Raising social awareness and strengthening of advocacy and monitoring role of NGOs

1. Basic Information
   1.1 CRIS Number: 2004/016-829.01.02
   1.2 Title: Raising social awareness and strengthening of advocacy and monitoring role of NGOs
   1.3 Sector: Non-profit
   1.4 Location: Poland

2. Objectives
   2.1 Overall Objective(s):

   • To promote participation of citizens in public life with special focus on the areas of the acquis connected with environment and health protection.
   • To strengthen advocacy and monitoring activities of the NGOs in selected chapters of the acquis.

   2.2 Project purpose:

   To provide financial support for activities of NGOs/NPOs geared: to raise social awareness in the areas linked with environment and health protection, to encourage individuals and groups to actively participate in public life and to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring functions.

   2.3 Justification:

   Under several priorities of the Comprehensive Monitoring Report on Poland’s preparation for membership the non-profit and non-governmental organisations are indicated as important partners of the government in the activities related to the implementation of the acquis communautaire. In view of their important role in promoting high environmental and health standards as well as activating and maintaining advocacy and monitoring activities in the society, the capacity of NGOs needs to be further enhanced.

3. Description
   3.1 Background and justification:

   Since 1989 Polish non-governmental organisations have been dynamically developing in a great number of areas including the areas of acquis operation such as environment and health protection. According to the latest data there are over 30 000 such organisations operating in Poland. Their effectiveness in reaching different groups and dealing with various issues is significant and they prove their influence on various levels of the society. In 2003 they also proved their effectiveness in supporting activities connected with the European referendum, undertaken by the Government.

   In the modern society the non-governmental and non-profit organisations play one of the basic roles of monitoring the functioning of democratic institutions. The idea to support, in parallel to the adaptation of the modern political institutions, legislative or economic mechanisms, the development of a civil society, was the basis for providing support by the EU to Poland in its transformation process since 1989. The Polish non-profit and non-governmental sector is now quite well-developed. However, it still requires further support in order to maintain and enhance its position in the society. It seems that at the moment the idea
of using NGOs and NPOs as promotional and monitoring “tools” in various areas including selected areas of the acquis could be one of the best solutions.

NGOs operating on the local level and with specific groups of interest can promote ideas and regulations very widely. It should be underlined that non-governmental organisations play a significant role in the implementation of the acquis. They may indirectly support the government by advising or giving opinions on new legislative initiative and are more and more often invited by the government to co-operate in different thematic councils. According to the Polish Act on Public Benefit Activity and Volunteerism, the government can also assign some tasks to non-governmental organisations.

In view of the above two distinct priority areas for NGOs involvement and intervention have been identified which are: raising social awareness and improving level of active participation of individuals and groups in public life and strengthening advocacy and monitoring activities, the so called “watch dog” function.

The first area has been proposed basing on the assumption that many areas of the acquis communautaire can better be propagated and developed through existence of functioning and active NGOs and NPOs. Hence, the current project, in view of the needs of the post-accession period, focuses on protecting the environment, promoting certain human rights and specific citizen rights. Thus, the project focuses on such fields of the acquis communautaire, as chapter 1 - Free movement of goods, chapter 6 – Company law, chapter 22 – Environment, chapter 23- Consumer protection and health and chapter 24 – Justice. Besides, it also reflects the need of involving NGOs in different types of activities connected with advocacy and monitoring of public institutions. It is obvious that proper functioning of the institutional and economic structures of a democratic state is dependent on the developed and active participation of individuals and groups. That is directly connected with access to information and promotion of the rule of law.

3.2 Linked activities:
The previous EU programmes proved very effective in awarding grants on the basis of open competitions of projects, formulated by non-profit and non-governmental organisations. The endeavours of those entities also provide high visibility of the assistance of the EU.

- The current project has been developed taking into account the experience gathered within previous programmes on the development of civil society, including the LIEN, Partnership and Democracy programmes, and Phare ACCESS and more specifically: Phare 1999 ACCESS Programme (5,575 MEUR) - the programme was a multi-country operation focusing on a.o. implementation and awareness raising with respect to acquis communautaire in the environment and health and social policy sectors.
  - Phare 2000 ACCESS Programme (5,85 MEUR) grants for raising awareness with respect to acquis in socio-economic development, environmental protection, and social sector.
  - Phare 2001 Civil society development (2 MEUR) - initiatives related to adoption and implementation of the acquis in the areas of: socio-economic development, environmental protection, and social sector.
  - Phare 2003 NGOs for Sustainable Development (3 MEUR)
The beneficiaries of all the above listed programmes were Polish non-governmental and non-profit organisations.
3.3 Results:
Approximately 160 projects submitted under two schemes by NGOs will be successfully concluded with the following potential outcomes:

- **Social awareness in the areas linked with environment and health protection improved** (subsidised activities will in particular: develop promotional activities of “the way of living” in terms of health protection and environment protection driven attitudes of individuals; promote model projects aimed at implementation of environmental *acquis* and enhance co-operation between health and environment sectors);
- **Increased active participation of individuals and groups in the public life** (in particular subsidised activities will: develop the co-operation between civil society institutions and public administration with the view to better access by citizens to information; improve the way of solving complex social problems by regional or local coalitions);
- **Advocacy and monitoring functions of NGOs strengthened** (in particular subsidised activities will: develop independent activities covering advocacy and monitoring the rule of law at both national and local level; develop capacity of the so-called “watch-dog” entities, develop campaign(s) for respecting intellectual property rights).

3.4 Activities:
The project focuses on two main subjects and will be implemented through open competitions for Polish non-governmental organisations, one for each subject.

**Eligibility of activities:**

- **Subject 1.** Raising social awareness in the areas linked with environment and health protection and improving the level of active participation of individuals and groups in the public life.

  Within this subject eligible activities will include:
  - promotion of “the way of living” in terms of health protection,
  - development of model projects aimed at implementation of environmental *acquis*,
  - provision of better access to information for citizens,
  - activation of local communities and building coalitions for complex social problems,
  - promotion of environment protection driven attitudes of individuals,
  - promotion of co-operation between health and environment sectors.

  It is expected that a single grant will remain within the range of 5,000 to 50,000 euro, and Transition Facility grant will cover up to 80% of eligible costs. The number of supported initiatives will be approximately 100.

- **Subject 2.** Strengthening of advocacy and monitoring activities

  Within the subject eligible activities will include:
  - monitoring of the legislation process and of respecting the law (also on the local level), including implementation of the social consultations idea,
  - fight against piracy, building informational and educational campaigns concerning copyrights and protection of the intellectual property rights,
  - monitoring in the field of nature protection,
  - activities aimed at human rights and citizen rights including sharing information in those fields and monitoring of public institutions in such aspects as promotion of ethics and ethical behaviours in various aspects of public life.

  It is expected that a single grant will remain within the range of 5000 to 50,000 euro, and Transition Facility grant will cover up to 80% of eligible costs. The number of supported initiatives will be approximately 60.
For both subjects general eligibility criteria will be developed using the grant schemes guidelines, as appropriate. The grant projects would last up to 10 months.

**Eligibility of applicants:**
The project is addressed to Polish non-governmental and non-profit organisations (e.g. foundations, associations and other non-profit bodies according to the Polish Act on Public Benefit Activity and Volunteerism).

In particular the following types of organisations may apply for grants:
- officially registered,
- formed voluntarily,
- not created to generate personal profit and not pursuing the commercial interests of their members,
- independent of government and other public authorities and of political and commercial organisations,
- non-exclusive organisations, i.e. organisations which do not condition their support or actions on ideological, political and religious adherence.

The eligible entities may be awarded grants on condition of preparing projects consistent with the objectives of the project and providing co-financing at the level of at least 20% of planned budget of the operation.

Any of the mentioned entities can work in partnership with e.g. academic institutions of non-profit nature or local governments if previously they prove that in that way the result of the supported activity is better or wider distributed or the quality of actions is higher.

3.5 Lessons learned:
Under the Interim Evaluation Report No R/PL/PAD/03/029 certain recommendations proposed for the PL-0002.01 Access 2000, PL-0101.10 Promotion of European Integration with NGOs, PL-0101.11 Civil society development, were formulated, which are relevant for the current project. According to the Report: “the assistance supports NGOs and through this the acquis and integration process. Even though the programmes are relatively small scale they have higher visibility than many other, larger, programmes. The programmes provide the opportunity at each phase to achieve their objectives; advertising and launching the schemes, project implementation and publicising the results”.

The recommendations mentioned below have been taken into consideration while designing the current project:
− Further efforts should be made to encourage greater media coverage of the results of the grant schemes.
− Further promotion of NGOs and EU contribution.

4. **Institutional Framework**
The end beneficiaries of the project will include non-government organisations, working on a non-profit, non-partisan and non-political basis.

The project will be supervised by the Office of the Committee for European Integration. The grant section experienced in grant-giving activity within the CFCU will be responsible for the process of the implementation of the project.

The project will be implemented through grants contracts. The information on the project will be clearly and broadly advertised to assure that all eligible and interested entities could prepare their applications on time. The potential beneficiaries will also be offered advising and
consultation to assure that the conditions and rules of the grant facility are understood and may be fulfilled. The decisions on awarding grants will be made by the selection committee, appointed by the PAO.

5. Detailed Budget (MEUR)

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*The Selection Committee can decide to transfer funds between the two subjects if an unsatisfactory number of acceptable projects is submitted in one of the categories

**approximate figure of co-financing that will be provided by grant beneficiaries.

The initiatives for which grants will be awarded will be co-financed by beneficiaries for minimum 20% of the amount of the budget. The ability of co-financing will be one of the conditions of awarding grants.

The amount of 200 000 Euro will be provided for contracting out to an external company services related to pre-selection process such as printing of application, advertising, printing reports collection of applications and assessment as well as evaluation of initiatives financed under the project. According to PRAG procedures the Evaluation Committee may delegate the pre-selection process to outside assessors: “where the proposals received are particularly numerous or highly technical, it may not always be possible for the Evaluation Committee to examine each one in detail. If necessary, all or part of this detailed examination may be carried out by assessors so that the Evaluation Committee may conduct its deliberations on the basis of their assessments”.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

PAO: Tadeusz Kozek, under Secretary of State, Office of the Committee for European Integration, Al.Ujazdowskie 9, 00-918 Warsaw, phone (+48 22) 455 52 41, fax (48 22) 455 52 43

CFCU will be responsible for contracting the final beneficiaries, operating the grant subjects. CFCU, 00-444 Warsaw, Poland, 4a Górnośląska st. Phone (+48 22) 622 00 31, fax (+48 22) 622 95 69, e-mail: cfcu@cofund.org.pl.

6.2 Twinning N.A.

6.3 Non-standard aspects

The project will be implemented using the procedure of an open local grant competition for eligible entities in Poland. The grant contracts will be signed with all recommended beneficiaries. For the grant scheme PRAG rules will be followed. Due care will be given to the selection process of the beneficiary projects, which has to be done at technical level through a evaluation committee composed of members appointed by the PAO.
6.4 Contracts
It is estimated that about 160 projects will be financed, for the total amount of 4,1 M€ and one contract TA for implementation assistance (0,200M€ - gross value). TA contract will be joint co-financed.
The budget of the project will finance grants (min. 5 000 euro up to 50 000 euro). The PAO will retain his contractual and financial responsibilities for the implementation of the grant scheme. In particular, the PAO will approve formally the call for proposals, application forms, evaluation criteria, as well as the selection process and results. The PAO will sign grant contracts with the beneficiaries and ensure adequate monitoring and financial control under his authority and responsibility.

7. Implementation Schedule
7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
Grant documentation including detailed priorities, an application form, informational materials and selection criteria of the project will be prepared in IQ/IIQ 2005

7.2 Start of project activity
The call for proposals procedure will be launched in the III/IVQ 2005. The deadline for submitting applications for grants is expected to be in I/IIQ 2006. The decisions on awarding grants will be made in IIIQ 2006. The contracts will be signed in IIIQ 2006.

7.3 Project Completion
The last payment will be made in IIQ 2007 and the project will be closed in IIIQ 2007

8. Sustainability
The Office of the Committee for European Integration will assure suitable number of staff to implement the project.

9. Conditionality and sequencing
- High quality of the initiatives to be funded under the Project.
- Most important milestones:
  - Signing Financing Memorandum
  - Preparation of detailed priorities, application forms and informational materials and promotion of the project,
  - Evaluation of submitted projects and the final selection,
  - Signing grant contracts and starting of NGO projects implementation,
  - Monitoring and evaluation of awarded grants,
## Annex 1

**LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR**

### Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Contracting period expires</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Raising social awareness and strengthening of advocacy and monitoring activities of NGOs</strong></td>
<td>IVQ 2006</td>
<td>IVQ 2007</td>
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<td><strong>Total budget</strong></td>
<td>5 120 000 Euro</td>
<td>Transition Facility Budget</td>
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<td><strong>Transition Facility Budget</strong></td>
<td>4 285 000 Euro</td>
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### Overall objective

- To promote participation of citizens in public life with special focus on the areas of the *acquis* connected with environment and health protection.
- To strengthen advocacy and monitoring activities of the NGOs in selected chapters of the *acquis*.

### Objectively Verifiable Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Verification Sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved the <em>acquis</em> implementation record</td>
<td>Monitoring Reports of EC for the Council and the European Parliament monitoring the further progress as to the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the <em>acquis</em> by Poland</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Project purpose (Immediate Objectives)

- To provide financial support for activities of NGOs/NPOs geared: to raise social awareness in the areas linked with environment and health protection, to encourage individuals and groups to actively participate in public life and to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring functions.

### Objectively Verifiable Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approx. 160 projects supported and carried out successfully</td>
<td>Transition Facility Monitoring and Evaluation Reports</td>
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### Results

<table>
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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Verification Sources</th>
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<tr>
<td>The quality and number of monitoring reports of awarded NGOs and other bodies; Regional or local coalitions built increased percentage of individuals aware of environmental and health issues; increased number of volunteers; less number of piracy products; increase number of citations within the framework of the proposed fields</td>
<td>NGOs interim and final reports; NGOs Annual Reports; Non-governmental portal; TF interim Evaluation Reports; TF Monitoring reports; Report from research on the condition of third sector in Poland carried out regularly by Klon/Jawor Association CBOS reports on ecological awareness Statistical data of public institutions</td>
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### Assumptions

- NGOs are able to submit relevant project and provide co-financing.
called “watch-dog” entities, develop campaign(s) for respecting intellectual property rights).

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject 1. Raising social awareness in the areas linked with environment and health protection and improving the level of active participation of individuals and groups in the public life.</strong></td>
<td>- 2 calls for proposals, one for each subject;</td>
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<td>High quality and number of projects in specified fields; Relevant capacity of selected NGOs and other bodies; Funding made available to Implementing Agency in a timely and efficient manner</td>
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<td>- total budget for grants: 4,1 MEUR, minimum grant EUR 5 000, maximum EUR 50 000;</td>
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<td>- 20 % co-financing (by the beneficiary) mandatory;</td>
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<td>- TA (0,2 MEUR) contract for pre-selection process and evaluation</td>
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<td>Within the subject eligible activities will include:</td>
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### Annex 2-3: Implementation, contracting and disbursement schedules

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#### Implementation schedule

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#### Legenda:

- D = design of sub-projects
- C = tendering and contracting
- I = contract implementation and payment

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