process, to manage and monitor the effect of Community policies. They are a key component of a market-led economy, to assist the design of relevant and well-targeted national and local policies. Statistics which are credible and trusted by citizens and the media give transparency to democratic processes.

3.2 The Phare Programme has supported the development of statistics since 1990, initially through the transfer of the know-how required to adapt old-style command-economy methods to modern techniques and purposes and through the provision of equipment. Recent Programmes have been broadened to ensure that relevant and timely data is available to support the enlargement process, and to assist applicant countries in their efforts to comply with the statistical requirements of membership.

3.3 Multi-beneficiary programmes represent about one third of the total amount allocated, and result from the common interest of CEC NSOs in acquiring standard European skills and methodologies. Allocations made so far are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>3 MECU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>2.5 MECU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1 MECU (bridging)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>17 MECU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>12 MECU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 During this period, CECs made significant progress in developing their capacity to meet the statistical needs of the market economy in accordance with EU standards. Phare interventions have improved the foundation for the production of statistical data, by providing computing infrastructure, enabling the introduction of internationally comparable classification systems, and introducing survey methods for data collection. All countries, for example, have introduced labour force surveys for collecting employment data. More recently, Phare interventions have resulted in:

- the provision of statistical data for the Agenda 2000 communication;
expansion of Eurostat’s reference databases to include key statistical indicators of CECs (although much work still needs to be done to include detailed statistical data);

- the publication of statistical data on retailing and short term indicators.

3.5 Following independent assessments of previous Programmes by the OMAS consortium and independent experts, an Issues Paper was developed by all involved actors in 1997, using full project cycle management techniques. This analysed remaining problems, to determine objectives for a new three year Programme. Parties involved in using statistical data, and institutions delivering assistance through the Programme (primarily the government statistical services of Member States and EFTA countries) were also consulted during this process. (see Annex 3)

3.6 This Financing Proposal is a direct result of this process, and represents the second tranche of the three year Programme, which was approved in 1997

4. **POLICY ASSESSMENT**

4.1 The EU and CECs need impartial, reliable and timely statistics on which to base policy decisions during the pre-accession phase and beyond. The need for further work to improve the comparability of CEC statistics with those of the EU was clearly expressed in the Commission opinions on the applications for membership in Agenda 2000.

4.2 The Governments of 10 of the 13 current Phare Partners have signed Association Agreements with the Community and its Member States. Statistical data are needed to monitor these agreements. Cooperation in statistics is also foreseen as part of the agreements.

4.3 NSOs from 12 of the Phare partners (i.e. except Bosnia-Herzegovina) have signed a Common Declaration of Statistical Cooperation with Eurostat. Through these agreements, NSOs have given their commitment to work closely with Eurostat, to use international and EU standards, and to provide the same data that is currently provided by Member States with the same comparability and quality.

5. **INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The beneficiaries of this Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme will be the NSOs in the Phare beneficiary countries: currently Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Although there are various statistics collection and dissemination agencies in any country, the central body responsible for official statistics in each country (the NSO), where it exists, will be the primary beneficiary of the Programme. Other agencies will, however, be involved in the
Programme activities as appropriate. Specific arrangements may be made in cases where there is no clear statistical office at national level.

5.2 Generally, NSOs are resourced with competent professional statisticians who demonstrate drive and commitment to their task - although retaining these professionals, as opposed to the less skilled members of staff, can be difficult, particularly where public sector salaries compare unfavourably with the private sector. Indeed, the current state of NSOs, whether with regard to their internal organisation, their relationships with other national/international, public/private actors, cannot be dissociated from the general context of public administration (reform) in CECs.

5.3 In order to use the available human and financial resources to provide the best possible service, careful prioritisation of NSO work plans and strategies is necessary. Thus the CEC NSOs, in partnership with the Commission, with the assistance of the statistical services of EU Member States, and based on the policy context described above, will produce strategic plans for their medium term operations (three to five years). In coherence with these strategic plans, the CEC NSOs will also produce annual work programmes, again in partnership with the Commission, for their specific participation in the Programme (see also 7.5 below).

6. OBJECTIVES

6.1 The purpose of the 1997-1999 Phare Statistics Programme is to improve the provision of official CEC statistics to both national and international public and private sector users.

6.2 The Programme’s overall objectives are therefore:

1. To strengthen the institutions of CEC NSOs, to enable them to better meet the needs of their customers by providing data that is accurate, reliable and timely and compiled to international standards and methods - and is, at the time of accession, in full compliance with the acquis communautaire;
2. To improve the provision of appropriate statistics to policy- and decision-makers (governments, institutions, the private sector) in the context of pre-accession.

6.3 To meet these objectives, the immediate objectives for the 1998 Programme will be to:

1. Improve the production, collection and dissemination of statistics comparable with Community methods in certain key areas which have been identified as pre-accession priorities. (see 7.3 below);
2. Improve their ability to programme and plan their activities in relation to their obligation to meet the Community acquis in the area of statistics.
7. **PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION**

7.1 This Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme is based on a multi-annual indicative approach. This is the second of three annual Programmes (1998), and will finance technical assistance and training activities in priority sectors, and specific sectoral projects (including projects of a pilot nature). It will aim to achieve the following specific results:

- Production of statistics in certain key areas comparable with EU standards for statistics, including the publication and dissemination of these statistics.
- Transfer of know-how concerning all EU requirements in statistics, and increase the coverage of Eurostat’s regular databases. This will require close monitoring of the development of the EU statistical system, which is expanding rapidly, with (for example) up to 20 legal texts in preparation at any one time.

7.2 The activities to be undertaken to **improve comparability and disseminate statistics** in specific areas will be sectoral projects of a pilot nature. These projects will normally include an assessment of existing compliance with EU requirements, specific technical assistance and training to assist countries develop appropriate techniques, and publication and dissemination of results. Where appropriate, pilot surveys will be used to collect data. Projects will employ common methodology in all CECs and conform with EU standards. They will produce results in the form of useful statistics in priority sectors within a relatively short time period (months rather than years).

7.3 Pilot projects will be proposed by Eurostat, working closely with the other services of the Commission, according to the priority areas for the pre-accession period. Project proposals will be discussed with beneficiary institutions in the Programme Management Group and presented to the Policy Group for CEC statistics for approval (see section 10.1 and Annex 2). Criteria for selection will include relevance to the enlargement negotiations, availability and quality of existing statistics, and the relationship to the **acquis communautaire**. If appropriate, non-applicant countries may participate in these projects, or they may develop specific proposals in areas of common interest. For the 1998 Programme, proposals are anticipated in the following areas (see Annex 2), although a flexible approach will be adopted to accommodate changing circumstances and priorities as negotiations begin:

- Agricultural statistics (economic accounts, censuses)
- Macro-economic performance (including purchasing power parities),
- Employment (the harmonisation of labour force surveys),
- Business surveys.

7.4 Appropriate activities to **transfer know-how and deliver harmonised data to Eurostat** will normally be selected, according to the annual work programmes of participating institutions, by Eurostat or the partner institutions from the following menu. Other types of activities may be used on an exceptional basis.
• **Study visits and consultancies**, to transfer advice on meeting Community requirements in particular sectors. This may include detailed sectoral studies on compliance with Community statistical standards. Expertise will normally be drawn from Community and EFTA NSOs, and, on a more limited basis and where appropriate, from other CEC NSOs and from independent experts;

• **Participation of CEC NSOs in seminars and working groups**, including seminars organised specifically for countries in the CEC region, and technical working groups routinely organised for Community NSOs and which serve to update beneficiary institutions on current developments;

• **Formal training courses**, covering techniques and methods used to compile official statistics in the Community;

• **Secondments of trainees to Eurostat**, (or other appropriate institutions) to familiarise statisticians from NSOs with Eurostat strategies in each sector, and to familiarise Eurostat with specific national problems and environments.

7.5 Like pilot projects, priorities for the use of the above technical assistance activities will be based on their relevance to the accession process, and to the *acquis communautaire*. Each country will develop a medium term strategic plan, outlining their plans to adopt the *acquis* in statistics (non-applicant countries will develop general strategic plans). From these plans, annual work plans outlining specific objectives and tasks to be accomplished each year, consistent with medium term strategies, will be provided for discussion and approval by Eurostat prior to the use of this fund.

7.6 Annual and six-monthly progress reports, outlining the implementation of the *acquis communautaire*, and reviewing achievements in the context of each annual plan, will be delivered by each NSO to Eurostat.

7.7 In summary the work under this part of the programme will continue activities foreseen at the beginning, along two major components:

a) New pilot surveys and projects as per 7.3 above

b) Technical assistance for:

   - Activities to improve comparability and dissemination
   - Know-how transfer
   - Planning national programmes

8. **Links with Other Donors & Other Phare Programmes**
8.1 Whilst many international organisations (e.g. EFTA, EBRD, IMF, OECD, UN-ECE, UN-ILO and UN-FAO) cooperate with CEC statistical bodies, the European Commission, through Eurostat, has the official role of Coordinator. Some EU Member States have their own bilateral statistical TA programmes with certain CECs, and these are also communicated to Eurostat to avoid duplication and ensure proper coordination. This is made easier since Member State NSOs are the key providers of TA and know-how under both Phare and bilateral Programmes.

8.2 The role of the Commission as Coordinator is particularly necessary given that the Community, through the Phare Programme, accounts for at least 90% (in financial terms) of external assistance provided to CEC NSOs. Nevertheless, coordination with other international organisations remains crucial in avoiding duplication, and in reducing where possible incompatibility, in requests to CEC NSOs for information.

**COOPERATION WITH EFTA**

8.3 The involvement of EFTA in the Phare Statistical Programme has been increasing gradually since 1992, partly through direct contributions from the EFTA Secretariat (expected to be around 250,000 ECU per year), and partly through the involvement of EFTA NSOs in delivering technical cooperation. EFTA remains strongly interested in contributing to the development and integration of the CECs in the European Statistical System, and it is anticipated that similar annual financial contributions will continue to be made.

**LINKS WITH PHARE NATIONAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES**

8.4 About 75% of funds under National Programmes have been used to upgrade the data processing infrastructure of NSOs. This has been an essential complement to the general transfer of know-how provided by the multi-beneficiary Programmes, and has increased the data production and analysis capacity of NSOs. The remaining funds have typically been used to finance specific national surveys. National Programmes have thus provided the means to implement operational activities, whilst the multi-beneficiary Programmes have transferred specific know-how on EU methods. This results in the implementation of statistical activities at the national level consistent with both national and EU requirements.

8.5 Other Phare Sectoral Programmes (e.g. Agriculture, Regional Development, Multi-Country Energy, Multi-Country Education) sometimes include components for data collection in order to better formulate policy.

8.6 The Commission, through Eurostat, will ensure that these actions are coordinated and coherent. In particular, NSOs will outline objectives and activities for all Phare programmes in statistics, whether National or Multi-beneficiary, in the annual work programmes for participation in this Programme. Eurostat will review these plans at least once a year.
9. **COST AND FINANCING PLAN**

9.1 The Phare contribution to the Statistics Programme will be 5 MECU for 1998. The programme will expire on 31 October 2000. An indicative timetable, with a breakdown of activities, is given in Annex 2.

9.2 Allocations for 1998 are planned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Amount (MECU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilot project activities (including surveys)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details on planned activities are given in Annex 1 (Logical Framework) and Annex 2.

9.3 The expected disbursement of this programme allocation is expected to follow the following indicative schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cumulative in Mecu

10. **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

10.1 The Commission will have overall management responsibility for the programme. Implementation structures developed (and financed from) the 1997 Programme will be used as far as possible: in particular, a Programme Secretariat will provide certain coordinating and monitoring functions, and will commission sectoral studies. A contractor will be appointed through normal Phare procedures to implement the proposed projects and manage the technical assistance facility. A Policy Group, consisting of top management of each CEC NSO, will act as the Programme’s advisory board, with a Management Group (consisting of representatives of CEC and EU NSOs) to implement the Policy Group recommendations and make project proposals. Further details of implementation arrangements are given in Annex 2.

11. **AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

11.1 The accounts and operation of any contractor may be checked at regular intervals by an outside auditor contracted by the Commission and financed under the present programme, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission and the Community's Court of Auditors as referred to in the General Conditions.

11.2 The Commission services shall:
• Monitor the implementation of the programme on the basis of regular reports prepared by the contractor and the Programme Secretariat;

• Organise assessment and evaluation reviews to provide better insight into the performance of contractors and the impact of the activities as appropriate (to be financed from the previous 1997 Programme);

• Sign contracts with independent experts to follow the progress of the programme and its components and carry-out an ex-post evaluation after completion of the programme or parts thereof.

11.3 In order to facilitate these activities, a detailed set of indicators of achievement will be defined according to the objectives and targets of the Programme (see LogFrame in Annex 1).

12. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

12.1 NSOs in the countries participating in the Statistics Programme shall ensure that appropriate staff, budgetary provisions and support facilities necessary for the implementation of the programme are provided and that appropriate institutional and legislative measures are taken.

12.2 The Governments of the countries concerned accept the responsibility to carry out the projects specified under the programme to a good end. The EU financial contribution to this programme is limited to 5 MECU for 1998.

12.3 In those programme components in which the Community grant contributes to the financing of revenue-generating activities, the Commission shall determine, in conjunction with the authorities of the recipient countries, specific arrangements for financing which could include co-financing by the project revenues of reimbursement of the initial grant.

13. **RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS**

13.1 In view of the excellent cooperation in the past, the tightly defined implementation structures and the horizontal nature of the programme, the Commission does not foresee any (financial) risks in implementation.

13.2 Nevertheless, assumptions have been made that (see Programme Identification LogFrame, Annex 1):

- that CEC Governments continue to understand and support the role of statistics in a market economy and a democracy, particularly in the pre-accession context; and that they are able to clearly define data collection and dissemination responsibilities (e.g. through appropriate legal and institutional frameworks);
that CEC NSOs are willing to use new methods for statistical work, that they can provide good quality staff for the activities of the Programme, and that they can be retained;
appropriate and timely expertise is available, from EU/CEC NSOs.

14. **ANNEXES**

The following Annexes are attached:

- Annex 1  Log Frame Table
- Annex 2  Programme description and implementation arrangements
- Annex 3  Assessment report summary
- Annex 4  Achievements of the 1994 multi-country statistics Programme
## ANNEX 1 - LogFrame Matrix

### 1997-1999 PHARE Statistical Cooperation Programme - Programme Identification

(+ Objectives, Results & Activities to be supported under the 1998 Programme)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERVENTION LOGIC</th>
<th>OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</th>
<th>SOURCES OF VERIFICATION</th>
<th>ASSUMPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **OVERALL OBJECTIVES** | • Strengthen the institutions of CEC National Statistical Offices (NSOs), to enable them to better meet the needs of their customers by providing data that is accurate, reliable and timely and compiled to international standards and methods.  
• Improve the provision of appropriate statistics to policy- and decision-makers in the pre-accession context. | • Statistical products are available to users  
• Statistical information is used as an aid to policy-making  
• Commercial organisations purchase statistical information for non-governmental planning  
• Comparability of CEC data at European (EU/CEC) level  
• Increased sets of pre-accession statistics are delivered in all target areas | • Media interest in CEC statistics, beyond immediately interested parties (for example reactions of financial markets)  
• Ex-ante and ex-post independent evaluation e.g. using questionnaires to users  
• Analysis of national and joint Eurostat/NSO publications, databases & sales | • Understanding by CEC Governments of the supporting role of statistics and NSOs in the development of a market economy and a democratic society, including for the associated countries, requirements in the context of pre-accession  
• Adequate national budget allocated to NSOs |
| **IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES** | 1. Improve the production, collection and dissemination of statistics comparable with EU methods in certain key areas identified as pre-accession priorities;  
2. Improve the ability of NSOs to programme and plan their activities in relation to their obligation to meet the EU acquis in the area of statistics. | • Availability of comparable statistics  
• Improvements in implementation of comparable methodology  
• Level of compliance with European statistical requirements | • Programme monitoring and completion reports and assessments  
• Evaluations of data produced by Eurostat and available in Eurostat reference databases  
• Evaluation of statistics produced by participating countries  
• Evaluation of compliance with EU standards (eg through a database of compliance, through self-assessment reports from NSOs, and through independent assessments) | • Appropriate legal and institutional framework in place and implemented  
• National and international (and EU) demands on CEC NSOs are coordinated and within their capacities  
• Clear definition by CEC Governments of data collection and dissemination responsibilities at national level.  
• Data collection does not duplicate efforts by various branches of government  
• Modern (sampling) methodologies are used |
### ANNEX 1 - LogFrame Matrix
1997-1999 PHARE Statistical Cooperation Programme - Programme Identification (+ Objectives, Results & Activities to be Supported under the 1998 Programme)

<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>RESULTS 1</strong></td>
<td>1. Production, collection and dissemination of statistics comparable with EU methods in certain key areas. Proposed Activities (3.0 MECU): 1.1 Pilot projects in (for example) agricultural statistics, macro-economic statistics, employment, and business activity</td>
<td>• Availability of comparable statistics in each area  • Improvements in methodology in each area</td>
<td>• Project monitoring and completion reports and assessments, consultants reports  • Project publications and databases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESULTS 2</strong></td>
<td>2. Transfer know-how concerning all EU requirements in statistics, and increase the coverage of Eurostat’s regular databases. Proposed Activities (2.0 MECU): 2.1 CEC staff seconded as trainees to Eurostat and/or EU NSOs 2.2 Short study visits or consultancies to/from EU Member States, EFTA countries and Eurostat on specific issues 2.3 Attendance by CEC staff at Eurostat working groups, and other meetings 2.4 Formal training courses on EU statistical methods</td>
<td>• Activities completed in each subject area by each country  • Regular involvement of CEC NSO staff in Eurostat working groups  • Numbers of CEC staff trained in statistical methods  • Increase in knowledge of staff trained  • Coverage of Eurostat’s databases</td>
<td>• Activity reports  • Eurostat reference databases  • Reports/minutes of Eurostat working groups  • Contractor’s reports, including analyses of activities completed  • Training course evaluations  • Consultants reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COSTS FOR 1998 PROGRAMME**: Pilot projects (3.0 MECU) + general technical assistance (2.0 MECU) = 5 MECU
## ANNEX 2
### PHARE STATISTICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME
#### 1998 FINANCING PROPOSAL

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION (REF. SECTIONS 7 & 9)

**PLANNED RESULTS, ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED COSTS**

**Result 1:** Production, collection and dissemination of statistics comparable with EU methods in certain key areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSED ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EST. BUDGET (MECU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Pilot and sectoral projects. Final proposals will be submitted by Eurostat for discussion in the Programme Management Group, and will be approved by the Policy Group. Proposals are likely to include: Agricultural statistics, including:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the development of agricultural monetary statistics (i.e. prices, labour inputs, sector modelling, economic accounts for agriculture). Outputs will include statistical reports from pilot studies, and</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macro-economic statistics, including:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• price surveys and calculation of purchasing power parities for all candidate countries, using a new methodological approach;</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the introduction of expanded coverage in the production of country focus publications on economic flows between the EU and candidate countries.</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment statistics, including:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• adaptation of existing Labour Force Surveys in participating countries, with a view to compliance with council regulation 577/98, regular transmission of quarterly results to Eurostat, and subsequent publication;</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• implementation of methodology for estimating quarterly labour cost indices comparable to those produced by Member States, and publication of data;</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• collection, analysis and publication of data for an Employment Observatory (two editions).</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Business statistics

- Extension of structural survey methods to service and other sectors, in line with the Council Regulation on business statistics 0.6

Total Estimated Budget: Pilot and sectoral projects 3.0

**Result 2:** Transfer of know-how concerning all EU requirements in statistics, and an increase in the coverage of Eurostat databases

2.1 Secondment of CEC NSO staff to Eurostat and/or EU NSOs for training placements (15 trainees, maximum stay of 6 months) 0.3

2.2 Short study visits or consultancies to/from EU Member States, EFTA countries and Eurostat on specific issues according to the annual plans submitted by participating countries (approx. 8 actions per country, around 100 actions in total) 0.5

2.3 Attendance by CEC staff at Eurostat working groups and other meetings according to the annual plans submitted by participating countries (approx. 18 participations for 13 countries, around 230 actions in total) 0.7

2.4 Average of 10 participations in formal training courses for 13 countries (total around 130 participations) 0.5

Total Estimated Budget: Transfer of know-how 2.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>ESTIMATED BUDGET (MECU)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pilot surveys and projects</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Technical assistance to transfer know-how about EU requirements in statistics</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total 1998 Programme Statistical Cooperation** 5.0
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (REF. SECTION 10)

PLANNED RESULTS, ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

1. The Commission
The Commission will be responsible for the Programme. As in the past, DGIA will be responsible for the overall setting and direction of the programme in coherence with the Phare Programme in general and relations with CECs, particularly in the pre-accession context. Management authority will be sub-delegated to Eurostat, who will be responsible for the award of contracts, acting as Contracting Authority on behalf of the Partner Countries. Eurostat will continue to lead the technical aspects of the programme, and in particular the day-to-day monitoring of EU norms and standards, and in relations with EU NSOs as providers of TA. Eurostat will:

- arbitrate on the most appropriate statistical models and best practice;
- examine, finalise and endorse of project-related proposals, including the annual work plans submitted by participating countries. Eurostat may also submit project proposals independently of requests from participating countries. Eurostat will make regular programming and assessment missions to CEC NSOs;
- approve the selection of contractors and sub-contractors and their terms of reference;
- monitor the work of main contractors and their sub-contractors to ensure that support is given to meet EU/international requirements and standards;
- brief and advise CEC NSOs and sub-contractors on statistical methods, and results expected.

Eurostat will also:

- liaise with other Commission Services concerning their requests for CEC statistics;
- act as a focal point for coordination with other donors in statistics (as official G24 coordinator for statistics).

2. CEC National Statistical Offices
The programme will be implemented by the National Statistics Offices in each CEC, who will:

- develop prioritised annual work programmes for participation in the Programme, based on both a medium-term strategy for the NSO as a whole, and on this Financing Proposal; these programmes will be discussed annually with Eurostat and will be approved by Eurostat;
- provide representatives to the programme management groups (the Policy Group and Management Group) (see below);
- ensure sustainability of all actions, and aim to reduce dependency on external assistance within the lifetime of the proposed 3 year programme;
• be responsible for the staff participating in Programme activities, including their selection, their timely reporting to the Programme after a TA action, and their application/implementation of the skills acquired under TA actions.

3. **EU National Statistical Offices**
The NSOs of Member States will be, together with Eurostat, the main providers of know-how to the Programme, mainly as “sub-contractors” to the main contractor. Feedback from their assignments (including their assessment of compliance with EU requirements) will be an important source of information on the development of the programme. Additionally they will be invited to participate in the Programme Management Committee (see below) and other technical meetings, to exchange information on the development of statistics and statistical methods.

4. **The Policy Group**
Following new arrangements agreed by beneficiary NSOs in 1998, a Policy Group will act as the Advisory Board for this Programme. It will consist of top level representatives of each CEC NSO, and representatives from the services of the Commission. It will meet once or twice a year, preferably (but not necessarily) in a Phare country. Eurostat will chair this meeting and provide the secretariat, working closely with the Programme Secretariat (see below). The Policy Group will advise the Commission on the identification and content of the programme (including Pilot Projects), and may adopt recommendations of the Commission. Final decisions relating to programme implementation and financial requirements will remain the responsibility of the Commission.

5. **The Management Group**
Broader technical issues will be discussed at a meeting of the Management group for this Programme, either once or twice a year. This will be organised and chaired by the Commission (Eurostat), and will consist of representatives of MS NSOs, CEC NSOs and other donors (as observers). The function of this committee will be to discuss issues related to Programme implementation; in general it will not have executive powers, but will prepare recommendations for the Policy Group (including proposals for Pilot Projects).

6. **The Programme Secretariat**
New management arrangements introduced for the 1997 Programme will be used for the 1998 Programme, including the Programme Secretariat (funded from the 1997 Programme). This has a similar role to the Programme Coordination Unit set up for the 1994 Programme, including the:

• arrangement of Programme Policy and Management meetings in partnership with Eurostat;
• collection and dissemination of information on other relevant Programmes (Community and others);
- monitoring of the programme as a whole, through the development and collection of monitoring indicators, and the maintenance of a database of Programme activities and their impact;
- development of a system for monitoring compliance with Eurostat’s requirements, including assessments of compliance in specific sector and the maintenance of a “compliance” database;
- provision of assistance for the identification of projects and partners as required.