COMMISSION DECISION
OF 1999

Establishing a Horizontal Phare Statistical Co-operation in 1999,

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 1266/99 of 21 June 1999, 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 15.0 MEUR to be financed through Budget line B7-500.

Done in Brussels,

For the Commission
FINANCING PROPOSAL 1999

STATISTICAL COOPERATION

1. IDENTIFICATION

COUNTRY: Phare Countries candidate to accession
PROGRAMME: Phare Statistical Co-operation
YEAR: 1999
PHARE CONTRIBUTION: 15 MEUR
IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITIES: European Commission
EXPIRY DATE: October 31, 2001 (contracting)
October 31, 2002 (payments)
SECTOR: AA
GROUP: O
BUDGET LINE: B7-500
PROGRAMMING: B. Gavazzoli DG Enlargement
IMPLEMENTATION: Hendrik Van Maele SCR
N. Wurm/M. Ceballos, Eurostat in sub-delegation

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The purpose of the Phare Statistical Co-operation Programme is to improve the provision of official statistics relating to CECs, particularly in the pre-accession context. Between 1991 and 1998, 40.7 MEUR was allocated to the Programme. In 1997, a further contribution of 34 MEUR was envisaged for the period 1997 to 1999. So far, 12 MEUR have been allocated from the 1997 budget and 5 MEUR from the 1998 budget. The current proposal represents the final allocation from this plan.

2.2 The objectives of this third tranche are:

- To 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 - and is, at the time of accession, in full compliance with the *acquis communautaire*;

- To improve the provision of appropriate statistics to policy- and decision-makers (governments, institutions, the private sector) in the context of pre-accession.

2.3 The Programme will finance co-operation 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 several key areas. After the implementation of the 1999 programme the countries involved will have improved considerably their compliance with the acquis, especially in the domains where pilot projects are to be carried out and the general comparability of the statistics the partner countries provide to EU will be much higher than at present. Details of these activities and projects together with the outputs expected to be achieved are given in section 8 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 already addressed in the 1997 Programme, and will be followed through into this Programme. Especially the orientation of the programme is now fully towards compliance with the acquis communautaire.

2.5 The Commission will be responsible for the Programme, with Eurostat taking delegated management responsibility from DG Enlargement.

2.6 The main emphasis for candidate countries will be on the compliance with the acquis communautaire.

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. This process has been accelerated by the recent screening exercise covering most beneficiary countries and the results of the screening are fully taken into account. This is mainly done by identifying common weak points amongst the countries and by designing as a consequence common projects and approaches to eliminate them. Eurostat, as responsible Directorate General for the statistical acquis, also takes utmost care in maintaining coherence of national Phare programmes, where they exist, with findings from the enlargement process.
3.3 Multi-beneficiary programmes result from the common interest of CEC NSOs in acquiring standard European skills and methodologies. Allocations made so far are as follows:

1991 3 MEUR  
1992 2.5 MEUR  
1994 1.2 MEUR (bridging)  
1994 17 MEUR  
1997 12 MEUR  
1998 5 MEUR  

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 appropriate survey methods for data collection including sampling. All candidate countries, for example, have introduced labour force surveys for collecting employment data. More recently, Phare interventions have for example resulted in:

- the provision of statistical data for the Agenda 2000 communication;
- the provision of a statistical annex for the regular reports from the Commission to the Council concerning progress with respect to the acquis communautaire;
- 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);
- A general statistical yearbook concerning Phare countries and various sector specific publications, mainly as result of pilot projects.

3.5 Following the independent assessment 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 paper analysed remaining problems, to determine objectives for a new three year indicative plan. Parties involved in using statistical data, and institutions delivering assistance through the plan (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 third and last tranche of the three year plan.

4. **The need to continue the Multi-beneficiary approach in statistics**
4.1 Statistics are an essential part of the enlargement process, to help design, manage and monitor appropriate EU, national and local policies, and to give transparency to democratic processes. Relevant and timely data is required to assist the enlargement negotiations and to accompany the pre-accession strategy of the Commission. In addition, countries require assistance in their efforts to comply with the statistical requirements of membership.

4.2 Statistics is identified as a priority in many Accession Partnerships and National Programmes for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire. The aim of this horizontal programme is to transfer of know-how following a common methodology, where the delivery mechanisms are multilateral, whereas national Phare programmes normally support operations within the countries.

4.3 To underline the importance of the multi-beneficiary approach in statistics, the Liaison Group signed a declaration in November 1997. The latter highlights that:

- **harmonised statistics are crucial for the functioning of the EU.** The development, implementation and monitoring of key EU policies require a strong statistical base. This is evident in the work of existing Member States and Eurostat, in areas such as agriculture, structural and regional policy, trade agreements, and many other policy areas. It will be important to ensure that countries joining the Union have a strong statistical base both during and after the pre-accession phase.

- **statistics at EU level are only of value if they are comparable.** Inconsistencies in methodology, quality and timeliness can make comparisons between countries difficult or even misleading, and can lead to difficulties interpreting statistics.

- **the development of comparable statistics cannot be done unless all countries (and Eurostat) are involved in the process.** The value of statistics is greatly reduced if some countries are not involved in the process and are not able to use methodology that is consistent with other countries and with Eurostat standards.

- **many statistics measure relationships between countries, which cannot be done by countries working in isolation.** Examples including migration statistics and foreign trade statistics, where checks need to be made between countries, who need to use similar compilation methods if the statistics are to be meaningful.

- **there are economies of scale in a multi-beneficiary approach in statistics.** Advisory and training resources are more efficiently used in statistics in a multi-beneficiary environment. Similar technical problems may be tackled in similar ways in different countries (although clearly there are national differences). Statistics is a unique discipline, in that the development of harmonised methods requires collaboration on a very large scale, and this is reflected in the large number of technical working groups organised by Eurostat for Member States. It is important that Phare partner countries are all able to take part in these events and to participate in multi-country projects.

- **previous statistics programmes have produced good results and have been assessed to be efficient.** An OMAS report rated the performance of the 1994 multi-beneficiary programme as satisfactory, and the implementation as efficient. Tangible results have also been produced, including comparable GDP figures,
statistics on SMEs, retail trade and short term economic indicators, and road transport. Data from most participating countries is now stored in the Eurostat New Cronos database, and a publication containing comparable statistics in a number of fields is being prepared by Eurostat.

5. **POLICY ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The EU and the candidate 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 and in subsequent progress reports. The need is furthermore strengthened by the results of the European Council of Berlin applying structural mechanisms to Phare partners already in the pre-accession phase (ISPA and SAPARD).

5.2 The Governments of the 10 Phare candidate countries have signed Europe Agreements with the Community and its Member States. Statistical data are needed to monitor these agreements. Co-operation in statistics is also foreseen as part of the agreements.

5.3 NSOs from all the Phare candidate countries have signed a Common Declaration of Statistical Co-operation 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.

6. **INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The beneficiaries of this Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme will be the NSOs in the Phare candidate countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic 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) 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.

6.2 Generally, NSOs dispose of 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.

6.3 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 (covering all areas of statistics and independently of the resources provided through Phare), again in partnership with the Commission and underlining the accession character of the programme.

7. OBJECTIVES

7.1 It is proposed that the objectives of the 1999 programme remain fundamentally the same as objectives for the previous two programmes. 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. Priority areas of work should correspond to areas of weakness, including those identified during the screening process and those identified in national programmes for the adoption the acquis communautaire.

7.2 To meet these objectives, the immediate objectives for the 1999 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 programme description);

2. Improve the ability of candidate countries to programme and plan their activities in relation to their obligation to meet the Community acquis in the area of statistics.

8. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

8.1 This Phare Statistical Cooperation Programme is based on a multi-annual indicative approach. This is the third of three annual Programmes (1997-1999), 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.

8.2 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. In all cases they are used to start new statistics or to reform an existing one aligning it to EU requirements. 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).

8.3 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 and deficiencies stated in the pre-accession process. Project proposals will be presented to the Policy Group for CEC statistics in order to receive their commitment for participation. Criteria for selection will include relevance to the enlargement negotiations, availability and quality of existing statistics, and the relationship to the *acquis communautaire*. For the 1999 Programme, projects shall cover the following areas (see annex 2), although a flexible approach will be adopted to accommodate changing circumstances and priorities as the enlargement process requires it:

• Agricultural, environment and fisheries statistics (farm structure surveys, supply balance sheets, fisheries statistics, waste statistics),

• Business statistics (structure statistics, small and medium enterprises),

• Air and sea transport statistics,

• Macro-economic performance (price statistics including purchasing power parities, government finance),

• Social statistics (earnings surveys).

8.4 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.** The main purpose of these activities in previous programmes has been to help countries undergoing the transition to a market economy understand European statistical systems, and to provide very specific technical help in certain areas. For most countries, and certainly for all candidate countries, empirical evidence suggests that these activities now have lower priority and that other delivery mechanisms are more appropriate. Consequently, it is proposed to concentrate the amount of funding available for these activities within the multi-beneficiary programme to activities with multi-beneficiary character, e.g. pilot projects. Clearly, some beneficiary countries will still require assistance of
this, but much should be delivered, as far as available, through appropriate national Phare programmes or through other facilities. Study visits and consultancies may still be funded through the programme, but most should form part of pilot projects or part of a task force or other multi-country initiative. 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 the candidate countries in the CEC and technical working groups routinely organised for EU NSOs and which serve to update beneficiary institutions on current developments concerning the acquis communautaire. Many Eurostat working groups now include specific agenda items relevant to Phare candidate countries, and in some cases task forces aimed specifically at Phare countries have been set up. In the light of the reorientation of Phare, increased attendance at Eurostat meetings will be important so that countries can fully understand the acquis communautaire in statistics, and closely follow its development. It is also important to involve technical experts from Member States or elsewhere in certain activities or task forces, to advise countries on specific issues.

- **Formal training courses**, covering techniques and methods used to compile official statistics in the Community. Previous programmes have delivered formal training in statistical techniques and methods, particularly those used in the EU, through the TES institute and other training institutions in Member States. This has produced good results in terms of number of staff trained, but there is a need to continue formal training due to the high level of turnover of staff in many of the statistical offices of Phare candidate countries on one side and due to the rapid development of the acquis on the other side.

- **Secondments of trainees to Eurostat**, (or other appropriate institutions) to familiarise statisticians from NSOs or other national statistics producers from the candidate countries with Eurostat strategies in each sector, and to familiarise Eurostat with specific national problems and environments. This scheme was first introduced during the 1994 programme, and has been expanded in the 1997 and 1998 programmes. It is felt that that it was very successful, but no more expansion is required now. It is therefore proposed to continue the scheme during the 1999 programme at an appropriate level of activity.

8.5 Other projects to be supported under the 1999 programme concern the following:

- **Evaluation and programme support**, which means the establishment of a continuation of the Programme Secretariat. The main projects are, besides information and reporting about the programme, the maintenance and filling of a compliance data-base on very detailed methodological level corresponding to the specific needs of statistics. All available information sources are to be used including the commissioning of short term evaluators for specific parts of the statistical acquis or for the whole statistical systems.

- **Employment Bulletin** as a regular analysis of the employment situation in Phare candidate countries. The main output is the collection of labour market data in
Phare countries and to publish them regularly. As a side effect, this contributes also to the comparability of labour data amongst countries.

8.6 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. 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. Of course, these strategy plans are part of the general Accession Partnerships where applicable.

8.7 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.

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

a) New pilot surveys and projects as above.

b) Technical assistance for:
   - Activities to improve comparability and dissemination,
   - Know-how transfer,
   - Planning and accompanying national Phare programmes for statistics.

c) Other activities and projects, also as side effect supporting management and monitoring functions, like those described under Programme Secretariat and Employment Bulletin.

9. **LINKS WITH OTHER DONORS & OTHER PHARE PROGRAMMES**

9.1 Whilst many international organisations (e.g. EFTA, EBRD, IMF, OECD, UN-ECE, UN-ILO and UN-FAO) co-operate with CEC statistical bodies, the European Commission, through Eurostat, has the official role of Co-ordinator. 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 co-ordination. This is made easier since Member State NSOs are the key providers of TA and know-how under both Phare and bilateral Programmes.

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

**CO-OPERATION WITH EFTA**

9.3 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 EUR per year), and partly through the involvement of EFTA NSOs in delivering technical co-operation. 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**

9.4 In the early years of national Phare programmes for statistics, about 75% of funds 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 resulted in the implementation of statistical activities at the national level consistent with both national and EU requirements.

Newer national programmes for statistics do as a tendency have more purely statistics content. The main funds are directed to support operations in the countries, which are appropriate to improve the general compliance situation. The basic complementary nature though of national and multi-beneficiary programmes for statistics is more valid than ever.

9.5 The Commission, through Eurostat, will ensure that all these actions are co-ordinated and coherent. In particular, NSOs in the candidate countries 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.

---

**10. COST AND FINANCING PLAN**

10.1 The Phare contribution to the Statistics Programme will be 15 MEUR for 1999. The programme will expire on 31 October 2001. An indicative timetable, with a breakdown of activities, is given in Annex 2.

10.2 Allocations for 1999 are planned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Allocation (MEUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilot project activities (including surveys)</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance activities (see description in Annex 2)</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other activities and reserve</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 MEUR</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details on planned activities are given in Annex 1 (Logical Framework) and Annex 2.
10.3 The expected disbursement of this programme allocation is expected to follow the following indicative schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Amount</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Cumulative amounts in MEUR

11. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES

The Commission will have overall management responsibility for the programme. Implementation structures developed since the 1997 Programme will be used as far as possible. In particular some parts of the programme, like the evaluation and compliance monitoring function of the Programme Secretariat, will provide certain co-ordinating and monitoring functions and will commission sectoral studies. One or more contractors will be appointed through normal Phare procedures to implement the proposed projects and manage the technical assistance facility. A Policy Group for Statistical Co-operation PGSC, where top management of each CEC NSO meet normally once a year, will act as a forum for discussing issues relating to statistical cooperation between the partner candidate countries and the Commission.

12. AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

12.1 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.

12.2 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;
- Sign contracts with independent experts, if appropriate, 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.

12.3 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 Log Frame Matrix in Annex 1 and project fiches in Annex 2).
12.4 In-depth monitoring of the success of this programme will be provided through the yearly compliance progress reports for candidate countries, which constitute the ultimate success factor of the efforts deployed.

12.5 Through the evaluation and monitoring function of the Programme Secretariat, within the limit of finance available, will also be provided for global evaluations of the whole statistical systems including the institutional position of the beneficiary institutions. These evaluations will also provide good evidence of overall success of the programme. The information gained through this process will enhance the public authority task of the Commission, Eurostat for the statistical part of the acquis, to report at least yearly upon the status of compliance of candidates with respect to the acquis communautaire.

13. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

13.1 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. Furthermore appropriate institutional (and legislative) measures are to be taken.

13.2 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 15 MEUR for 1999.

13.3 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.

14. RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

14.1 In view of the excellent co-operation 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.

14.2 Nevertheless, assumptions have been made that (see Programme Identification Log Frame Matrix, Annex 1):

- 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);
• 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 these persons can be retained;

• Member States’ governments, through their NSOs, continue to make available appropriate and timely expertise for statistical co-operation.
15. ANNEXES

The following Annexes are attached:

  Annex 1  Log Frame Table
  Annex 2  Programme description
  Annex 3  Executive summary of OMAS evaluation report