TABLE OF CONTENT

1 Basic information ..................................................................................................... 2
  1.1 CRIS Number: .................................................................................................. 2
  1.2 Title: ................................................................................................................. 2
  1.3 Sector: ............................................................................................................... 2
  1.4 Location: ........................................................................................................... 2
  1.5 Duration: ........................................................................................................... 2

2 Objectives ................................................................................................................. 2
  2.1 Overall Objective(s): ........................................................................................ 2
  2.2 Project purpose: ................................................................................................ 2
  2.3 Accession Partnership ...................................................................................... 2
  2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan .................................................... 3
  2.5 Cross Border Impact......................................................................................... 4

3 Description ............................................................................................................... 4
  3.1 Background and justification............................................................................ 4
  3.2 Sectoral rationale .............................................................................................. 7
  3.3 Results ............................................................................................................ 12
  3.4 Activities (including Means) .......................................................................... 14
  3.5 Linked Activities: ........................................................................................... 21
  3.6 Lessons learned .............................................................................................. 23

4 Institutional Framework ......................................................................................... 23

5 Detailed Budget ...................................................................................................... 25

6 Implementation Arrangements ............................................................................... 25
  6.1 Implementing Agency .................................................................................... 25
  Implementing authorities............................................................................................ 26
  6.2 Twinning......................................................................................................... 26
  6.3 Non-standard aspects...................................................................................... 26
  6.4 Contracts......................................................................................................... 26

7 Implementation Schedule ....................................................................................... 26
  7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals ............................................................... 26
  7.2 Start of project activity ................................................................................... 26
  7.3 Project completion.......................................................................................... 26

8 Equal Opportunity .................................................................................................. 27

9 Environment ........................................................................................................... 27

10 Rates of return ..................................................................................................... 27

11 Investment criteria .............................................................................................. 27
  11.1 Catalytic effect................................................................................................ 27
  11.2 Co-financing................................................................................................... 27
  11.3 Additionality ................................................................................................... 27
  11.4 Project readiness and size ........................................................................... 27
  11.5 Sustainability ................................................................................................ 27
  11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions ........................................................... 28

12 Conditionality and sequencing ........................................................................... 28

List of Annexes to project Fiche .................................................................................... 28
1 Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number:

PHARE 2006/018-147.01.01

1.2 Title:
Accelerating the Implementation of the National Strategy for Improving Roma Condition

1.3 Sector:
Minorities

1.4 Location:
Romania

1.5 Duration:
24 months

2 Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):
Institutional framework consolidation for supporting the implementation of dedicated measures for Roma condition improvement

2.2 Project purpose:
Improvement of Roma condition and image at community level

This purpose will be achieved through the following priority interventions:

Priority 1 - Strengthening capacity and partnership building to improve Roma condition and image, via:

- Grant Scheme for Community Development, helping to improve the quality of life (house rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, successful IGA and health conditions) of Roma
- A focused and targeted public information campaign to highlight Roma issues

Priority 2 - Access to education for disadvantaged groups:

- Impact assessment and dissemination of the project results

2.3 Accession Partnership
(AP and NPAA priority and implementing measures envisaged by the Action Plan for AP priorities related to strengthening administrative and judicial capacity)
June 2002 National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) identified four short and medium term priorities required over the period from 2002 to 2005 which are seen as crucial to the process and directly or indirectly are reflected in this programme.

- Promotion of the equality of chances in Roma communities;
- Leaders/Opinion formatters information and training;
- Evaluation and monitoring of the programmes developed within the framework of the National Strategy for the improvement of the Roma situation;
- Facilitating the active participation of the Roma in economic, social, cultural and political Romanian life, improvement of their access to health services.

These priorities however cannot be resolved in isolation from the majority of the Romanian population. There is a need to increase awareness of Roma issues in a balanced and non-prejudicial way. Crucial to the overall process, and particular facilitating active participation to the economic, social, cultural and political aspects of Romanian society, is the need to develop public awareness and information programmes designed to create a bridge between the majority and minority populations and to reduce the discrimination of the Roma.

Romania has been actively developing the framework for improving services for the Roma and the process has been progressively raising the profile of the Strategy within the country. Numerous initiatives outside this particular programme framework have already been initiated whilst others are in the process. These initiatives are however sometimes handicapped by the level of local involvement by the Roma and their representatives and knowledge within local administration about the Roma. In some instances vital individuals are spending vital time resolving issues about the legal status of individual Roma (particularly in the health sector) when their time could be more effectively used in addressing professional issues.

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The proposed programme is an integral part of the (implementation of) Strategy for improving the condition of the Roma, adopted by Government Decision (GD) 430/2001. This programme also addresses the National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion.

The Strategy for Improving Roma Condition has been integrated into Chapter 14 of the National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion, which includes a series of specific measures addressing the Roma population, starting from the provisions of the Master Plan of Measures of the Strategy. In this context four measures are specifically targeted by this multiannual intervention.

- Sorting out cases of missing identity documents and civil status documents papers.
- Developing programmes of house building/rehabilitation and environment fit-out, ensuring minimal housing conditions (electricity, running water, sewage systems, gas, waste disposal).
- Ensuring access to healthcare services, including children and pregnant women.
- Using complex forms of supporting school attendance, preventing dropout and school failure, by the development of complementary services: free meals, lessons preparation at school etc.

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1 GD 829/2002, on the National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion
In addition to the implementation of these measures the process will also assist in the implementation of others identified in the National Plan including:

- Ensuring access to a minimal healthcare package for all, irrespective of whether they have medical insurance or not;
- Stimulating the employment of the Roma population in the formal economy. Special emphasis must be laid on the employment of youth;
- Granting agricultural land and plots of land for building houses to the Roma in rural areas;
- Settling the legal status of houses/land without ownership documents;
- Rehabilitation of the collective self-image and of the public image of the Roma population;
- Increased school attendance of Roma children, ensuring high enrolment in the secondary and tertiary cycle;
- Increased participation to pre-school forms of education, both as a means of preparing social involvement and as a form of social support for parents and children;
- Ensuring the integral inclusion of Roma children in primary education. Support for attendance of secondary school, first of all vocational, but also high-school leading to higher education.

2.5 Cross Border Impact
Not applicable.

3 Description

3.1 Background and justification
The Romanian Government’s Strategy for Improving the Condition of the Roma was approved by Government Decision No. 430/2001 and published in the Official Journal No 252/2001. The Strategy forms the basis of this programme. Its implementation was coordinated since June 2003 to March 2004 by the General Secretariat of the Government\(^2\) (GSG), through the Office for Roma Issues. In March 2004 the Office for Roma Issues has been taken over by the Department for Interethnic Relations\(^3\). The latter is part of the government’s working apparatus, subordinated to the Prime Minister and coordinated by the ministry for the General Secretariat of the Government\(^4\). By the Government Ordinance no. 78/2004, the National Agency for Roma was established, replacing the former ORI.

The medium-term Master Plan of Measures (Ch. IX) for the period 2001-2004 and the latest General Plan for the 2006-2008 proposed by the National Agency of Roma, stipulate concrete actions with precise deadlines and clear responsibilities for the institutions and covers the following sectors: community development and administration, housing, social security, health care, economy, justice and public order, child welfare, education, culture and denominations and communication and civic involvement. Some of the measures are specifically designed for

\(^{2}\) Government Decision (GD) No. 747/2003
\(^{3}\) Government Decision (GD) No. 407/2004
\(^{4}\) Government Emergency Ordinance (GEO) No. 11/2004
Roma communities while others address underprivileged groups in general and will reach Roma ethnics who fall in a large number in this category. The specific measures targeting Roma communities include improvement of collaboration between local authorities and Roma representatives, educational and sanitary mediators for Roma communities, vocational training and value the traditional occupations, etc.

According to the principles of sectoral division and decentralised execution, the Strategy defined the structure, organisation and responsibilities of institutions, public authorities and NGOs involved in the process, as follows:

- Centrally - the Joint Committee for Monitoring and Implementing the Strategy and the NAR;
- At County level - County Offices for the Roma within Prefectures;
- At the local level of mayor’s offices - local experts for the Roma.

According to the G.D. 750/2005 provisions regarding the founding of Inter-ministerial Permanent Councils, the Working Group for Coordinating the public policies for Roma was settled on 15th November 2005 within the Inter-ministerial Group for education, culture, research, youth, sport and minorities.

On January 2006, the Inter-ministerial Council adopted the internal regulations of the above-mentioned Working Group that replace the Joint Mixed Committee for Implementing and Monitoring the Government Strategy for Improving the Roma Condition.

Romania is also participating in the “Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015” that was launched in Sofia in February 2005. It took over responsibility for the Secretariat of the Decade in mid-2005. A long-term action plan in line with the Decade has been drawn up and contains objectives in the areas of education, healthcare, housing, culture and discrimination. Romania needs to ensure that this action plan is properly resourced and implemented.

Several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been established during the past few years5 that are trying to follow an approach that aims at empowering communities rather than continuing and/or increasing their dependency. In relation to the Roma communities, Roma and non-Roma NGOs have started to adopt a partnership approach that will result in physical benefits for poor Roma communities and (perhaps, more importantly) contribute to their emancipation and, ultimately, to their full participation in Romania’s civil society at all levels6.

During the consultative meeting organised in September 2003 by the Ministry of European Integration for the preparation of this project, two non-governmental organisations specialised in implementing community development projects and members of the JCIM defined the following medium-term priorities of multi-annual programming:

- Achievement of an optimal framework for the equal and active participation of Roma in the decision-making process, as regards the elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies concerning themselves;
- Creation and implementation of training/vocational certification programmes and professional retraining for the Roma, adapting Roma traditional crafts to the demands of the modern market, including Roma women;

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5 An extensive overview of Organizations and Projects can be found in “Roma Projects in Romania, 1990 – 2000” (Eds: Viorel Anastasoaie and Daniela Tarnovschi); Cluj-Napoca, 2001

6 Examples of this approach can be found in: Breaking the vicious circle – Social inclusion through participation (Spolu International); Sofia, 2000; Best Practices in Rroma Communities (Maria Ionescu and Sorin Cace); Bucharest, 2000 Roma Projects in Romania, 1990 – 2000 (Eds: Viorel Anastasoaie and Daniela Tarnovschi); Cluj-Napoca, 2001
• Supporting the establishment of craftsmanship workshops in fields accessible to the Roma, taking into account their current qualification, whereby to ensure the manufacturing and merchandising of household and craftsmanship items, as well as the revitalisation of other traditional occupations;

• Resolving problems related to ownership rights to land and houses occupied by the Roma and problems related to the enforcement of laws on the right to land ownership, including the promotion of law-making initiatives in the field;

• Include Roma communities in local authorities’ projects aimed at developing local infrastructure (water supply, gas supply, sewage systems, roads etc.);

• Direct involvement of the Roma in governmental programmes of house building and rehabilitation;

• Establishment of a Professional Inclusion Centre for the Roma in order to facilitate integration into the labour market of the labour force existing at community level;

• Granting of ownership rights to the Roma and stimulating agricultural activities in Roma communities;

• Carrying out public anti-discrimination campaigns focusing on the providers of public services.

In July 2005, a Focus Report\(^7\) acknowledged that even though the Government of Romania and the relevant ministries at central level, as well as authorities at county and local level have taken a number of steps towards implementing the Strategy for Improving the Condition of the Roma, still "effective implementation remains inconsistent between structures involved at central, regional and local levels". The report also identifies "that the key structures involved are generally not yet working efficiently and that the operational effectiveness of implementation of the Strategy varies greatly, both at central and local levels". The Focus Report recommendations point out to the importance of further institutional capacity building, both in terms of strengthening central administration as well as the local structures. The recommendations state that the Institutional Building component should be complemented by continuous monitoring and inclusive focused approach rather than a positive discrimination one.

These recommendations are addressed by the 2004 Institutional Capacity and Partnership Building to improve Roma condition and perception component in what concerns the institutional building and by the 2005 Identity Grant Scheme as regards the inclusive approach.

In what relates to continuous monitoring, the Steering Committee that took place on October 2005 convened that continuous monitoring will be carried on both by the designated General Secretariat of the Government PIU members and by the Special Department for Monitoring and Evaluation the Public Policies related to Roma Minority within the National Agency for Roma.

In this respect, and as follow-up to the SMSC 8 meeting in December 2005, there has been decided to further strengthen the cooperation between GSG and the NAR in order to reflect

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\(^7\) Assessment of the Roma Strategy Implementation Mechanism - Evaluation Report, Focus Consultancy, July 2005 (a project supported by the European Commission Delegation in Romania, RO PHARE 2003 SSTA 05)
this coordination aspect for the 2006 programme design and 2004 and 2005 programmes implementation.

The Interim Evaluation Report on Social Sector R/RO/SOC/0528 makes other important recommendations as well. The "insufficient involvement of Roma communities when the grant schemes are initiated" will be addressed by measures taken to ensure genuine partnerships establishment and the continuation of the investment after project completion for the implementation of 2005 and 2006 Grant Schemes.

In November 2004, according to the GEO No. 78/2004 on the establishment of the National Agency for Roma (NAR), the Office for Roma Issues (ORI) was written off, while its responsibilities and staff were taken over by the former. The NAR took over, on the provisions of this GEO, the Project Implementing Unit. In November it was, also, approved the Government Decision no 1703 on the organizing and functioning of the National Agency for Roma.

In June 2005 according to the Law no. 198/23 July 2005 for approving the GEO No. 17/2005 on establishing of some organizational measures at the level of central public administration, the Project Implementation Unit was transferred to the General Secretariat of the Government.

3.2 Sectoral rationale

The 2004 – 2006 sector strategy has been designed to facilitate the continuing implementation of the Strategy for improving the condition of the Roma and supports the National Plan for Fighting Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion and the legislation on preventing and punishing all forms of discrimination.

The period of the MAP represents the middle phase of these strategies implementation although it is recognised that the process of social inclusion needs to continue beyond this period. The MAP targets both development of administrative capacity of public institutions at all level as well as of the Roma communities themselves. At the national level the specialised structure of Roma issues (NAR) will be involved together with the other ministries and agencies with responsibilities for the implementation of the National strategy for Roma.

This approach that builds upon existing skills and expertise as regards delivery of individual projects will, if viewed as a whole, result in a visible improvement in the condition of the Roma during the lifetime of the MAP.

In particular the MAP seeks to complete a series of initiatives in education funded in previous PHARE programmes that at this time are confined to specific counties. Along with initiatives in health sector, employment, local infrastructure and housing they will be seen as major milestones in the process of Roma social inclusion and improving the physical condition in Roma communities and fulfilling their potential through education.

Throughout the period of the MAP the partnership between the EU and the Romanian Government in dealing with Roma issues will be complemented by unilateral nationally funded actions. The actions of the Romanian Government working through the GSG and other line ministries are also identified in the sector strategy and facilitate action for the priorities contained in the Programme.

Priority 1 - Strengthening capacity and partnership building to improve Roma condition and image

Grant Scheme for Community Development

The PHARE 2002 programme provided the foundation of this Community Development Grant Scheme. This MAP programme builds upon the experience and expertise gained in
running a similar grant scheme (under PHARE 2002, launched in May 2004) which included amongst its eligible activities housing, small infrastructure, income generation, health status, income generation and vocational training directly linked to funded projects. Work undertaken in Task 1 under 2004 funding will have assisted in the development of partnerships between public bodies and Roma representative groups.

Through this grant scheme it is envisaged that locally generated projects will have made a direct impact in the quality of life for those individuals living in the targeted communities. The rehabilitation of homes including the provision of essential services such as water and electricity will be an obvious improvement in the quality of life for the individuals benefiting from the action whilst the impact of small infrastructure improvements will have a wider effect within the community.

The ability to develop income generating schemes will contribute to the community development and together with the provision of vocational training will contribute to the increase of the employment level which is a key element for preventing social exclusion. It is anticipated that these activities will cover traditional crafts, service trades, agriculture and small scale manufacturing although encouragement will be given to other proposals on the basis of there potential and sustainability.

It is envisaged that vocational training for individuals employed to undertake work in the delivery of the project will form an intrinsic element of each grant cover the skill requirement necessary for successful implementation.

Improvement to the health status of the Roma will have primarily resulted from projects undertaken in related areas.

The management of the Grant Scheme will be carried out through a Technical Assistance Contract which will be contracted through international tender.

**Undertake a public information programme related to Roma issues (phase 2)**

Within Romania there is a considerable amount of misrepresentation and misinformation about the Roma whilst the information relevant for Roma themselves to support their social inclusion is often presented in inappropriate mediums. Misrepresentation and misinformation often combines to produce stereotyping of Roma that often reinforces discrimination and encourages intolerance by the non-Roma population.

There is also need for relevant information that meets the specific needs of the Roma. The absence of, or poorly targeted information coupled with often inappropriate mediums of communication currently results in many Roma being unaware of their rights and are therefore unable to access public services. Some progress has been made recently through the creation of mediator roles in health and education but this has not been supported by any resourced and co-ordinated activity. As a result the impact, whilst not negligible, has been patchy in scope and undertaken to address specific problems.

In addressing the issue of misrepresentation etc., the focus is on the majority population and in particular two sub-groups: the whole of the non-Roma population and opinion formatters. For the whole of the non-Roma population the target is to increase the level of awareness of the contribution the Roma can and do make to Romanian society and by doing so reduce the stereotyped attitudes and contribute to reducing levels of discrimination and intolerance. The targeted opinion formatters are mass media. For this group the target is to reduce the level of biased and uniformed reporting in all parts of the mass media.

The target position relating to the needs of the Roma is to have reached a position, through sustained action, where the Roma are aware of their rights and responsibilities particularly in relation to the accessing services but also in relation to the need for and participation in
community development. The target will be achieved through the two phases of the task providing a continuity of action to the end of the programme.

*Public awareness campaign under this project* will build upon the results of the similar task (4A) undertaken in 2004 and will continue the same process. The implementation will also be in the form of the TA contract with subcontracting to PR/Media organisation for the specific design and delivery of materials.

Romania is also participating in the “Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015” that was launched in Sofia in February 2005. It took over responsibility for the Secretariat of the Decade in mid-2005. A long-term action plan in line with the Decade has been drawn up and contains objectives in the areas of education, healthcare, housing, culture and discrimination. Romania needs to ensure that this action plan is properly resourced and implemented\(^8\).

**Priority 2 - Access to education for disadvantaged groups**

*Project 2: Impact assessment and dissemination of the project results (TA)*

In the last years, the Ministry of Education and Research has analysed the tendency of children belonging to disadvantaged groups, particularly Roma youngsters, not to register or to drop out from school and has outlined the gravity of the phenomenon of drop out and its negative consequences on a longer term at educational and social level.

The most significant areas of concern related to school enrolment and drop out appear among the Roma population\(^9\):

Also, as a result of the evaluation of children from special education, it was found out that a large number of children (among which Roma pupils) have been enrolled in special education for social reasons and not for cognitive or behaviour problems. On the other hand, some of the children with light and medium impairments, presently in special schools, could participate in mainstream education, with a proper educational support. Acknowledgement of this fact led to a policy decision of reintegrating some of the children from the special schools in the mainstream education.

On the other hand, a lot of the children from special schools integrated in mainstream education have been sent to the schools in their native village, without any educational support for them or for their teachers, with no follow-up regarding their school attainment and participation.

In that context, all the activities envisaged in PHARE 2001 and 2003 programmes and also, in PHARE 2004 multiannual programme have the following objectives:

- to improve the conditions of pre-school education for disadvantaged groups;
- to stimulate success in compulsory education (prevention of dropout) and improve school success rate of children from disadvantaged groups;
- to stimulate the enrolment in second chance programmes (correction of drop out).

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\(^9\) Institute for Life Quality, Institute for Educational Science – Findings presented during the workshop organised by United Nations and the Romanian Government
Also, one target of those programmes is the development of the county school inspectorate capacity to deal with the problems related to access to education for disadvantaged groups and the school capacity to address the needs of all children and to become an inclusive school.

In the present PHARE 2006 project (task no.7 according to the initial multiannual planning), the TA will support MER to achieve:

- The impact assessment study regarding the results of the project at the national level;
- The raising awareness campaign focused on eliminating the segregation in schools and on promoting the inclusive education, tolerance and multicultural behaviour;
- The National Conference for dissemination of the results of the project and of the good practice examples.

Through this project, the results of all the PHARE projects regarding the access to education for disadvantaged groups will be gathered and analyzed, in order to design adequate measures (both, national and local) for combating and preventing marginalisation and social exclusion for disadvantaged groups. The equity, inclusive education, tolerance and multiculturalism behaviour will be promoted through the raising awareness campaign and good practices will be shared and made available to all the educational system through the National Conference for the dissemination of the results of the project.

3.2.1 Identification of projects

**Priority 1: Strengthening Capacity and Partnership building to improve Roma condition and image**

**Grant Scheme for Community Development**

The Grant Scheme for Community Development activities, including health issues will benefit from the pre-training provided in Task 1 (2004 phase) but it will be necessary for technical assistance to be provided for the actual management of the process including the grant scheme launching, evaluation, contracting, monitoring and assistance to beneficiaries. Applicants for the Grant will have to demonstrate that they have an active working partnership involving local government, NGOs and or local initiative groups.

**Public information and raising awareness programme (phase 2)**

The second phase to the task “Public information and awareness programme” will commence with the 2006 budget cycle thereby ensuring a level of continuity over the whole of the MAP. It will be designed to meet the needs of specific target groups: the opinion formatters, the Roma and the non-Roma population, including public sector employees, although the overall emphasis will be either to address aspects of discrimination or encourage access to service provision (including health services). The content of each element will require a very tight focussing in order to achieve the specific objectives.

It is envisaged that action will be undertaken at national, regional and local levels and utilise all aspects of the media ensuring that it is appropriate for the target group. It is envisaged that in order to deliver the overall programme the contractor may subcontract specific activities.
**Priority 2 - Access to education for disadvantaged groups**

**Project 2 - Impact assessment and dissemination of the project results (TA)**

The experience gained in the PHARE 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005 programmes provides the necessary foundation for this task. By the time this task begins, a lot of important activities from the previous PHARE projects will be either under implementation or finalised:

- all the county inspectorates’ teams will be trained to design county strategies for access to education of disadvantaged groups;
- the training of inspectors, directors, teachers and school mediators will be completed;
- the school inspectorates will have at least one under implementation or implemented project on access to education for disadvantaged groups, and specific activities for improving access to education in the priorities areas for education intervention will be developed:
  - After school/remedial education programmes (summer/weekend/occasionally kindergarten or schools);
  - Curricular and extra-curricula inclusive activities/programmes, designed to create an inclusive educational environment;
  - Community school programmes (parents’ school for targeted groups, resource centres for parents in kindergartens, toy libraries, free meals in school/kindergartens, ‘local tradition’ courses, ‘open schools’ or school as a community resource centre) for targeted groups;
  - County ‘Resource Centre for School Integration’;
  - ‘School Workshops’ in schools that develop ‘second chance’ programmes;
  - School repairs and refurbishment, including access to constant water supply, central heating and technical facilities (for example kitchens for the provision of meals);
  - Provision of free of charge meals for pupils;
  - School transport for targeted groups.

By the end of task 7, the Impact assessment study at the national level will be elaborated at the requested standards; there will be at least two activities per county as part of the raising awareness campaign and at least 50% Roma participants from the targeted communities; at least one initiative from local authorities or from non-Roma individuals per county, as a result of the raising awareness campaign will appear for the support of inclusive education and multicultural behaviour and the National Conference for dissemination of the results of the project and of the good practice examples will be organised and the Good Practices Guide will be completed.

This task will include Technical Assistance.

The services provided by Contractor will include:

- Elaboration of the impact assessment study to measure:
  i. the results achieved in improving access to education and quality of education for students from the pilot schools involved in the 2001, 2003 and 2005 projects;
  ii. the sustainability of the additional educational services introduced by the project in these schools: school mediator, second chance programme for primary and secondary school level, after school programmes (including the educational and
the food component), assistance provided by the Resource Centre for Inclusive Education;

iii. the level of involvement of local communities members in supporting school participation and success for children from disadvantaged communities (local authorities, parents, including Roma and SEN children parents, others);

iv. the level of implementation of county strategies developed under the programme to support access of disadvantaged groups to education.

The impact study will also include recommendations for the increase of the multiannual programme impact:

- support the Ministry of Education and Research to develop an action plan for generalising the positive results of the project;
- implementation of a public awareness campaign to support access to quality education and desegregation in education;
- organisation of the National Conference to present the project results.

3.2.2 Sequencing

The 2006 Grant Scheme for Community Development builds on the efforts and consolidates the achievements of the 2004 Institution Building component and the 2005 Grant Scheme designed to address the issue of Roma identity papers. The second phase of the public awareness and information campaign takes account of the results of the 2004 information campaign, this second phase design and implementation schedule being elaborated accordingly.

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Project 1

3.3.1.1. Purpose

Priority 1:

Strengthening capacity and partnership building to improve Roma condition and image, via:

- Grant Scheme for Community Development, helping to improve the quality of life (house rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, successful IGA and health conditions) of Roma
- A focused and targeted public information campaign to highlight Roma issues

3.3.1.2. Results for Priority 1

The successful completion of the Community Development grant scheme will have resulted in at least 200 grants projects having been made to stimulate community development in the areas of housing, small infrastructure and income generating activities and their associated vocational training for beneficiaries working to implement the project and access to health services. By numbers the results should be as follows: at least 300 families benefited from the house’s rehabilitation projects; 50 infrastructure projects completed; 100 projects of income generating activities established; 50 projects on health issues undertaken; 2000 individuals (by
qualification/ gender) obtaining a vocational training certificate as a result of working on a Community Development project.

The results of the *Public information and awareness programme* (phase 2) can be summarised as follows: reduced levels of discriminatory practices against Roma; comprehensive public awareness and information programme relating to Roma issues delivered; perception of the Roma improved and reduced levels of stereotyping in mass media better access of Roma to Health, Education, and Social Services, Civil Rights and Discrimination undertaken; increased number of Roma who gain access to local public services and number of positive media coverage regarding the Roma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 1</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Strengthening capacity and partnership building to improve Roma condition and perception | **Grant scheme implementation**  
*Elaboration of the applicants package.*  
*Organisation of information campaign to raise awareness of potential applicants.*  
*At least 500 persons participating in the information meetings. At least 1600 applications for the grant scheme, distributed proportionally to the funds allocated for each component.*  
*Evaluation process organised according to EU procedures.*  
*Pre-contracting visits undertaken.*  
*Support provided to beneficiaries for successful implementation of the project.*  
*The financed projects implemented successfully according to the PRAG procedures.*  
*At least 200 projects targeting housing, small infrastructure, health issues and income generating activities, including vocational training for the beneficiaries involved as workforce, completed as result of a partnership approach*  
*50 infrastructure projects undertaken (60)*  
*100 projects of income generating activities undertaken*  
*50 projects on health issues undertaken*  
*300 families benefited from the house’s rehabilitation projects (20 projects)*  
*2000 individuals (by qualification/ gender) obtaining a vocational training certificate as a result of working on a Community Development project* |

**Public awareness campaign**

- Roma image objectively reflected by mass- media;
- Comprehensive public awareness and information programme relating to Roma issues delivered
- Public information programmes in Health, Education, Access to Services, Civil Rights and Discrimination successfully implemented
3.3.2. Project 2

3.3.2.1. Purpose

Priority 2: Access to education for disadvantaged groups:
   - Impact assessment and dissemination of the project results

3.3.2.2. Results for Priority 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 2.</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Education for disadvantaged groups</td>
<td>- Impact assessment at the national level in all 42 counties completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Action plan for the Ministry of Education on further implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of the strategy on access to education for disadvantaged groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>elaborated and approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Raising awareness campaign in order to eliminate segregation in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>schools and to promote inclusive education, tolerance and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>multicultural behaviour implemented country wide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- National Conference for dissemination of the results of the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and of the good practice examples.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 Activities (including Means)

Priority 1
The TA will support the PIU to implement the grant scheme which will have to develop the capacity to assume the responsibility of the GS implementation. Therefore activities to develop the capacity of the PIU need to be envisaged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Support the PIU in designing the tender dossier/ application package for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the grant scheme;</td>
<td>TA contract1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Publishing and promotion of the tender dossier;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Support for organisation of the call for proposals;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Organisation of the information campaign for potential beneficiaries;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Support for the organising the evaluation process;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Precontracting visit and concluding the financing contracts;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Training of grantees to support project implementation;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Support for the PIU for monitoring and providing methodological</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support to grantees;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Providing technical assistance to grantees;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Assessing the projects progress;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Processing grantees’s interim / final reports;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Visibility – publication of lessons learned;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Semester reporting to CA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Technical Assistance for the Management of the Grant Scheme for the Community Development will support the Implementing Authority in the organisation of the following activities:
- to elaborate guidelines and evaluate the applications for the GS according to the PRAG;
- to make pre-contracting visits;
- to monitor the implementation of the projects financed through the GS;
- Support for the beneficiaries for the implementation of the financed projects at regional/local level;
- Support for the implementing Agency to assess narrative and financial periodical reports for the financed projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities under the Grant scheme</th>
<th>Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of a Grant scheme for Community Development</td>
<td>GS contracts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Eligible applicants**

The eligible applicants for the housing and small infrastructure components of Grants Scheme are public institutions from local level in partnership with Roma NGOs representative for the local community or Roma Initiative Groups.

The eligible applicants for the vocational training, income generating activities and health components of Grants Scheme are Roma NGOs in partnership with public institutions from local level // or local public authorities in partnership with Roma Initiative Groups or Roma NGOs representative for local community.

The applicants for the current Grant Scheme call for proposals must ensure the previewed co-financing as well as the continuation of the investments after projects completion.

Ensuring the co-financing and the continuation of the investments after projects completion is achieved by deploying sufficient financial and logistic resources and by substantially involving the community, active involvement best accomplished by genuine partnerships between the community and the local authorities.
Partnerships

The partnership concluding is a compulsory requirement for all applicants and it must remain active and functional throughout all the stages of the project (elaboration, implementation and finalization). The contractor of the Grant Scheme under this programme, in strict cooperation with the PIU - GSG and the NAR, must set out a set of criteria for ensuring that all partnerships are genuine rather than representatives of the Roma community being passive signatories to the proposal.

In this respect, during the evaluation of the applications and the pre-contracting visits for the projects proposed for funding the Implementing Authority assisted by the TA will have to give particular attention to the relevance of the intervention proposed to the needs of the local community and to the extent to which the Roma communities members were involved in the identification of the priorities and the project development. To ensure genuine partnerships and “representation” of the Roma communities’ interest, this assessment will be based on the grant application itself but also on supplementary information annexed to the application, like minute of meetings, or interviews taken during pre-contracting visits in the Roma communities.

Implementation

The projects will be designed and implemented at local level.

Eligible activities

The grant scheme offered for investment support will consider activities in the following domains:

1. Housing;
2. Small infrastructure
3. Vocational training and Income generating activities;

1. Housing;

Training in fields related to construction and renovation (brick making, house painting, carpentry, blacksmiths etc), followed by rehabilitation of houses.

Beneficiaries must be prepared to participate in the formal vocational training courses and then to utilise their new skills in the construction and rehabilitation of the housing identified in the project. Beneficiaries under this activity will only be considered if they have large families and low levels of income. The applicants will ensure the accomplishment of the above-mentioned conditions.

Any grant awarded under this programme must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- minimum amount: EUR 20,000
- maximum amount: EUR 200,000.
During the evaluation and pre-contracting visits special attention should be given to the sustainability of the intervention and will focus on the capacity of the beneficiaries to support the costs for utilities. Complementary projects that will promote employment of the housing beneficiaries will be a key element in this respect.

2. Small infrastructure

Project in this category could include but are not be limited to:
- Introducing supply and/or connection to existing supply systems of water, gas, electricity;
- Construction and/or rehabilitation of roads and culverts, which will reduce Roma communities’ isolation and increase access to public services.

During the implementation of the projects special attention will be given to training and employment of the Roma in the works to be carried out. This should be facilitated by the project beneficiaries and closely monitored by the Implementing Authority with support from the Technical assistances. Special attention shall be given to sustainable employment and to the sustainability of infrastructure.

Any grant awarded under this programme must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:
- minimum amount: EUR 20,000
- maximum amount: EUR 200,000.

3. Vocational training and Income generating activities

The objective of this domain is to offer vocational training and for recognition of informally achieved skills to Roma persons at risk of social exclusion. The training will focus on professions required by the labour market and can refer either to traditional crafts or non-traditional but under the condition that the training will facilitate employment and income generation.

Training will be offered on financial and economic aspects to support successful implementation and sustainability of the income generating activities. The purpose of this project is not profit but creating employment opportunities and community development. If projects are to be gained they will be reused in organising educational, health or other type of activities in the benefit of the communities.

Prior to the establishment of the income generation activity vocational training for future employees should also be organised, to ensure quality standards for the final products and sustainability of the projects results.

The eligible costs may involve - but not limited to the following activities:

A. Agricultural production (cultivating of vegetables, cereals, etc);
B. Micro-farms (chicken, cows, pigs, etc);
C. Constructions required by the types of activities mentioned above;
D. Specific tools and equipment for the types of activities mentioned above.

Applicants must take account of the principles of equal opportunity when developing their application for funds. Applicants should also insure that all graduates from the given community have the necessary support to practically use the skills developed through the training in order to either start-up a business, get employed in the given field of activity or directly involve in the community development.

Special attention should be given starting with the evaluation of applications to the existence of feasible business plans. From the beginning of the project implementation, in parallel to the establishment of the income generating activities, firm agreements should be concluded to ensure the marketing of the products. IA and TA should provide training and substantial assistance in this area.

Any grant awarded under this programme must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:
- minimum amount: EUR 5,000
- maximum amount: EUR 50,000.

4. Health

Qualifying activities may include one or more of the following – but not limited:
- To support the provision of mobile units, in order to deliver the basic primary health care package to Roma communities.
- To support establishment or rehabilitation and equipment of community centres covering integrated services including medical, education or social assistance in/with local communities with high Roma population. The implementation of this type of activity should not lead to segregation of Roma in such services but should be address to all members of disadvantaged communities.
- To provide advanced training to all the Health mediators (by the Expert trainers resulted from the training of trainers).
- To provide community screening for relevant health issues, identified at the National level.

This scheme will be run in accordance with the provisions contained in the Practical Guide.

Any grant awarded under this programme must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:
- minimum amount: EUR 5,000
- maximum amount: EUR 50,000.
Public information and awareness programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• designing the awareness campaign;</td>
<td>TA contract 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• implementing the campaign according to the Sector Fiche Amendment;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• disseminating the results: &quot;National Conference&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second phase of the public awareness and information campaign represents the development of the 2004 awareness campaign. The target groups are identical to those for the 2004 campaign: non-Roma population, Roma population and opinion formatters. The campaign will be run by involving different media channels.

The implementation of this task is a continuation of the public awareness campaign carried out under priority 1/2004 project. Therefore its implementation should depend on the results achieved in the first phase. An assessment will be carried out to be the basis for the NAC, Implementing Agency and Implementing Authority for deciding if appropriate to conclude a direct agreement with the contractor selected under international tender for the implementation of priority 1 under the 2004 project.

The second phase of the public awareness and information campaign aims to improving the image of the Roma in order to promote the social inclusion of Roma community.

This scope will be achieved by:

a.) the objectives:
• the development of media programs about Roma tradition, history and culture;
• the development of media campaigns inclusive on promoting tolerance, multicultural behaviour, legal, financial and job opportunities;
• promotion of the local and county partnerships between Roma and non-Roma nongovernmental organisations;
• encouraging Roma to involve themselves in the community development processes;
• implementation of public information campaigns to support Roma access to Civil Rights, Education, Health and Social Services.

b.) the measures:
• public information programmes in Health, Education, Access to Services, Civil Rights and Discrimination undertaken;
• information campaigns on healthy lifestyle, family planning and preventive medicine;
• organising local and county fairs in order to promote Roma traditional products and skills;
• encouraging unbiased reporting in the mass media through Roma awareness seminars for journalists and continuous mass media monitoring for the entire duration of the campaign;
• "National Conference" on dissemination of good practice.
## THE OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>TARGET GROUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the development of media programs about Roma tradition, history and culture</td>
<td>non-Roma population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the development of media campaigns inclusive on promoting tolerance, multicultural behaviour, legal, financial and job opportunities</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>promotion of the local and county partnerships between Roma and non-Roma nongovernmental organisations</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encouraging Roma to involve themselves in the community development processes</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implementation of public information campaigns to support Roma access to Civil Rights, Education, Health and Social Services</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## THE MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>TARGET GROUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>public information programmes in Health, Education, Access to Services, Civil Rights and Discrimination undertaken;</td>
<td>non-Roma population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information campaigns on healthy lifestyle, family planning and preventive medicine;</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organising local and county fairs in order to promote Roma traditional products and skills;</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encouraging unbiased and objective reporting in the mass media through Roma awareness seminars for journalists;</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Conference&quot; on dissemination of good practice</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority 2

1. Elaboration of an Impact assessment study at the national level regarding the results of the PHARE projects aiming at improving the access to education for disadvantaged groups.

2. Initiate a Raising awareness campaign in order to eliminate segregation in schools and to promote inclusive education, tolerance and multicultural behaviour in all counties.

3. Organising a National Conference for dissemination of the results of the project and of the good practice examples on inclusive education from the priority areas for education intervention.
### 3.5 Linked Activities:

The following linked activities are directly relevant to this programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RO.9803.01</td>
<td>Improving the Condition of the Roma</td>
<td>Grants for Partnership Development involving Public Administration and Roma Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO.0004.02.02</td>
<td>The Civil Society 2000</td>
<td>Extension of the above programme focused on the sectors of social security, public administration, education, healthcare, communications etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO.2002/000-586.01.02</td>
<td>Support to the Strategy for Improving the Roma Condition</td>
<td>Grant Scheme for projects submitted by partnerships between public institutions and Roma Communities focused on housing, small infrastructure, income generation, access to healthcare and vocational training linked directly to the beneficiaries of the Grants when employed on actions to complete them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO 01.04.02</td>
<td>Access to Education to the Disadvantaged Groups, with a Special Focus on Roma”</td>
<td>Training of the key actors (inspectors, directors, teachers, school mediators) on topics related to inclusive education, conflict management, active learning methods, communication etc. ODL training programme for unqualified teachers from the Roma communities aiming to become qualified primary/pre-primary or Romani teachers in their communities. Grant Schemes designed to address disadvantaged groups, especially Roma, with specific reference to educational actions for improving attendance levels and school success and also, school conditions in the targeted communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO2002/IB/OT – 02TL</td>
<td>Access to education for disadvantaged groups</td>
<td>TL targeted at children with special needs – implementation of a National Action Plan for ensuring access to education and integration of children from special schools in the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Access to Education for Disadvantaged Groups

Extension of the mechanism developed in the previous Phare programme “Access to education for disadvantaged groups, with a special focus on Roma” in order to improve access to and the quality of education, as part of the process of increasing the number of children completing education in the targeted communities. Defining the inclusive school and the indicators for identification of the priority areas for education intervention.

In addition it should be noted that the Ministry of Education and Research has also undertaken two pilot projects that are relative to this programme:

- The Second Chance [school re-integration and pre-vocational training for drop-outs];
- The Integration of Children from Special Education in the Mainstream Schools [Assisting children in completing their education and gain independence];

It should also be indicated that this programme will have indirect links with other MAPs and projects that target the Roma and other disadvantaged groups.

**Priority 2: Access to education for disadvantaged groups**

The issue of sustainability identified in the Interim Evaluation Report has been addressed by; ensuring co-financing of the local projects by the County Councils, as well as maintaining the investment for at least 10 years.

As previously mentioned, implementation of PHARE 2001, RO 0104.02, and PHARE/2003/005-551.01.02 up to this stage has outlined specific issues mostly regarding the self-identification of Roma population. As a result, within this project it is envisaged to identify the target-group by using specific criteria and to follow-up the desegregation process at the country level.

The concept of partnership between school inspectorate, county council and NGO’s with a relevant experience in working with disadvantaged groups, as part of the previous two PHARE programmes has been successful. There is evidence to indicate that there is both willingness and competence to design and implement local development projects on the basis of equality, respect and mutual understanding. This programme will continue and deepen the process on partnership building and joint working between the public sector and the NGO sector thereby building upon previous success.
3.6 Lessons learned
The concept of partnership development undertaken as part of PHARE programmes involving aspects of public administration and organisations representing the Roma communities has been proven useful. There is evidence to indicate that there is willingness, competence and capacity to design and implement local development projects on the basis of equality, respect and mutual understanding.

The Community Development Grant Scheme of the PHARE 2002 programme launched in May 2005 is carefully monitored and any lesson learned relating to its design and implementation will be integrated into the frameworks established for the Roma Identity (2005) and Community Development (2006) Grant Schemes. This programme will continue and deepen the process on partnership building and joint working between the public sector and the civil society sector thereby building upon previous results (by the 2004 component).

It should be noted however that there has been no independent evaluation of the impact of these programmes or the implementation of the Government strategy so far. This issue will be addressed through tasks in this programme and lessons learned from the process integrated into the delivery of subsequent programme actions.

Experience in the working and effectiveness of the Healthcare Network is limited because of the short period it has been operation. Statistical information received so far would indicate that there is a growing trust in the system and mediators are becoming increasingly involved with both the community and individuals in addressing a wide range of health problems and issues. Access to insurance has already been facilitated for over 38000 individuals whilst the range of health education activities has expanded to address both national and local priorities. During the period Health Mediators have accumulated nearly 90,000 contacts with direct beneficiaries and over 170,000 with indirect beneficiaries.

With reference to Education the issue of programme and project sustainability identified in the Interim Evaluation Report has been addressed with County Councils committed to co-financing and maintaining the level of investment for at least 10 years.

Phare 2001, RO 0104.02, and Phare/2003/005-551.01.02 have up to this stage outlined specific issues mostly regarding the self-identification of Roma population. As a result, within this project it is envisaged to identify the target-group by using specific criteria and to follow-up the desegregation process at the country level.

The concept of partnership between school inspectorate, county council and NGO’s with a relevant experience in working with disadvantaged groups, as part of the previous two PHARE programmes has been successful. There is evidence to indicate that there is both willingness and competence to design and implement local development projects on the basis of equality, respect and mutual understanding. This programme will continue and deepen the process on partnership building and joint working between the public sector and the NGO sector thereby building upon previous success.

4 Institutional Framework
At the national level, a Steering Committee for the implementation of the programme will be established. The membership will include representatives from:

- The General Secretariat of the Government;
- National Agency for Roma;
- Ministry of Education and Research;

Ministry of Administration and Interior:
- the General Direction for Relations with the Prefectures;
- the General Direction for Personal Data Records.

Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family:
- Department for Social Inclusion;
- National Agency for Workforce Employment.

Ministry of Health:
- Directorate for Public Health;
- The National Institute for Research and Development in Health.

Ministry of Transport, Constructions and Tourism;

Ministry of Justice;
Ministry of Public Finance:
- National Aid Coordinator;
- Central Finance and Contracting Unit.

The Steering Committee will also include representatives of NGOs, research institutes. Representatives of other national or international organisations with experience/expertise in the areas covered by the programme can be invited as guest.

The Steering Committee will work in plenary sessions or in specific subgroups for project subcomponents (i.e. identity documents, education, etc.).

In addition there will be at least two representatives from Roma civil society (NGOs) selected based on transparent criteria\(^\text{10}\), representatives of relevant research institutes, other organisations with relevant experience. The specific responsibilities and duties of the Committee include the following:

- to monitor the implementation of the MAP and its priority action areas;
- to provide advice and guidance on issues referred to it by the Lead Body identified for the implementation of specific tasks;
- to ensure the establishment and the correct functioning of the grant mechanisms for support at the central level (including the amounts allocated from the budget that must be transferred to the local level for implementation);
- to provide upon request technical expertise for the implementation of the programme;
- to direct and facilitate the participation of lower level institutions in the implementation of the programme;
- to ensure that progress reports on the implementation of the programme are made available to the Working Group for Coordinating the public policies for Roma, the organisation with the overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Government Strategy.

The two Implementing Authorities (PIU within the General Secretariat of the Government and PIU within the Ministry for Education and Research) will organise monthly meetings with the contractors.

\(^{10}\) One such criteria should be previous experience in the areas covered by the programme.
## 5 Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>€M</th>
<th>Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Public Funds(**)</td>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>Co-financing of Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 - Investment support jointly co funded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Grant Scheme</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6,00**</td>
<td>6,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA for Grant Scheme</td>
<td>1,50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment support – sub-total</td>
<td>13,50</td>
<td>6,00</td>
<td>6,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total public funds</td>
<td>max 75 %</td>
<td>Min 25 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2006 Institution Building support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information Campaign – Phase 2</td>
<td>1,00</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Education for disadvantaged groups</td>
<td>1,00</td>
<td>0,50</td>
<td>0,50***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB support</td>
<td>2,00</td>
<td>0,50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total project 2006 | | | |

| Year 2006 Investment support | 13,50 | 6,00 | - | 6,00 | 19,5 |
| Year 2006 IB support | 2,00 | 0,5 | - | 0,5 | 2,5 |
| Total project 2006 | 15,50 | 6,5 | - | 6,5 | 22 |

(*) contributions from National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises  
(**) joint co-financing provided by General Secretariat of the Government  
(***) parallel co-financing provided by Ministry of Education and Research

## 6 Implementation Arrangements

### 6.1 Implementing Agency

The Ministry of Public Finance  
Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) 44 Mircea Voda Blvd, sector 3  
Bucharest– Romania  
Telephone: (4021) 326.55.55; 326.87.09
Implementing authorities
The General Secretariat of the Government (GSG)
The General Secretariat of the Government will act as Implementing Authority for priority 1 in close cooperation (participation in preparation of documents and project implementation, including and decision making in all phases of the project) with the National Agency for Roma. The National Agency for Roma has to develop the capacity to monitor and support projects implementation at the local level.
The Ministry of Education and Research will act as Implementing Authority for priority 2.

6.2 Twinning
Not applicable.

6.3 Non-standard aspects
The implementation of task related to Public awareness is a continuation of the public awareness campaign carried out under priority 1/2004 project. Therefore its implementation should depend on the results achieved in the first phase. An impact assessment will be carried out to be the basis for the NAC, Implementing Agency and Implementing Authority for deciding if appropriate to conclude a direct agreement with the contractor selected under international tender for the implementation of priority 1 under the 2004 project. The grant schemes supports the development of capacity at the local level of Romanian public administration and Roma communities, therefore these are aimed as GS’ beneficiaries.

6.4 Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>Value (mil euro)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority 1</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TA for GS</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TA (Public Information and Awareness Campaign)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 2</td>
<td>TA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Implementation Schedule
See also Annex 2

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
May 2007

7.2 Start of project activity
November 2007

7.3 Project completion
November 2009
8 Equal Opportunity
Considerable efforts to strengthen gender equality policy in the employment field have been made in all fields. This includes actions to increase the employment rate of women, to decrease women's unemployment rate, to tackle the segregation of the labor market and to close the gender pay gap. A central role is the reconciliation between work and family life for both women and men, especially through the provision of services for children and other dependants. Moreover, there has been a reinforced commitment to integrate the gender equality objective in all employment policies.
There is conditionality for the PHARE Project 2005 that all health mediators are women.

9 Environment
No environmental screening has been made yet. The GS projects will strictly follow the EC rules on environmental protection.

10 Rates of return
The 2006 GS and TA for GS components aim at providing the basis for Roma development according to its needs by a social economy approach. In this respect the rate of investment, the financial rate of return and other financial indicators are less important than the number of Roma accessing social services (health, education, social security etc).

11 Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect
EU funds are required for the 2004-2006 Multi-annual Programme in order to build upon the 2002 Support to the National Strategy to improve Roma condition Project's results and to fasten the access of the Roma community to social services. Through the efficient implementation of the programme, besides the direct results detailed in the log frame attached, it is envisaged to impact upon the dependency mentality that Roma currently have in the sense of actively involving Roma communities in needs identification and public policies implementation during and after the multi-annual programme will have been completed.

11.2 Co-financing
For Priority 1 the joint co-financing will be provided by General Secretariat of the Government.
For Priority 2, the parallel co-financing will be provided by Ministry of Education and Research.

11.3 Additionality
For the successful completion and sustainability of the Income Generating Activities and Vocational Training projects, there is envisaged to attract private funding.

11.4 Project readiness and size
Within the 2004-2006 Multi-annual Programme, the 2004 Institution Building Component is in its pre-contracting phase (pre-evaluation for short list). The expected time for contract signing is June 2006.

11.5 Sustainability
The 2004-2006 Multi-annual Programme is a continuation of the 2002 Project Support to the National Strategy to improve Roma condition.
All investments made under the current programme will comply with the EU norms and standards.
The Implementing Authorities together with the Implementing Agency will ensure that that the coordination mechanism between stakeholders established through the Prime-Minister Decision no. 27/2006 is firmly put into place and working.
The Implementing Authorities in close cooperation with the Consultants will ensure particular support is given ex-ante and post-implementation for all activities/projects concerning social economy aspects implemented through the current programme.

11.6 **Compliance with state aids provisions**
All investments made under the current programme respect the European state aid provisions.

12 **Conditionality and sequencing**
See section 3

**List of Annexes to project Fiche**
1. Annex 1 - Log frame in standard format for each project; Monitoring sheet
2. Annex 2 - Detailed implementation chart;
3. Annex 3 - Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period);
4. Annex 4 - For all projects: reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, in depth ex ante evaluations or other forms of preparatory work;
5. Annex 5 - Reference list of relevant laws and regulations;
6. Annex 6 - Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies;