1. Basic Information

1.1 Désirée Number: **RO0102.04**
1.2 Title: **Assistance for the implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Hungary**
1.3 Sector: **AA – general technical assistance**
1.4 Location: **Romania**

2. Objectives

2.1 Wider Objectives

To enhance programming and project management skills in the field of Cross-Border Co-operation programmes.

2.2 Purpose of the project

To strengthen the capabilities of the Ministry of Development and Prognosis (MDP) to successfully co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Hungary, including the implementation of projects that are financed in this framework.

2.3 Accession partnership and NPAA priority:

The 1999 Accession partnership had as a short-term priority "the reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacity, including capacity to manage and control EU funds".

2.4 Cross Border Impact

The key issue related to effective implementation of EC cross-border co-operation requirements is capacity of MDP, as national co-ordinator leading the Joint Co-operation Committee and acting as the Implementing Authority, to identify short, medium and long-term priorities for such projects according to the provisions of EC Regulation no.2760/98 and the National Development Plan.

Thanks to this assistance, the quality of the cross-border strategy, of the new projects and of their implementation will be improved. As a consequence, the impact of the financed projects on the cross-border regions will be improved.
3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

According to the Memorandum of the Romanian Government approved in October 1999 by the Prime Minister, referring to the cross-border co-operation co-ordination transfer from the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Planning to the National Agency for Regional Development (NARD), the Agency became the National Co-ordinator of all the Phare programmes in this field. At present, the National Co-ordinator for the CBC programmes is the Ministry of Development and Prognosis, established following the Governmental Decision No. 16/10.01.2001.

The staff of the new established PCU within the Ministry of Development and Prognosis is not fully acquired with the necessary skills, routines and experience to successfully enter into and manage the complexity of the future projects. External assistance is therefore needed to strengthen this team. It will be the first time Romania receive such assistance for the Cross-Border Co-operation Programme with Hungary.

In line with the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2760/98, a Joint Programming Document was elaborated and approved by both Romanian and Hungarian authorities in 2000. This document includes priorities of strategic nature identified as milestones for the development of the border area for the period 2000 – 2002 and measures planned to implement the priorities:

− priority 1: Infrastructure development, border-crossing development
− priority 2: Economic development
− priority 3: Institutional development, institutional co-operation
− priority 4: Human resource development, cultural co-operation
− priority 5: Environmental protection, water resource management
− priority 6: Joint Small Projects Fund

Technical assistance is now necessary to ensure a good implementation of this strategy and to prepare its review to cover the next period: 2003 – 2006. The article 5 paragraph 4 of the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2760/98 states that the establishment of development plan, project identification and assistance for the implementation may be financed.

3.2 Linked activities

During the 1996 Phare Pilot CBC Ro/Hu Programme, within Programme Management project, two technical assistance contracts have been concluded namely Bridging Technical Assistance to the PMU and Short-term Technical Assistance for procurement using Phare procedures to the PMU.
3.3 Results

- Implementation of the Joint Programming Document (JPD) and its revision to cover the period 2003-2006.
- Setting up a fully experienced CBC PCU staff within MDP, able to co-ordinate all the related activities to the on-going programme and the following ones and to establish the necessary links between all the interested actors in CBC projects preparation and implementation, on central and local level.
- Creation of a network of trained officials in relevant Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), line ministries and local authorities capable of project preparation and implementation, according to the Phare procedures and regulations.

3.4. Activities

- Assistance to the CBC PCU in preparing the Joint Programming Document referring to the cross-border co-operation, according to the new EC guidelines, if necessary;
- Preparation and implementation of relevant training sessions for the local actors involved in project selection, evaluation and monitoring procedures.
- Assistance to the CBC PCU in managing the projects financed under Phare CBC Ro/Hu Programme.
- If necessary, support to the project beneficiaries (local authorities and line ministries) for preparing the terms of reference and/or technical specification for CBC projects.
- Assistance to the CBC PCU in preparing new Joint Financing Proposals by using project proposals presented during Joint Working Group and Joint Co-operation Committee meetings and out-puts of the common “Regional Development Study” financed under the 1996 Phare CBC Ro/Hu Programme;

4. Institutional Framework

The main institutions involved in the implementation process of the project is the Ministry of Development and Prognosis (MDP). As governmental organisation and in line with the Governmental Decision No.16/10.01.2001, the Ministry is also responsible for the regional development and is acting as Implementing Authority for Phare CBC Programme, being national co-ordinator.

The following institutions will take part in the achievement of the project:
- County Councils of the following counties: Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare and Timis;
- Regional Development Agencies 5 (West) and 6 (NorthWest).
5. **Detailed Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In MEUR</th>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Cofinancing</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for the implementation of the multi-annual strategy</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

6. **Implementation Arrangements**

6.1. **Implementing Agency**

The Implementing Agency will be the Ministry of Development and Prognosis, through its Cross Border Co-operation Directorate, which will retain overall responsibility for the implementation of the programme, including: approval of tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation of invoices. The payments of invoices will be made by the Payments Directorate within the same ministry.

The CBC Directorate also includes a unit for the National Co-ordination of CBC programmes nominated as CBC Programme Co-ordination Unit (CBC - PCU). This unit will liaise with the beneficiary institutions and with the line Ministries to prepare Terms of Reference, tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, negotiation of contracts, invoices for payment etc.

6.2. **Non-standard aspects**

There are no “non-standards aspects”. The “Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa and Sapard contract procedures” will be strictly followed.

6.3. **Contracts**

One service (technical assistance) contract of a total value up to 0.2 MEUR is expected to be signed.

7. **Implementation Schedule**

Detailed Terms of Reference for the technical assistance to be provided will be available by the end of September 2001. The project will have duration of 230 working days during 18 calendar months finishing by the end of June 2003. Because the duration of the contract exceeds the limits for framework
contracting, the simplified procedure will be applied. Consultancy firms will be invited to tender in November 2001 and the project will commence at the beginning of January 2002.

- Start of tendering: 30 September 2001;
- Start of project activity: 01 January 2002;
- Project Completion: 30 June 2003.

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity for men and women to participate in the project will be ensured.

9. Conditionality and sequencing

The MDP will be required to:

- provide an office available for the Phare procedures’ consultant, with access to fax, printer, telephone, Internet…
- provide adequate staff, including RDAs’ and county councils’ to receive advise and participate in training sessions;
- accept its role in the co-ordination of the project, making dedicated staff available to carry out these activities.

Annexes to project Fiche

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter
### Annex 1 – Logical logframe matrix

**Assistance for the implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Hungary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider Objective</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • To enhance programming and project management skills in the field of Cross-Border Co-operation programmes. | • Increased trade and economic relations between the two countries  
• Increased GDP regional share  
• Continued commitment of the Government towards the priorities of the programme and regional development | • Statistics of the MDP and RDAs  
• Monitoring and assessment reports  
• Reports of the CBC PCU/MDP  
• Regional development data (local authorities, Chamber of Commerce and Trade) | • Continued political commitment towards European Integration and development of the Single Market  
• Efficient programme management (implementation, monitoring, assessment)  
• Functioning co-operation between all relevant partners  
• Sustained interest of the border region population in development and co-operation |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of the project</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • To strengthen the capabilities of the Ministry of Development and Prognosis (MDP) to successfully co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Hungary, including the implementation of projects that are financed in this framework. | • Cover of all programme co-ordination needs  
• Setting up a fully experienced CBC PCU staff within MDP, able to co-ordinate all the relevant activities for the on-going and future programmes  
• Creation of a network of trained officials in relevant RDAs, line ministries and local authorities, capable of project preparation and implementation | • Monitoring and assessment reports  
• Reports of the CBC PCU/MDP  
• Consultant’s progress reports | • Availability of adequate personnel (as number, organisation and skills)  
• Well functioning co-operation and co-ordination between CBC PCU, RDAs and involved parties |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Implementation of the Joint Programming Document (JPD) and its revision to cover the period 2003-2006.  
• Setting up a fully experienced CBC PCU staff within MDP.  
• Creation of a network of trained officials in relevant Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), line ministries and local authorities | • Trained Romanian staff in CBC PCU and RDAs  
• CBC PCU and RDAs adequately staffed  
• Consultants’ reports | • CBC PCU’s reports to EC Delegation  
• Training sessions completed  
• Evidence of RDAs network | • Available co-financing sources from MDP  
• Availability of institutional support  
• Availability of qualified co-ordination staff at the CBC PCU to manage the project |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Assistance to the CBC PCU in preparing the Joint Programming Document  
• Preparation and implementation of relevant training  
• Assistance to the CBC PCU in managing the projects financed under Phare CBC  
• If necessary, support to the project beneficiaries  
• Assistance to the CBC PCU in preparing new Joint Financing Proposals Programme | • Appropriate staffing of CBC PCU team  
• Appropriate premises and equipment  
• Disbursement rate | • CBC PCU’s reports to EC Delegation  
• Consultant’s progress reports  
• Inspection of premises and staffing | • Continuity of staff and policy in MDP enabling implementation of the project without delay  
• Available co-financing sources from MDP  
• Availability of qualified co-ordination staff at the CBC PCU to manage the project |
### Annex 2 – Detailed implementation schedule

**Assistance for the implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Bulgaria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of Terms of Reference CBC PCU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval of Terms of Reference by EC Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Launching of Invitation to Tender MDP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation of Offers Consultant</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tender Evaluation PCU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature of contract MDP</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of contract CBC PCU + Consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of the project</td>
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D = design                  C = contracting                  I = Implementation/works                  R = Review/evaluation
**Annex 3 – Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter**

*Assistance for the implementation of the multi-annual strategy agreed between Romania and Bulgaria*

### Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2001</th>
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<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Total Phare Allocation</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
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<td>III</td>
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