STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE: PROJECT PL9808.01

Title:
Enhancement of Poland’s capacities in preparation of development strategies
Special Preparatory Programme (SPP) for the Structural Funds in Poland

Sub-programme: Regional Policy and Cohesion

Location: Poland

Objectives:
The SPP Programme is an Institution-Building Programme in line with the priorities identified in the Polish National Programme for Preparation for Membership (originally: National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis) and the Accession Partnership for Poland. The Accession Partnership identifies the reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity as significant priorities for action and in particular, the need for improvements in regional policy and the establishment of a coherent structural and rural development policy in the short term. This component will contribute to the Accession Partnership’s short-term priority “Reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity”.

The preparation of National Strategies for major policy directions is an important precursor for the Development Plan or Plans which will be required under the Structural Funds system. Specific priority actions are also needed to ensure that the new pre-accession aid available under ISPA and SAPARD – which become available in 2000 – can be accessed quickly and implemented efficiently; this requires that particular, urgent attention be given to the development and articulation of suitable strategies and projects under these instruments.

The general objective of this programme component is to enhance Poland’s capacity to implement European Structural Fund programmes and the co-financing of large projects under the Cohesion Fund.

The immediate objectives of the component are to support:
- the elaboration of a national development plan / strategies as a basis for future Structural Fund programmes and
- the preparation for the implementation of projects / programmes under ISPA / SAPARD.

Description:
Outputs: Reviewed and updated as necessary, national strategies are required which will feed into the preparation of the future Development Plan, and, subsequently into Operational Programmes. This component of the SPP programme will enhance Poland’s capacity to elaborate a development strategy by articulating a national integrated strategy which will pay special attention to: employment / human resources, transport, environment, the fisheries sector, agriculture and rural development, while taking account of the regional diversity within Poland (urban-industrial regions and rural areas). Sectoral development strategies will be articulated which will analyse the current situation in the particular sector, emphasising gaps and weaknesses and make specific proposals for priority actions to remedy defects. They will assess the compatibility of possible measures with EU policies and regulations, and identify implementing agencies and monitoring arrangements for future EU programmes. They will cover all aspects relevant to Community structural policies and should provide a basis for the eventual development of a Community Support Framework and Objective 1-type Operational Programmes. This will allow the identification of regional integrated
programmes for restructuring areas. Sound economic justification will be provided to underpin the strategies and actions proposed for co-financing.

The method and timetable followed in this project will also take account of the SAPARD programme and the implementation of ISPA from the beginning of the year 2000. In the latter case, there will be an early need for transport and environment strategies. This will be followed by preparation for the implementation of projects for ISPA which has a project-based, Cohesion Fund-type approach and for SAPARD taking a structural fund approach to eligibility and implementation. For each instrument, the spread of projects will be sufficient to ensure that all available assistance is capable of being absorbed in the time period of this pre-accession aid.

Inputs: The objectives of this component of the SPP programme will be achieved through the implementation of twinning actions, technical expertise-transfer, seminars and training and best-practice exchanges (cf. Financing Proposal.)

Institutional Framework:
In keeping with EU programmes co-financed under the Structural Fund regulations, a SPP Monitoring Committee will also oversee implementation of this programme. The Polish co-ordinating authority will chair this body. The responsible Polish ministries and the Commission services will be full members of this Monitoring Committee. Sub-committees of the SPP Monitoring Committee will be established to follow up on specific actions, including preparation for ISPA and SAPARD.

Component actions in particular areas will be proposed by relevant line ministries in Poland in consultation with the Commission services and approved by the national co-ordinator responsible for the SPP programme within four weeks from the date of submission to the co-ordinating authority. Each line ministry will report to the Monitoring Committee at six-monthly intervals on actions approved and on those actions being undertaken.

Regional development authorities / institutions, local administrations and the social partners will assist project implementation.

Budget (MECU):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 1) Development Strategies</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Institution-Building</th>
<th>Total PHARE</th>
<th>Polish Co-Financing</th>
<th>Total (PHARE + Nat. Co-Financing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input a) Twinning</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0.800</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Input b) Technical Expertise</td>
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<td>2.000</td>
<td>2.000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Input c) Seminars / Training</td>
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<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Input d) Best Practice Exchanges</td>
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<td>0.700</td>
<td>0.700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>8.000</td>
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Implementation Arrangements:
The CFCU is responsible for handling tendering, contracting and payments of contracts on behalf of various ministries, agencies and institutions, which themselves shall be responsible for preparing projects and managing their technical implementation.

**Implementation Schedule:**

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<th>Start of Tendering</th>
<th>Start of Project Activity</th>
<th>Completion</th>
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**Equal Opportunity:**
The dimension of gender equality will be integrated into all levels of the component objectives. It is anticipated that this will set an appropriate foundation for future gender mainstreaming in the application of Structural Fund policies in Poland.

**Environment:**
Environmental considerations will be taken into account in designing the strategies.

**Rates of return:**
Not applicable.

**Investment Criteria**
Not applicable

**Conditionality and Sequencing**
Funding will be conditional on Poland’s continuing implementation of the provisions of the Accession Partnership and the Acquis Communautaire.

A programme Monitoring Committee must be established and must meet for the first time before the end of June 1998 in order to establish its operational rules, discuss inter-ministerial arrangements and other relevant business.