STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information
   1.1 Cris Number: 2002/000-316-01
   1.2 Title: Cross Border Region Goes Digital
   1.3 Sector: Economic and Social Cohesion, Cross Border Cooperation
   1.4 Location: Slovenia - statistical regions: Pomurje, Podravje, Koroška,
                  Savinjska, Gorenjska
                  Austria: Styria, Carinthia

2. Objectives
   2.1 Overall Objective(s):
   To create a digitally literate cross-border region, assure E-business climate and accelerate E-business.

   2.2 Project purpose:
   To accelerate the innovative e-business applications and digitalised support mechanisms for SMEs in the cross-border region.

2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority
   The project is in line with the revised version of the Accession Partnership (2001), which takes into account also the findings of the Commission's 2001 Regular Report on progress made by Slovenia towards accession. The project is linked to the priority under Economic criteria:
   - Promote competitiveness through market-based enterprise restructuring; stimulate domestic and inward investment by improving the business environment.

   NPAA (revised 2001)
   The project supports the main economic policy priorities of 2001, especially "strengthening development factors" in a long-term perspective: (ii) restructure public expenditure with a view to increasing accumulation of capital, both physical and human, support research and development, innovation and information technologies. The project is in line with the main Government priorities in 2001, especially with priority no. 2 "promotes knowledge and education, factors that will boost human resources and economic competitiveness, by stimulating entrepreneurship, investing in new technologies and promoting information society".

2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan
   This project is in line with the National Development Plan (December 2001), with development Priority "Economic Infrastructure and Quality of Living" and Programme: Information society. The aim of this programme is "to raise the capacity of information infrastructure to the EU level and to reduce the lagging behind the EU Member states in regards to the information society".
and establishing pre-conditions for efficient functioning of companies and public administration in such information society”.

In the cross-border area following measure will be tested with this project: “NP e-Slovenia, economy and civil society” under the NDP programme area “Applications in information society”. The measure promotes innovations and development of Slovene e-content elements as well as to increase the significance of teleworking and electronic business.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

The project aims to implement one single measure of the Joint Programming Document Phare CBC / Interreg IIIA (2000-2006) under the PRIORITY 1: Economic cohesion, namely Measure 1: Business Development. This measure aims for the implementation of a business-related cross-border database (companies, experts), common presentation of companies, networks and platforms for the search of cross-border business partners and development of cross-border industries. This will help to integrate the whole economic area and will strengthen its competitiveness potential.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

Not only in EU-15 but also in Slovenia is generally a positive correlation between the size of an enterprise and its Internet use for business: the smaller the company the less it uses Information and Communication Technology (ICT). As a result the preponderance of SMEs in Europe’s and Slovene economy is not matched by their use of e-business tools. The average in EU-15 shows, that only 42% of SMEs have access to the Internet and only 20% of them use the Internet for commercial transactions (purchases, sales, electronic auctions, e-payments). Although in Slovenia the rate of the Internet use by the companies is faster growing then in the EU, the applications used are still very simple, so that all the possibilities, offered by the ICT are not at all exploited.

The market survey (RIS, 2000) showed, that almost all large and also medium companies are using internet, mostly for acquiring business information and for communication (within Slovenia, abroad, with customers, with employees) but less for the use of business communication. The Internet still generates less then 1 percent of the total income. Although the enterprises are using Internet for bank transactions, only one fifth of them are using this for commerce (approximately less then 5% orders is e-based).

The Internet penetration for Austria was approx. 39% of the population from the age of 14 onwards (2.5 million users) in 1999. Furthermore, 1.6 million citizens use Internet on a regular basis and approximately one third of Internet users have made purchases via Internet in the course of the year 2001. These figures make Austria an European leader in the business-to-consumer field (B2C). The B2C-turnover volume is estimated at some EUR 290 million in Austria, a share of app. 8% is related to the overall retail volume.

SMEs are normally slow in adapting to the e-business. The main reason is that their customers and suppliers have not yet adopted e-business as a tool. Many SMEs simply do not have the basic knowledge and technical skills to implement e-business strategies. They are often too busy employing scarce human and financial resources to make their initial business plans succeed and are reluctant to allocate resources to implementing a new e-business strategy.
without a clearer understanding of the benefits and risks. Even among the SMEs that recognise the potential offered by electronic commerce, many are held back by uncertainty about the legal, regulatory and tax environment.

On the basis of the eEurope, the JPD, the draft NDP and the Strategy for Economic Development of RS, the National Agency for Regional Development (NARD) launched in May 2001 a call for project ideas to be founded under the JPD’s priority "Business Co-operation". The NARD entrusted the preparation of project ideas at the regional level to five already established Regional Development Agencies within the eligible cross-border area. 42 project ideas were received. They showed that besides the investment needs for infrastructure, there is a big demand for increased ICT in the cross-border region. The survey also emphasised the R&D by linking different research and development institutions from both sides of the border.

This project was elaborated on the basis of before mentioned strategies and the survey of the potential project ideas. This is a guarantee for successful implementation of the proposed scheme. The possibility for mirror/joint projects was identified in the **bilateral Slovene/Austrian working group**. This working group also elaborated the proposed activities.

The proposed scheme should provide relevant experience for the future operation of the EU Initiatives not only for the NARD and other relevant ministries and their bodies but also especially to the partners in the region (Regional Development Agencies) but will also prepare the beneficiaries to be able to apply for the EU or national funds after the accession.

### 3.2 Linked activities:

Phare has supported several projects in the fields of the SMEs since 1992. Some of them are:
- Infocentre IBC (Regional Chamber of Economy 1995-97): support to the SMEs – information and co-operation; BSC Kranj II. phase – Fostering CBC co-operation (activities: regarding creating joint ventures, exchange of know how, and technology between Slovene and Austrian firms), 1997; Innovation, promotion and transfer of SME Technology (1998); Co-operation of vocational schools - has started in Koroška under with an aim of preparation of joint education programmes; Emerging EU; SI0009; Jesenice Business Zone, SI0009. All these contributed to the development of the SME sector. This also forms a potential for up-grading their operations with the e-commerce.

**Linked activities of other programmes and projects:**

**Slovenia**
- E-business Campaign (Slovenia, EIC, Nov. 2001); E-Content (MID, 2001); E-Slovenia (MID, 2001- in preparation)

**Austria (National):**
- Telefit (to encourage the use of ICT applications and e-commerce in SMEs), Austria, WIFI; Vienna Electronic Commerce Initiative (to improve the competitiveness of Vienna as a location for a business) (Austria, City of Vienna); EDI Business Austria (to encourage the use of EDI applications in SMEs), Austria, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs; Austria Pro (to promote the use of EDI applications in the private sector as well as in public-private communication); Austrian Federal Economic Chamber; E-Business Austria (under preparation, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, 2001/02).

**INTERREG IIIA (under the implementation)**
- Technological Axes Graz-Maribor (2001); Business co-operation in South-Western Styria
3.3 Results:

It is expected that the scheme will co-finance approximately 15 projects with the following results:

Developed and applied:
- software applications for exchange of data between cross-border economic development institutions;
- cross-border portals;
- software applications for secure systems;
- SMEs tailored e-commerce applications for simplified the business transactions;

Provided:
- On-line assistance to SMEs;
- Cross-border promotional e-commerce campaign;

Prepared and distributed:
- Marketing material;

Prepared and used:
- E-learning applications

Trained:
- SMEs to use e-commerce applications;

Elaborated and implemented:
- E-commerce strategies for SMEs.

3.4 Activities:

Eligibility and selection criteria
The following eligibility and selection criteria will be incorporated in the Guidelines for applicants.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBILITY OF AREA, APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Grant Scheme is applicable for the following statistical regions: Pomurje, Podravje, Koroška, Gorenjska, Savinjska</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Who can apply:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. regional and local authorities, institutions for economic development, technology parks, business parks, business incubators, chambers of commerce and crafts, universities, research institutions, networks and cluster organisations, local and regional development agencies based in the regions mentioned under the point 1;</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. SMEs eligible under the point 1.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The project partners can be profit or non-profit, governmental or non-governmental institutions and shall be located in EU-15 or Phare countries.

At least one partner should be based either in Austrian Styria or Carinthia, in the eligible area for INTERREG IIIA support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>Size of project:</em> Phare contribution of the project will be 50,000 – 300,000 EUR.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. **Duration of the project**: max 18 months with the ending date of at least three months before the expiry date of the programme as indicated in the Financing Memorandum.

5. The same project proposal must not receive more than one EC-funded grant for the same activities.

**Activities to be carried out by Contracting Authority:**
- Publication of the call for proposals
- Project selection process
- Contracting
- Implementation of the selected projects by the beneficiaries
  - Monitoring of the projects implemented by the beneficiaries

**Activities covered under the Grant Scheme:**

**I. Networking of Industries and knowledge institutions – software development**

1. **Creation of a cross-border networks of existing and new technological parks /business incubators/, Universities and other R&D Institutions including production networks on both sides of the border by using advanced ICT for fostering e-content;**
   (e.g. software development for data exchange; development of portals connectivity etc.;
   development of new e-business applications, especially new software applications for e-commerce including the secure systems; development of SMEs tailored e-commerce applications and tools for simplifying the business transactions; development of cross-border data bases for support of SME development – on line assistance);

2. **Acceleration of ICT as an innovative means of linking SMEs in cross-border regions (clustering of SMEs) with R&D Institutions all above in cross-border context and encouraging public-private partnerships.** (e.g. development of e-applications to be used in specific clusters – e.g. Automotive cluster)

**II.1 SME TRAINING for cross-border networking – use of the software**

1. **Encouragement of SMEs to “GoDigital” through co-ordinated cross-border networking activities for the exchange of knowledge on best practices, e-business readiness and benchmarking;**
   (e.g. promotional campaigns including development of the marketing materials, development of e-learning applications for SMEs)

2. **Training of SMEs to use ICT as a tool for cross-border marketing, ordering, paying, distribution of products and inter-firm co-operation (e-commerce);**
   (e.g. on job training and assistance to the SMEs to enable them the use of the e-commerce applications; elaboration and implementation of e-commerce strategies for SMEs)

**Note:** no construction activities (works) will be covered by Phare funds.

**ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS:** Direct and indirect costs.

**Selection Criteria**
- Project without direct CBC impact will not be eligible for funding. The cross-border impact shall be understood in terms of: - joint development of project ideas / joint preparation of project application / joint implementation of project activities / joint co-financing of project activities on both sides of the border and assured sustainability by both cross-border partners of the results achieved.
- Special emphasis will be given to the innovative approach of the e-content applications in the cross-border region.
3.5 Lessons Learned

As evaluated by EMS Slovenia in the Interim Evaluation of the EU Phare Programme for the CBC Sector, lessons learned from previous programmes are:

1. Despite the importance of CBC in preparing for regional policy in border regions, there are still major problems aligning Phare-CBC with Interreg, notably because of tendering procedures. Efforts have been made to reduce the effect of the differences.

2. For each project indicators of achievement of objectives in PF should be clearly defined, real, easy to quantify and should have visible relation to the programme indicators listed in the JPD.

3. Special Conditions and preconditions require more attentions when they can be fulfilled with the efforts of project management (e.g. provision of land and building permits, timely preparation of the project documents etc.).

4. Institutional Framework

- The National Agency for regional Development (NARD), body within the Ministry of the Economy in Slovenia who has overall responsibility for administrative, technical and financial management of the Fund.

- The NARD will ensure necessary human resources for the technical management of the Grant Scheme. The NARD may delegate specific tasks to the Secretariat of the Grant Scheme in accordance with PRAG rules. The secretariat has to be located in the border region and has to prove the capacity to manage the implementation of grants locally. The nominated Secretariat will not be eligible for a grant under this Scheme.

- The Central Finance and Contract Unit (CFCU) of the Ministry of finance – acting as an Implementing Agency.

- NARD will nominate members of the Evaluation Committee, who will act also as the Assessors. The maximum number of the Evaluation committee members will be: three voting members from the Slovene side and two voting members from the Austrian side. Both sides will nominate two observers. The Chairperson will be from the National Agency for Regional Development. The secretary will be provided by the Secretariat. The Voting Members from the Slovenian side will be nominated among representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Economy – SME Department, Ministry of Economy – Department for Technology and Innovation; Ministry of the Information Society; Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and from the Austrian Part: Ministry of Economy and Labour, The Representative of the Styrian Government and the Representative of the Carinthian Government, one representative of the Slovenian Minority in Austria. They will be nominated on the personal basis by providing the CVs (expertise, years of experience and excellent command of the application language) and of the availability (presence at the evaluation from the beginning to the end). The Ministry of Finance, CFCU, Government Office for European Affairs (GOEA) and the Delegation of the European Commission in the RS will participate in the Evaluation Committee as observers.

- The Evaluation Committee will become the Steering Committee of the Grant Scheme and will assist NARD at monitoring the implementation of the Grant Scheme with their expert knowledge. It will meet at least four times per year.

- After the signature of each grant contract, the projects will be presented at the Joint Steering Committee of the joint Phare CBC – INTERREG IIIA SLO/A administrative structures.

- The project applicants or Beneficiaries.
5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare Support</th>
<th>Investment Support</th>
<th>Institution Building</th>
<th>Total Phare (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Co-financing</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Scheme</td>
<td>1.86 MEUR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.86 MEUR</td>
<td>0.465 MEUR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.325 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating costs</td>
<td>0.14 MEUR</td>
<td>0.14 MEUR</td>
<td>0.035 MEUR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.175 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.86 MEUR</td>
<td>0.14 MEUR</td>
<td>2 MEUR</td>
<td>0.500 MEUR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.5 MEUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Up to 7% of the total of the PHARE support allocation will be used by NARD for technical assistance costs related to the management of the Grant Scheme i.e. Secretariat function. Operating costs will be covered by Phare (80% of the total operating costs) and by national funds provided by NARD (20% of the total operating costs).

Co-financing by applicants: Minimum of 20% co-financing from non-profit organisations or SME’s will be provided in cash.

See 11.2 for further explanation.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency

**The Implementing Agency**

Ministry of Finance, CFCU
Mr Peter Škofic, PAO
Beethovenova 11
1000 Ljubljana
tel.: ++386 1 478 6203
fax: ++386 1 478 6204

**Contracting Authority**

Ministry of Economy, NARD
Mr Bojan Dejak, Director
Address: Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
tel: ++386 1 4783669
fax: ++386 1 4313360.

6.2 Twinning

Not applicable.

6.3 Non-standard aspects

Not applicable.

6.4 Contracts

1 Grant scheme
1 Service Contract: Simplified Procedure

Simplified procedure will be used for the TA for Secretariat with the continuous Contract duration of at least 24 months. The awarded company will not be eligible for grant support.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals

Grant scheme: 2nd quarter of 2003.

7.2 Start of project activity

Service contract: 3rd quarter of 2003
Grant scheme: 3rd quarter of 2003.

7.3 Project Completion

Not later then 3 months before the expiry date of the programme as stated in FM.

8. Equal opportunities

The project will stimulate the process building the partnership between the national, regional and local partners in terms of responsibilities taken, decision making and priorities setting and will be in no way discriminatory in terms of gender, life-style, religion or politics.

9. Environment

It is expected, that projects will have no impacts on the environment. No works are allowed under the scheme.

10. Rates of returns

Not applicable.

11. Investment criteria

11.1 Catalytic effect

The Phare contribution will promote the development of the e-economy in the cross-border region and contribute to better working and living conditions by using the ICT as a tool for opening the peripheral regions to the utter world.

The following catalytic effects are foreseen:
• Improvement of economic competitiveness of the region;
• Inflow of know-how through project co-operations;
• Strengthening cross-border links between companies and institutions of their business environment;
• Creation of job opportunities;
• Improving social and cultural welfare.

The implementation of projects will stimulate and create a positive environment for further innovation, development and new job creation.

11.2 Co-financing

The 1,860,000 EUR will be used for grants under the Grant Scheme.

The 140,000 EUR PHARE funds will be used for the expenses of the Technical Secretariat. The costs include the expenses for:

- **assistance in the preparation of the Grant scheme** (guidelines and other documentation)
- **promotion and dissemination of the information on the project** (public presentations of the project at relevant SME supporting institutions in Slovenia and Austria, articles in public media, publication of the call of proposal in regional, local media, OJ RS, internet site, professional literature)
- **technical management:**
  - A/ Ensuring maximum support and assisting project proposers to clearly conceptualise project ideas into specific activities within the requirements of the application for grant through workshops, trainings:
    1. Organisation of Information and Clarification meetings with the potential Beneficiaries in 5 statistical regions bordering on Austria,
    2. Organisation of trainings on Project management,
    3. On-line assistance (Internet web page) and elaboration of data base for matching appropriate partners;
    4. Co-operation with the Interreg programme institutions in eligible regions in Austria
  - B/ Assisting in formal and technical evaluation of submitted proposals and preparation of documents for the final selection of projects to enable the Evaluation Committee to award grants:
    1. preparation of material for Evaluation Committee meetings in accordance with PRAG
    2. participation in the Evaluation Committee as the Secretary;
    3. arrangements and participation on the Evaluation committee meetings (travel costs, fees for Austrian and Slovenian experts, per diems);
    4. preparation of Evaluation reports, grant contract for selected beneficiaries
  - C/ Preparation of the Tender Dossiers for any sub-contracting under the each grant (as per PRAG);
  - D/ Assistance to the beneficiaries for the preparation of the inception, monthly, interim and final reports and by the preparation of invoices;
  - E/ Organisation of the network of applicants with on-line assistance, “hot-line” and daily open hours in the home office for the assistance to the beneficiaries.
  - F/ Arrangements for the SC meetings, preparation of material and participation on SC meetings (travel costs, fees, per diems)
Monitoring and evaluation: (tailored to the projects: site visits, backstopping, monthly evaluation of the results and indicators achieved under each grant and reports submitted to the NARD;

Administrative support and expenses (i.e. office rent, office equipment and material)

PR activities (organising public presentation of the successfully completed projects with translation into English/Austrian, including the participation on all public events, which will arise from the each grant contract, to prepare publication about the projects, its success, failures and lessons learned),

Financial control of single projects (i.e. checking of invoices if comply with contracts)

The 35,000 EUR will be provided by the NARD for co financing the above activities and cover VAT expenses.

The non-profit project applicants will contribute at least 25% of the single grant and VAT if applicable (according to the “Law on VAT”, OJ of the RS 89/98 and 30/01). The VAT cannot be paid or reimbursed from Phare funds.

The SMEs will have to contribute at least 25% of the single grant and VAT if applicable. Phare grant rate will be up to 75% of the total project value.

Note: The Grant Scheme foresees only soft actions and not investments, therefore the following applies: “For actions involving TA (market research, business planning, quality standards, etc) not related to a specific investment project a higher grant rate than 25% could be applied.” (Programming Guide 2002, p.11 (6) Financial resources and ratios).

11.3 Additionality

The Phare funds will accelerate development of mirror projects in the cross-border region.

11.4 Project readiness and size

The minimum size of the Phare contribution for the project funded under this Grant scheme is EUR 50,000 and the maximum amount is EUR 300,000.

Any sub-contracting will be implemented as per PRAG. However, no construction (works) will be funded.

11.5 Sustainability

Long-term sustainability will be one of the selection criteria for projects. Only organisations being able to prove the sustainability of results achieved (financially, institutionally) will be supported.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

Each state grant allocated by Slovenia, as stipulated in Article 65(4) of the European Treaty, is to be taken into account in the first four years of the treaty validity that Slovenia is to be considered as an area which is equal to Community areas, described in item 92(3)a of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU). All actions financed by Phare will be carried out in line
with the Practical guide for Ispa, Sapard and Phare and will respect the state aid and competition provisions of the Europe Agreement.

11.7 Contribution to National Development Plan
See point 2.4 of the current PF.

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The pre-condition for the project’s start is that necessary documentation (Guidelines, Application Forms, Contract forms, etc.) be available within two months after the signature of the FM. Main milestones in the implementation of the project are:

- Preparation and approval of the tender dossier for the Secretariat (TA)
- Selection of the Secretariat
- Nomination and approval of the Evaluation Committee
- Preparation and approval of the tender documents for Grant Scheme
- Call for Proposals
- Selection of projects
- Contracting
- Implementation of projects by beneficiaries
- Subcontracting according PRAG if foreseen in the contracts
- Monitoring of the implementation by the NARD
- Reporting to the Phare review meetings
- Reporting to the SMSC for Economic and social cohesion

The Secretariat has to be nominated prior to the lunch of the Call for Proposals.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in a 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
ANNEXES

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR</th>
<th>Phare Cross-border Cooperation Slovenia – Austria, 2002/000-316-01</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall objective</td>
<td>Total budget: 2.5 MEUR Phare budget: 2 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Create a digitally literate Cross-border region, assure E-business climate and accelerate E-business</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project purpose</td>
<td>Objectively verifiable indicators Sources of Verification Assumptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Accelerate the innovative e-business applications and digitalised support mechanisms for SMEs in the cross-border region</td>
<td>• No. Of Installed Computer power per capita in the cross-border region • Internet Penetration (frequency of use) in the cross-border region • Increased Internet use(frequency of use) • Statistical Office • Ministry of Information Society • The sustainability of the project should be encouraged by the Public-Private partnerships (e.g. between the telecommunication providers and the beneficiaries);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Objectively verifiable indicators Sources of Verification Assumptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 projects under the Grant Scheme will have the following results: - software applications for exchange of data between cross-border economic development institutions developed and applied - cross-border portals developed and applied - software applications for secure systems developed and applied - SMEs tailored e-commerce applications for simplified the business transactions developed and applied - On-line assistance to SMEs provided - Cross-border promotional e-commerce campaign provided</td>
<td>• 1 software applications developed and applied (frequency of use); • 20 SMEs trained to use the internet / intranet (frequency of use); • 50 Employees having received training for e-commerce • 1 network between SMEs and R&amp;Ds established (frequency of use); • No. of orders and payments • Reports on monitoring and implementation of Grant Scheme and selected project to be prepared by NARD on monthly basis; • Reduction of internet tariffs by the Internet Service Providers; • Co-operation between Institutions, providing the business advisory services (Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Crafts, Employment Office, Business Incubators, Technology Parks, Universities,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Marketing material prepared and distributed
- E-learning applications used
- SMEs trained to use e-commerce applications
- E-commerce strategies for SMEs elaborated and implemented

made by companies in the cross-border region;
• 2 marketing campaigns using the advanced ICT;
• 10 e-commerce strategies for SMEs elaborated and implemented

- 2 MEUR Phare funds
- 0.5 MEUR national co-financing

1 Grant Scheme (1.86 MEUR)
- Phare support from 50,000 to 300,000 EUR
  (in a case of SME direct grant, it should not exceed the 75% of public funds incl. Phare)

1 Service contract:
Simplified procedure in the amount of 0.14 MEUR

• The means and the methodology to assure the sustainability of the project results to be described and provided by the project applicants (grant applicants).

### Preconditions
- Staff in place
Annex 2: Detailed implementation chart

Phare Funds 1.86 MEUR Grant Scheme

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidelines for Applicants and other document drafted and approved by ECD</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nomination of Evaluation committee</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call for proposals</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project selection process (Opening and Evaluation Sessions)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of the Opening and Evaluation Reports and approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts signed</td>
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<tr>
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Phare Funds 0.14 M EUR TA / Secretariat

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Annex 3: Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (Phare funds only) - cumulative

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Annex 4: List of relevant Laws and Regulations (optional)

- Law on Copyright (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 21/95)
- Law on VAT (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 89/98 and 30/01)
- Law on business (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 30/93)
- Law on industrial ownership (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 13/92)
- Law on supporting companies in the development of new technologies and the establishment and functioning of development units in the period 2000-2003 (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 99/99)
- Law on preventing the limitation of the competition (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 56/99)
- Law on research activities (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 8/91)
- Law on small business development (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 18/91)
- Law on e-business (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 57/00)
- Regulation on requirements for e-business (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 77/00, 02/01)
- Law on the protection of the competition (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 18/93)
- Law on foreign trade procedures (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 13/93)
- Balanced Regional Development Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 60/99)
Annex 5: Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies

- **Strategy for Economic Development of Slovenia** (UMAR, July 2001):
  - strengthen the competitiveness of the state and the economy,
  - strengthen the development of the human factor and social cohesion,
  - contribute to the balanced regional development.

- **Small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurship development strategy in Slovenia for the 2001-2005 period- (draft April 2001)**
  - Encourage the competitiveness and innovation skills of SMEs to be able to compete on the international markets and encourage new domestic and foreign direct investments
  - Increase the investments in technology development and innovations
  - Create dynamic and entrepreneurial spirit in the society, which will encourage the establishment and growth of enterprises

The proposed Grant Scheme is in line with the European Strategies and Action Plans:
- E-Europe+: 2003, Action Plan prepared by the Candidate Countries with the assistance of the EC (June 2001)
- Action Plan to Promote Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness (EC, DG Enterprise, 2001)
- Enterprise Policy 2000-2005 (EC, DG Enterprise, 2001)
- Enterprise DG Work Programme 2001: Steps towards Enterprise Europe (DG Enterprise)
- Helping SMEs to face the challenge: EIC e-business campaign (2001)
- Thematic Evaluation of Structural Fund Impacts on SMEs, European Commission, Synthesis Report, July 1999

The proposed Grant Scheme is in line with the:
- ICT Export Potential, MID, Slovenia2001,
- Use of Internet in Slovenia (Digital divide, MID 2001 www.sigov.si/mid)
- E-business campaign: Helping SMEs to face the challenge (EIC, Slovenia, 2001)
- Tele-working and ICT by work (MID, RIS, 2001)
- Strategy of increasing the competitiveness of Slovene industry, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ljubljana, 1996
- Strategy of Economic Development of Republic of Slovenia (2001)
- National Development Plan (draft, December 2001)
- Slovene Entrepreneurship Observatory, Maribor 2000, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management.