COMMISSION DECISION
C/2006/3366 of 31/07/2006

on the financial contribution of Transition Facility for strengthening institutional
capacity in the Republic of Slovenia
(Only the Slovenian text is authentic)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession 2003, in particular Article 34 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 34 of the Act of Accession provides the possibility of granting a temporary
financial assistance, the Transition Facility, to the new Member States to address the
continued need for strengthening institutional capacity in certain areas through actions
which cannot be financed by the Structural Funds.

(2) The actions funded by this Decision in the areas of Justice and home affairs, statistics,
internal market, and environment are eligible for funding according to Article 34(2) of
the Act of Accession. In addition, several needs have been identified in the
Commission’s comprehensive monitoring report, which are not covered by the
Structural Funds. The actions funded by this Decision in relation to those needs, in the
area of administrative capacity, are therefore also eligible for funding under Article
34(2) of the Act of Accession.

(3) Pursuant to Article 34(4) of the Act of Accession, the Transition Facility is
implemented in accordance with Article 53(1)(b) of Council Regulation 1605/2002 on
the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European
Communities.

(4) An Implementing Agency should be designated complying with the criteria set out in
Article 164 of the Financial Regulation and having adequate staff resources. The
Commission has satisfied itself in the context of preparation for conferral of
management of aid provided under pre-accession aid, as well as through a number of
other checks, that those criteria are fulfilled by the Central Finance and Contracts Unit.

(5) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the
Committee on Aid for Economic Restructuring in certain countries in Central and
Eastern Europe, rendered on 3 July 2006,
HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Commission approves a financial contribution of € 3.675.000 as Transition Facility to the Republic of Slovenia, to finance projects set out in point 4 of the Annex.

Article 2

1. This Decision shall be implemented on a decentralised basis, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Transition Facility, signed with the Republic of Slovenia on 22 September 2004.

2. The Central Finance and Contracts Unit shall be Implementing Agency for the Programme.

Article 3

Contracts covered by the financial contribution shall be signed no later than 15 December 2008.

3. The deadline for execution of contracts shall be 15 December 2009.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Slovenia.

Done at Brussels, […]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission
ANNEX
FINANCING PROPOSAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
TRANSITION FACILITY IN SLOVENIA FOR 2006

1. IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary: Republic of SLOVENIA
Programme: Transition Facility National Programme 2006
CRIS-Number: 2006/018-158
Year: 2006
Cost: € 3,675,000
Implementing Authority: Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU), Ministry of Finance
Expiry Date: Contracting: 15 December 2008
Execution of contracts: 15 December 2009

Objective 1 Justice and Home Affairs 15030
Objective 2 Statistics 16362
Objective 3 Internal Market 16310
Objective 4 Environment 41010
Objective 5 Administrative capacity 15140

Budget Line: 220301

Commission Task Manager: A. Castello, Financial Assistance Post Accession Unit DG Enlargement

2. SUMMARY

Art 34 of the Act of Accession established the Transition Facility for the period 2004-2006 in order to fund certain Institution Building actions in the new Member States.

The present Financing Proposal represents the 2006 Transition Facility National Programme for Slovenia.

The Transition Facility is mainly providing support to Institution Building through technical assistance, twinning, twinning light and investment to implement the acquis.
The 2006 Transition Facility National Programme for Slovenia will focus on the main following objectives: Justice and Home Affairs, Statistics, Internal Market, Environment and Administrative Capacity.

3. STRATEGY

Programming priorities

The Transition Facility provides further support to consolidate the functioning of administrative structures identified in a number of areas where further action is still needed in relation to the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the acquis.

The 2003 Comprehensive Monitoring Report for Slovenia and the continuous monitoring process by the Commission on the Slovenian preparation for accession constitute the main sources of information to identify the institutional weaknesses that still need to be addressed. On the basis of the priorities outlined in the above-mentioned documents, and in line with the Transition Facility Planning Document 2004-2006, the Slovenian authorities submitted a number of project proposals for funding. These proposals were transmitted for consultation and discussed in detail with the relevant Commission Services. The final selection of projects for this Financing Proposal was based on the overall quality of the individual proposals.

Project selection and lessons learned

The evaluation and result of past projects were taken into account when designing the Transition Facility programming. Lessons learned are usually drawn on a case by case basis, building on relevant experience acquired during the implementation of previous projects in a specific area. Relevant information on lessons learnt and on the supporting background documentation is provided in each project fiche.

Careful attention has been paid to co-ordinating with previous and ongoing assistance to build on the results achieved and to promote synergy effects with other Community financial instruments. The programme includes projects which should not overlap with any action that is financed by other financial assistance programmes such as the Schengen Facility or the Structural and Cohesion Funds, or with any actions previously financed by Phare or other donors. Actions, studies and all other types of activities eligible for support under Structural Funds technical assistance measure shall be excluded from the scope of this programme. The implementing beneficiary body retains the responsibility for the coordination of activities funded under this programme with regard to those financed through existing or planned EC or international funding, in particular Structural and Cohesion funds, Schengen Facility, etc., in order to ensure consistency, compatibility and removing the risk of double funding.

The 2006 Transition Facility National Programme for Slovenia will focus on the main following objectives: Justice and Home Affairs, Statistics, Internal Market, Environment and Administrative Capacity.

4. OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The 2006 Transition Facility National Programme for Slovenia will focus on the following areas:

Objective 1 Justice and Home Affairs

In this sector, support will be provided to enhance the quality of drug demand reduction in Slovenia.

Project 2006/018-158.01.01 – SI06/IB/JH/01/TL Evaluation of the Methadone Programme in Slovenia
In line with the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008, the Ministry of Health has decided to evaluate the drug demand reduction services in Slovenia in order to improve their quality and make them more cost effective. The project is meant to develop the capacity and the necessary tool for such an evaluation.

The project will contribute to setting up an evaluation tool using the existing ones already developed in the EU countries as basis for an assessment of the quality of the service delivered of the methadone programmes. Following this evaluation, the twinning light will then formulate a pilot study and recommendations in order to develop the services according to the identified needs.

The project will also contribute to training the staff of the University of Ljubljana (including the research experts of the Faculty of Social Work) and the experts of the Ministry of Health (Office for Drugs).

**Objective 2 – Statistics**

Regarding Statistics, the Transition Facility will provide assistance for the setting up of the demographics Statistics production.

**Project 2006/018-158.02.01 – Setting up the Demographics Statistics production and content management system**

The project will enable the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) to further develop the modernisation of statistics by improving the efficiency and transparency of the statistical production and data dissemination in the field of social and demographic statistics through the establishment of the Demographic Statistics Production System (DSPS) and the Content Management System (CMS).

The Demographic Statistics Production System will enable to link data of various administrative records with those of the statistical registers, including historical data on personal events. In this way the DSPS will improve the demographic data quality and timeliness of the production of the demographic statistics. The Content Management System will enable timely and adequate provision of statistics on the Internet, make automation of data dissemination process possible and serve as an archive system for statistical data.

The project will provide the technical assistance to develop both systems the Demographic Statistics production System and the Content Management System. The investment part of the project will include the purchase of hardware and software products. In addition, training will be provided to the SORS staff for using DSPS and CMS and IT administrators for maintaining and upgrading both systems.

**Objective 3 – Internal Market**

In this sector the 2006 Transition Facility will provide support to improve consumer confidence in healthy food and consequently in the protection of consumer's health and the strengthening of the administrative capacity of Slovenia in the area of Chemical Safety

**Project 2006/018-158.03.01- SI06/IB/EC/01/TL - Traceability of foodstuffs in trade sector**

Following the implementation of previous projects in this area, last year the Slovenian Ministry of Health considered that the general guidelines on the hygiene of foodstuffs are extremely extensive and therefore it decided that guides for individual special areas, such as guides for traceability of foodstuffs, should be prepared separately as an upgrade of the previous activities carried out in this sector.

This project aims at preparing a model system and a short guide for the traceability for foodstuffs in
the trade sector. The model of the traceability of foodstuffs will allow further implementation of legal requirements in the area of health and safety of foodstuffs and its traceability in Slovenia. Thus, assurance will be guaranteed of fast and effective withdrawal of food from the market when a product represents a health hazard for the consumer.

The project will be implemented through a twinning scheme. In addition to the model system and the guide for the traceability of foodstuffs, the mandatory results will provide training to the market operator staff and consultation workshops will be organised for operative trade personnel (people who are engaged in purchasing, transport and sale of merchandise).

Project 2006/018-158.03.02 – SI06/IB/EC/02 - Advanced chemical Safety – Stage III

This project is designed to further improve the practical harmonization with the EU in the area of Chemical Safety at the horizontal inter-sectoral level and thus facilitate free movement of goods in the field of chemicals throughout the EU internal market. The *acquis* concerned relates to chemical accidents, industrial accidents, monitoring of chemical pollution, toxicology/eco-toxicology.

The first two stages of this project were financed through Phare respectively in 1999 and 2001. The CS III will cover Slovenian national priorities: 1) integrated inter-sectoral chemical safety legislation; 2) integrated chemical inspections; 3) (major) chemical accidents; 4) waste chemicals; 5) health and safety at work regarding chemicals and 6) integrated monitoring of pollution with chemicals.

With the advice of the twinning partner, practical implementation in a wider chemical safety context will be facilitated in line with EU practice. This will be achieved through more efficient enforcement; improved horizontal cooperation of sectors as well as through further administrative capacity and institution building. Advanced courses will be followed up in toxicology and eco-toxicology; training in clinical toxicology; training of rescue teams; and training workshops regarding relevant prevention and preparedness of a possible major chemical accident will also be delivered by the twinning partner.

**Objective 4 – Environment**

In the area of Environment, the 2006 Transition Facility assistance will provide support to improve the implementation of the *Water Framework Directive*, especially in the field of financial instrument.

Project 2006/018-158.04.01- SI06/IB/EN/01 - Development of financial instruments for water management based on Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

The Water Framework Directive implementation requires that the Member States (MS) take measures until 2009 which include programmes on the use of economic analysis to define the most cost-effective measures and that MS introduce water pricing based on cost recovery principles until 2010. In these fields Slovenia still lacks experience.

The proposed project will help Slovenia to fulfil the obligations of the Water Framework Directive by strengthening the administrative and the technical capacity especially with the competent authorities of WFD implementation.

The project will be implemented through a twinning scheme with the purpose to develop methodologies and practical knowledge for economic instruments in the water management sector according to the Water Framework Directive. The mandatory results include the provision of training to the Slovenian governmental officials and their experts.

Project 2006/018-158.05.01- Unallocated Institution Building Envelope
The project consists of an envelope for yet unspecified Institution Building projects to provide assistance through twinning, twinning light and other form of technical assistance to specific urgent and unforeseen needs. The facility will help to assist the adoption and implementation of the *acquis* in particular areas where assistance is still necessary and to strengthen the institutional and operational capacity of public administration bodies once the envelope is allocated. Overlaps will be avoided with actions under technical assistance in the Single Programming Document of the Structural funds. The use of funds is subject to prior approval of the European Commission.

### 5. BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Transition Facility Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institution Building (IB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1: Justice and Home Affairs</strong></td>
<td>250.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.01.01</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Methadone Programme in Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 2: Statistics</strong></td>
<td>640.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.02.01</td>
<td>Setting up the Demographics Statistics production and content management system</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3: Internal Market</strong></td>
<td>1.100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.03.01</td>
<td>Traceability of foodstuffs in trade sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.03.02</td>
<td>Advanced chemical Safety – Stage III</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4: Environment</strong></td>
<td>800.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.04.1</td>
<td>Development of financial instruments for water management based on Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 5: Administrative capacity</strong></td>
<td>700.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2006/018-158.05.1</td>
<td>Unallocated IB envelope</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3.490.000</td>
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</table>
Co-financing for Institution Building projects is provided by the beneficiary who bears certain infrastructure and operational implementation costs, through financing the human and other resources, required for effective and efficient absorption of the Transition Facility assistance.

Investments in small equipment must receive co-financing from national public funds. The Community contribution may amount to up to 75% of the total eligible\(^1\) public expenditure.

6. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

In the event that agreed commitments are not met for reasons which are within the control of the Government of Slovenia, the Commission may review the programme with a view, at the Commission's discretion, to cancelling all or part of it and/or to reallocate unused funds for other purposes consistent with the objectives of the Transition Facility.

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