1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1. CRIS Number: 2002/000.610-03
1.2. Title: Further integration of the Roma children in the educational field and improved living conditions
1.3. Sector: Human rights and the protection of minorities
1.4. Location: Slovak Republic

2. OBJECTIVES:

2.1 Overall Objectives:

- Improvement of the educational standard of the Roma population
- Creating conditions for improvement of living conditions of socially disadvantaged Roma groups of inhabitants

2.2 Project purpose:

- Successful implementation of the integrated system of educating Roma
- Municipalities able to improve the living conditions of the socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants more effectively

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

Accession Partnership:
Political criteria: Human rights and the protection of minorities

"Continue improving the situation of the Roma through strengthened implementation of the relevant strategy, including the provision of the necessary financial support at national and local levels, measures aimed at fighting against discrimination (including within the public administration), fostering employment opportunities, increasing access to education, improving housing conditions; provide adequate financial support."

NPAA:
Political Criteria/Human Rights and Minority Protection
Medium-term priorities
"Ensure successful conditions for the co-existence of Roma and non-Roma communities"

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

The project directly contributes to the National Development Plan within the specific aim of NDP Support of the Educational System

2.5. Cross Border Impact : N/A
3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 Background and justification:

The Slovak Republic is a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual country; more than 14.2 percent of its inhabitants claimed to have their national or ethnic origin different from the majority of citizens (2001 Census results). The Roma national minority is the one living in the harshest conditions. The majority is long-term unemployed and has a low level of education (in many Roma settlements unemployment reaches almost 100 per cent).

There are approximately 620 Roma settlements in the Slovak Republic. A Roma settlement is usually a wooden shantytown at the margin of a non-Roma village, usually lacking basic infrastructure, such as potable water, sewerage, electricity, public lighting, etc. The accessibility of these settlements is in many cases difficult, even for emergency services (fire vehicles, ambulance), as asphalt roads tend to end at their entrance.

The Roma settlements are often formed by unsuitable sheds erected without building permits, built either of adobe (clay), wood or tin, in more advanced cases coated with plaster on the outside. Such two-room shanties serve as homes for often 10 people in a family. These conditions make their social contacts with the rest of the population very difficult.

Children coming from such an underdeveloped environment face difficulties and are often unsuccessful at regular school system. According to the statistical data of the Ministry of Education of SR, only 5.35 per cent of Roma pupils attend kindergartens before entering the primary school and 10.69 per cent of Roma pupils are completing their first year of compulsory school attendance at primary schools.

Due to their social disadvantage resulting from socially underdeveloped environment and insufficient, limited knowledge of the language of instruction, many Roma children are attending special schools for mentally disabled and handicapped children. In the school year 1999/2000 only 6% of children from disadvantaged environment were successfully trained. Roma children who are not handicapped, often attend special schools.

Special schools are designed for education of mentally handicapped children, using specially developed techniques in an environment designed for the needs of the children. Misplacement of Roma children happens due to their failure at examination. In order to address this issue, in the frame of the Phare 2001 National Programme a project for reviewing tests that are currently used has been developed. Besides test review, a multicultural curriculum is one of the outputs of an other Phare financed project (SR9905.02.). Both these will be put in practice in 20 schools, where special classes will be transformed into regular ones, respecting different cultural identity of Roma children, still ensuring their further education and thus creating conditions for further improvement of living standards.

The successfulness of both activities very much depend on effective cooperation of all parties involved, especially in the light of recently carried out Public Administration Reform.
3.2 Linked activities

SR9905.02 - Minority Tolerance Programme - training of local opinion-makers, public information campaign in all media aiming at tolerance, raising the educational level of minorities with a special regard to the Roma.

Support to the Infrastructure for Roma settlements /Phare, SR 0103.02/ - first time funded under the political criteria 30 Roma settlements will get support in basic infrastructure building (water, sewage, roads)

SR0103.01 - Support to the Roma minority in the Educational Field – is building up on previous Phare assistance and in addition to it is via reviewing testing methods and materials addressing reintegration of Roma children into regular schools.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic prepared a programme, which was endorsed by the Government Council on which basis the State shall provide municipalities a non-repayable subsidy for the building of flats for Roma families currently living in settlements. The subsidy amounting to 80% of the costs will be used for building of so-called different standard flats. The municipality can lend the remaining 20% at an advantageous interest rate.

One of the most important documents approved by Government Council is a complex document Priorities of the Government of the SR towards Roma Communities for the year 2002 approved on April 10, 2002. It is based on the abovementioned Strategy and enriches it with proposals for long-term systematic programmes, which elaboration is needed for future State Budget proposals, especially for the year 2003. There are two separate parts of this document - the Comprehensive Development Programme for Roma Settlements and a pilot Programme of Social Field-workers (Governmental Decree no. 357/2002).

Further finances are allocated yearly for social, educational, infrastructure and cultural projects administered through the Office of the Slovak Republic Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities.

3.3 RESULTS

- Further integration of socially disadvantaged Roma children into standard primary schools strengthened
- Technical documentation available for municipality offices

3.4. ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Re-integration of children from socially disadvantaged environment from special schools into regular primary schools

This activity will ensure the continuation of the good practices resulting from previous Phare projects: SR 0103.01 Support to the Roma minority in the educational field and SR 9905.02 Minority Tolerance Programme. The outcomes of these projects is that pupils from special schools after getting through this educational module successfully pass the diagnostic tests
and therefore fulfil the criteria of entering regular education are placed into regular school and a multicultural curriculum.

The purpose of this activity is to increase the number of pupils reintegrated from special schools into the standard primary schools by means of establishing detached classes of standard primary schools in the premises of specialised primary schools in municipalities. This approach will enable Roma children to attend standard education in the place of their residence and motivate parents to support schooling of their children on the appropriate level according to their skills.

Re-integration is based on an objective re-diagnostics of a child, on the professionalism of the teachers and on teaching on the basis of a special curriculum with respect to individual characteristics of each child, as stated in the Regulation of the Ministry of Education of the SR on experimental verification of the organisation, forms and content of education and way of school-direction of November 1993 and developed during the implementation of the project named Reintegration of Roma pupils from socially and educationally less stimulating environment of special schools among majority population launched in 1999.

In the framework of the project’s implementation, classes of standard primary schools will be established at 20 special primary schools in municipalities with high number of Roma inhabitants.

Technical Assistance:

1 EU short-term expert having sound experience in the field of child and development psychology and pedagogy. He will assist the relevant Slovak authorities in the overall supervision of the establishment of 20 classes of standard primary schools at special primary schools in municipalities with high density of Roma population.

Additional 5 local short-term experts will be hired to carry out specific tasks set by the EU expert in order to supervise the integration process adapted to the conditions of schools involved.

The experts will closely cooperate with the experts from 15 Regional Pedagogic-Psychology advisory centres, the experts of the Ministry of Education, Research Institute for Child Psychology and Patopsychology, teachers and headmasters at primary schools and university teachers at departments training teachers on re-integration and child pedagogy and psychology and use outcomes of previous Phare projects, NGO pilot projects and experience from countries already implementing similar modules.

In order to maximize the learning potential of a child, the experts will be responsible for assisting in implementing various teaching methods based on special supporting and adapted materials or devices; and for creating plans of effective using of the community, education and schooling resources in the relevant localities. They will prepare teachers also by calling attention to different geographical, language and cultural needs of the children, families, communities.

The experts will be responsible for planning, training and gathering support from related fields such as audiology, special child pedagogy, expert therapeutics, rehabilitation, speech therapy, etc. They will also organise special training for teachers of the selected schools in implementation of this activity in order to implement the methods and re-integration module
to the schools concerned. The teachers need to be trained in special care, first aid, development and learning of children involved in the integration programme. Parents need to be involved and as well informed of the benefits of the education of their children.

Equipment for the 20 classes at special schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of units (schools)</th>
<th>Unit cost</th>
<th>Total cost (in EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching devices, educational material</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools furniture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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</table>

(*) 50% of the overall costs of the classes equipment will be financed by the Slovak government

**Budget Summary (Phare):**

- Classes equipment: 50.000 EUR
- TA Assistance (1 EU expert + a pool of local short-term experts): 300.000 EUR
- **Sub-total**: 350.000 EUR

**Activity 2: Identification of municipalities to receive support and reviewing existing technical documentation**

This activity aims at identification of those municipalities, which will receive assistance in technical documentation preparation. There are approximately 620 Roma settlements in the Slovak Republic. The settlements can be divided into three main groups segregated (located few kilometres from the municipality), partially integrated (located in the suburbs of municipalities) and integrated (part of the municipality). Most of them are lacking basic infrastructure – potable water distribution, sewage system, roads, pavements, electricity, etc.

Municipalities due to the existing system of financing of the self-government do not have sufficient financial resources and capacity to prepare land planning and technical documentation for infrastructure building, especially in those locations, where people are living in extreme poverty, socially excluded. These locations are mostly inhabited by the Roma and are located in the Eastern regions of the Slovak Republic.

The T.A. team would work in close co-operation with the relevant Slovak Ministries to set out selection criteria, in order to choose those municipalities which are most in need of this kind of support and assess the actual situation as regards to basic infrastructures.

The T.A. will collect existing technical documentation regarding water supply facilities, sewage and wastewater collectors and treatment plants, access roads and electricity connection in the selected municipalities.
The experts will also have to prepare a brief sociological survey of the settlements, with particular emphasis on the relationships of communities and within the communities (e.g. level of tolerance, willingness to co-operate, existence of NGO organisations, etc.)

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development as one of the recipient institutions will provide furnished office space and telecom facilities for the recruited consultants.

The TA should comprise of:
1 Co-ordinator (5 M/M), a pool of short-term experts (engineers and "mediators")

**Budget Summary (Phare):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TA – framework contract</td>
<td>100 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity 3: Preparation of technical documentation for municipalities with high share of socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants**

The activity is based on the experience gathered from project Phare SR 0103.02 Infrastructure Support for Roma settlements and is planned as a multi-annual programme. This project foresees support to the municipalities for the preparation of technical documentation in light of possible financing in the frame of 2003 programming (infrastructure).

The activity aims at preparation of technical documentation for infrastructure – land-use plan (in order to obtain a decision for land use), detailed technical drawings, maps, technical specifications, budgets, etc. needed for obtaining various permits regarding infrastructure construction. The technical documentation can be prepared only for the following infrastructure items:

- Water distribution
- Sewage systems
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Roads
- Pavements
- Electricity wiring

1. Preparation of the land-use plan to be submitted to the relevant authorities in order to obtain a “decision for land-use”, i.e. allowing for example that agricultural land is used for housing purposes. In some cases a declaratory statement of the environmental aspects of the project in line with the current Slovak legislation (on Environmental Impact Assessment) will be required. This plan defines in general the lots, the positioning of the utilities’ networks, including their connection to the existing networks, the transport infrastructure and the position of the housing area. For this phase the land ownership must be already clarified and at least an agreement must be signed with the current owners of the land.

2. After receiving the “decision for land-use”, the preparation of project documentation starts: detailed technical drawings are to be submitted to the district authority for obtaining the building permits. This documentation should contain the exact placement and drawings of the individual facilities.
3. Once the building permit obtained, the bills of quantity needed for the preparation of the full tender dossier for launching the construction tender have to drafted in line with the rules applying on infrastructure works financed by Phare and/or other public sources.

The time needed for these different phases, as described above, depends on the necessary adjustments/completion of the documentation required prior to the approval by the competent authorities and can last several months or in more complex cases even more than one year.

A senior local expert experienced in the supervision of the civil works has to be appointed for the entire project duration to ensure an independent supervision of the implementation of the works according to the prepared documentation.

The contractor should be experienced in preparing planning documentation and in engineering, must have sufficient in-house human resources and must be already equipped with the necessary IT and software (AutoCad).

Summary:
Preparation of the Technical documentation (engineering) lump sum 0.5 MEUR

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The recipient Institutions
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development,
- Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of SR
- Ministry of Education of SR

The final beneficiaries
Municipalities with a high proportion of the Roma national minority

Other partner institutions involved in the project implementation:
- State Pedagogical Institute,
- Research Institute for Child Psychology and Patopsychology,
- 15 regional pedagogic-psychology advisory centres
- Ministry of Environment
- Cadastre Authority
- Slovak Agriculture Land Fund
- Regional and District Offices

5. DETAILED BUDGET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEUR</th>
<th>PHARE SUPPORT</th>
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<td>Activity 3</td>
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</table>
6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Implementing Agencies

For activity 1:
CFCU - Central Financing and Contracting Unit
PAO: Mr. Milan Michalicka
Mlynské Nivy 61
821 09 Bratislava -Slovak Republic
Tel: +421 2 53418093
Fax: +421 2 53418095

For activities 2 and 3:
Implementing Agency for Regional Development
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
PAO: Mr. Julius Slovak
Špitálska 8
816 44 Bratislava
Tel: +421 2 5975 3819
Fax: +421 2 5975 3833

6.2 Twinning: N/A

6.3 Non-standard aspects

All procurements will be carried out according to the valid rules of the Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa and Sapard.

6.4 Contracts

Expected number of contracts: 4 (one supply contract and 3 for services)

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

7.1 Start of tendering: 1st quarter 2003
7.2 Start of project activity: 2nd quarter 2003
7.3 Project Completion: 4th quarter 2004

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Equal opportunities principles will be ensured at all stages of the programme.

9. ENVIRONMENT: N/A

10. RATES OF RETURN : N/A

11. INVESTMENT CRITERIA

11.1 Catalytic effect:
The Phare support, in line with the "Strategy of the Slovak Government towards the Roma national minority", will help meeting education and training needs of the Roma minority by creating a network of institutions on various levels, thus creating a more tolerant environment and facilitate the integration of Roma into the civil society. The Phare funding to be made available for the preparation of technical documentation will speed up the implementation of the Government Strategy in the field of infrastructure improvements.

11.2 Co-financing:
The Slovak Government will co-financing of the investment component up to 50% of the overall costs.

11.3 Additionality:
The project will be complementary to the Ministry of Education intervention, closely co-operating with the NGO sector in Slovakia and is in line with the Strategy of the Government addressing the Roma national minority.

Furthermore, it will be complementary to the Social Housing Programme of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR.

11.4 Project readiness and Size:
The project has been designed in a way to minimise any possible delays.

11.5 Sustainability:
Government policy on the improvement of the Roma’s living conditions, furthermore the involvement of the municipalities ensures the project sustainability. In addition, relevant institutions named in paragraph 5 of the project fiche provide long-term guarantees.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions:
The project respects the state aid provision of the Europe Agreement.

12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

The Slovak Government will support programmes for integration of the Roma minority into the Slovak society.
Adequate human resources will be made available by the involved institutions.
**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK PLANNING MATRIX FOR:**

Further integration of the Roma children in the educational field and improved living conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name and number</th>
<th>Sheet no.</th>
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<td>30.11.2004</td>
<td>30.11.2005</td>
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Total budget (MEUR): 1.05

PHARE budget (MEUR): 1.0

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**Overall objective:**

- Improvement of the educational standard of the Roma population
- Creating conditions for improvement of living conditions of socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants

**Objectively verifiable indicators**

- Increased participation of Roma in the education system
- Municipality offices using the technical documentation

**Sources of Verification**

- Reports of the Ministry of Education
- Reports of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development

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**Project purpose:**

- Successful implementation of the integrated system of educating Roma
- Municipalities able to improve the living conditions of the socially disadvantaged group of inhabitants more effectively

**Objectively verifiable indicators**

- Increased number of Roma studying at standard primary schools
- Increased number of municipalities using the technical documentation for construction of infrastructure

**Sources of Verification**

- Statistics of the Ministry of Education of the SR
- Reports of Ministry of Construction and Regional Development

**Assumptions**

- Roma community interested in education

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**Results:**

- System of integration of socially disadvantaged children without mental handicaps from special primary schools into standard primary schools strengthened
- Technical documentation available for municipality offices

**Objectively verifiable indicators**

- 20 classes of standard primary schools established at special primary schools
- 30 municipalities having technical documentation regarding infrastructure available

**Sources of Verification**

- School reports
- Statistics and reports of the Educational Institute for Information and Prognosis, State Pedagogical Institute, Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology and State Institute of Vocational Education
- Municipality Offices reports

**Assumptions**

- Intensive involvement of Roma parents in the process of education
- Information for possibilities for financing infrastructure construction available
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<td>1. Re-integration of children from socially disadvantaged environment from special schools into regular primary schools</td>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td>0.3 MEUR</td>
<td>• Strong commitment of teachers, pedagogues, psychologists and scientists concerned</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supply</td>
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<td>• Effective cooperation of stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Identification of municipalities to receive support and reviewing existing technical documentation</td>
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<td>3. Preparation of technical documentation for municipalities with high share of socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants</td>
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**Preconditions**
1. The Slovak Government will support programmes for integration of the Roma minority into the Slovak society
2. Adequate human resources will be made available by the involved institutions
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<tr>
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### Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement schedule (MEUR)

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