SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

Désirée number: SI0108.02
Title: Joint Small Projects Fund
Sector: Economic and Social Cohesion – Cross Border Co-operation
Geographical location: Obalno-kraška, Goriška region (NUTS III) in Slovenia, Trieste, Gorizia, Udine, Venezia (NUTS III) in Italy

The regions covered by the Cross-Border Co-operation Programme are very varied in their geographic, demographic and industrial natures and they range from:

- The Adriatic coast with great potential for tourism, trade/transhipment of goods, fruit and wines;
- The Karst with its sparse arable land and vegetation but with potential for small scale, quality agricultural production, rural tourism and small-scale industries;
- The Alpine region with small-scale farming, Eco, rural and sporting tourism and small-scale industries.

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall objectives

- Encouragement and support for the creation of sustainable co-operation networks between local and regional actors in the border region;
- Assistance to the local organisations for the development of capabilities and capacities for developing and implementing projects within the border region;
- Development of a common project implementation structure, unifying historically and culturally different regions.

2.2 Project purpose

- Increased capability of local authorities and regional development institutions to develop and implement projects with clear regional development impacts and in line with the Joint Programming Document Slovenia/Italy CBC/Interreg III a 2000-2006
- Increase of co-operation of the partners from both sides of the border in the cross-border activities, particularly those in the Phare CBC/Interreg programme

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

The project is in line with the objectives of the JPD 2000-2006:
- Safeguarding and upgrading environmental and land resources
- Cooperaation between and among economic and/or institutional operators
- Upgrading human resources in the cross-border area
- Developing and strengthening mutual awareness

Project is also in compliance with the measures as identified for the Phare CBC in the Commission Regulation of December 1998, especially with articles 5 j to n.

With reference to the Accession Partnership, this project aims to support the integrated approach with addressing regional disparities in the border region. By
strengthening and developing the CBC initiatives, this project stimulates a real cross-border co-operation in the regions, seen as one single unit.

In relation to the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis, the project meets the following objectives and targets that are in connection with the fields 1.2.12.1, 1.2.12.3, (Regional Development):

- to slow down the depopulation of rural/peripheral areas
- to strengthen the institutions within the specific programme for the adjustment in the field of structural policy, based on consistency, education and exchange of experts
- to ensure conditions for monitoring the effectiveness of regional policy measures

2.4 Contribution to (Preliminary) National Development Plan of Slovenia

The actions, financed through the SPF are in line with the following Slovene PNDP priorities:

Development objectives and investment priorities

3.1.2. National investment priority No.2: Economic infrastructure
3.1.3. National investment priority No.4: Human resource development
3.1.4. National investment priority No.4: Agriculture restructuring and Rural Devt.
3.1.5. National investment priority No.5: Environmental protection
3.1.6. National investment priority No.6: Regional development

2.5 Cross-border impact of the project

The jointly prepared JPD for the period 2000-2006 defines the common objectives and structures responsible for implementation of the Phare CBC/Interreg programmes. The Evaluation Committee for SPF composed of Phare CBC as well as Interreg partners will be in the position to propose the list of projects selected for the Phare support. The received projects should meet at least the minimum standards of cross-border co-operation defined by the JPD to be eligible for approval in of the Evaluation Committee. These general directions guarantee a high quality of cross-border cooperation.

The priority fields of the SPF, Cultural exchanges, Human resources and Economic development, including tourism are especially relevant elements of cross-border co-operation. The experiences gained during the implementation of previous small projects funds has shown, that this flexible, people-to-people approach has a significant catalytic effect on the co-operation between people on the two sides of the border. The intensification and further promotion of these activities will be a key element in creating a joint economic and life space in the border regions, in order to enable them to function as one single unit after the accession of Slovenia to the European Union.

The projects financed by the Joint Small Projects Fund will increase the contacts amongst the people living in the cross-border region and create sustainable co-operation networks between the CBC actors. For this reason SPF support will – before the accession of Slovenia to the EU – among others be provided for creation of sustainable CBC institutions as Euro-regions.

Performance of these activities will have a positive impact on reduction of historical and cultural ‘barriers’ between the populations on both sides of the border.
3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

Although the co-operation between Slovene and Italian regions is active, all the benefits of the cross-border co-operation can not yet entirely be utilised. In spite of the fact that Slovenia will become a member of the EU in future, the border will still exist and divide the two systems.

The inclusion of flexible funding mechanism like the Small Projects Fund, aiming at small-scale intervention, addressing the identified problems derived from the existing border and supporting the regional development initiatives is an efficient instrument which gains popularity among the local/regional actors and has a relatively quick implementation period.

The Phare 2001 Joint Small Projects Fund follows similar operations, which were carried out under the programmes Slo/Ita 1994, 1997, 1998 and 1999. Approximately 25 projects received support each year. Their success has greatly contributed to the positive image of the Phare Programme among the population in the target regions.

The call for proposals of the previous SPF in the year 1998 attracted 187 applicants and 28 of them received Phare support. However, not only the increased number of applications needs to be mentioned, but also the improvement of quality of prepared project proposals. The SPF is along the society in the border region one of the most popular instruments of funding. However, many joint actions have been introduced and have resulted in a number of concrete results.

3.2 Linked activities

- Focal Points, Phare CBC Project No. 9701.06.01. In the framework of this project a technical assistance in the preparation of JPD was provided in the year 2000. Training in the local/regional planning process was provided to the staff of local development agencies.
- Establishment of Regional Development Networking Structure, Phare CBC project 9911.02.01. The project aim is enhancing the capacity of the building process for regional development policy in the border region.
- On-going process of creating and assuring the institutional environment to the Slovene statistical regions (NUTS 3 and NUTS 2 level) for establishment of the RDAs and preparation of the Regional development programmes.
- Preparation of the National Development Plan of Slovenia 2002-2006.

3.3 Results

At the end of the project following results will be achieved:

- Improved knowledge of staff of regional and local agencies for the preparation and implementation of project with the cross-border nature.
- Between 150-230 applications for this SPF are received as a result of the Call for proposals.
- 20-50 projects for this SPF will be awarded the Phare support and implemented according to the Phare procedures, as well the results of individual implemented project will be achieved.
- Common linkages between cross-border actors from both sides of the border established as result of common preparation and implementation of the Phare CBC/Interreg projects.
• Awareness among citizens and business of the positive effects of cross border co-operation will be increased.
• Knowledge about each other among the inhabitants of the border regions will contribute to a smooth integration between them after the accession of Slovenia into the EU.

Achieved results will to encourage new forms of cross-border co-operation and strengthen existing ones between cross-border partners. Increased knowledge about each other will contribute to mutual understanding between the populations on the both sides of the border.

Local organisations involved in project preparation will receive knowledge and experiences of managing the projects co-financed the with the EU funds. At the same time these activities will be used as preparation of the local organisations for participating in the Structural Funds after the accession of the RS into the EU.

3.4 Activities

3.4.1 Activities to be carried out:

1. Preparation of the package for the call for proposals
   • Preparation of Guidelines for Grant Schemes. All the main stakeholders should be invited for discussion. Recommendations stated in the evaluation reports (Sub-monitoring report, OMAS report) on the previously implemented SPF and the gained experience will be included in the new Guidelines, prepared in line with the Practical Guide for Phare, SAPARD and ISPA contract procedures.
   • Call for project proposal and the application form will be prepared in consultation with the local and regional development agencies.

2. Local call for proposals
   • Contracting Authority must submit the tender document to the ECD for approval at 15 days before the intended date of publication.
   • Local Call for Proposals will be published in local/national media and in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia. Project applicants will have up to 60 days for submission of project proposal.

3. Assistance to project applicants
   • A serial of workshops will be organised for the project applicants with the aim to give instructions for preparing the project proposals. However all the documents and instructions to applicants will be available from the address referred to in the advertisement.

4. Co-operation with the INTERREG programme
   • Together with the institutions in Italy (Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto) responsible for the Interreg programme, the information will be provided to potential partners in Italy.

5. Project selection process
   • The decision on which proposals to be financed will be taken by the Evaluation Committee. The Contracting Authority and ECD should approve recommended list of awarded proposals.

6. Contracting
   • For contracting a standard grand contract format from the Practical Guide to
Phare, ISPA & SAPARD contract procedures will be used.

7. Implementation of selected projects by beneficiaries
   • Beneficiaries subcontract the suppliers of goods and services or works, in line with the Phare regulations annexed to the Grant Contract.

8. Financial management of the selected projects
   • MF-CFCU as Implementing Agency will be responsible for contracting and financing following the Practical Guide.

9. Monitoring of the projects implementation
   • Project monitoring is undertaken by the NARD with the involvement of Development Agencies, based on a predetermined set of indicators.

10. Project review and evaluation
    • NARD will outsource the preparation of the evaluation report, which will review the achievement of projects against the planned expectations and will design the recommendations for future projects.

3.4.2 Eligible Activities for receiving support:

For assistance from the SPF are eligible the activities including "people-to-people" and "soft" local development, as well as minor investments in the infrastructure facilities – always related to the soft projects.

Fields of possible activities:
   • Cultural exchanges
   • Human resources
   • Spatial planning and development
   • Waters and sea monitoring*
   • Economic development, including tourism
   • Facilities for supporting the joint Phare CBC/ Interreg structures

Upon completion of Regional Development Plans for the statistical regions Obalno-Kraška in Goriška, the Regional Development Agencies will on the basis of these documents propose a prioritisation of eligible activities.

*Water and seas monitoring should be included as eligible activities to support implementation and evaluation of the Phare CBC project 2001 Eco Adria, Ecological Improvement of the Primorska Region 2001.

On-going monitoring of quality of the Adriatic sea carried out in the framework of the Committee for Protection of the Adriatic sea, composed of representatives of Slovenia, Croatia and Italy. Results of the monitoring will be included in the Action plan for Protection of Adriatic sea, which should be prepared according to the Barcelona Treaty.

4. Institutional Framework

The Small Projects Fund will be managed locally via the secretariat hosted by the local/regional development agency.

Evaluation Committee will be nominated by the Contracting Authority and will be composed of representatives of the ECD, developing agencies, professional associations, Ministry of Finance, Interreg partners and NARD. The Committee will
propose a list of projects to be awarded for the Phare support. After approval of the final list of projects by the Contracting Authority and ECD, grant contracts will be signed with successful applicants.

CFCU will be responsible for all contracting and financial matters following the Practical Guide.

5. Budget (in MEUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Items</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Institution Building</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Co-finance</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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</table>

Co-financing includes:
Co-finance must be provided in order to demonstrate local commitment. This may be in cash or in kind (salaries, rental of premises or equipment, expert contributions, own materials), depending on the project size and content. Co-financing by beneficiaries should be at least 20% of the total project value, VAT excluded.

The resources, which have been assisted by Phare or other EU supports, may not be taken into account as own contribution.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency
Ministry of Finance - CFCU
Mr. Peter Škofic, PAO
Address: Beethovenova 11, 1502 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: +386.1.478.63.05
Fax: +386.1.478.62.04

Implementing Authority
National Agency for Regional Development
Mr. Ivo Piry, Director
Address: Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: +386.1.478.36.70
Fax: +386.1.431.33.60

Contracting Authority
Ministry of Economy
Ms. Tea Petrin, Minister
Address: Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: +386.1.478.36.21
Fax: +386.1.478.35.22

Final beneficiaries:
Eligible organisations in the statistical border regions of Goriška and Obalno-kraška.
6.2 Twinning
Not applicable.

6.3. Non-standard aspects
Not applicable.

6.4 Contract
Grant Scheme 1 million Euro.
Number of expected contracts: 20-35
The maximum level of project support will be Euro 50,000.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering
Three months after signing of the FM (at the latest by March 2002). During this period, the Guidelines for Applicants will be drafted and approved.

7.2 Start of project activity
Six months after signing of the FM (at the latest by June 2002) the first Grant contract will be signed with the successful applicants.

7.3 Project Completion
Last payment: 20 months after the signing of FM (at the latest by June 2003).

8. Equal Opportunity
Only such projects will be selected for the support by the Small Projects Fund that do not contain discriminatory elements and that are open for women and men on an equal basis.
An Evaluation Committee will be nominated with respect to this principle.

9. Environment
Only projects without any negative impact on the environment will be eligible for funding.

10. Rates Of Return
Not applicable.

11. Investment Criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect
The Phare contribution will help meeting the development needs outlined in the JPD of the Italian–Slovene border region. Without Phare support, the steps and objectives
included in the programme could be implemented only much later and at a much slower speed.

SPF will give opportunity for developing a plenty of bottom-up initiatives to large-scale project proposals, attractive to the other financial institutions.

Projects will strengthen the partnership process between the local and regional partners from the both sides of the border. This process will contribute to creation of a positive environment for further development of common project development.

11.2 Co-financing
Co-financing will be assured from the national budget for operational cost of SPF and individual projects will be co-financed by project applicants.

11.3 Additionally
The project will additionally contributes to of existing national and local instruments as a guarantee fund, micro credits, grants in terms of a combination of non-refundable sources and will reach a wider range of target groups and carriers of the bottom up development initiatives.

11.4 Project readiness and size
List of the potential projects submitted for the SPF 98 /99 and reject due to lack of the Phare funds exist. These projects are eligible for receiving the Phare support under this SPF.

Projects will only be financed by if they are ready for contracting and for completion within the period of fourteen months. Readiness of projects is one of the criteria, which will be taken into account in the evaluation process.

Maximum size of projects will be 50,000 Euro.

11.5 Sustainability
Sustainability of projects will be one of the evaluation criteria taken into account in the evaluation process.

Projects must ensure continuation of delivering the benefits to the project beneficiaries for an extended period after the Phare assistance has been completed.

11.6 Contribution to Preliminary National Development Plan 2000-2002
The project is in co-ordination with the PNDP 2000-2002 priorities and its instruments available.

12. Conditionality and Sequencing

- Call for project proposals for the SPF 1999 will be launched and contracts signed by the end of 2001. NARD and the regional development agencies will ensure the necessary resources for management of this SPF in order to ensure effective implementation.

- For the SPF 2001 importance will be given to providing assistance to project applicants since the Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa & Sapard contract procedures requests a comprehensive preparation of the project application.

After nomination of the Evaluation Committee, the SPF Guidelines should be prepared and approved by the European Commission. After that a call for project proposals will be launched and a list of the projects recommended for award of the Phare support prepared by the Evaluation Committee. Before the Grant contracts will be signed the list of proposed project should approved by the Contracting
Authority and ECD.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format.
2. Detailed implementation chart.
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarters for entire duration of programme (including disbursement period).
4. List of relevant Laws and Regulations.
5. Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies.
6. Map of the cross-border area eligible for the SPF 2001
## LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Small Projects Fund 2001

### Project Number
- **Total Budget:** 1.25 (MEUR)
- **Phare contribution:** 1.0 (MEUR)

### Project purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Objective</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Encouragement and support for the creation of sustainable co-operation networks between local and regional actors in the border region;</td>
<td>• Reduction of level differences of GDP per capita between the border regions in Slovenia and neighbouring EU countries.</td>
<td>• Statistical Yearbook of RS</td>
<td>• Other Government institutions realise importance of balanced regional development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase support for integration to the EU at the Municipality and regional levels</td>
<td>• Monitoring reports of the Sectoral Monitoring Sub-Committee for Economic &amp;Social Cohesion</td>
<td>• Cooperation between Municipalities and Regional institutions is satisfactory</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increased number of events, workshops and training linked with the awareness of integration to the EU at the Municipality and regional levels</td>
<td>• Commission regular reports</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increased number of local and regional institutions involved in socio-economic activities with neighbouring EU Countr.</td>
<td>• Public opinion research</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assistance to the local organisations for the development of capabilities and capacities for developing and implementing projects within the border region;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Development of a common project implementation structure, unifying historically and culturally different regions.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increased capability of local authorities and regional development institutions to develop and implement projects with clear regional development impacts and in line with the Joint Programming Document Slovenia/Italy CBC/Interreg III a 2000-2006</td>
<td>• Increase of level motivation in the target regions for cross-border cooperation with regard to solving the common problems and utilise potentials</td>
<td>• Statistical Yearbook of RS</td>
<td>• Sufficient resources in the Municipalities and regional development agencies are available for preparation and implementation of the projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase of co-operation of the partners from both sides of the border in the cross-border activities, particularly those in the Phare CBC/Interreg programme</td>
<td>• Increased involvement of local and regional development institutions in preparation of the project proposals</td>
<td>• NARD monitoring and evaluation reports</td>
<td>• Regional Development Plans for target regions prepared and approved by the NARD.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Number of projects with clear regional development impact increased</td>
<td>• Monitoring reports of the Sectoral Monitoring Sub-Committee for Economic &amp;Social Cohesion</td>
<td>• Interreg partners has the information and resources to co-operate in the Phare CBC projects</td>
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<td>• Increase number of projects prepared and implemented together with the Interreg partners</td>
<td>• Commission regular reports</td>
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<td>• Increase number of local and regional institutions involved in preparation and development of the project within the framework of the Cross-border Co-operation</td>
<td>• Minutes of the Monthly Phare CBC Review Meetings organised by the NARD</td>
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<td>• Increase number of established association by CBC partners</td>
<td>• SPF Secretariat regular reports</td>
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<td>• Increase number of activities such as opening ceremonies, presentations...linked with the visibility and promotion of the Phare CBC/Interreg programme</td>
<td>• Evaluation reports of the Evaluation Committee for the SPF</td>
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### Assumptions
- **Contracting period expires:** 15/12/2003
- **Disbursement period expires:** 15/12/2004
- **Date of drafting:** 03.04.2001
• Improved knowledge of staff of regional and local agencies for the preparation and implementation of project with the cross-border nature.
• Between 150-230 applications for this SPF are received as a result of the Call for proposals.
• 20-50 projects for this SPF will be awarded the Phare support and implemented according to the Phare procedures, as well the results of individual implemented project will be achieved.
• Common linkages between cross-border actors from both sides of the border established as result of common preparation and implementation of the Phare CBC/Interreg projects.
• Awareness among citizens and business of the positive effects of cross border co-operation will increase.
• Knowledge about each others among the inhabitants of the border regions will contribute to a smooth integration between them after the accession of Slovenia into the EU.

Activities | Means | Assumptions |
---|---|---|
• Preparation of the package for the call for proposals. | Technical assistance of the secretariat hosted by the nominated RDA | Sufficient project management skills by beneficiaries. |
• Local call for proposals | Assistance of experts as members of Expert panel for evaluation the projects proposals | |
• Assistance to project applicants | Support of the staff of NARD | |
• Cooperation with the INTERREG programme | National co-financing | |
• Project selection process | | |
• Contracting | | |
• Implementation of selected projects by beneficiaries | | |
• Financial management of selected projects | | |
• Monitoring of the projects implemented by beneficiaries | | |
• Project review and evaluation | | |

Preconditions:
Satisfactory implementation of the previous SPF for the year 1999.
## ANNEX 2

### Detailed implementation chart

**Project title: Small Projects Fund**

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ANNEX 3

CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

Project title: Small Projects Fund

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING and DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (in MEUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Project period in quarters of the year</th>
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Phare funds only
ANNEX 4

List of relevant Laws and Regulations

1. Act on Promotion of Balanced Regional Development (OJ RS, No 60/99)
2. Environment Protection Act (OJ RS, No 32/93, 44/95, 01/96 and 09/99)
ANNEX 5

REFERENCE TO RELEVANT GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLANS AND STUDIES


ANNEX 6

MAP OF THE CROSS-BORDER AREA ELIGIBLE FOR THE SPF 2001