STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

Project Number: RO-9907-02

Title: Pre-accession Support Activities (Pre-accession Impact Studies and Support to the European Institute of Romania)

Sub-Programme: RO-9907 - Meeting the Obligations of the Acquis

Geographical Location: Bucharest, Department for European Integration (DEI)

Objectives

Wider Objective:

The wider objective of this project is to help Romania to accelerate its preparation for accession into the European Union (EU) by strengthening the institutional and administrative capacity of accession related institutions to manage the adoption of the “acquis communautaire”.

This wider objective is consistent with:

- AP- Chapter 4 (Priorities and Intermediate Objectives), where one of the main priorities for both short and medium term is the “reinforcement of institutional and administrative capacity”.
- NPAA - Chapter 2.1 - Priorities of the Administration Reform Process and Chapter 2.2 - Main Public Administration Reform Measures.

Immediate Objectives:

Consistent with the same chapters of the AP and NPAA the immediate objective of this project is to improve policy formation in priority sectors through procurement of a series of pre-accession support services.

Description

Romania’s experience to date in preparation for adoption of the acquis and future accession to the EU has demonstrated the need to develop analyses of a broad range of policy and institutional issues, and to respond rapidly and flexibly when key issues are identified as requiring detailed expert assessment and policy recommendations.

The “Studies” component of the 1997 project “Enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy” has provided support in the following areas, to a total value of around 1.5 M Euro:

- A review of legal and institutional issues concerning the environment for investment for the Prime Minister’s office
− Support to development of SME policy
− A review of legislative and operational issues relating to privatisation
− Assessment of the framework for delivery of active labour market measures in the context of industrial restructuring
− A steel sector study, assessing the implications for the Romanian steel industry of future integration in the single market.

These actions are helping to elaborate specific areas of policy, to clarify the institutional aspects of delivering specific policy measures, and to assess the broader economic and social and consequences of the implementation of the Europe Agreement, and in the longer term of integration into the single market.

The current 1999 project Accession Impact Studies will provide the Government with a series of pre-accession impact studies relating to EU accession/ NPAA implementation. The work will be contracted as per standard Phare rules following an agreement between the DEI and the Commission on the specific topics to be covered and terms of reference for each activity. The activity will represent a continuation of the “Studies” component of the 1997 Phare project “Enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy”, as well as continuing support to the European Institute of Romania, as envisaged under the 1997 Financing Memorandum, subject to a positive assessment of the progress in establishing the European Institute and implementing the envisaged activities through the Institute. Such a review should be conducted in early 2000.

Under the sub-project further applied research or analytical studies will be commissioned regarding the impacts arising from the harmonisation with and enforcement of EC legislation in Romania (economic, social and institutional), identifying potential barriers to accession and providing the Government/DEI with suitable short- and medium-term policy/institutional/operational recommendations as the basis for sequencing macro- and micro-policy implementation of the NPAA to the greatest benefit of Romania. Studies may also lay the foundations for EU accession negotiations. This sub-project will be managed by the DEI, supported by the European Institute, in close consultation with the Commission as regards the identification of priority areas for studies. This may also include studies relevant to the design of future Phare programmes, as well as assessments of the implementation of EU support.

When determining the topics of impact studies, the results of the screening exercise will be taken into account.

Institutional Framework
In January 1993, the Department for European Integration (DEI) was set up within the Government structure, directly subordinated to the Prime Minister. The detailed responsibilities of the DEI are as national co-ordinator of policy in the field of European Integration and as national co-ordinator of non-reimbursable economic assistance. Since December 1996, as an initiative of the newly elected government, the DEI has been headed by a full Minister directly attached to the Prime Minister’s Office). The detailed responsibilities of the DEI, as (a) national co-ordinator of the policy in the field of European integration and (b) as national co-ordinator of non-reimbursable economic assistance, were established by Government Decisions 260/1994 and 141/1995.

In 1995, a national structure for co-ordinating Romania’s integration process with the EU was established under the direct co-ordination of the DEI. This included an Inter-Ministerial Committee, whose organisation, composition and functioning were stipulated in Government Decision 140/1995. The Committee, including representatives from all Ministries and Government Agencies directly affected by
the *Europe Agreement*, is chaired by the Prime Minister. In addition, European Integration Units were established in each Ministry, Government Agency and Prefecture to monitor and ensure coherence of EU accession-related policies and actions at their respective levels (Government Decision 140/1995).

In 1998, in order to adapt and maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department for European Integration, this was divided into four directorates by Prime Ministers Decision No 240/15.08.1998. Each directorate will be responsible for the activities related to their sectors.

In order to reinforce the capabilities of the Department for European Integration, provisions for setting-up the European Institute of Romania (EIR) have been foreseen under Phare Programme RO-9706-Enhanced Pre-Accession Assistance.

The mission of the EIR is defined as:

- the provision of analysis and information to the DEI so that the latter is able to develop suitable European integration policies and mechanisms, and
- to act as a management/delivery/resource center, to assist the DEI with the implementation of such integration policies

### Budget (MEUR 2.0)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Institution Building</th>
<th>Total Phare (I+IB)</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-accession support activities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Implementation Arrangements

**Implementing Agencies**
The Implementing Agency for the project will be the CFCU.

**Implementing Authority**
The Department for European Integration will be the Implementing Authority responsible for the technical implementation of the projects.

Responsibilities concerning the implementation of the project, as regards identification of priorities for studies and preparation of terms of reference, may be transferred from the Department for European Integration towards the European Institute of Romania once the EIR is fully operational.

### Implementation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Start of tendering</th>
<th>Start of Sub-project activities</th>
<th>Completion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment:</td>
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<td>Rates of return:</td>
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<td>Investment criteria:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conditionality and Sequencing</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
## LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Date of Drafting</th>
<th>Planning Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RO9997-02</td>
<td>Further Support for the implementation of the enhanced pre-accession strategy</td>
<td>June 1999</td>
<td>January 2000 to December 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Budget of Project | 2,000,000 EURO |

### Wider Objectives

To assist the Government of Romania to accelerate its preparation for accession by strengthening its institutional and administrative capacity.

**Indicators of Achievement**

Constructive and mutually satisfactory dialogue and negotiations between Romania and the EU.

**Sources of Information**

Government statements. EU official statements.

**Assumptions and Risks**

Continued Government commitment to restructure the economy, society and institutions in line with EU standards. Conflict of interest between Member States on particular fields related to Romania’s accession.

### Immediate Objectives

Facilitate the pre-accession process by the procurement of a series of pre-accession support services in order to provide informed opinion to policy makers and stakeholders alike.

**Indicators of Achievement**

Reduction in negative comments from the Commission on Romania’s progress towards accession

**Sources of Information**

Proceedings of Government and Parliament as well as of Association Council, committees and Sub-Committees; reports from screening exercise

**Assumptions and Risks**

Commitment by Ministries to clearly itemised timetable of critical tasks to be executed as components in the NPAA.

Improve the knowledge of and skills of civil servants playing a key role in the accession process

**Indicators of Achievement**

Improved efficiency in preparation for accession

**Sources of Information**

Proceedings of Association Council, Committee and Sub-Committees

**Assumptions and Risks**

Ability to make and keep a pragmatic timetable for legislative approximation and the application of quality control.

Strengthen the capacity of the Department for European Integration to:

- co-ordinate the adaption of the EU policies at national level
- monitoring the implementation of the acquis communautaire in the pre-accession phase

**Indicators of Achievement**

Improved quality of documents relating to the accession presented to the Commission

**Sources of Information**

Proceedings of Association Council, Committee and Sub-Committees

**Assumptions and Risks**

Absorptive capacity of the Department for European Integration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of Projects</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearly focused policies and programmes on accession related issues developed and applied.</td>
<td>Completion of 10 sectoral studies assessing impact of EU accession and 25,000 pages translated into Romanian.</td>
<td>Publications by the EIR; Relevant Government and Commission decisions and reports.</td>
<td>Foreign experts will have participated as negotiators or as subject or policy experts on behalf of Member States in dealing with EU institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further EU/Phare support for the European Institute</td>
<td>Activity developed by EIR</td>
<td>Progress reports, annual report issued by EIR; evaluation mission reports</td>
<td>Result of the independent evaluation mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved skills in preparation of programming documentation</td>
<td>Good quality and timely presented programming documentation</td>
<td>Comments of EC on programming documents</td>
<td>吸収能力と公約内容のレベルでの公務員全線改革</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil servants competent in the affairs,policies and functioning of the EU and prepared for negotiations</td>
<td>Completion of sharing experience exercise by civil servants identified as key players in the accession process</td>
<td>Reports provided by the advisory team; relevant Commission reports</td>
<td>吸収能力と公約内容のレベルでの公務員全線改革</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained staff within the department for European Integration</td>
<td>Completion of in-house training, training in MS administration, organisation of experience sharing visits</td>
<td>Reports provided by the advisory team</td>
<td>Retention of trained personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved efficiency of the co-ordination of the European Integration process in Romania</td>
<td>Completion of a needs assessment study on the functioning of the co-ordination system; operational plan to increase the efficiency of the co-ordination system developed</td>
<td>Reports provided by the advisory team, Government documents; materials presented within the conferences</td>
<td>Coherence and commitment to co-operate among all involved parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased awareness at political level on adapting and implementing EU policies</td>
<td>Completion of an awareness raising campaign at political level; four national conferences in which the results of the process are granted broad recognition as national objectives; two international conferences on EU policies and their transposition</td>
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### Inputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare grant: MEURO 2.0 to cover</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Contracts for Impact Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to the EIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contribution - budget, staffing and facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assumptions and Risks

| Appropriate political and institutional commitment from Implementing Agency |
| Implementing Authorities assign the required competent staff |
## Pre-accession Support Activities

### CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING SCHEDULE (MEUR 2.0)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>30/09/99</th>
<th>31/12/99</th>
<th>31/03/00</th>
<th>30/06/00</th>
<th>30/09/00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Support to the European Institute of Romania</td>
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<td>600.000</td>
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<td>2.000.000</td>
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</table>

NB: *all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM*
# Annex 2b of Financing Proposal

## Pre-accession Support Activities

**CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (MEUR 2.0)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>30/06/00</th>
<th>30/09/00</th>
<th>31/12/00</th>
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</table>

Pre-accession Impact Studies
Support to the European Institute of Romania

**NB:** *all disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM*
**Pre-accession Support Activities**

**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (MEUR 2.0)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>31/03/00</th>
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<th>31/09/00</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1.900.000</td>
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<td>2.000.000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*NB: all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM. All disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM.*
Annex 4

RELATION OF PROJECT WITH PREVIOUS PHARE ACTIVITIES

In 1993, Phare assistance included a 4 MECU allocation (referred to as 1993 Euro-GTAP) which was intended to support the implementation of the Europe Agreement. The programme envisaged developing the technical, legislative and management skills of the public administration in matters relating to the EU and the implementation of the Europe Agreement. Emphasis was put on preparatory work in each Ministry, particularly with regard to practical advice on legislation and allied basic training. To this end, a contract was concluded with CEPS (European Centre for Political Studies) for assistance in the harmonisation of legislation on specific areas of activity. However, the programme did not bring the expected results, mainly because of co-ordination and organisational weaknesses.

Two other projects funded under the 1993 Euro-GTAP involved media support to regional TV co-productions and a so-called ‘European Reporter’ project. The latter provided training for 60 young journalists from newspapers, TV and Radio, on current issues and developments in the EU, as well as its history and structures. A separate workshop was organised to train teachers of journalism.

In parallel, the Government and some line Ministries received bilateral assistance from some Member States in the areas of training of civil servants and legislative harmonisation.

RO9706-Enhanced Pre-Accession Assistance (EPAA)

The Sector Operational Programme for EPAA provides for a range of interlinked initiatives and activities in the sphere which in aggregate are seen as streamlining the national administrative mechanism for the advancement of matters of EU integration and, by way of pro-active interventions, making a direct impact on the acceleration of the process and clearing the path for the progressive enactment of all necessary national measures.

The specific projects/sub-projects delineated under the Programme relate to:

- The commissioning and execution of horizontal and sectoral studies on the impact of Accession
- The provision of a translation co-ordination service
- The training of Civil Servants
- The establishment of European Studies Centres/‘Chairs’ in Higher Education Institutions
- The establishment of a European Law Centre for the training of the legal profession
- The establishment and operation of a European Institute
- The establishment of a Central Finance and Contracting Unit