Title:
*Application of Integrated Structural Development Programmes for Selected Regions*
Special Preparatory Programme (SPP) for the Structural Funds in Poland

**Sub-programme: Regional Policy and Cohesion**

**Location:** Poland, in particular Upper Silesia (Katowice), Baltic Sea and selected rural regions

**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. This component will contribute to the Accession Partnership’s short-term priority “Reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity”.

An integrated approach to the application of Structural Funds (that is, the use of more than one fund) will be particularly important in Poland after accession, as economic circumstances mean that Poland is likely to qualify for Objective 1 funding. A greater degree of effectiveness in achieving the funds’ objectives can be obtained through the synergistic effect of different measures working together. Concentration on priority areas can enhance this effectiveness further, particularly when implementation is effected through partnership actions.

This component of the SPP can help Poland to prepare for an enhanced approach, allowing for integration of activities through capacity building of the national and regional institutions involved. It will be implemented in an integrated manner with the institution-building component of the regional development programme PL9706 (3 MECU).

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

**The immediate objectives** of this SPP component are to apply Structural Fund rules and procedures to selected pilot projects within Poland and thus encourage “learning by doing” through capacity building in the national and regional institutions concerned.

**Description:**

**Outputs:** This project is designed to familiarise the Polish authorities with the Structural Funds by applying their rules and procedures to a few selected problem areas. Particular attention will be given to coal and steel regions within Poland (Upper Silesia), as economic and social problems are here particularly acute and will need long-term attention.

Actions supported under this priority will include, within selected regions identified as appropriate for an integrated approach:

- Introduction of Objective 1-type procedures into selected regional programmes in Poland (existing or planned); this will involve the elaboration of Objective 1-type integrated Operational Programmes (including ex-ante evaluation)
• Regional labour market and training needs analyses for inclusion in integrated programmes
• Support for the establishment of a regional sub-committee
• Support for the identification of eligible measures
• Help with annual reporting and ex-post evaluation
• Information and training for regional and local partners on the integrated approach
• Assistance for involvement of local social partners

Inputs: The objectives of this component will be achieved through the implementation of twinning actions, technical expertise-transfer, seminars and training and best-practice exchanges.

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.

Component actions in particular areas will be proposed by relevant line ministries and regions 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.

A project-specific sub-committee modelled on those in existing Member States should be instituted to oversee this action. It will be chaired by the leading line ministry and will report to the main SPP Monitoring Committee as detailed above.

The institutions and beneficiaries involved in this project are the relevant central ministries in Poland plus local / regional development authorities / institutions and administrations. The local social partners should assist in project implementation.
Budget (MECU):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 3) Development programmes</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>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input b) Technical Expertise</td>
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<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Input c) Seminars / Training</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.300</td>
<td>0.300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input d) Best Practice Exchanges</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.000*</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>2.000</td>
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</table>

*The total PHARE budget for this project will amount to 4 MECU since it will be implemented in an integrated manner with the institution-building component of the regional development programme PL9706 (3 MECU)

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:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stand 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:
Measures co-financed under this project must abide by the principles and objectives of sustainable development and must comply with Community policy on the environment.

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.
Furthermore, in the case of Upper Silesia, funding is conditional on the presentation by government of a steel restructuring plan by the end of June 1998.