EU/Phare Programme on Vocational Education and Training “VET” (RO 9405)
The objective of the VET programme (25 Meuro), administered by the Ministry of National Education, was to support the Romanian Government to better prepare students for work in a market economy by modernizing the curricula and the methods used in vocational schools and through adapting the system to the best European practice. More specifically, the programme assisted the reform of the VET system through policy changes and the introduction of practical measures in a nationally-spread and forward-oriented group of pilot and demonstration schools which pioneered change throughout the system. The programme resulted in 75 modern VET schools, new programmes for in-service teacher training, reformed curricula, assessment and certification methods, modern learning and teaching materials. VET partnerships developed at a local level and represented a revised VET policy for the future.

Some of the achievements of this programme are as follows:

- **curriculum development**
  Curricula were developed for vocational schools, with a broad vocational base for the first two years and a more specialised modular provision in the last year. The curricula developed for post-high schools have a two-year flexible modular structure.

- **teacher training**
  Student centred methods of teacher training were introduced and didactical material for independent learning was introduced.

- **school management**
  Management training based on a democratic leadership style, focusing on a whole school approach in adopting innovation, as well as creating a sustainable learning environment.

- **partnership with the community**
  Structural partnerships with various stakeholders in the community were developed, aiming at: making vocational education more relevant to its users and facilitating the entry of graduates into the labour market.

- **equipment**
  Occupational learning equipment was provided to VET schools, to facilitate implementation of the newly developed curricula. It should be mentioned that some studies indicate that the equipment was not adequate enough for the specialised curriculum of the final year of the vocational schools.

- **evaluation and certification**
  A system of evaluation including the active involvement of the social partners was put in place and a certification system based on the assessment of competence through final examinations was introduced.

Phare projects related to quality assurance - TTQM Phare RO 9602-05 project
TTQM Phare RO 9602-05 project for development of education for quality with the purpose of creating curricula for compulsory and post-compulsory education; the project has been developed in co-operation with the National Agency for Science and Technology Innovation and conceived of profile of an effective consumer or producer of qualitative goods or services. The educational component consisted of specific curricula developed for several levels of education and specialised VET structures.
ETF Parallel funded project for human resource development at local and regional level
The project supported two activities in the Southeast region, one on the development of strategies for human resource development at county level and the other on the establishment of school consortia or school networks for the delivery of continuing vocational training.

Education for a Second Chance
The objective of this programme is to assist young people who abandoned compulsory education, to re-enter education and to get at the same time a pre-qualification that will help them either to find work in the local community or formally access other professional routes within VET.

Reform of Pre-university Education co-financed by the World Bank and the Romanian Government (RPE) 1995 - 2001
The WB programme Reform of Pre-university Education complemented the Phare VET RO 9405 programme through its component RPE. The component focused on activities, which are equally important for general education as well as for VET.

Catch-up Mining Fund Programme (MARR)
Given the size of the problem and the high absorption capacity of funds in the Energy Programme (detailed above) the Commission has approved in the 1998 a further allocation of 10 Meuro from the ‘Catch-up Facility’ for the establishment of a Fund designed to further alleviate the social costs of coal mining restructuring in Gorj county and Jiu Valley. 6 Meuro of the total allocation will finance local partnership projects for active employment measures, small infrastructure, environment protection, social investment, welfare services, vocational education and training, community projects, public work, etc. The remainder of 4 Meuro will be used for the provision of credits to local SMEs. Implementation will last until December 2001.

EU/Phare SMEs Support (1992, 1994, 1997 Phare allocations)
The first phase of Phare support to the SME sector in Romania commenced in 1993 with an allocation of 10 Meuro. It consisted of four main inter-related components:

1. Support to the establishment of the SME agency (CRIMM) and five locally-based SME development centers. Technical assistance and seed finance has been provided to the centres, established as locally-based foundations, with members ranging from the local administration to chambers of commerce and private entrepreneurs. Each center provides basic advice and information to entrepreneurs and acts as a focal point for SME development in the area. The centres are self-sustainable. All five centres commenced operation in April 1994.

2. Development of a favorable atmosphere for SMEs. There has been a programme of support to SME associations in developing their structures. This programme has moved relatively slowly due to the fragmentary nature of the associations and the need to clarify which bodies were truly representative and had identified projects for support. Reform of the education system is also important, a project has been supported to introduce entrepreneurship into the way in which subjects are taught in secondary schools. Support for policy making has taken the form of support for the establishment of an Office of Advocacy which produced a White Paper, in July 1995, outlining the main obstacles existing at the different levels, to the development of the SMEs sector in Romania. Support to international business relations development has been provided through a special grant scheme developed in order to allow all...
business advisory centers to become promoters of local economic development initiatives.

3. Setting up of pilot Business Innovation Centers (BICs). The basic objective of this project was to stimulate entrepreneurship and encourage the introduction of innovative processes into existing SMEs with growth potential and which can directly contribute to economic development and job creation. Four Business Innovation Centres (BICs), using EU models, have been established since September 1995. Phare provided technical assistance for the setting up of the centres, accommodation and capital for incubated companies, and seed money for the start-up and supply of the equipment. Funding was digressive, BICs were able to be self sustainable in the third year of operation.

4. Setting up of a 3.4 Meuro grants scheme for SMEs. A conditional micro- grant scheme for assisting SMEs to purchase equipment and other assets directly related to their activity has been operational since December 1993. The maximum individual grant which could be given to an enterprise was 50,000 Euro. Beneficiaries were registered private enterprises with up to 50 employees maximum capital of 0.5 Meuro and turnover of 1 Meuro. Applications for obtaining a conditional grant, supported by adequate documentation proving the reliability of the applicant company, were submitted to one of the Business Advisory Centres, which assisted the company in developing a business plan. After appraisal of the projects, the grant decision was taken by a Steering Committee, composed of members of financial institutions and the CRIMM Foundation. The recipient SME contributed at least 50% of the total cost of the machinery procured. Around 240 enterprises have received financial assistance since early 1996 and around 2400 new jobs have been created.

The second phase supported SMEs and regional development in an integrated manner, given that experience in both EU and CEECs shows the strong interdependence between the two sectors. The programme had different components, support for regional policy analysis and development of SMEs policy; information, training, and support to advisory centres activities, to raise awareness and skills of SME and local development initiatives; allocation of resources for the establishment of a Local Development Initiatives Fund (FIDEL) and SME financial pilot schemes.

At the local level, the objective was to provide financial services to the business community, advisory centres and local development actors. A Resource Centre to support local development and SMEs was established in order to improve circulation and exchange of experience. More than 40 training courses were delivered to the main target groups covering issues related to local/regional development and project management, followed by courses in consultancy skills for the 84 SME development centres and business incubators set up by various donors in Romania. In addition, 6 Meuro was earmarked for a pilot credit scheme to improve SMEs access to commercial finance and encourage banks to provide loans to SMEs.

The FIDEL project provided small grants to support local development initiatives in particular to strengthen basic and promising structures (existing and new support institutions, start-up of production oriented services) of the emerging SME sector. The programme was based on the concept of local partnership. Applicants were local consortia comprising typically, local authorities, prefecture, SME associations, Chamber of Commerce, trade unions, universities, etc. The three calls for proposal resulted in the submission of about 450 project proposal and the selection of 64 projects for financing. The contracts were signed in December 1997 the implementation completed in December 1998. Typical projects included: support for
SMEs expansion; setting-up of new support service centres for SMEs; development of services in the field of agriculture, agro-industry, quality control, technological transfer and export promotion activities. The finance component of RICOP will benefit from the experience of FIDEL.

At the national level, the programme provided training and technical assistance to the National Agency for Privatization. The aim was to assist the Romanian authorities to create an enabling environment (fiscal incentives, financial instruments, etc) for the development of the SMEs sector. A separate objective aimed at enhancing the dialogue and the debate between the Government and the private sector on how to promote SMEs development.

The third phase of the Phare support (5.75 Meuro) for SMEs commenced in 1997. It will provide investment credits to enterprises through commercial banks, which in turn will strengthen banking services for SMEs. Banks were selected and the implementation of the programme is expected to start soon.


Technical assistance within the first Phare support programme has been provided to establish CRIMM Foundation and five locally based SME development centres, for the setting up of business innovation centres. The support for policy making capacity has taken the form of support for the establishment of an Office of Advocacy which produced a White Paper in July 1995.

The component ‘Support for regional policy analysis and development and SME policy support to the national Agency for Privatisation’ of the Phare Programme RO 9408 provided training and technical assistance to help the Romanian authorities to develop more appropriate policies for the SME sector. The focus of the activities undertaken was on measures to improve the fiscal, legislative and regulatory frameworks (the “enterprise environment”).

The Phare Programme ‘Enabling Environment for Enterprises and Investment’ RO 9706 was intended to develop the ability of the National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) to contribute to building an enabling environment for enterprise and investment, with a specific focus on the main obstacles presently faced by SMEs. Technical assistance was offered to enhance the capacity of the NASME in four main areas:

- Formulating SME support programmes in line with EU good practice and relevant EC policy guidelines;
- Designing and implementing systems for monitoring the impact of SME support programmes and measures;
- Collecting, updating and disseminating relevant knowledge on the business environment of the SME sector in Romania;
- Monitoring and assessing emerging legislation with an impact on enterprise and investment.

The Technical Assistance for Small SME Credit Scheme RO 9711.02 was intended to contribute to effective management of the SME credit scheme launched in 1997 by Phare in order to improve access by micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to loan financing. The project is intended to provide all implementing parties with technical assistance for effective implementation according to Phare guidelines, and with clear sustainability perspectives.
The Technical Assistance component of the MARR Fund – SME Credits RO 9809.02.02 provides assistance to design the scheme, select the implementing banks, negotiate the funding agreement with the selected financial institution(s), finalise the operations manual, train a number of credit officers, monitor progress with the scheme, establish evaluation procedures, elaborate statistics, assess the scheme’s overall results and impact.

The project Technical Assistance for the preparation of the SMEs Credit Line under Phare 2000 - RO9807.01.02.12 has as main objective to prepare the detailed design of the SME credit line, to select the Romanian bank(s) which will implement the Credit Lines in the four target regions and to make the whole system functional, so that the objectives of the SME Credit Line, which will be financed under Phare 2000, can be fully and timely achieved.

Project RO 0108.01 - Technical Assistance for the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Sector having as main activities:

1. Develop methodology and train on the job NASMEC staff adequately in order to establish a comprehensive statistical database on SMEs, to monitor the health and evaluate the needs of the SME sector. Create flexible mechanisms for adapting policies and programmes to the changing requirements of the SME sector.
2. Develop mechanisms, methodology and train NASMEC staff adequately to assess the development in the SME sector and to design, monitor and measure implementation of SME development policies and programmes/projects, against established targets.
3. Establishing close communication between NASMEC and small and medium-sized businesses in order to ensure that SMEs provide their practical input on policies and programmes and defining consultation mechanisms with national and regional public and private stakeholders of SME sector.
4. To assure that SMEs are well informed and equipped to meet norms and standards resulting from the adoption of the EU acquis.
5. Improvement of quality and affordability of business information services for SMEs. Dissemination of relevant information for the SME sector in printed form, through the network of Euro Info Centres, on Internet and all other existing or new created channels (reports, studies, practical guides for SMEs, other relevant information for SMEs. Improvement of the level of knowledge of entrepreneurs on business-related matters.

Twinning Project No. RO / 2001 / IB-SPP 01 Improving the institutional framework and the organisation of SMEs and Co-operative Policy - between NASMEC and the administrative authority of the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal German Ministry of Economy and Technology which entrusts the implementation of its part to the Ministry of Economic Affairs Baden-Wurtemberg, having as main activities:

2. Strengthening the organisational structure and improvement of the external relation of the NASMEC with the involved stakeholders.
3. Support in the field of export promotion.
4. Enhance the capacity of NASMEC to develop and implement measures for improving SMEs access to finance.
EU/Phare Human Resources Development Programme (RO 9701.01)
The objective of this programme, supervised by the Development for European Integration and steered by an interministerial Task Force, is twofold: to support Romanian enterprises in upgrading the managerial and technical skills of their stuff, thus strengthening their competitiveness in the market; and to improve the enterprise training industry in Romania. The programme also aims to develop recommendations for policy makers in stimulating enterprises to invest in the development of their human resources. The successful applicants will receive grants on a co-financing basis. The implementation of the programme, with a budget of 3 Meuro, will last until end 2000.

EU/Phare Regional Policy and Cohesion Programme (RO 9807.01)
The objective of the programme is to support the establishment of a comprehensive framework for regional development, incorporating policy, and legislation instruments, together with the administrative capacity to manage ISPA, SAPARD and Phare in an Objective 1 context. The programme has a budget of 33 Meuro to support actions related to industrial restructuring of areas blighted by the decline of traditional industries, including: human resource development to support integrated development of designated regions, project preparation for ISPA, environment and transport infrastructure, rural development, technical assistance, etc. The main supervisory role of programme implementation belongs to the National Agency for Regional Development. To co-ordinate and consider issues related to actions falling under all components of the programme, a Monitoring Committee composed of relevant Romanian authorities and Commission’s services was established. The programme implementation will last until December 2001.

Under Phare RO98.07.01 - ISPA Preparation Facilities assistance provided for physical infrastructure is for the following components:
- Environmental measures enabling Romania to comply with the requirements of Community environmental law with the objectives of the Accession Partnership;
- Transport infrastructure measures which promote sustainable mobility and in particular those that constitute projects of common interest based on the criteria of Council Decision 1692/1996 and those that enable the beneficiary countries to comply with the objectives of the Accession Partnerships; this includes interconnection and inter-operability of national networks as well as with the Trans-European networks together with access to such networks.

For the above-mentioned measures, through Phare 1998 are going to be implemented the following technical assistance projects:
- TA to the ISPA co-ordination unit within the Ministry of Transport;
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA-Roads Projects - Motorway By-Passes Feasibility Study and Design;
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA - Roads Projects - Review of Feasibility Study and Preparation of Detailed Design for the project "Bucharest- Giurgiu Expressway";
- TA for Ministry of Transport for ISPA - Railway Projects, Preparation of detailed for the project "Rehabilitation of the Railway line Bucharest, section Baneasa-Fundulea";
- TA for the ISPA co-ordination unit within the Ministry of Environment;
- Rehabilitation and Modernization of the Water Supply and Sewerage Systems for Area of Cluj;
- Upgrading the Water and wastewater System in Iasi in order to comply with International Standards for Water Quality and Environmental Protection;
- Rehabilitation of Wastewater Treatment Technology Drinking Water Supply and Sewerage Improvement for the population of Timisoara City;
- TA for the National Co-ordination of ISPA projects;

For business infrastructure under Regional Policy and Cohesion Programme - Industrial Restructuring and Human Resources Component was identified and in course of assessment a number of projects, in each of 4 target regions, aimed on services related to business and networks of specific information and communication issues.

The projects under Development of Regional and Local infrastructure must be connected with the projects under the other two components of Regional Development programme Phare 2000, Regional SMEs Development Support and Twinning on regional planning and programme development. This approach can permit a better concentration of funds on the projects with great potential of development and great estimated regional impact avoiding the spreading of funds on too particularly needs. This approach must be a priority in the identification of the regional development projects being a very good exercise preparing the RDAs for the management of the European Regional Development Fund.

**EU/Phare Enterprise Restructuring and Employment Conversion Programme (RICOP) – RO9904** - starting with 2000 has the overall objective to assist the Government in moving towards fulfilling EU membership criteria in the area of economic policy.

The immediate objectives are:

- To assist the government to implement policies and actions to restructure, privatis or close loss making enterprises;
- To alleviate the consequence of enterprise closure through a strengthened social safety net and through the promotion of employment initiatives;
- To encourage economic activity leading to sustainable employment creation through assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises and micro businesses.

RICOP has five main components to the programme:

- Redundancy intervention;
- Public works;
- Employment promotion initiatives;
- Small business finance, and
- Social response measures

*Taken together they represent an integrated approach to enterprise restructuring and employment conversion.*

**Phare project RO9908**


Elaboration of the Yearly Training Programme by the National Agency for Employment, approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity.

**Programmes in the field of social assistance**

1. Project Phare RO 0108.02 “Social Services Institution Building in Romania” has focused on increase the capacity of the MoLSSaF in social assistance field in order to develop a system able to offer a better response to the persons in need. The results intended of the present Institution building project are the following:
promotion of consultation between levels of government, non governmental sector and vulnerable groups
 development the tools regarding creation of the social Observatory;
 organisational review for the relevant Directorates of the MoLSSaF including Directorates at county level;
 HR management improved in MoLSSaF
 Studies on the accuracy of legislation and recommendations in respect to the implementation of the acquis communitaire
 Management information system developed by preparation of the technical dossier necessary for a future development of the MIS;
 Improvement of mechanism of co-operation between the administrative bodies concerned with social assistance and social services (vertically and horizontally)
 consolidation of the trainers network in social assistance field;
 Capacities and skills of the social service professionals improved by organisation of the 200 training sessions;
 Training of the trainers in external communication at MoLSSaF;
 Production of external communication and information material;
 The strategy in external communication;
 The review and analysis of the social services in Romania and it's legal framework and level enforcement/compliance
 Guidelines for the regulations on the organization and functioning of social services

2. Project RO 0108.03.03.02 – “Training for enhancing the skills in providing social services”
The main purpose of this project is to strengthen the capacity of the relevant central and local institutions to build effective and innovative partnerships in order to deliver good quality social services according to their capacity also the needs and the requirements of people belonging to vulnerable groups.
 Specific objectives:
  • To establish the specific beneficiaries of the training and their training needs in the field of social services.
  • To design and deliver modular vocational training packages for the above-mentioned beneficiaries.

3. Twinning project RO03/ IB/ SO 06 “Strengthening the administrative capacity of the Social Inspection”
The Project purpose is the development of the administrative capacity of the Social Inspection to better function and comply with its duties as regards the two main sub-areas: social benefits and social services. The estimated date for commencement of the project is October 2005.

4. “Social Sector Development Project” financed by World Bank has following objectives for social assistance filed:
   Developing the software application for the new management information system in social assistance and providing hardware for the new system. This sub-component of the project was developed in close cooperation with the Phare project RO 0108.02 “Social services institution building in Romania”. The Phare project drafted a technical description of the requirements for application software which was included in the bidding document for hiring a company in order to develop the software for the new system.
Developing a grant scheme for diversify social services with a budget of 3,000,000 USD. Under this grant scheme, 71 projects from 32 counties were selected, varying in size from 9,000 USD to 50,000 USD.

5. **Project RO 2004/016 – 772.04.02 “Strengthening the administrative capacity in the social assistance field” – institution building**

This project is to be delivered through a single Technical Assistance contract with two distinct components, each corresponding to one of the above-described specific objectives of the project.

**Component 1** - Social Observatory established as to increase the capacity to define policies and make decisions better addressing the needs of families and vulnerable groups in Romania;

**Component 2** - Agency for payment of social benefits established as to ensure an integrated system of payment for family social benefits.

6. **Project RO 2004/016 – 772.04.02 “Strengthening the administrative capacity in the social assistance field”**

The purpose of the project is to implement a Grant Scheme for creating community social services, in order to improve the life conditions of the vulnerable groups, to respond to the concrete needs of persons in difficult situations and to promote the human development and social inclusion.

These grant schemes are trying to sustain the prevention of social exclusion of the most vulnerable members of the communities (families with children, dependent elderly, disabled, drugs and alcohol addicted, juvenile delinquents, young people leaving the foster care centers, homeless).

In the same time the project has a component, implemented through a technical assistance contract, aimed to support the MoLSSF to develop the capacity to manage effectively and efficiently grant schemes for development of local social services’ projects covering preparation of the grant scheme call for proposals, publicity and dissemination of information to potential beneficiaries to promote the grant scheme, evaluation of applications, monitoring and evaluation of project implementation and dissemination of best practices.


These programmes provided support in the field of small and large infrastructure investments, SMEs development, human resource development, for active employment measures, lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Technical Assistance to strengthen the institutions involved in managing the programmes and projects, was also provided.

**Activities linked to investments to municipal infrastructure (SAMTID)**

The SAMTID Programme is based on the experience and results achieved during implementation of the following programmes:

- **MUDP 1, MUDP 2 and Jiu Valley - financed by EU, Romanian Government and EBRD;**
- **The Project titled “Assessment of Environment Projects” financed under Phare Programme;**
- **The Project titled “Strengthening the Capacity of Local Authorities to Develop Environmental Infrastructure Projects” financed by DFID.**
Since August 2001, with the support of Regional Infrastructure Program (RIP) financed by USAID within the framework of the South East Europe Stability Pact, the local authorities are supported to identify and prepare their priority projects in the field of rehabilitation of water supply systems, which will be submitted for financing within the SAMTID Programme. The SAPARD and RDP programmes, focused on rural area, can be linked to this project, by creating the possibility of using the water savings resulting from the rehabilitation in the small and medium towns. Moreover, the County Level Organisations can provide certain services, especially in terms of water quality monitoring, for the systems in the rural area.

Other programmes in the field of Employment
- Elaboration of the Joint Assessment Paper adopted by the Romanian Government and signed at Bucharest on 28th October 2002 by the Minister of Labor and Social Solidarity, Mr. Marian Sarbu, and European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou;
- Implementation of the National Action Plan for Employment (elaborated under twinning Phare project RO9908) approved by G.D. no.759/2002;
- “NAPE implementation and monitoring” TA project, under Romanian-German bilateral agreement (MoLSS from Romania and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development from F.R. of Germany);
- “Valea Jiului” Program;
- “70” Program for the 70 localities with the highest unemployment rate;
- The Phare Program RO 02/IB/SPP/02 – “Support for MoLSS to strengthen the administration capacity for implementation European Social Fund - type activities”;

Other Donors’ Support:

World Bank Labour Redeployment Programme –2001-2006
The programme, launched in 2001, is managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social solidarity togheter with National Agency for Employment and is co-financed by the World Bank with a loan of 20 million USD. It is specially targeted to workers displaced from enterprises meeting eligibility criteria specified in Ordinance 9/1997. The programme supports pre and post lay-offs measures, for instance: rapid response and planning services, job counselling and job search and placement, business incubators, community services, vocational training, small business consulting, local economic promotion and studies, etc

Social Development Fund
The project aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and to community-driven development through:

a) improving the livelihood of project beneficiaries in poor rural communities and disadvantaged groups; and
b) increasing the local level organizational and self-help capacity.

It will support small scale local infrastructure, community-based social services, income generating activities and development of employment opportunities. It is estimated that 1,200 local projects, developed in partnership and co-financed by local contributions, will be supported and around 600,000 persons will benefit. The Social Development Fund is co-financed by the World Bank with a loan of 20 million USD, with matching Romanian Government funds totaling 5 million USD. The project is under preparatory phase.
The World Bank Programme - "Employment and Social Protection Project" (Total budget 95.2 M$) aimed at reforming the social insurance and assistance system so as to target assistance to the most vulnerable to poverty.

Employment and Social Protection Project (World Bank loan 3849RO, 1996 – 2003) – components “National Training Board” and “Regional Vocational Training Centres”;

**Micro credit schemes financed by the World Bank, USAID, Soros Foundation, Swiss Cooperation**

**SME Credit Schemes financed by bilateral and multilateral institutions**

The DFID funded Local and Regional Partnership Development (LRPD) Project is complementing the activities of the PAAs in two NUTS II regions (North-East and South Muntania) by further detailing and making operational the partnership structures whilst also deepening their inclusiveness by making the links with municipalities, towns and communes.

The lack of consultation and inclusion in the development planning process and a truly regional focus and prioritisation based on need has been recognised as an issue at all levels of public administration within the Republic of Romania. It has also been highlighted as an issue within the feedback received from DG Enlargement on the current National Plan¹. The LRPD Project will seek to assist in linking needs to priority actions at all levels of administration.

It is the focus of this project to create better planning of local and regional development and better management of services provided by local authorities. Through partnership working and improvements to local government the most disadvantaged groups and areas can have their needs both identified and addressed within the activities of development and service provision.

The purpose of the LRPD Project is defined as:

To demonstrate how public bodies and other actors in the poorer communities of the North-east region of Romania can effectively work together to stimulate economic and social development, reduce poverty and social exclusion through an inclusive regional development process [to be verified by and increase in participation in the planning process at local, county and regional level].

One of the intended project results of direct relevance to the Project is:

Regional planning processes that reflect region-wide economic and social interests [to be verified by future regional, judet and municipal/commune plans being constructed through partnership and consensus; plans including locally agreed priority actions]

And a key project activity for the achievement of this result will be:

6. Support the county and local authorities to effectively engage with the NUTS II level planning process [to be verified by documented participation of authorities in planning process; and a future RDP that is an inclusive document].

The technical assistance insured by the Austrian-Romanian Co-operation Programme “Institutional Strengthening of the NASMEC”7691-00/99 is concentrating mainly on training and coaching activities based primarily on Austrian good practice experience, elaboration of the SMEs Report for 2001 and promotion materials such as the Young Entrepreneurs Guide.

¹ DG Enlargement I&C Unit December 2001
Environmental infrastructure

On its way to accession, Romania has undertaken the necessary measures in order to ensure the observation of the political and economic criteria and assume its capacity of membership, especially in ensuring the full transposition and implementation of the acquis.

In order to fulfil the obligations arising from the acquis, over the past years the MoWEP received significant Phare assistance. The Phare assistance received or to be received under Phare 2003, Phare 2004, respectively Phare 2005 consists of the following projects:

PHARE ESC 2003

Project 1: Small-scale waste management investment scheme, for Centre Region
The project has been aimed at supporting the Romanian Government to develop and implement the pilot phase of an integrated multi-annual national program for the period 2004–2006 and at:

- improving the capacity of the local public authorities in contributing to the environmental protection
- developing and implementing local-scale projects within the waste management sector, that will provide waste management facilities to ensure environmental rehabilitation and protection in areas where they will be implemented.
- reducing the impact of landfill sites to the environment
- improving the collection and transport of waste in areas where until now no sanitation system exists
- improving effective and simple waste treatment methods with a good cost-benefit relation

Project 2: TA to support the implementation of the waste management investment/infrastructure projects under ESC
This TA project is aimed at implementing an integrated, multi-annual regional development policy through investment grant schemes and at assisting in the development of institutional, administrative, programming and implementation structures necessary to effectively manage EU Structural Funds (SF) effectively after accession.

Project 3: Twinning to support the MEWM in preparation of the multi-annual programming scheme under the ESC
This Twinning project is aimed at providing support to the Ministry of Environment and Water Management in relation to preparation and implementation of the environmental projects under ESC. This includes to:

- create and promote the framework for the development of environmental projects at local level in the period from 2004 to 2006, and to
- support the final beneficiaries in the preparation and implementation of the projects in waste management field (2003).
PHARE 2004

WASTE SECTOR:

Project 1: Implementation and Enforcement of the Environmental Acquis
Focussed on Domestic Waste Management (REPA Bacau – twinning project)
The project is aimed at:

- assessing the existing system for data collection, storage, reporting and information flow, as well as at selecting and implementing methods to optimise this system;
- performing selection and ranking of environmental projects in order to include them in the National Plan for Regional Development;
- providing support/advice in relation to waste sorting analysis;
- preparing education material on minimization and recovery of organic wastes;
- providing guidance with regard to the implementation of waste management system in urban and rural areas
- providing on-the-job training for waste analysis in the laboratory

Project 2: Implementation and Enforcement of the Environmental Acquis
Focussed on Industrial Waste Management (REPA Galati – twinning project)
The project is aimed at:

- assessing the existing system for data collection, storage, reporting and information flow, as well as at selecting and implementing methods to optimise this system;
- performing selection and ranking of environmental projects in order to include them in the National Plan for Regional Development;
- preparing guidance notes/guidelines on waste management/ avoidance/ minimization/ storage
- providing assistance on the assessment of waste flows;
- elaborating a scheme for inventory report on waste flows.

In the field of Waste Service Enterprises as inter mediators between waste producers and waste recyclers, the beneficiary REPA and its subordinate LEPAs will receive assistance in performing activities such as:

- Exchange on EU experience on the establishment of such certified enterprises and certification rules/processes;
- Drafting of a regulation on the certification of waste service enterprises with MEWM, NEPA and REPA staff;
- Elaboration of model rules and contracts between waste service enterprises and waste generators/industry with REPA staff;
- On-the-job training for waste analysis in the laboratory (related to the investment component).

Project 3: Technical Assistance for elaborating the Regional Waste Management Plans
The project aims at elaborating 7 Regional Waste Management Plans, updating the existing one for Region 7-Centre, at having a mandate for implementation of the RWMPs produced and at training the relevant staff on monitoring the RWMP’s implementation.
Project 4: Education and Information Campaigns on the Waste Management Issues (Technical Assistance)
The project aims at designing and implementing public awareness and information campaigns concerning: selective collection of waste packaging, waste oil and used batteries, collection and recycling used tyres, collection of bulky waste, as well as at preparing and delivering seminars, workshops and training sessions for the relevant stakeholders.

The project aims at strengthening the central/regional/local capacity and capabilities to enforce the environmental legislation on waste and ensure the full implementation of the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. It also aims at estimating the costs, treatment possibilities and action to be taken with regard the WEEE management.

WATER SECTOR:

The project aims at assessing the current status within the Ialomita-Buzau river basin, improving the public and stakeholders participation in the decision making process and developing the River Basin Management Plan in accordance to the WFD requirements.

NATURE PROTECTION SECTOR

Project 7: Implementation and enforcement of the environmental Acquis focussed on nature protection (REPA Sibiu)
The project aims at:
- establishing a Clearing House Mechanism for Natura 2000 Network, as well as for nature conservation in general;
- creating a web site on the Natura 2000 Network as an informative, and also as an exchange forum, tool;
- designing informational and educational placards for the identified Natura 2000 sites;
- training the staff of EPAs and from other institutions, including research ones in the implementation of Natura 2000 Network, by using the developed guidelines;
- organizing training for trainers for the future managers of Natura 2000 sites which will need such structures;
- providing access to best practices in Natura 2000 implementation and sites management through various means (e.g. materials, books, CDs, in-house training, study tours, access to international specific conferences, etc)

Project 8: Implementation and enforcement of the environmental Acquis focussed on nature protection (REPA Timisoara)
The project is aimed at:
- preparing a draft of the structure and operation of the bodies that will manage the Natura 2000 Network in the region;
• drawing up the plans for protecting natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna;
• establishing a control system for future Natura 2000 Network and a monitoring system of habitats and species conservation status in the specific region;
• developing guidelines for management of specific types of Natura 2000 sites;
• developing guidelines for management plans and management plans for the identified different types pilot sites;
• assessing the needs for equipment to manage and control Natura 2000 sites at LEPAs/REPA level and for Natura 2000 future management bodies;
• training the staff of LEPAs and from other institutions, including research ones in the implementation of Natura 2000 Network;
• organizing training for trainers for the future managers of Natura 2000 sites which will need such structures.

Project 9: Implementation of NATURA 2000 Network in Romania - Technical Assistance
The project will develop a national list of SPAs and proposed pSCIs, as well as databases for all natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats;

Project 10: Investment on ortho-rectified high-resolution images at national level for developing GIS maps
The project is aimed at achieving georeferenced maps for the entire country at large scale and 115 high satellite images ortho-rectified on this basis.

PHARE ESC 2004

Project 1: Environmental investment grant scheme for local public authorities (waste) in 7 regions
The scheme represents an expansion of the Phare ESC 2003 pilot investment scheme implemented in the Region 7 Center, to the remaining 7 regions and is aimed at enhancing waste management systems in small and medium localities and compensate for the lack of public investment in this sector in the previous decade in the target regions.

Project 2: Project Preparation grant scheme in 8 regions
The project preparation grant scheme is aimed at providing support for projects preparation, at national level (advice/ studies/ market studies/ cost benefit analysis/ pre-feasibility studies and feasibility studies). Its beneficiaries include both the public and private sectors. The projects/studies prepared under this scheme could form the portfolio for future financing from Phare, IFIs and/or the Structural Funds. It will be designed at national level but launched regionally.

Project 3: Technical Assistance for the implementation of the grant schemes
This TA project is aimed at contributing to the implementation of an integrated, multi-annual regional development policy through investment grant schemes and at assisting in the development of institutional, administrative, programming and implementation structures necessary to effectively manage EU Structural Funds (SF) effectively after accession.

Project 4: Technical Assistance to support the implementing authorities in the selection of the projects
The overall objective of this project is to provide operational support and assistance to the staff of the Ministry of European Integration and of the Ministry of Environment
and Water Management, in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the grants to receive financing under Phare ESC 2004 small-scale waste management investment scheme.

**PHARE 2005**

### WASTE SECTOR

**Project 1: Assistance in the preparation for compliance with provisions regarding temporary storage of waste**

The project is aimed at:
- Performing analysis and finding solutions with regard to temporary storage of waste by category;
- Establishing the best conditions for storage hazardous, respectively non-hazardous, waste to guarantee the protection of environment and human health.

**Project 2: Assistance in promoting solutions regarding recycling and use of recycled materials from End-of-Life Vehicles**

The project is aimed at:
- performing analysis and preparing proposals with regard to:
  - increase of degree of utilization, recycling and capitalization of ELVs' components (metallic, plastic, glass, fluid, and so on);
  - establishment of the ELVs’ component materials or elements that can be recycled and/or used in producing new vehicles;
  - best practices for dismantling ELVs’ components without damaging the ones which can be reused.
- establishing the way in which the reused ELVs’ components are going to be managed, so that the traffic's safety will not be affected;
- creating a system for ELVs’ related data collection;
- identifying and promoting the best and most accessible public information model.

### WATER SECTOR

**Project 3: Investment supporting the information system and database for water management**

The project is aimed at providing the equipment and software for the National Network of Data Transmission in Water Management, installing and putting it into operation, as well as at training the staff involved in using the respective equipment.

**Project 4: Water resources quality monitoring equipment acquisition**

The project is aimed at providing the water resources quality monitoring equipment necessary for the laboratories, installing and putting it into operation, as well as at training the staff involved in using the respective equipment.

### NATURE PROTECTION SECTOR

**Project 5: Technical assistance to develop the environmental related GIS maps**

The project is aimed at:
- defining the methodology used for developing environmental related maps;
- developing the established environmental related GIS maps;
• training the staff in working with GIS (general creation and analysis, presentation of territorial data, creation of databases and input data, creation of thematic maps layers, graphs and tables);
• training the staff at central, regional and local level in using GIS maps.

**Project 6: Investment support to assist the environmental protection decisions through GIS system**
The project is aimed at providing and installing all necessary IT equipment, including GIS at local and central levels, as well as at providing training to the relevant staff in working with GIS.

**PHARE ESC 2005**

**Project 1: The Investment Grant Scheme to support the public sector's initiatives in priority environmental sectors**
The scheme represents an extension of the Phare ESC 2004 investment scheme implemented in the 7 target regions (except Region 7 Center) in the field of waste management, to other environmental sectors. Following an analysis of the specific activities within each environmental sector and in line with the recommendations of the European Commission, the investment areas identified as priority areas for the public sector are: waste management, water and waste water management and nature protection/biodiversity (particularly the protected areas).

The beneficiaries of this scheme are local public authorities from all 8 regions of the country and the scheme will be implemented in each region in the respective priority environmental sectors identified and mentioned above.

**Project 2: The Investment Grant Scheme to support the private sector's initiatives in waste management sector**
In principle, under this scheme it will be provided financial assistance to the SMEs from all eight regions of the country which:

• are directly acting in the field of waste management, and
• have direct impact on the waste sector.

With regard to the kind of initiatives eligible for receiving support under this scheme, the provisions of the relevant Romanian legislation (e.g. with regard to competition and the state aid) will be thoroughly considered.

**Project 3: Project preparation grant scheme**
The project preparation grant scheme implemented under Phare ESC 2005 continues the similar grant scheme implemented under Phare ESC 2004 and is aimed at providing support for projects preparation at national level (advice, studies, market studies, cost-benefit analysis, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies). The projects/studies prepared under this scheme could form the portfolio for future financing from Phare, IFIs and/or the Structural Funds. It will be designed at national level but launched regionally.

**Project 4: Technical Assistance for the implementation of the grant schemes 2005-2006 in waste, water, biodiversity sectors for local/regional public authorities and in waste management field for private sector (SMEs)**
This TA project is aimed at contributing to the implementation of an integrated, multi-annual regional development policy through investment grant schemes and at
assisting in the development of institutional, administrative, programming and implementation structures necessary to effectively manage EU Structural Funds (SF) effectively after accession.

More specifically, this TA project will contribute to:
- monitoring of the implementation of the Phare ESC 2005 investment grant schemes in the 8 regions of the country;
- launching and implementing of the Phare ESC 2006 grant schemes in the 8 regions;
- capacity building at local, regional and central level in relation to environmental project management.

**Project 5: Technical Assistance to support the implementing authorities in the appraisal and selection of the projects**

The overall objective of this project is to provide operational support and assistance to the staff of the Ministry of European Integration and of the Ministry of Environment and Water Management, in order to facilitate effective implementation of the grants to receive financing under Phare ESC 2005 small-scale waste management investment scheme.

The specific objective of this technical assistance project consist of providing qualified expertise in order to conduct the evaluation of the Grant Applications received by the RDAs for the small-scale waste management investment scheme financed under the Phare ESC 2005, ensuring that the above-mentioned applications are processed by the Regional Selection Committees in time and in compliance with the established criteria and procedures.