1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: PHARE 2003/005-551.06.03
1.2 Title: Support for improving the participation of Romania in the Sixth Framework Programme and European research Area
1.3 Sector: Participation in Community Programmes
1.4 Twinning light component: RO03/IB/OT/04-TL
   - Title: Support for improving the participation of Romania in the 6th Framework Programme and European Research Area
   - Duration: 8 months
   - Budget: 0,25 M €
1.5 Location: Romania

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall objective
Strengthening the Romanian participation capacity in the Sixth Framework Programme and the implementation capacity of the European Research Area.

2.2 Project purpose:
Improvement of participation of Romanian scientific community in the EU Framework Programmes

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority
Chp.5-Programming: “Under these national allocations (i.e. Phare, Sapard, Ispa), Romania can also fund part of its participation in community programs including the RTD Framework Programs and programs in the area of Education and Enterprise”.

Chp.4.17 Science and research. Participation to the Sixth Framework Programme and to the European Research Area.

- Reinforce research-related administrative capacity and infrastructure in order to increase the benefits from association with the relevant Community Framework Programmes including the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006).

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan:
The methodologies and procedures introduced by the project will be useful for the refining of relevant procedures which are implemented now in the National Research Plan as a part of the National Development Plan.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification
The European integration in science and research consist mainly in participation in EU Framework Programmes for research, development and demonstration and implementation of the European research Area, as provided in corresponding international agreements. The 17th Chapter
“Science and Research” was temporary closed in June 2000. In February 2002 it was forwarded supplementary information for the Romanian Position Paper for this chapter. Romania participated as an associated state in the Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002) of European Union and a part of Romania’s contribution to FP5 budget was covered by Phare funds.

Romania participates under the same conditions as Member States in the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006). Due to limited annual RTD budgets the Ministry of Education and Research cannot cover entirely, from own resources, the contribution to FP 6 budget. Taking into account that Romanian contribution to FP6 budget is higher than those of FP5 budget and an important amount is also allocated for supporting Romanian FP 6 contractors. 50% of Romanian contribution to FP6 will be provided from PHARE funds.

During FP 5, the former Romanian National for Science Technology and Innovation (merged two years ago with the Ministry of Education and Research) carried out a project entitled “Supporting the participation of Romanian companies, universities and institutes to the 5th framework programme” acronym CompUni. One of the tasks of this project was to set up a network of regional contact points.

The network set up 7 Regional Centers in each of Romanian Regions outside Bucharest. Main activities were training of the personnel involved in the 7 RCP’s and information dissemination in the 7 regions.

Based on this experience, a “permanent” regional network has to be an active component of our national network of contact points. It is necessary that the people have to be involved on full time basis. Procedures and performance indicators will be set up.

The Romanian network of contact points was designed to include:

1. National contact points network,
2. Regional contact points network,
3. Institutional contact point network, and
4. Thematic contact points for some priorities of FP6.

Most of the persons working as contact points do not have their activity covered by working contracts for this responsibility. Practically all the persons working as contact points at all levels do not work more than 5% to 40% for FP6 activities.

The involvement of research units and especially of the industry and SMEs is difficult to be carried out without an appropriate regional contact point, a person with adequate training and skills who keeps in touch with other contact points and has enough time to study the documents and information on Cordis. This is a valuable investment because these persons will be actors and support in the regional development programmes of the European Union.

There is only one Innovation relay center for whole country. Their personnel consist of 3-5 people who are working in other contracts too. Their activity was affected by the late payments in the contracts with European Commission.

At the end of March 2003 Romania has 227 contracts signed with the European Commission compared with 741 Poland, 559 Czech Republic, 522 Hungary, 292 Slovenia, 208, Bulgaria, 204 Slovakia, 155 Estonia, 129 Cyprus, 120 Latvia, 104 Lithuania. If we consider number of projects per million inhabitants, Romania is on the last place. If compared on the basis of the research potential and recovery rate of the contribution Romania is on the last place. Out of 95 participations in 2001 22 were from higher education, 34 from research centers, and 18 from SMEs.

3.2 Linked activities

Phare support was ensured for payment of Romanian contribution to FP 5 and EURATOM and for FP 6 and EURATOM budget.

3.3 Results

The project will have two components. Under the technical assistance component, support will be provided to elaborate methodologies and procedures for improving the information flow and dissemination of information.
on the Sixth framework programme. Training will also be provided in line with FP 6 and ERA. Furthermore, training will be provided for the whole network of contact Points covering the preparation of project proposals and the financial implementation of the project. Under the investment component limited support will be provided for building up a permanent network of regional contact points dedicated to the sixth Framework Programme.

3.3.1 **Twining light to draw up the methodologies** and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC 6 and ERA

The following results will be achieved by common work of Romanian Member and Member State experts:
- An effective methodological plan and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with FP6 and ERA drafted and approved for implementation, establishing a streamlined approach at national level with all relevant stakeholders and actors in promoting activities under the FP6.
- 10 experts from the MER staff in charge with European integration trained and able to ensure co-operation at best-practice standards and 10-15 representatives from stakeholders and actors trained and able to act trainers for interested scientists as potential participants in FP 6.
- 10 experts from MER staff in charge with European integration trained and able to co-ordinate with relevant EC counterparts and to continuously up-date methodologies and procedures in view of preparation for future EU frameworks programmes for research, development and demonstration.

3.3.2 **Technical assistance**:
- Increased number of projects proposals;
- Increased success rate (the number of financed projects/total number of project proposals);
- A permanent networking of RCP\(^1\) set up;
- More European partnerships in Romanian projects, as a result of opening of national programmes under the National Plan for RDI
- A network of about 500 contacts points (30 of NCP\(^2\), 30 RNCP, 300-350 of members of ICP\(^3\) and 80 TCP\(^4\) ) trained and able to effectively co-ordinate and act as interfaces with the scientific community as per relevant specifications in the FP6 guidelines;
- Accelerating the integration of RTD Romanian system in the European Research Area;
- A significant improvement of the recovery rate of the Romania's financial contribution to the FP6 budget;

3.4 Activities

3.4.1 **Twining light to draw up methodologies and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC 6 and ERA**

The twinning light arrangement will provide on going advice to the MER, covering best practice in the EU related to information flow and activities dissemination related to FP 6 and ERA in order to facilitate collective work between the Ministry and twinning partner to:
- Set-up a permanent working group to work on methodology and procedures for information flow and dissemination;
- Identify scientific and administrative organizations interested to act as partners of the working group in order to elaborate and implement the project activities;
- Organization of working visits of teams of representatives from working groups and partners at RCP in order to analyze the activities, provide advice and participate in RCP events;
- Draw up a methodology and the procedures for information flow and dissemination.

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\(^1\) Network of Regional Contact Points. Regional Contact Point = Person having similar duties as an NCP but his activity covers only the region concerned

\(^2\) National Contact Points

\(^3\) Institutional Contact Points = Person in charge with participation of the relevant institution (RTD institute, university, etc. to FP 6)

\(^4\) Thematic Contact Point = Person able to advise potential proposers concerning scientific themes touched in a project proposals
Selection criteria of the Member States institution:
The MS twinning partner and the experts involved in the twinning light will preferably belong to the central
public administration in their country or other organization that is directly involved with responsibilities for
(host institution of N.C.P. network):
- Prepare and implement the activities to support the participation of researchers to the EU FP 6
- Draw up project proposals (setting up own budgets, choosing the appropriate cost model, eligible
  expenditures, electronic submission of proposals - EPSS system, partner search, etc.)
- Direct linked with the networks of PC’s at all levels.

Short term experts:
- To undertake periodically the project activities, together with MER.
- To belong to the authorities that managing the activities in lines with FP 6 in the twined MS.

The activities will be implemented within a twinning light with duration of 8 months and a value of 250.000
Euro.

3.4.2 Technical assistance is necessary in order to:

**Training for** the whole network of Contact Points on the following two themes:

3.4.2.1 *Draw up project proposals* (setting up own budgets, choosing the appropriate cost model,
eligible expenditures, electronic submission of proposals – EPSS system, partner search, etc.)

3.4.2.2 *Implementation of EU FP 6 contracts* (receiving of advance payments, activities, reports,
financial statements, etc.)

3.4.3 Support for building up a permanent Network of Regional Contact Points dedicated to
FP 6:

For each RCP, a STANDARD “working infrastructure” is necessary, as follows:
- 1 Desktop computers: 1500 Euro
- 1 Portable Computers (which will be used for presentation in different organizations, potential
  participating to FP 6 or contractors in FP 6): 2000 Euro
- 1 beamer 2500
- Copy machine: 3200 Euro
- 1 BW laser printer: 800 Euro

3.5 Lesson Learned

Based on this experience, a “permanent” regional network has to be an active component of the national
network of contact points. An activity based on weak contractual links is not effective. It is necessary that
experienced scientists to be involved on a full time basis and their work to be organized taking into
account clear procedures and performance indicators.

4. Institutional Framework
The Ministry of Education and Research- The Research branch will play the role of Implementing
Authority, in charge with technical management.
5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEUR</th>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>Total Phare</th>
<th>National Co-financing*</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investment Support</td>
<td>Institution Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twining light TA</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Project</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.526</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency:
The project shall be managed under the PRAG contract procedures. The Romanian Implementing Agency is the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) within the Ministry of Public Finances.

6.2 Implementing Authority:
Ministry of Education and Research - General Direction for Integration and International Relations

6.3 Non standard Aspects:
N/A

6.4 Contracts
There will be 3 contracts:
1 for twinning light
1 for Technical assistance
1 for Procurement of supplies

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering:
- for twinning light: 01.2004
- for technical assistance: 01.2004
- for purchasing of equipments: 01.2004

7.2 Start of project implementation:
twinning light 30.04.2004,
technical assistance 30.06 2004

7.3 Project Completion:
twinning light 31.12.2004,
technical assistance 28.03.2005

8. Equal Opportunity
The contractors will be encouraged to make available both female and male staff as short term experts as well as technical assistance experts.

9 Environment

Environment aspects will be considered in a structured way with particular reference to environmental sustainability concept.

10 Rates of return

Not applicable.

11 Investment criteria

1.1 Catalytic Effect

1.2 Co-financing:

For the investment component, the co-financing contribution of the Implementing Authority will be of 0.037 Meuro.

13 Conditionality and sequencing

Not applicable

Annexes to project fiche

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule
Annex 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR</th>
<th>Contracting period expires: 30 November 2005</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires: 30 November 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support for improving the participation of Romania in the Sixth Framework Programme and European Research Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall objective</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the Romanian participation capacity in the Sixth Framework Programme and the implementation capacity of the European Research Area.</td>
<td>Increased rate of participation</td>
<td>Periodically reports from FP6 concerning the no. of Romanian projects selected</td>
<td>• The Romanian Government will continue to financially support the participation to FP6 and ERA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Purpose</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Improvement of participation of Romanian scientific community in the EU framework Programmes | • To improve the institutional and organizational framework in order to strengthening the capacity for information, dissemination in line with FP6 and ERA | • Periodic Phare evaluation reports submitted by the TA | • Research is a priority of the Government  
• The stability of the institutional framework  
• Institutions has adequate institutional capacity |
| • To improve the teams capacity for information and dissemination, and to enlarge these teams in line with the EU FP6 organizational requirements | • Drawing-up the methodologies and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with FP6 and ERA.  
• Building up a decentralized permanent Network at regional level by use the Regional Contact Points in line with the requirements of FP6  
• Setting-up of information, dissemination and consultancy teams at the national, regional institutional and thematically level of contacts points for EU FP6 and ERA | | |
### Results

3.3.1 Twining light to draw up the methodologies and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC6 and ERA.

The following results will be achieved by common work of Romanian Member and Member State experts:

- An effective methodological plan and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC6 and ERA that will establish a approach at national level with all stakeholders and actors involvement in order to set up this activities.
- Improvement the administrative capacity of the MER staff in charge with European integration, by learning in course of development of this exercise to up date this methodologies for the futures EU frameworks programmes for research.
- Improvement the MEC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Effective methodologies and procedures</td>
<td>• Effective methodologies and procedures</td>
<td>• Commitment of representatives bodies to be implied in this activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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5 National Contact Points
6 Institutional Contact Points = Person in charge with participation of the relevant institution (RTD institute, university, etc. to FP6)
7 Thematic Contact Point = Person able to advise potential proposers concerning scientific themes touched in a project proposals
8 Network of Regional Contact Points. Regional Contact Point = Person having similar duties as an NCP but his activity covers only the region concerned
3.3.2 Technical assistance for training

- A network of about 500 contacts points (30 of NCP, 30 RNCP, 300-350 of members of ICP and 80 TCP) trained for:
  - Draw-up the projects proposals;
  - Implementation of EU FP 6 contracts.

The outcomes of this activities will be:
- Increased number of projects proposals;
- Increased the number of projects financed;
- More European partnership in projects, as a result of opening of national programmes;
- A meaningful improvement of the recovery rate of the Romania’s financial contribution to the FP6 budget;
- Improvement in the quality of the Romanian research;
- Accelerating the integration of RTD Romanian system in the European Research Area;

- 500 contacts points organized at different levels (30 of NCP, 30 RNCP, 300-500 of members of ICP and 80 TCP) trained

- increased the number of project proposals;
- increased success rate (the number of financed projects/total number of project proposals)

- increase the rate of recovery: the Romania’s financial contribution to the FP 6 budget/total account of the projects gained, financed from the UE= or < 1

- Periodical Phare evaluation reports from TA team
- Periodically reports from FP6 concerning the statistical data on proposals / programs and / country
- Annual reports at national levels concerning the statistical dates in lines with the proposals submitted to the EU FP6 (number the proposal submitted, the number of proposal financed, the success rates, etc.)

Commitment of the bodies to be implied in this activities
Commitment of the regional bodies to be implied in this activities
### 3.3.3. Support for building up a permanent Network of Regional Contact Points dedicated to FP 6

- A permanent networking of RCPs set up formed of 8 regional contact points + 1 central point;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Preconditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1 • Draw up a methodology and the procedures for information flow and dissemination. • Study visits to two EC countries, to provide first-hand information on coordination mechanism and implementation structures for all the specific activities in line with FP 6 and ERA.</td>
<td>• Twinning light contract</td>
<td>• The Contractor will send highly qualified experts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2 Training for 500 persons in: • <strong>Drawing up of project proposals</strong> (setting up own budgets, choosing the appropriate cost model, eligible expenditures, electronic submission of proposals – EPSS system, partner search, etc.) • <strong>Implementation of EU FP 6 contracts</strong> (receiving of advance payments, activities, reports, financial statements, etc.)</td>
<td>• Technical assistance contract</td>
<td>• The MER will provide the organization of participation at training activities and will place all information relating to project proposal at the disposal of the experts • The MER will provide the cooperation with institution involved in the research activities in order to participate to setting up the outcomes of the project activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3 Build up a permanent Network of</td>
<td>• Purchase of equipment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Effective support for the endowment of 8 Regional Contact Points (RCPs)
- Investment fund allocated to RCP network by national budget
Annex 1: Logframe Matrix for project “Support for improving the participation of Romania in the Sixth Framework Programme and European Research Area”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Contact Points dedicated to FP 6:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Phare budget: <strong>0.5 MEuro</strong></td>
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</table>
## Annex 2: Detailed implementation chart for project “Support for improving the participation of Romania in the Sixth Framework Programme and European Research Area”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Activity

#### Twinning light
- Elaborate methodologies and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC 6 and ERA
- Elaborate methodologies and procedures for information flow and dissemination in line with PC 6 and ERA

#### Technical assistance
- 2.1 Training sessions for the whole network of Contact Points, on:
  - 2.1.1 Draw up project proposals
  - 2.2 Implementation of EU FP 6 contracts
- 3. Purchasing of equipments for setting up the Regional Contact Points

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| C C C C C | I I I I I I I I I I I I |
Annex 3

Support for improving the participation of Romania in the Sixth Framework Programme and European research Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total contracting:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total disbursement:</td>
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