1. Basic Information

1.1 CRIS Number: PHARE 2003/005-551.01.05

1.2 Title: Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania

1.3 Sector: Civil Society

1.4 Location: Romania

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s)

- To further increase the capacity and the credibility of the sector in order to better serve the community needs and interests;
- To support NGO projects of relevance to the implementation of the "Acquis" and to certain social priorities needs;
- To strengthen the NGO's in the field of Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law and Independence from Justice.

2.2 Project purpose:

- To further enhance credibility and strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of the sector in direct relation with both large public and decision-makers at the level of local and central administration;
- To promote the initiatives and projects of NGO's for improving the environment in which they function;
- To further develop and strengthen the network of Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB’s) and increase efficiency of the services provided by them;
- To strengthen and promote the role of NGO's in the adoption and implementation of the "Acquis" in the field of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development;
- To enable NGO's to play an important role in maintaining and supporting the Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, including Minorities’ Protection, Independence of Justice, and Fight against Corruption;
- To develop the capacities of NGO’s to answer the needs and promote the interests of the marginalized individuals and groups of population and to prepare and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones, involving a wide range of social partners.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

The development of a functioning Civil Society is intrinsically linked with the further consolidation of a democratic and pluralistic society in Romania. By their virtues and key roles, the NGO’s have the capacity to represent the interests and needs of citizens and to contribute to increasing the participation of communities.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies as guiding framework the development of the Civil Society and promotion of an “information society”, increased transparency in the process of designing strategy and programmes and involvement of social partners in this process. The programme is in line with the axis 3 of the NDP, to strengthen human resources potential and improving the quality of social
services. Furthermore, it is answering the axis 5 in relation to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

N/A

3. Description

3.1 Background and Justification

General
Civil Society maintains its pivotal role in preparing Romania for accession, implementing the “Acquis” and ensuring the protection of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Human Rights and the Protection of Minorities.

The Civil Society organisations in Romania remain rather weak in regard to their institutional capacity, their ability to initiate and implement activities in an efficient way, their networking and co-ordination capacity, and their project management skills. This situation decreases their ability to play an effective role as catalysts for reform at various decision-making levels and areas of activity and intervention. These shortcomings at institutional level also make the associative world in Romania more fragile and do not reflect adequately their image within the society. Therefore a constant effort of strengthening the institutional and managerial capacity of NGO’s is still required. Besides, participation and awareness raising to improve the environment in which NGO’s/NPO’s operate is needed as well.

Following the results of a recent assessment undertaken under a framework contract financed through the Project Preparation Facility (PPF), organisations from various counties (judets) have declared that the legal and regulatory framework in which the NGO’s operate is unfavourable and must be changed. This need is constantly expressed at NGO meetings at national level (such as the National Forum of NGO’s) and should be addressed by providing support for initiatives to lobby and advocacy in this respect.

Despite the fact that under the Phare 2000 Civil Society Programme, there was little interest shown for changing the regulatory framework for NGO’s, recent negative developments of the legal environment have increased the concern of the NGO’s regarding a smooth, unproblematic operation in the long run. Taken into consideration these latest developments, NGO’s may be more motivated to apply for obtaining grants.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
Starting with the Phare 2000 programme, a network of 36 Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB’s) have been established and currently provide advisory services to citizens to enable them to solve problems and exercise their rights and duties. Advisory services are provided in the following fields: health, social assistance, social insurance, labour, consumer protection, civil rights and duties, property regime, taxation, education, notary procedures, child protection and public services. A critical issue was the substantial lack of information and advisory services, especially outside larger cities. In this context, it is essential to strengthen the network of CAB’s that will offer information and advisory services.

The National Association of CABs should be further encouraged to provide information, logistic support, training and assistance for the CAB network under development. This is considered to be necessary taking into consideration the need to ensure the autonomy of CAB’s, especially in relation with the local authorities.

As the institutional infrastructure of CAB’s has been set up with significant support and proved by now to answer the needs of the large public, it is of paramount importance to set up and adapt the services of these organisations to the new challenges brought up by the economic development, globalisation, development of society on competitive basis. The direct consequence of these recent developments is that the most affected groups still suffer from unemployment (people with low income, elderly, women, youth, people with health problems, people with special needs).

Support to NGO sector.
Despite the associative life development in a number of NGO’s (more than 20.000 NGO’s are officially registered), their sustainability is rather low. Most of them remain largely dependent on international aid and encounter difficulties in attracting local resources.
Statistics show that private firms and companies are still reluctant, due to the unfavourable framework of activity and low spirit of social responsibility, to financially support different types of NGO’s. The development of these corporate responsibility initiatives is still weakened by the unfavourable legal and fiscal environment and due to the inexistence of a specific organisational culture of the large economic operators to sustain initiatives of NGO’s.

Despite the recent introduction of civic education in public education, there is still a lack of civic education, lack of knowledge amongst citizens regarding their rights, duties and implications of their decisions. Support to strengthen the NGO sector in the field of Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of law is therefore urgently required.

The role of NGO’s in the adoption and implementation of the “Acquis”
The main aim of the European integration process is to adopt the “Acquis Communautaire” at the level of national legislation. In this context, the opening and closure of the negotiation chapters is made taken into consideration the aspect of an accurate transposition of legislation. The adjustment of legislation has a large impact on the citizens and associations of citizens, especially the professional associations. Through their role of representing the interest of their members and citizens, NGO’s can raise awareness on the changes and benefits, and challenges related to the implementation of the “Acquis”. Functioning NGO’s and NPO’s have a key role to play in articulating the demands of citizens through active participation and awareness raising. Typically many elements of the “Acquis” are based on the existence of thriving and active NGO’s/NPO’s (such as consumer movements, environmental initiatives, social, health associations, justice etc). Without the activities of these NGO’s/NPO’s, the “Acquis” could not find popular acceptance or be implemented entirely. Therefore support for strengthening the institutional capacity of NGO’s/NPO’s in sectors relevant to the implementation of the “Acquis”, particularly in the subject area of labour, social dialogue, consumer protection, environmental protection and socio-economic development is needed.

Participation of NGO’s for the support of Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law and Independence of Justice
Although at present Romania fulfils the political criteria, there are numerous aspects to be improved, as mentioned in the Regular Reports of the European Commission, especially in relation to the protection of minorities and independence of justice. Furthermore, the actions of the Government to strengthen the rule of law, respecting the minorities’ protection and fight against corruption must be directly sustained by the actions of the Civil Society, through its NGO’s/NPO’s as well as professional associations.

By their flexibility and impartiality, NGO’s can easily monitor and detect any deviation from the principles of democracy, rule of law, independence of justice or human rights respect and can be reliable “bodies” in guaranteeing that these principles are adequately enforced.

Capacities of NGOs to provide social services
As previously mentioned, there is a constant and growing need for the NGO’s to further provide and improve services and create new ones in order to respond more efficiently to the community needs. As various international and governmental reports show, the poverty rate is still high in Romania, which legitimates a further social intervention from both the Government and Civil Society organisations. The initiatives of NGO’s in the social field are characterised by flexibility, adaptability and the capacity to attract various resources and, as a result, to provide integrated services, which are not available through local or central sources.

3.2 Linked Activities

Phare support
Support to the Civil Society from the EU in Romania started in 1993 through a grant scheme. Two main periods can be distinguished:

1993-1999
- Phare Democracy (223 projects for 1.8 million €), which promoted democracy and the rule of law by training politicians and transferring the required know how to professional associations regarding democracy and the rule of law.
- Phare LIEN (162 projects for 1.3 million €), stimulating citizens’ initiatives and the capacity of NGO’s that were active in the social sector, supporting activities as reintegration of marginalized groups, professional re-conversion, medical protection, etc.
• Phare Partnership Programme (19 projects for 140,000 €), aimed at creating partnerships between NGO’s and the public and private sector which would lead to more sustainability in economic and social development.

• All offering grants through a call for proposals.

• RO-9406, Civil Society Development Programme (around 5 million €), operational in the period 1996-1999, offering grants to NGO’s through the CSDF, for institution building, training activities, developing and strengthening resource centres, etc.

• Phare EIDHR 1999 grants through proposals launched in 2000 (for 18 projects with a total value of 415,650 €).

• Phare EIDHR 2000 with a budget of 308,760 €, aimed to strengthen pluralist democracy, human rights, and the rule of law with a view to supporting the overall process of democratisation, civil society development, and the protection of human rights. The Democracy and Human Rights Fund supports local civil society initiatives and their contribution to democracy and protection of Human Rights

1999-2003

Mainly through ACCESS (which replaced Phare LIEN and Phare Partnership) and newly expanded Phare programmes.

• Apart from support through these programmes, support was also channelled through to the Civil Society through the Project for Regional Development (RO-0007.02) in particularly the component addressing the Human Resources Development, Programme Investments in Economic and Social Cohesion 2001 (RO-0108.03) and the project for Social Services Institution Building (RO-0108.02).

• Under the 1998 National Phare Programme, a Roma programme was implemented, having as wider objective to set up, through a Government strategy, the institutional, legal and policy basis for the improvement of the social and economic situation of Roma, including respect for their rights as defined in national and international law.

• The Civil Society programme RO 0004.02.01 has three components (total budget allocation 4.0 M€):
  - Citizens Advise Bureaus (CAB’s)
    Development of an active network of citizens advise services based on NGO’s geographically spread able to provide advisory services to citizens in order to cover the lack of information. A typical service provides information, advise, practical help and advocacy for difficult cases. CAB’s provide advise in areas such as: social security and health, employment, discrimination, consumer debts, taxes, housing, legislation and legal advice, utilities, victims of abuse or domestic violence, other issues according to local needs.
  - Capacity building for partnerships between local authorities and NGO’s
    This component focuses on improving the co-operation between local authorities and NGO’s in problem solving at local level through training and technical assistance and co-financing of local initiatives.
  - NGO sector development
    A grant programme is providing support for the creation and development of local resources (financial and human) in order to reinforce the sustainability of the NGO sector.

• The Phare RO-0008 has a total budget allocation of 4.31 M€.

  The main objectives of the programme are:
  - To promote the implementation of the “Acquis” in policy areas in which the third sector plays an important implementation and advocacy role, and to raise popular awareness and acceptance in these areas;
  - To encourage the inclusion and participation of individuals and groups who risk being economically, socially or politically marginalized in the transition process.

Additional support is provided for activities related to the adoption and implementation of the “Acquis” in the following areas:

- Environmental protection;
- Socio-economic development (such as promotion of workers’ rights and social dialogue; promotion of consumer interests and strengthening of associations representing co-operatives, mutual and other organisations with a socio-economic role; promotion of advocacy in support of good social policy).

Activities in the social sector are also supported, which aim at contributing to the social reintegration and/or to promote sustainable health and social support for marginalized groups of the population (such as members of minority groups, disabled persons, elderly, homeless, street or abused children, illiterate, unemployed, victims of addiction, of AIDS, victims of cruelty etc.).
The EU-Phare Civil Society Fund aims at improving the capacity and credibility of the NGO sector in order to better serve the community needs and interests. In particular, the Fund will support projects in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, adoption and implementation of the EU legislation in environmental protection and socio-economic development, as well as projects with a social impact.

**Activities and Projects supported by other Donors**

- **World Bank**, small grants aiming to support institutional development, public services and law enforcement.
- **DFID**, for the period 2002-2003 within a budget of 170,000 L for small grants aiming to support the community development and population at risk support.
- **REC (Regional Environment Centre)**, small grants up to a maximum budget of 100,000 € annually, focused on EU Integration, energy and biodiversity.
- **Principesa Margareta Foundation**, small grants focused on child protection and youth.

### 3.3 Results

I. **Enhancing the credibility and strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of the sector in direct relation with both large public and decision-makers at the level of local and central administration.**
   - Concrete initiatives for increasing credibility of the sector (community projects carried out in partnership by NGO’s, local authorities and/or the business community).
   - Projects to improve the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework in which NGO’s are established and operate.
   - Projects to increase the capacity of the NGO’s (training and self regulation, developing and strengthening resource centres).

II. **Developing and strengthening the network of Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB’s) and increase the efficiency of the services provided by CAB’s.**
   - Extend the CAB network by establishing new CAB’s and continue the support to existing CABs.
   - Strengthen the CAB’s and the network of CAB’s in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, in order to achieve a sustainable impact.
   - Strengthen NACAB’s in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CAB’s and contribute to their sustainability.

III. **Strengthening and promoting the role of NGO’s in the adoption and implementation of the “Acquis” in the field of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development.**
   - Increased capacity of NGO’s to develop projects aimed at promoting the implementation of the “Acquis” in the field of environmental protection, social dialogue, workers’ rights and consumer protection.
   - Increased capacity of Civil Society organisations such as cooperatives, joint professional organisations and associations, labour unions, employers associations, associations of workers in the field of agriculture and rural areas to develop projects for promoting the interests of their members.

IV. **Enabling the NGO’s and professional associations to play an important role in maintaining and supporting the democracy, rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities, independence of justice, and fight against corruption.**
   - Concrete initiatives and projects in the field of democracy, rule of law, human rights and minorities rights, independence of justice, and fight against corruption.

V. **Developing the capacities of NGO’s to answer the needs and promote the interests of the marginalized individuals and groups of population and to prepare and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones, involving a wide range of social partners.**
   - Increased capacity of the NGO’s to answer the needs of economically, politically and socially marginalized groups of population in rural and urban areas, to provide integrated and/or new social services for them and to develop and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones.

### 3.4 Activities
Component 1

Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Community Projects in partnership between NGO’s, local authorities and/or the business community, which will be based on identified local needs and issues of public concern.
- Projects for improving the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework in which NGO’s are established and function.
- Training for staff attached to NGO’s in specific fields where needs have been identified. Support will cover training sessions, transfer of expertise and knowledge (including international know-how), information and publications.
- Establishing new NGO resource centres. The resource centres will be established in areas where such initiatives do not exist.
- Supporting for already existing resource centres in order to improve their capacity to provide needed information and assistance to NGO’s.

Direct agreement:
- For the self-regulation mechanism of the sector that was set up under the previous Civil Society programme. Activities that involve a wide consultation of the sector will be continued and standards of good practices will be further set up, promoted and adopted.

Component 2

Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Supporting for the already existing CAB’s, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, and reaching sustainability.
- Establishing new CAB’s according to the existing model provided by the network.

Direct agreement:
- For supporting the NACAB’s in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CAB’s and contribute to their sustainability.

Component 3

Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Projects for further promoting and implementing the “Acquis” in the field of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development.

Component 4

Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Projects in the field of Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, including the Protection of Minorities, Independence of Justice, and fight against Corruption

Component 5

Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Support for NGO’s to increase their capacity to answer the needs and promote the interests of the marginalized individuals and groups of population and to prepare and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones, involving a wide range of social partners

3.5 Lessons learned

A wide array of activities has been successfully completed with already good effects, such as increased awareness in Civil Society activities, the completion and promotion of numerous grant aid projects, especially through numerous non-governmental organisations.

The objectives of RO-0004.02.01 and RO-0104.03 (Civil Society 2000 and 2001) are well defined, reflecting a new bottom-up, needs based issue-specific approach. The 2001 programme is based on the previous 2000 programme but better designed to encourage citizen participation.
There have been several delays in implementing RO-0004.02.01, which required an extension. CSDF identified and implemented all necessary corrective actions, co-ordinating well with contractors and counterparts and ensured value-for-money within the programme.

For the 2001 programme, which start was also delayed, reporting and management will be based on improved project procedures. However, a critical success factor depends on the overall performance of the Association of CAB’s, especially its ability to attract additional funds.

For RO-0004.02.01, good progress has been made on achieving the immediate objectives. Provided the lessons learned under the 2000 programme are applied, there is no reason to believe that the outputs of the 2001 programme will not be delivered.

Both the 2000 and 2001 programmes, if supported by well-targeted publicity campaigns, will most likely witness a more positive change in public attitudes and awareness. Overall, the ability of NGO’s to create effective partnerships with local authorities is being enhanced, reflected in the ability to provide valuable information to local communities.

The existence of CSDF and its involvement in disseminating best practices ensures confidence, support and an element of sustainability within the NGO sector. NGO’s and CAB’s demonstrate a good ability to attract local resources. The fact that RO-0004.02.01 is followed by the 2001 programme should see the good results from the former being sustained and enhanced by the latter. Also, it is expected that the high commitment shown by the first CAB’s will serve as a model for others.

4 Institutional Framework

The Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF), established to manage the 1994 Civil Society Development Programme, has shown the capability of launching the programme, organising the selection in a fair and professional way and organising the contracting properly. CSDF has proven its qualification and capacity to manage and supervise all components of this project.

5 Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHARE</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Cof.*</th>
<th>IFI*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investm. Support</td>
<td>Institution Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,265,000</td>
<td>1,265,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>435,000</td>
<td>435,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>435,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In cases of co-financing only

Note: Co-financing will be required. The co-financing limits will be established in the guidelines for applicants based on experience from previous programmes.

6 Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

The CFCU will be the Implementing Agency, and will be responsible for overseeing the procedures applied, as well as for contracting, payments and financial reporting (Programme Authorising Officer).
Contact details of CFCU:

Title: Programme Authorising Officer  
PAO name: Mrs. Jeana Buzduga  
Address: Magheru Avenue, no.6-8, 5th floor, Bucharest  
Telephone: 040-021-2119979  
Fax: 040-021-2106456

The European Commission through its Delegation in Romania will have to officially endorse the implementation documentation (strategy, criteria for selection, guidelines for applicants, etc.). In addition, the Delegation will participate as observer in all tender/selection/evaluation processes, will approve the evaluation reports and supervise and monitor closely the operation of CSDF and the project implementation process.

6.2 Implementing Authority

The Ministry of European Integration (MEI) will be the Implementing Authority, responsible for the approval of call for proposals, guidelines for applicants, evaluation reports, and with the overall monitoring of the implementation process (Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Senior Programme Officer).

Contact details of MEI:

Title: Senior Programme Officer  
SPO name: Mr. Razvan Cotovelea  
Address: 17, Apolodor St. Northern Side, Sector 5, Bucharest  
Tel.: 00-40-21-3011529  
Fax: 00-40-21-3011624

6.3 Twinning

N/A

6.4 Non-standard aspects

Taking into consideration that through a Phare programme CSDF was set-up with the specific role to administrate and managed funds addressed to the Civil Society, based on the experience accumulated over the last 6 years, a direct agreement will be required.

Contracts with the NGOs beneficiaries of small grants may specify, as an exception to normal Phare procedures, that payments will be made on the basis of an advance payment of 50%, a subsequent interim payment of up to 40% and a final payment of the remaining balance of the grant, rather than the normal 80% advance payment and 20% final payment, when it is considered necessary to ensure adequate control over the implementation of the grant schemes.

6.5 Contracts

One (1) Direct Agreement to support the project management will be signed by the CFCU with the CSDF in Romania.

Project management will include the elaboration of the criteria for calls for proposals, organisation of evaluation/selection of projects, monitoring the implementation of the projects. The project management costs will not exceed 7.25% of the total project budget.

Following the conclusion of this direct agreement the main activities of the project will be implemented through a number of financing agreements between the CFCU and the beneficiaries selected through a competitive selection process managed by the CFCU. The CFCU will be supported by CSDF for the preparation and evaluation of calls for project proposals.

The Ministry of European Integration, the CFCU and the EC Delegation will participate as observer in all tender/selection/evaluation processes and will supervise closely the activities of CSDF. CSDF will not be an eligible beneficiary of the project, other than through payments under the direct agreement contract specified above.
7 Implementation Schedule

Signature of Direct Agreement is expected in February 2004

7.1 Start of Contract/Call for Proposals

Aprilie 2004

7.2 Start of Project Activities

October 2004

7.3 Project Completion

October 2006

8. Equal Opportunity

All 5 components are designed in the idea of equal opportunities and encourage equal participation and representation.

9. Environment

N/A

10. Rates of return

N/A

11. Investment criteria

N/A

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The EU financing will be conditional upon the adequate implementation of Phare RO 0104.03 – Civil Society.

A direct agreement will be concluded with the self-regulatory mechanism if the results attained in 2001 programme are effective and agreed upon by the Ministry of the European Integration and the EC Delegation. If the results are not satisfactory, the allocated budgets will be used within the respective component on other activities as a renewed call for proposals for similar mechanisms are not considered to be feasible.

A direct agreement with the National Association of CAB’s will be concluded only based on their previous performance proved under the 2001 Phare Programme.
Annexes to project Fiche

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)
2. Detailed implementation chart (compulsory)
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period) (compulsory)
### LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR
Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Contracting period expires 30 November 2005</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires 30 November 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total budget: 6.00 MEUR</td>
<td>Phare budget: 6.00 MEUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Overall objective
- To further increase the capacity and the credibility of the sector in order to better serve the community needs and interests;
- To support NGO projects of relevance to the implementation of the “Acquis” and to certain social priorities needs;
- To strengthen the NGO’s in the field of Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of law and Independence from Justice

#### Objectively verifiable indicators
- Increased with 10% of the no. of active NGO’s/NPO’s in community, by the end of the programme;
- The rating of the democracy indicators concerning human rights, rule of law, independence of justice, and fighting against corruption improved;
- Increased contribution of the NGOs/NPO’s in the implementation of the “Acquis” and solving of the social aspects;

#### Sources of Verification
- Statistics
- Evaluation reports
- Monitoring reports
- Impact assessment reports
- Studies by International institutions
- Government of Romania and the European Commission through Progress Reports and Regular Reports (Commission’s opinion, AP, NPA).
- Press and media coverage in the areas in which the project is expected to have impact
- Public opinion polls

#### Project purpose
- To further enhance credibility and strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of the sector in direct relation with both large public and decision-makers at the level of local and central administration.
- To promote the initiatives and projects of NGO’s for improving the environment in which they function.

#### Objectively verifiable indicators
- Increased number and quality of applications for funding by 20%;
- No. of 20 projects carried out successfully;
- No. of 10 projects carried out in partnership with public authorities;
- No. of 2 successfully implemented projects which contribute to favourable framework for the development of NGO’s;

#### Sources of Verification
- Evaluation reports of the Call for Proposals
- Monitoring Reports of the projects implemented under the programme
- Ad hoc reports
- Interim and final reports of previous programmes
- Qualitative and quantitative social investigation
- Public opinion pools
- Monitoring Reports of the

#### Assumptions
- Political and economically stability
- Support from relevant institutions
- Cooperation and coordination between actors involved in the implementation of the programme
- Availability of local resources for co-financing
- Relevant capacity of selected NGO’s/NPO’s
- To further develop and strengthen the network of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB’s) and increase efficiency of the services provided by them.

- To strengthen and promote the role of NGO’s in the adoption and implementation of the “Acquis” in the fields of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development.

- To enable NGO’s and professional associations to play an important role in maintaining and supporting the democracy, rule of law, human rights including minorities protection, independence of justice, and fighting against corruption.

- To develop the capacities of NGO’s to answer the needs and promote the interests of the marginalized individuals and groups of population and to prepare and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones, involving a wide range of social partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased with 10 % of the number of advisory services provided to citizens comparing to previous programme;</td>
<td>No. of projects aiming to further adopt and implement the “Acquis” in the field of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development comparing with previous programme increased with 10%;</td>
<td>Increased with 10 % of the no. of NGO’s actively supporting by effective measures the democracy, human rights, independence of justice and fighting against corruption;</td>
<td>The ability of NGO’s to address issues related to the “Acquis” implementation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project implemented under the programme</td>
<td>Projects implemented under the programme</td>
<td>Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP etc.)</td>
<td>Efficient implementation of anti-corruption measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official data from local and central authorities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased access of larger number of people from risk groups to social services provided by NGO’s;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 10 extended social services in place;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects implemented under the programme</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official data from local and central authorities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ability of NGO’s to address issues related to the “Acquis” implementation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient implementation of anti-corruption measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete initiatives for increasing credibility of the sector (community projects carried out in partnership by NGO’s - local authorities and/or business community).</td>
<td>Increased with 20 % of the no. of problems of public concerning the community that are tackled and/or solved;</td>
<td>Evaluation reports of the Call for Proposals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects for improving the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework in which NGO’s are established and function.</td>
<td>At least 10 projects, aimed to transfer expertise and know-how to NGO’s, implemented;</td>
<td>Monitoring Reports of the projects implemented under the programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects for increasing the capacity of the organizations (training and self regulation, resource centres).</td>
<td>No. of good practices that will be promoted at the NGO sector level;</td>
<td>Ad hoc reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended citizens advice bureaux network by establishing new CAB’s and continuing support of existing CAB’s.</td>
<td>No. of 5 new established and active resource centres;</td>
<td>Interim and final reports of previous programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened CAB’s and network of CAB’s in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, and nevertheless reaching sustainability.</td>
<td>Improved regulatory framework;</td>
<td>Qualitative and quantitative social investigation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened NACAB’s in order to further provide services and assistance for the network of CABs and contribute to their sustainability.</td>
<td>At least 8 new established CAB’s;</td>
<td>Monitoring Reports of the projects implemented under the programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased capacity of NGO’s to develop projects aiming to promote the ‘Acquis’ implementation in the field of environmental protection, Social Dialogue, workers’ rights, consumer protection,</td>
<td>Increased with 20 % of the no. of active CAB’s providing extended services in comparaison with the results of the previous Phare programme;</td>
<td>Official data from local and central authorities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased capacity of civil society</td>
<td>No. of CAB’s active members of the NACAB’s;</td>
<td>Report of International Institutions (World Bank, UNDP etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased with 20 % of the no. of projects initiated by cooperatives,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support from relevant institutions</td>
<td>Support from relevant institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Efficient programme management (implementation, monitoring and assessment)</td>
<td>Efficient programme management (implementation, monitoring and assessment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effective coordination between the Implementing Agency, Implementing Authority, Contracting Organizations, Implementing Body and the beneficiaries</td>
<td>Effective coordination between the Implementing Agency, Implementing Authority, Contracting Organizations, Implementing Body and the beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timelines and co-financing resources</td>
<td>Timelines and co-financing resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The self-regulatory mechanism established under Phare 2000 Civil Society to function efficiently</td>
<td>The self-regulatory mechanism established under Phare 2000 Civil Society to function efficiently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The NACAB’s established under Phare 2000 Civil Society programme to function efficiently</td>
<td>The NACAB’s established under Phare 2000 Civil Society programme to function efficiently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
organisations such as cooperatives, mutual-professional organisations and associations, labour unions, employers associations, associations of workers in the field of agriculture and rural areas to develop projects for promoting the interests of their members.

- Concrete initiatives and projects in the field of the democracy, rule of law, human rights including minority protection, independence of justice, and fighting against corruption

- Increased capacity of the NGO’s to provide integrated and new social services to economically and socially marginalized groups of population in rural and urban areas and to develop and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Component 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Call for proposals (grants) for:&lt;/b&gt;&lt;br&gt;- Community Projects in partnership between NGO’s - local authorities and/or business community, which will be based on identified local needs and issues of public concern.&lt;br&gt;- Projects for improving the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework in which NGO’s are established and function.&lt;br&gt;- Training for NGO’s in fields where needs were identified. Support will cover training sessions, transfer of expertise and knowledge (including international know-</td>
<td>Establishing the division of budget of Components between various Call for proposals&lt;br&gt;- Launching of the Call for Proposals&lt;br&gt;- Informative sessions&lt;br&gt;- Publicity activities&lt;br&gt;- Additional information provided before deadline&lt;br&gt;- Receiving the applications&lt;br&gt;- Identifying and selecting the experts for evaluation</td>
<td>Effective cooperation between NGOs and public administration/business community, etc&lt;br&gt;Effective Involvement of NGO in project implementation&lt;br&gt;Support from other relevant institutions&lt;br&gt;The existence of the Self regulation mechanism&lt;br&gt;Increased sustainability of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
how), information and publications.

- Establishing new resource centres for NGO’s. The resource centres will be established in areas where such initiatives do not exist.
- Supporting for already existing resource centres in order to improve their capacity to provide needed information and assistance to NGO’s.

Direct agreement:
- For the self-regulation mechanism of the sector which was set up in the previous civil society programme. Activities involving a wide consultation of the sector will be continued and standards of good practices will be further set up, promoted and adopted.

Component 2
Call for proposals (grants) for:
- Supporting for the already existing CAB’s, in view of extending the areas of assistance and improving the quality of services, and reaching sustainability.
- Establishing new CAB’s according to the existing model provided by the network

Direct agreement:
- For supporting the NACAB’s in order to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating the projects</td>
<td>Participation of NGO’s to promoting the standards of good practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of projects</td>
<td>Functioning resource centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracting the projects selected</td>
<td>Capacity and commitment to improve the regulatory framework for NGO’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring the implementation of</td>
<td>Capacity to improve the capacity to manage various future funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>financed projects</td>
<td>Functioning CAB’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effectiveness of NACAB’s in providing support for the network of CAB’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weak awareness of the “Acquis” issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuous commitment to protection of human and minority protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effectiveness of the law package against corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGO’s increased capacity to provide more specialised, integrated social services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Analysing the efficiency of the self-regulatory mechanism and deciding on the two alternatives provided: direct agreement or distribution of the funds within the respective component

- Establishing the division of budget of Components between various

- Launching of the Call for Proposals
- Informative sessions
- Publicity activities
- Additional information provided before deadline
- Receiving the applications
- Identifying and selecting the experts for evaluation
- Evaluating the projects
- Selection of projects
- Contracting the projects selected
- Monitoring the implementation of financed projects
further provide services and assistance for the network of CAB's and contribute to their sustainability.

**Component 3**
**Call for proposals (grants) for:**
- Projects for further promoting and implementing the “Acquis” in the fields of labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment and socio/economic development.

**Component 4**
**Call for proposals (grants) for:**
- Projects in the field of the democracy, rule of law, human rights including minorities protection, independence of justice, and fighting against corruption

**Component 5**
**Call for proposals (grants) for:**
- Support for NGO’s to increase their capacity to answer the needs and promote the interests of the marginalized individuals and groups of population and to prepare and advocate for adequate social policies or improvement of existing ones, involving a wide range of social partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preconditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adequate implementation of Phare RO 0104.03 – Civil Society. The satisfactory results of the 2001 programme.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex 2: Detailed implementation chart for project “Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania”

### Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Months</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 1</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 2</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D = Design  
C = Contracting  
I = Implementation  
F = Finalisation
### Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania

**CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (6.0 MEURO)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31/12</td>
<td>31/03</td>
<td>30/06</td>
<td>30/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRACTED</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.435</td>
<td>0.435</td>
<td>6.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.000</td>
<td>6.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISBURSEMENT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.174</td>
<td>0.174</td>
<td>2.956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.377</td>
<td>5.490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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