

Interim Evaluation No. R/SK/CIV/03045



The independent interim evaluation and monitoring services of PHARE

**Interim Evaluation of the
European Union
Pre-Accession Instrument
Phare**

Country: Slovak Republic

Sector: Civil Society

**Programmes covered:
SK-0002 Improvement of the
Situation of Roma in the SR
SR-0103.01 Support of the Roma
Minority in the Educational
Field
SR-0103.02 Infrastructure
Support for Roma Settlements
SK-0013 ACCESS 2000
2002/000-610.03 Further
Integration of the Roma
Children in the Educational
Field and Improved Living
Conditions**

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Date: 26 March 2003

Controlled copy.....of.....

Signed:.....



This report has been prepared as a result of an independent evaluation by the EMS consortium being contracted under the Phare programme.

The views expressed are those of the EMS consortium and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission.

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ABSTRACT

This Abstract of the Interim Evaluation Report R/SK/CIV/03045 can be found on the CIRCA system.

Scope of the Evaluation

This carry-over Interim Evaluation covers Phare assistance to the newly established 'Civil Society' Monitoring Sector and is mainly focusing on the evaluation of SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03. The other major parts of the Sector (SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02) were recently evaluated under another Interim Evaluation, since they were at that time still part of the Sector 'Justice and Home Affairs, Minorities and Public Administration' (for detailed reference see Report R/SK/JHA/03.044). Phare support is being delivered via twinning, classical technical assistance, investments and grant schemes.

Key achievements, findings and recommendations

The individual Components are *relevant* for the Sector purpose, however have often suffered from individual design shortcomings. Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations under SK-0013 represents only a negligible part of the entire Sector allocation and is likely to be the last Phare intervention, specifically dedicated to the Third Sector development in Slovakia. Whilst 2002/000-610.03 is relevant in general it does not bring innovative elements and is lacking synergy effect between its individual parts. Proper *efficiency* of SK-0013 has suffered from delays in timely transfer of financial resources to the final beneficiaries, but nevertheless full commitment of SK-0013 has been achieved. Co-ordination within the Sector seems to be sufficient. Commitment and disbursement figures of the entire Sector are rather poor, resulting mainly from still outstanding contracting of major 2001 Components. Further staffing and management of the Central Finance and Contracting Unit, following its transfer to the Ministry of Finance in January 2003, needs rapidly to be completed. Due to the delays at the start only limited *effectiveness* has materialised at this stage of SK-0013. The Immediate Objectives for SK-0013 and for the educational sub-programme of 2002/000-610.03 are expected to be achieved. For the 2002 infrastructure part however, based on the present experience with other related on-going programmes under responsibility of the implementing Regional Development Support Agency, some scepticism remains on achieving proper and timely effectiveness. SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03 are likely to produce some immediate *impact*. Achievement of a broader impact will be rather limited both on the development of the Third Sector (SK-0013) and also on the re-integration of Roma children to standard schools or on improved living condition of marginalised groups (2002/000.610-03). Projections of *sustainability* are mostly sufficient. However, due to the expected phasing out of most of the foreign donors, the future of many local Non-governmental Organisations, including the Civil Society Development Foundation, is questionable. Also, sustainability of the 2002 Phare funded technical assistance for Roma infrastructure will require continuous domestic or foreign interventions.

Recommendations include:

- Civil Society Development Foundation should prepare a mid-term business plan for future funding or revenue creation activities of the Foundation.
- The Foundation should discuss with relevant government bodies involved, possibilities for arranging state budget co-financing, needed for further activities supporting the Third Sector.

Sector Sheet

Civil Society		
Number	Programme/ project title	Implementing authority
SR-9904	Minority Development Programme	Civil Society Development Foundation
SR-9905.01	Civil Society Development Programme	Civil Society Development Foundation
SK-0002	Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR	Office of the Government/ National Labour Office, Ministry of Education
SR-0103.01	Support to the Roma Minority in the Educational Field	Office of the Government/ Ministry of Education
SR-0103.02	Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements	Office of the Government /Ministry of Construction and Regional Development,
SK-0013	ACCESS 2000 Programme	Civil Society Development Foundation
2002/000-610.03	Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions	Office of the Government/ Ministry of Education/Ministry of Construction and Regional Development

Minority Development Programme (SR-9904) aims at strengthening of democratic civil society through development of all minorities and fostering of respect of minorities rights, creation of conditions for overall development of minorities, support of cultural and educational efforts of minorities, strengthening of inter-ethnic relations and increasing integration of Roma minority.

Civil Society Development Programme (SR-9905.01) focuses at strengthening of civil society and acceptance of NGO sector as a relevant partner to the government on all levels via active participation of NGOs in the development of society.

Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR (SK-0002) aims at improvement of living conditions for Roma in the Slovak Republic through enhancement of conditions for Roma to integrate into society while maintaining their ethnic identity, increasing mutual tolerance between Roma and non-Roma municipal communities, facilitating the entry of young Roma people in the labour market and increasing the level of education at all types of schools.

Support to the Roma Minority in the Educational Field (SR-0103.01) focuses on improvement of the educational standards of the Roma minority in the Slovak Republic and promotion of the tolerance and integration to the society via enhancement of the pre-school education in kindergartens, strengthening of the whole day care system and enhancement of concepts of preparatory classes, reintegration of socially disadvantaged children from special schools into the standard primary schools, promotion of tolerance and integration to the society.

Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements (SR-0103.02) concentrates on improvement the living standards of Roma citizens in the Slovak Republic and implementation of the Strategy of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Solving the Problems of the Roma National Minority and the Set of Measures for its Implementation- Stages I and II through coordination of the project implementation, preparation of the technical documentation and realization of the construction works.

ACCESS Programme (SK-0013) focuses at implementation of the acquis in areas of NGO/NPO activities and encouragement of the participation of individuals at risk of being socially, economically or politically marginalized through strengthening of by developing the institutional capacity of NGOs/NPOs, stimulating initiatives from NGO/NPO in favour of acquis objectives, supporting activities by NGO/NPO in sectors where governments are not active strengthening the operational capacity of organisations, through transfer of know-how, training, seminars, etc. and promotion of networking of NGOs/NPOs

Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions (2002/000-610.03) aims at improvement of the educational standard of the Roma population and creating conditions for improvement of living conditions of socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants via successful implementation of the integrated system of educating Roma and municipalities' s ability to improve more effectively the living conditions of the socially disadvantaged groups of inhabitants.

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PREFACE

This carry-over Interim Evaluation covers Phare assistance to the 'Civil Society' Sector under Programme Components SK-0002 'Improvement of the Situation of Roma in the SR', SR-0103.01 'Support of the Roma Minority in the Educational Field', SR-0103.02 'Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements', SK-0013 'ACCESS 2000' and 2002/000-610.03 'Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions'.

The Interim Evaluation has been prepared by EMS Consortium¹ during the period from January 2003 to February 2003 and reflects the situation at 13 February 2003, the cut-off date for the Interim Evaluation. The factual basis is provided by the Monitoring Reports M/SR/JHA/02002 prepared by the Aid Co-ordination Unit at the Slovak Office of Government, covering the period from May 2002 to August 2002 and issued on 31 October 2002 and M/SK/SOC/02002, covering the period from 1 May 2002 to 18 November 2002 and issued on 18 November 2002. Other findings are based on analysis of the Financing Memoranda, formal Programme documentation, and interviews with the main parties and published material. There has been no Monitoring Report produced yet, covering the 2002/000-610.03 Programme.

The Interim Evaluation examines the progress of the programmes towards the objectives stated in the formal programming documents, i.e. Financing Memoranda, Project Fiches, etc. The report is intended to provide management information for the benefit of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and other involved parties. It draws conclusions and puts forward Recommendations. It provides a general assessment of programmes or components under consideration and included in the corresponding Sectoral Monitoring Report.

Comments requested on the Draft version were received from the following parties:

Parties invited	Comments received
Civil Society Development Foundation	yes
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development/ Regional Development Support Agency	no
Ministry of Education	yes
Office of Government/ Section of Human Rights and Minorities	yes
Office of Government/ Aid Co-ordination Unit	yes
Central Finance and Contracting Unit	no
Ministry of Finance/ National Fund	no
Commission Services at the Delegation	no
Commission Services at Headquarters/ Country Team Slovakia	no
Commission Services at Headquarters/ Interim Evaluation Unit	yes

Where possible, the Evaluators have integrated the comments received into the report.

¹ The authors of this report are Viera Gazikova, and Dietmar Aigner. The report was reviewed by EMS Bratislava Team Leader Dietmar Aigner and at EMS Central Office Corinne Lévêque.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
ACU	Aid Co-ordination Unit
AP	Accession Partnership
CC	Candidate Country
CFCU	Central Finance and Contracting Unit
CSDF	Civil Society Development Foundation
DFID	Department for International Development
ECD	European Commission Delegation
EMS	The Independent Interim Evaluation and Monitoring Services of Phare
EU	European Union
FM	Financing Memorandum
FWC	Framework Contract
OoG/ GoS	Government Office of the SR
IA	Indicator of Achievement
IE	Interim Evaluation
IO	Immediate Objective
IS	Information System
IT	Information Technology
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JHAMPA	Justice and Home Affairs, Minorities and Public Administration
LIEN	Link Inter-European NGOs Programme
MoCRD	Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MR	Monitoring Report
NF	National Fund
NGO/NPO	Non-Governmental /Non Profit Organisation
NLO	National Labour Office
NPAA	National Programme for Adoption of the <i>Acquis Communautaire</i>
NPO	Non-for- profit organisation
PAO	Programme Authorising Officer
PC	Personal Computer
PP	Plenipotentiary
PRAG	Practical Guide for Phare, ISPA and SAPARD
RDSA	Regional Development Support Agency
SAC	Sector Aid Co-ordinator
SC	Steering Committee
SAIA	Slovak Academic Information Agency
SAO	Senior Authorising Officer
SHRM	Section of Human Rights and Minorities
SKK	Slovak Crowns
SMSC	Sectoral Monitoring Sub-Committee
SR/SK	Slovak Republic
SW	Software
TA	Technical Assistance
TC	Twinning Covenant
ToR	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WO	Wider Objective

FINANCIAL DATA

Financial and Contractual Data of the Sector 'Civil Society' - Sector Overview

Programme Number	Programme Title	Expiry Date for contracting	Expiry Date for disbursement	Allocation (in M€)		Phare Funds		Co-financing	
				Phare	Co-financing	Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement
SR-9904	Minority Development Programme	31/12/2001	31/03/2003 (extended)	2.000	0	1.992	1.830	0	0
SR-9905.01	Civil Society Development Programme	31/12/2001	31/05/2003 (extended)	2.500	0	2.469	2.270	0	0
SK-0002	Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR	31/12/2002	21/12/2003	3.800	0.309	3.694	0.205	0.231	0
SR-0103.01	Support to the Roma Minority in the Educational Field	30/11/2003	30/11/2004	1.700	0.675	0.189	0.145	0.202	0
SR-0103.02	Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements	30/11/2003	30/11/2004	8.300	8.400	0.185	0.148	0	0
SK-0013	ACCESS 2000	31/12/2002	30/11/2003	0.900	0	0.900	0.680	0	0
2002/000-610.03	Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions	30/11/2004	30/11/2005	1.000	0.050	0	0	0	0
Total				20.200	9.434	9.429	5.278	0.432	0

Source: Monitoring Report No. M/SR/JHA/02002, dated 31/10/2002, Perseus dated 13 /02/2003, National Fund information dated 20/01/03

Financial Performance of the Sector 'Civil Society'

		Allocation		1 st Monitoring Report 09 May 2002				Current Sectoral Monitoring Report 03 September 2002				Expected performance at next cut off date				Expiry Date ²
		Phare	Co- finance	Phare		Co-finance		Phare		Co-finance		Phare		Co-finance		
				%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%					
Component/ Project Number ³	Start Date ⁴	M€	M€	com	dis	com	dis	com	dis	com	dis	com	Dis	com	dis	
SR-9904	08/09/00	2.000	0	98	18	0	0	100	82	0	0	100	100	0	0	31/03/03
SR-9905.01	28/06/00	2.500	0	99	59	0	0	99	78	0	0	99	99	0	0	31/05/03
SK-0002	28/12/01	3.800	0.309	15	3	0	0	15	4	75	0	97	90	80	80	31/12/03
SR-0103.01	19/12/02	1.700	0.675	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	95	95	95	95	30/11/04
SR-0103.02	29/07/02	8.300	8.400	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	90	85	90	85	31/11/04
SK-0013	09/08/02	0.900	0	2	1	0	0	57	4	0	0	100	100	0	0	31/12/02
2002/000- 610.03	n.a.	1.000	0.050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	90	100	100	30/11/03
Total		20.200	9.434	25 ⁵	10 ⁶	0 ⁷	0 ⁸	28	19	5	0	95	91	90	86	

Source: Perseus dated 13/02/03, NF information dated 20/01/03, M/SR/CIV/0112 dated 10/01/02, M/SR/JHA/02002 dated 31/10/02, and M/SK/SOC/02002 dated 18/11/02, M/SR/JHA/01010 dated 09/05/02

² Last day for disbursement

³ Identical with numbers in sector description tables

⁴ Date of first commitment

⁵ = total of committed PHARE funds for this sector divided by total allocated PHARE funds in %

⁶ = total of disbursed PHARE funds for this sector divided by total allocated PHARE funds in %

⁷ = total of committed funds from co-financing sources for this sector divided by total allocated funds from co-financing sources in %

⁸ = total of disbursed funds from co-financing sources for this sector divided by total allocated funds from co-financing sources in %

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Slovak Republic – Civil Society

Monitoring Reports: M/SR/JHA/02002 issued on 31 October 2002 and M/SK/SOC/02002 issued on 18 November 2002

Interim Evaluation Report: R/SK/CIV/03.045

This carry-over Interim Evaluation covers Phare assistance to the ‘Civil Society’ Monitoring Sector under Programme Components SK-0002, SR-0103.01, SR-0103.02, SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03.

Scope and Objectives

This interim evaluation covers a range of ‘Civil Society’ related Programmes under Financing Memoranda 2000, 2001 and 2002, such as programmes for minorities and civil society strengthening. Bulk of the assistance is focused on the Roma minority and to a lesser extent on the development of Non-Governmental /Non Profit Organisations. Roma related assistance was until recently part of the Monitoring Sector ‘Justice and Home Affairs, Minorities and Public Administration’. As the evaluation of the related SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02 Programmes was already subject of a very recently undertaken interim evaluation (R/SK/JHA/03.044), these Components are considered in the sectoral approach but not formally re-evaluated yet. Thus, the present Report is mainly focusing on SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03.

The individual Components within ‘Civil Society’ relate to adoption and application of the *acquis* in several areas, particularly focusing on ‘protection of minorities’ rights, namely combating discrimination of Roma and improving their living conditions; on civil society strengthening; and on the development of Non-Governmental/Non Profit Organisations.

Evaluation Results

Relevance

- The current composition of the individual Components under the Civil Society Sector is fully compatible with priorities as defined in Accession Partnership and local government strategies.
- SK-0013 represents only five percent of the overall Sector budget. The assistance to Non-governmental Organisations focuses on selected priorities, all highly relevant for Slovakia.
- Wider Objectives and Immediate Objectives for SK-0013 are relevant; Indicators of Achievement however call for improvement.
- 2002/000-610.03 is a follow up of SR-0103; by combining parts of at that time separate Components evenly into one single Programme. As no synergy effects could be identified from merging these two individual design parts into the 2002 Programme (also characterised by nomination of two different implementing authorities), its architecture does not seem to be very logical.
- The Wider Objectives for 2002 remain identical as for the 2001 intervention and together with the Immediate Objectives they are relevant. The identified Indicators are not quantifiable. Assumptions and risks could have been better designed, particularly on the infrastructure front.

Efficiency

- Efficiency of major parts of the assistance under the Sector has often suffered from various delays, demonstrated also by the sometimes disappointing commitment and disbursement figures, compared to the original time schedules for these interventions.
- Regarding SK-0013, the necessity of sub-contracting the Networking Facility of the Programme remains questionable as the implementing Civil Society Development Foundation seems to possess enough capacity to manage also this small grant scheme. The micro-project part has suffered from delayed transfer of Phare funds from the Commission Services via the National Fund to the managing Foundation, which has caused a four-month slippage in the payment of the first tranche of finances to grantees. Late transfer of funds has had negative effect on the speed of implementation of the planned activities.
- SK-0013 grant giving activities are well co-ordinated with other Phare interventions as well as with other donors. The managing Foundation has performed quite satisfactory, and the problems with delayed transfer of money to grantees seem to be beyond responsibilities of the current Foundation staff.
- Future of the Foundation beyond EU accession is rather unclear and would require strategic decisions on the senior political level.
- Co-ordination of 2002/000-610.03 remains with the Section for Human Rights and Minorities at the Office of Government. Some fluctuations within the Section might potentially adversely influence the continuity of co-ordination of the Roma sub-sector.
- Transfer of the Central Finance and Contracting Unit to the Ministry of Finance in January 2003 has not been very smooth (delays in signing renewed employment contracts, problems with the e-mail system have appeared) and also appointment of sufficient local staff and of a new Director has been not completed yet.
- Regional Development Support Agency, acting as implementing agency for major 2001 Roma investments, and also in charge for the investment part of the 2002 Roma assistance (at present heavily delayed) has a clear need to improve its performance.
- Commitment/disbursement figures of the entire Sector are disappointing, mostly because of contracting problems with regard to the 2001 Components (particularly the heavy SR-0103.01 intervention). Positively, SK-0013 is 100 percent committed and 76 percent disbursed. The 2002 Programme is still at zero commitment rates.

Effectiveness

- Due to delays and the early stage of individual implementation there could be only limited effectiveness evaluated yet for the assistance under the Civil Society Sector. However, prospects are considered to be sufficient in the main.
- SK-0013 has so far resulted only into limited effects due to delays at its start, however some grantees have commenced with activities prior to receiving any financial resources from the managing Foundation. Materialisation of effects would require completion of the bulk of planned activities, which is expected later this year. There will be at least substantial contribution or even full achievement of most of the Immediate Objectives. However achievement of the Immediate Objective focusing on *strengthening of institutional capacity of Non-governmental Organisations* will be limited as substantial institutional building is not often represented in the supported grants.
- 2002/000-610.03 has not started yet. However due to its design a potential contribution to Immediate Objectives, especially on the educational front, is expected. The second sub-programme - assistance in preparation of technical documentation - has got less potential to contribute to its Immediate Objective, namely *improved living condition of socially disadvantaged groups*.

Impact

- In the medium and longer term all the Components within this Monitoring Sector will have a certain positive impact with regards to their pre-defined Wider Objectives.
- SK-0013 will contribute via its grant scheme and the composition of the supported micro-projects to its Wider Objective, aimed at *implementation of the relevant areas of the acquis*. The supported activities will also encourage participation of handicapped people at social life as defined in the second related Wider Objective. Direct impact of SK-0013 will represent, besides 98 NGOs supported, also a wider range of people involved in the grant activities. However impact on the Third Sector as a whole will be limited as the number of supported Non-governmental Organisations represents only a fraction of the overall area in Slovakia.
- 2002/000-610.03 envisages further re-integration of Roma children into standard schools via a pilot activity for 20 schools in municipalities with high proportion of Roma minority. At this stage it is unclear how this pilot activity will be disseminated country wide, and thus can produce a broader impact. The other 2002 sub-programme, providing assistance in preparation of technical documentation for Roma infrastructure, will have a direct impact on the immediately benefiting 30 municipalities. Thus about five percent of all Roma settlements in the country are foreseen to benefit from the support, representing only a limited impact on solving living conditions of the entire Roma minority.

Sustainability

- Projections of sustainability for the majority of the assistance under the entire Civil Society Sector are in general sufficient, with however, a number of exceptions.
- Forecasts of sustainability for SK-0013 are pretty pessimistic. There are no firm plans with regard to further continuation of ACCESS in Slovakia and since most of the bi-lateral donors are seizing their operations, sustainability of many local Non-governmental Organisations, especially after the date of accession, will become questionable.
- With the termination of Phare assistance also the further existence of the Foundation is not secured anymore. Sustainability of some of the Non-governmental Organisations supported by SK-0013 might be secured to some extent as these have started to co-operate closely with municipalities or regional bodies as future clients for their services.
- Outlook on sustainability of 2002/000-610.03 varies at this early stage: The educational strand should result into sustainable outcomes in the form of established and equipped multicultural integrated school classes. If the preparation of documentation for infrastructure should become sustainable, further donor assistance and a long-term government's commitment are needed.

Conclusions and RecommendationsSummary of the Conclusions

For detailed conclusions and recommendations related to SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02, please see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

Overall, the individual Components are *relevant* for the Sector purpose, particularly with regard to the Roma/ minority issue, however have often suffered from individual design shortcomings. Assistance to Non-governmental Organisations under SK-0013 represents only a negligible part of the entire Sector allocation and is likely to be the last Phare intervention, specifically dedicated to the Third Sector development in Slovakia. Whilst the 2002/000-610.03 intervention is relevant in general, it does not bring innovative elements and lacks synergy effects between its individual parts. Proper *efficiency* of SK-0013 has suffered from delays in timely transferring of financial resources to the final beneficiaries. Also the necessity of sub-contracting of some activities under the same Programme does not seem to be justified enough in the presence of sufficient implementation capacity at the managing Civil Society Development Foundation. The unclear future of the Foundation beyond the accession date

calls for local strategic decisions. Co-ordination within the Sector seems to be sufficient. The overall commitment/ disbursement figures of the entire Sector are rather disappointing, resulting mainly from still outstanding contracting of the major 2001 Components. Also the further performance of the Central Finance and Contracting Unit, following its transfer to the Ministry of Finance in January 2003, is not clear yet and the on-going recruitment process for future staff and management needs to be completed as soon as possible. Due to the pre-implementation phase or delays at the start of SK-0013 only limited *effectiveness* has materialised at this stage. However, positive prospects are evident and more can be expected later this year. The 2002 Programme has not started yet but prospects for effectiveness can be regarded so far as sufficient. Prediction of achievement of Immediate Objectives is clearly positive for SK-0013 and for the educational sub-programme of 2002/000-610.03. For the 2002 infrastructure part however, based on the present experience with other on-going programmes under the responsibility of the implementing Regional Development Support Agency, there remains some scepticism on achieving proper and timely effectiveness. Both, SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03 will produce some immediate *impact*. However achievement of a broader impact will be rather limited both on the development of the Third Sector (SK-0013) and also on the re-integration of Roma children to standard schools or on improved living condition of marginalised groups (2002/000.610-03). Projections of *sustainability* are in general sufficient. However, due to the expected phasing out of foreign donors in the country, the future of many local Non-governmental Organisations, including the Civil Society Development Foundation, is rather questionable. No big risks are expected for sustainability of the 2002 Programme especially in its educational part. However sustainability of the 2002 funded preparation of technical documentation will require further domestic or foreign interventions.

The Interim Evaluation concluded on the overall performance of the evaluated Components as follows:

	SK-0002*	SR-0103.01*	SR-0103.02*	SK-0013	2002/000-610.03	Sector
Relevance	2	1	1	1	1	1
Efficiency	0	1	-1	-1	0	0
Effectiveness	0	0	-1	0	1	0
Impact	1	1	-1	0	0	1
Sustainability	0	0	0	-1	0	0
Taking into account the contextual constraints on the evaluation, the overall rating of the components of the sector is considered to be						
Verbal overall rating	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Ratings guide: -2 unacceptable; -1 poor; 0 sufficient or adequate; +1 good; +2 excellent.

* For particular reference see Interim Evaluation Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

Summary of the Recommendations

- Civil Society Development Foundation should prepare a mid-term business plan for future funding or revenue creation activities of the Foundation. The Foundation should start to discuss with the relevant government bodies involved, possibilities for arranging co-financing from the state budget, needed for further activities supporting the Third Sector.
- Aid Co-ordination Unit together with involved implementing authorities should initiate a participatory process in order to refine Indicators of Achievement and making them applicable for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The next sectoral monitoring report should already foresee that relevant Indicators are regularly applied and measured.

MAIN REPORT

1. SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

1.1. Sectoral Background

1. Following the on-going restructuring of the Phare monitoring sectors in Slovakia, 'Civil Society' (CIV) is being established as one out of four monitoring sectors of Phare assistance. The individual Programmes/ Components under the Sector relate to the adoption and application of the *acquis communautaire* in its parts focusing on protection of minority rights, namely combating discrimination of Roma and improving their living conditions. Overall, individual CIV assistance is in line with the Slovak Government's 2002 Declaration which foresees continuation of implementation of development programmes for Roma, their integration into the society with the focus on the regions and also strengthening of partnership between the Government and the non-governmental sector. The individual programmes relate also to the National Programme for Adoption of the *Acquis* (NPAA), focusing on education of socially disadvantaged groups (SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and 2002/000-610.03) and co-existence of Roma and non-Roma communities (SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02) (see Annex 4). SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02 also relate to the Strategy of the Government Addressing the Problems of the Roma National Minority and Set of Measures for Its Implementation – Stage I and II, Priorities of Government of the Slovak Republic in Relation to Roma Communities for the Year 2002, the Comprehensive Roma Settlement Development Programme, the pilot Programme of Field Social Workers and the Social Housing Programme. Moreover, the 2001 Roma Programme is in line with the National Plan for Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and will contribute directly to the National Development Plan in the areas of improvement of living conditions of Roma and their employment.

1.2. Scope of Evaluation

2. This Interim Evaluation (IE) covers a range of CIV related Programmes under Financing Memoranda (FM) 2000, 2001 and 2002, focusing on minorities, civil society strengthening and on the development of Non-Governmental/Non Profit Organisations (NGOs/ NPOs). The disbursement periods for the SR-9904 and SR-9905.01 Programmes (see Sector sheet) were extended until the end of March and May 2003 respectively, due to previous delays of financial instalments to benefiting NGOs. As during this extended disbursement period only some accounting activities, finalisation of financial documentation and statistics will be carried out, these 1999 Programmes are not evaluated anymore under this IE. Moreover, the Roma 2000 and 2001 assistance was until recently part of the Monitoring Sector 'Justice and Home Affairs, Minorities and Public Administration' (JHAMPA). As the evaluation of these Roma 2000 and 2001 Programmes was already subject of a very recently undertaken IE for JHAMPA (R/SK/JHA/03.044, cut-off date 22 January 2003)⁹, these Components are not formally re-evaluated yet, but considered by applying the sectoral evaluation approach. Overall, the CIV Sector consists of the following Programmes/Components:

Financial and Contractual Information for the Programmes/Components under Evaluation:

⁹ IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044 covered the following Components: SR-9913.01 Integrated Customs Strategy and Customs Information System, SR-0104.02 Development of National Information Management of EC Systems, SR-0108.01 Strengthening of Judiciary, SK-0008.01 Fight against Corruption, SK-0008.02 Fight against Drugs, SK-0002 Improvement of the Situation of Roma in the SR, SR-0103.01 Support of the Roma Minority in the Educational Field, SR-0103.02 Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements.

Programme/ Component Title	Allocated (M€)	Committed (M€)*	Disbursed (M€)*
SK-0002 Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR	3.800	3.694	0.205
SR-0103.01 Support to the Roma Minority in the Educational Field	1.700	0.189	0.145
SR-0103.02 Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements	8.300	0.185	0.148
SK-0013 ACCESS 2000	0.900	0.900	0.680
2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions	1.000	0	0
Total	15.700	4.968	1.178

*Perseus to cut-off date 13 February 2003

1.2.1 Performance of Activities

Component 1: SK-0002 Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR; Component 2: SR-0103.01 Support of the Roma Minority in the Educational Field; Component 3: SR-0103.02 Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements

Activities and Outputs

3. SK-0002 as a follow up of previous Phare assistance to the Roma minority and aims at a broad range of key areas, namely (i) increasing mutual tolerance between the Roma and non-Roma population, (ii) improving the conditions for young Roma to enter the labour market, and (iii) increased access of Roma to education. SR-0103.01 is more focused on the educational field and aims at (i) improving pre-school education via the implementation of the 'Mother and Child' module in kindergartens with high proportion of Roma children; (ii) improvement of primary education of the Roma minority through the introduction of a whole day care and of reintegration modules in the educational process, and (iii) establishment and functioning of community centres. SR-0103.02 as an infrastructure intervention focuses on improvement of living standards of the Roma by delivering some basic infrastructure to segregated Roma settlements (e.g. drinking water supply, sewage systems and road communications), and thus to create better conditions for integration of the Roma into the society. Alongside the infrastructure building, community work will be carried out as well. For a more detailed description of these 2000 and 2001 activities please refer to the Annex 6 of this IE and also to the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044, wherein these Components have been evaluated just recently.

Effects

4. Most of the SK-0002 and SR-0103.01 projects are still at their early stage of physical implementation with inception reports being drafted. Substantial effects from the SK-0002 twinning should materialise in the Roma Strategy Document of the Slovak Government, which has to be completed only after the cut-off date of this IE. Some effects from the SR-0103.02 interventions could be reported in the form of technical documentation for the infrastructure project for the first group of 11 Roma settlements, terms of reference (ToR) for similar technical assistance (TA) for the rest of the 30 settlements and delivery of some equipment for the Regional Support Development Agency (RSDA), acting as the implementing agency in charge. However, the planned key effects of the infrastructure activities are jeopardised so far by (i) crucial delays in the complementary government Social Housing Programme, (ii) by some unsolved land ownership cases, and (iii) also by late completion of necessary technical documentation.

Component 4: SK-0013 ACCESS 2000

Activities and Outputs

5. As a horizontal programme for 10 candidate countries (CC), ACCESS aims at institutional building (IB) for strengthening of the civil society before accession. The Programme supports initiatives and strengthens the operational capacity of NGOs/ NPOs through co-financing grants for projects (90 percent ACCESS/ 10 percent local contribution) of relevance to certain social need priorities, particularly in the fields of consumer protection and environmental protection. NGO/ NPO activities in the social and health field are also supported together with the coverage of participation costs in EU-wide NGO/NPO networks (mainly via the Networking Facility focusing on providing grants to cover travel costs). For a detailed description of activities carried out under the Component see Annex 6.

Effects

6. The SK-0013 funds were fully committed in the form of grants to 98 grantees (including the Networking Facility), covering a broad range of NGOs in all the selected areas. As the date of completion of the supported activities is only 30 October 2003 it is too early to evaluate materialisation of any detailed effects.

Component 5: 2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions

Activities and Outputs

7. This Component aims at further integration of socially disadvantaged Roma children into standard primary schools and at preparation of technical documentation for municipality offices which are lacking financial resources for these activities and at the same time having high proportion of socially disadvantaged groups living in their villages. There have been no activities yet since the signing of the respective FM 2002 in January 2003.

Effects

8. No effects can be reported at this stage since project activities have not started yet.

1.2.2 Corrective Actions already undertaken for each Component

9. On the Programme level for SK-0002, the corrective action refers to provision of notice about approved tender documentation from the Central Finance and Co-ordination Unit (CFCU) to the European Commission Delegation (ECD) and for SK-0013 to an increased attendance of the ECD Task Managers at the Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF) monthly meetings. For SR-0103.01 no corrective action has been envisaged. On the SR-0103.02 Component level the corrective action refers to the necessity for the RDSA to provide to the co-ordinating Section of Human Rights and Minorities (SHRM) at the Office of Government (OoG) reports showing the progress in implementation. 2002/000-610.03 has not been subject to any Monitoring Report (MR) yet.

1.2.3 Anticipated actions for the next interim evaluation

10. For the SK-0002 twinning project, future activities will concentrate on delivery of further seminars (mainly on the Roma strategy), on inter-ministerial work for the members of the Inter-ministerial Committee to be re-established and on study visits to Member States (MS). First activities of the remaining 2000 projects are expected to commence in February 2003. For SR-0103.01, focusing on reintegration of socially disadvantaged children, provision of a re-evaluation of diagnostic tests, and the TA to community centres is planned to start following its successful tendering in spring 2003. For SR-0103.02 tendering of the construction works for the 11 settlements and preparation of technical documentation for the other 19 villages have to be arranged as soon as possible. The actual construction works for the first settlements are expected to commence in March/ April 2003. For SK-0013 future activities will focus on monitoring of grants/micro projects, collection of final reports and transfer of the final tranche (20 percent of the grants) to the final beneficiaries in line with given procedures. 2002/000-610.03 should in the near future start to make considerable progress on preparing technical documents needed for contracting.

1.2.4 Fact-sheet

11. For the detailed Fact-sheets reference is made to Annex 6.

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 Relevance

12. The current composition of the individual Components under the CIV Sector is fully compatible with priorities as defined in Accession Partnership (AP), NPAA and local government strategies and will potentially contribute to the fulfilment of country's accession obligations, particularly in terms of improving the situation of Roma but also in building a stronger NGO Sector.

13. For a detailed evaluation on design and relevance of SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02, please see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

14. SK-0013 represents only a negligible part of the overall CIV Sector budget. Slovakia's allocation from this horizontal programme is five percent from the total budget for ten CCs which however, seems to be appropriate. This multi-country Programme is a follow-up of previous Phare assistance to the NGO sector development, which has started already in 1993, namely through 'Link Inter-European NGOs' Programme (LIEN) and 'Partnership for Democracy'. The assistance to NGOs focuses on selected priorities, such as environmental protection, socio-economic development and socially disadvantaged groups – all highly relevant areas for Slovakia. The Programme seems to be well co-ordinated with other donors in the country (mainly via the local Donors' Forum). The Micro-project Grant Scheme is complemented by the Networking Facility, allowing Third Sector representatives to participate at EU activities. Both Wider objectives (WO) and Immediate Objectives (IO) are relevant, the Indicators of Achievement (IA) however call for improvement, particularly in adding a quantifiable element into them in order to be fully used for evaluation purposes. Such applicable and measurable Indicators could then be accordingly applied in the sectoral MR.

15. As the Roma issue is on the top of Slovakia's agenda in the accession process, the Phare 2002 Programme remains relevant, focusing on the two areas of assistance, namely education and preparatory works for infrastructure projects. 2002/000-610.03 is a follow up of the SR-0103 intervention; by combining parts of at that time separate Components evenly into one single Programme. However as little synergy effects could be identified from merging these two individual design parts into the 2002 Programme (also characterised by nomination of two different implementing authorities) its architecture does not seem to be very logical. The educational strand of the Programme focuses on further integration of socially excluded children from special into regular schools via combination of TA and classroom equipment. It builds on the outcomes of the SR-0103.01 Component, focusing on implementation of the new educational concepts, in the form of establishing detached classes of primary schools in the premises of specialised primary schools within selected municipalities. The infrastructure strand foresees the selection of municipalities in need to be later assisted in preparation of technical documentation with the help of EU TA for future infrastructure projects (such as envisaged under Phare 2003). There are therefore very few innovative elements of the assistance added to the Programme compared to the previous ones. The WOs remain identical as for the 2001 intervention and together with the IOs they are relevant. However the identified IAs are not quantifiable (and their applications are lacking in the MR) this time and thus, they could be used as an evaluation tool only for indicating effectiveness and impact. Assumptions and risks, according to the log-frame matrix, could have been better designed,

particularly on the infrastructure front, taking into consideration the relevant governmental activities in the Sector.

2.2 Efficiency

16. Efficiency of major parts of the assistance under the CIV Sector has often suffered from various delays, demonstrated also by the sometimes disappointing commitment and disbursement figures, compared to the original time schedules for these interventions.

17. For a detailed evaluation on efficiency of SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02, please see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

18. When evaluating efficiency of SK-0013, the necessity of sub-contracting the Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA) for the Networking Facility of the Programme remains questionable, as the implementing CSDF seems to possess enough capacity to manage also the logistics of this small grant scheme. Despite this, sub-contracting was recommended by the ECD, due to the SAIA's experience with the Macro ACCESS Networking Facility. Though as of July 2002 a system of quarterly requests for funds from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) have been introduced, the micro-project part of the Programme has suffered from delayed transfer of money from the NF to the CSDF, which has caused a four-month slippage in the payment of the first tranche of finances to grantees. The delay seems to be caused by a combination of problems of all Slovak partners involved (including necessity to resolve findings of the past CSDF audits) and also slow reaction from the Commission Services Headquarters in Brussels. Late transfer of funds has had negative effect on the speed of implementation of the planned activities. The CSDF Director fulfils the role of a Sector Aid Co-ordinator (SAC) for ACCESS 2000 and reports to the Foundation's Board of Directors, whose Chairman performs the role of a Programme Authorising Officer (PAO). The SAC co-ordinates grant giving activities with other similar Phare interventions in the country, as well as with other donors (mainly Roma grants via the local Donors' Forum). Contracting of ACCESS 2000 is under the auspices of the CSDF. Without having received any formal training on the Practical Guide for Phare and ISPA (PRAG) manual, CSDF has performed quite satisfactory with this respect, and the problems with delayed transfer of money to grantees seem to be beyond responsibilities of the current CSDF staff. The CSDF has currently ten employees but due to gradual phasing out of the programmes under implementation, by mid-2003 the staff should have declined to about four people. The future of the CSDF beyond the likely accession in May 2004 is rather unclear and would require strategic decisions on the senior political level.

19. Overall co-ordination of 2002/000-610.03 remains under the auspices of the Section for Human Rights and Minorities (SHRM) at the Office of the Government (OoG), where the responsible SAC is placed. Some fluctuations within the SHRM can be reported as of the beginning 2003, which might potentially adversely influence the continuity of co-ordination of the important Roma sub-sector. The Regional Development Support Agency (RSDA) will be responsible for contracting and implementation of the sub-programme of this 2002 intervention, focusing on preparation of technical documentation for future infrastructure projects. Based on its present problems with contracting the Phare 2001 interventions (namely SR-0103.02 and a number of regional development initiatives), there is a need for the agency to improve its performance in this respect, as already recommended by EMS in the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

20. The CFCU remains responsible for contracting the educational part of the 2002 Programme. The transfer of the Unit to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as of 1 January 2003 has not been very smooth (delays in signing renewed employment contracts, problems with the e-mail system have appeared) and also appointment of a new Director has been not completed yet at the time of this IE, which could potentially lead to consequences on the further efficiency of the CFCU activities.

21. At the ECD one Task Manager is responsible for overall supervision of all the Programmes under review, which represents quite an extensive portfolio of projects and results into limited possibilities of her personal involvement in all projects under supervision.

22. The performance of the Aid co-ordination Unit (ACU) has improved since mid 2002, particularly due to more stable staffing. There are presently two Programme Managers responsible for the CIV Sector, which does not however yet reflect the new sectoral split. The ACU is currently working on an improved template for MRs. It should be finalised in order to serve monitoring purposes for the next round of Sectoral Monitoring Sub-Committees expected to commence by the end of March 2003.

23. The NF plays an important role in co-financing of the Programmes. There have been some problems in transfer of resources for SK-0013, which has caused serious delays in transfer of resources to actual grantees. Late transfer of finances from Brussels Headquarters was caused by a combination of problems for which the NF was responsible only partially.

24. The commitment/disbursement figures of the entire CIV Sector under evaluation show an overall 47 percent commitment, accompanied by only 26 percent disbursement rates and five and zero percent for the co-financing part which are quite disappointing results. The poor performance is caused mostly by the outstanding contracting of the 2001 Components (particularly the heavy SR-0103.01 intervention – only four percent commitment/ three percent disbursement), which resembles a lot the last-minute contracting situation from the previous year when 60 percent of Phare 2000 contracts were signed only during December 2002. SK-0013 is 100 percent committed and 76 percent disbursed. Due to the time remaining for completion of activities (October 2003) and the split between 80 percent of advance payment and only 20 percent payable after delivery of the beneficiaries' final report, we can forecast successful disbursement of the SK-0013 funds. The 2002 Programme is still at pre-contracted stage with zero commitment rates.

2.3 Effectiveness

25. Due to delays and the early stage of individual implementation there could be only limited effectiveness evaluated yet for the assistance under the CIV Sector. However, prospects are considered to be sufficient in the main.

26. For a detailed evaluation on effectiveness of SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02 see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

27. SK-0013 has so far resulted only into limited effects due to delays at its start, however some grantees have commenced with activities prior to receiving any financial resources from the CSDF. The implemented activities include for instance training or seminars, which do not require much financial intervention. Materialisation of effects would require completion of the bulk of planned activities, which is expected later this year. Even at this stage we can predict positive prospects with regard to achievement or at least substantial contribution to the IOs as

defined in programme documents, particularly for those focusing on *stimulation of acquis driven activities in the Third Sector* or *support of activities where government is not active*. Also the Networking Facility will clearly contribute to the fulfilment of the IO aiming at *promotion of NGO networking*. However we are pretty sceptical about achievement of the IO focusing on *strengthening of institutional capacity of NGOs* as substantial IB is represented in the supported grants only to a rather limited extent. The available IAs are either not quantifiable or even not applicable and therefore could be used for evaluation purposes only partially (see Annex 1).

28. 2002/000-610.03 has in fact not started yet, and thus none of its planned effects has been achieved at this early stage. Due to its design we can predict its potential contribution to IOs, especially on the educational front in implementing the model of integrated schools. On the other hand the second sub-programme - providing TA to municipalities in preparation of technical documentation - has got less potential, also due the limitations of its design, to significantly contribute to its IO's definition, namely *improved living condition of socially disadvantaged groups*.

2.4 Impact

29. In the medium and longer term all the Components within this Monitoring Sector will have a certain positive impact with regards to their pre-defined WOs.

30. For a detailed evaluation on impact of SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02 see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

31. SK-0013 will contribute via its grant scheme and the composition of the supported micro-projects focusing both on the environmental issues (about 20 percent of the grants) and socio-economic development to its WO, aimed at *implementation of the relevant areas of the acquis*. The supported activities will also encourage participation of handicapped people at social life as defined in the second related WO. Direct impact of ACCESS 2000 will represent, besides the 98 NGOs supported (both under the Micro-project and Networking Facility schemes) also a wider range of people involved in the grant activities. However impact on the Third Sector as a whole will be limited as the number of supported NGOs represents only a fraction of the overall NGO area in Slovakia.

32. 2002/000-610.03 envisages further re-integration of Roma children into standard schools via a pilot activity for 20 schools in municipalities with high proportion of Roma minority. Design of the 2002 intervention resembles a lot the SR-0103.01 assistance, though the former is more focused on implementation of new pedagogical methods into practice. However at this stage it is unclear how this pilot activity will be disseminated country wide, and thus having a broader impact. The other 2002 sub-programme, providing assistance in preparation of technical documentation for Roma infrastructure, will have a direct impact on the immediately benefiting 30 municipalities as foreseen in the programme documents. Again no big shift in the design architecture compared to the SR-0103.02 Component or broader spread of lessons learnt among the rest of settlements has been envisaged. Thus, about five percent of all Roma settlements in the country are foreseen to benefit from the support, representing only a limited impact on solving living conditions of the entire Roma minority.

2.5 Sustainability

33. Projections of sustainability for the majority of the assistance under the entire CIV Sector are in general sufficient, with however, a number of exceptions.

34. For a detailed evaluation on sustainability of SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02 see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

35. Forecasts of sustainability for SK-0013 are pretty pessimistic. As there are no firm plans with regard to further continuation of the ACCESS horizontal programme in Slovakia under Phare 2001 onwards and since most of the bi-lateral donors (such as the UK Department for International Development or US Agency for International Development) are seizing their operation in the country, we are pretty sceptical about the future of most of the local NGOs, especially after the date of accession. Moreover, the MoF is planning a tax reform which should among other measures cancel the possibility of donating one percent of tax to the Third Sector. Such decision might lead in the mid-term to increasing difficulties in financing any local NGO work. More specifically, the CSDF has been funded from EU resources now for 10 years, serving as the major tool in Slovakia for delivering Phare assistance to the NGO sector. With the envisaged termination of the Phare assistance also the further existence of the Foundation is not secured anymore. Sustainability of some of the supported NGOs under the current ACCESS Programme might be secured to some extent as these have started to co-operate closely with municipalities or regional bodies as future clients for their services. Also the ACCESS 2000 provided mainly limited interventions towards the area of IB, thus contributing to the rather pessimistic forecasts of sustainability.

36. Sustainability of 2002/000-610.03 brings mixed projections so far. The educational strand should result into sustainable outcomes in the form of established and equipped multicultural integrated school classes. However, if the preparation of documentation for infrastructure projects shall result in some sustainable outcome, it will definitely require further assistance (such as the envisaged Phare 2003 infrastructure programme) and a long-term government's commitment in form of special schemes such as the Social Housing Programme.

2.6 Specific Issues

37. There were no specific issues to be reported under this IE.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

38. For detailed conclusions and recommendations related to SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02, please see the IE Report R/SK/JHA/03.044.

Relevance

39. Overall, the individual Components are relevant for the Sector purpose, particularly with regard to the Roma/ minority issue, however have often suffered from individual design shortcomings, like broad definition of WOs and IOs and lack of quantifiable IAs. IAs, which are in principle applicable are, however, also not used yet as a tool for measuring the projects' progress in the relevant MRs. Assistance to NGOs under ACCESS 2000 represents only a negligible part of the entire Sector allocation and is likely to be the last Phare intervention, specifically dedicated to the Third Sector development in Slovakia. Most of the activities of the Programmes under evaluation are logical follow-ups of previous Phare assistance. Particularly the design of the 2002/000-610.03 intervention reflects a simple continuation - with only very minor innovative modifications - of previous 2001 support, by focusing on education and infrastructure preparation. Whilst the 2002 assistance is relevant in general it does not bring any innovative elements and is lacking any synergy effect between the individual parts of this intervention.

Efficiency

40. Proper efficiency of SK-0013 has clearly suffered from delays in timely transferring of financial resources to the final beneficiaries, particularly at the early stages of the Programme. Despite this, CSDF managed to achieve complete contracting of funds. Also the necessity of sub-contracting of some activities under the same Programme does not seem to be justified enough in the presence of sufficient implementation capacity at the managing CSDF. Co-ordination within the CIV Sector seems to be sufficient, though the staffing at the SHRM/ OoG has recently suffered from some fluctuation. The unclear future of the CSDF beyond the accession date would require local strategic decisions. As regards commitment and disbursement, the overall figures of the entire CIV Sector are rather disappointing, resulting mainly from still outstanding contracting of the major 2001 Components, thus requesting rapid improvement particularly with regard to the side of the implementing agency RDSA. Also the further performance of the CFCU, following its transfer to the MoF in January 2003, is not sufficiently clear yet and is characterised by a pressing need to complete its future professional staffing and management. Due to the very early stage of 2002/000-610.03 the efficiency aspect can be still regarded as adequate, provided that the necessary preparation activities will commence soon.

Effectiveness

41. Due to the pre-implementation phase and delays at the start of SK-0013 only limited effectiveness has materialised at this stage, such as soft skills training provided by NGOs and funded by the micro project grants from ACCESS 2000. However, prospect are good and more can be expected later this year. The 2002 Programme has not started yet but indicative projections can be regarded so far at sufficient levels. Prediction of achievement of IOs as set in programme documents is clearly positive for SK-0013 and also for the educational sub-programme of 2002/000-610.03, provided that here the CFCU can maintain its operations at adequate levels. For the 2002 infrastructure part however, based on the present experience

with other on-going (2001) programmes under the responsibility of the implementing RDSA, even at this early stage, there remains some scepticism on achieving a proper and timely effectiveness.

Impact

42. WOs for the Programmes under evaluation are defined pretty broadly and often identical with the preceding ones under previous Phare support. Overall there is strong likelihood that both SK-0013 and 2002/000-610.03 interventions will contribute to the achievement of their wider sectoral objectives by producing some immediate impact. However due to the constraints in the design of the programmes, the achievement of a broader impact will be rather limited both on the development of the Third Sector (SK-0013) and also on the re-integration of Roma children to standard schools or on improved living condition of marginalised groups (2002/000.610-03).

Sustainability

43. Projections of sustainability for the assistance under the entire CIV Sector are in general sufficient. However, in the long-term due to the expected phasing out of foreign donors in the country, the future sustainability of NGOs, including the CSDF is rather questionable, especially after the expected EU accession date in May 2004. As the IB support part of the provided grants under ACCESS 2000 has been also rather limited, the Programme will in fact not substantially contribute to an increased institutional sustainability of the NGO grantees. No big risks can be predicted for sustainability of the 2002 Programme especially in its educational part. However in order to make the TA for preparation of technical documentation sustainable, it will require further domestic or foreign interventions towards Roma housing and infrastructure improvements.

Conclusion	Recommendation*	Output	Reference/ Paragraph	Responsibility	Deadline	Debriefing Results
In the long-term and in the future absence of foreign donors in the country, sustainability of Non Governmental Organisations, including the Civil Society Development Foundation (which has been funded from EU resources for 10 years) is questionable.	Civil Society Development Foundation should prepare a mid-term business plan including several scenarios for future funding or revenue creation activities of the Foundation. At the same time the Foundation should start to discuss with the relevant ministries and government bodies involved, possibilities for arranging co-financing from the state budget, needed for further activities supporting the Third Sector.	Improved sustainability	35, 40	Civil Society Development Foundation, relevant ministries, government bodies	30 April 2003	
Indicators of Achievement are rather poorly defined sometimes even not applicable as Indicators and could be used only as a minor reference to the given evaluation criteria.	Aid Co-ordination Unit together with involved implementing authorities should initiate a participatory process in order to refine Indicators of Achievement and making them applicable for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The next sectoral monitoring report should foresee to apply relevant Indicators, in order to regularly measure any project progress. Proposals for improved indicators, which might be possibly considered by the relevant Parties, are presented in Annex 1.	Improved monitoring and measurability of progress	15, 39	Aid Co-ordination Unit, Section of Human Rights and Minorities, Civil Society Development Foundation	With immediate effect	

*) Please see also R/SK/JHA/03.044. This Report has forwarded a number of recommendations related to the given sectoral context, particularly focusing on SK-0002, SR-0103.01 and SR-0103.02.

3.2 Performance rating

	SK-0002**	SR-0103.01**	SR-0103.02**	SK-0013	2002/000-610.03	Sector
Relevance	2	1	1	1	1	1
Efficiency	0	1	-1	-1	0	0
Effectiveness	0	0	-1	0	1	0
Impact	1	1	-1	0	0	1
Sustainability	0	0	0	-1	0	0
Verbal overall rating	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Ratings guide: -2 unacceptable; -1 poor; 0 sufficient/adequate; +1 good; +2 excellent.

***) For particular reference see R/SK/JHA/03.044.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT OF SECTOR OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Indicators of Achievement	Valid as Indicator	Remarks	Reference to evaluation criteria
SK-0002 Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR			
Number of Roma graduates at all level of education increased (by 10 % in 2003 compared to 2001)	Yes	Indicator is in general applicable, however influenced also by macro developments in the country	Effectiveness, impact
Number of Roma finding permanent employment increased (by 15% in 2003 compared to 2001)	Yes	Indicator is in general applicable, however influenced also by macro developments in the country	Effectiveness, impact
SR-0103.01 Support to the Roma Minority in the Educational Field			
Increased number of Roma graduates at all levels of education (by 10% in 2004 compared to 2002)	Yes	Indicator is in general applicable, however influenced also by macro developments in the country	Effectiveness, impact
Increased number of Roma community members participating in the education system (by 30% in 2004 compared to 2002)	Yes	Indicator is in general applicable, however influenced also by macro developments in the country	Effectiveness, impact
SR-0103.02 Infrastructure Support for Roma Settlements			
Utilities (water, transport, electricity) for up to 52.000 citizens in the 30 selected municipalities in line with EU standards	Yes	Indicator is applicable, however misses the time line	Effectiveness, impact
Living standards for up to 20 % of the Roma living in settlements improved	Yes	Indicator is applicable, however misses the time line	Effectiveness, impact
Conditions created for participation of up to 20 municipalities in the Social Housing Programme	Yes	Indicator is applicable, however misses the time line	Effectiveness
2002/000-610.03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions			
Increased number of Roma studying at standard primary schools	Yes	Indicator is applicable, missing the time line and is not quantifiable	Effectiveness, impact
Increased number of municipalities using the technical documentation for construction of infrastructure	Yes	Indicator is applicable, missing the time line and is not quantifiable	Effectiveness, impact
SK-0013 ACCESS 2000			
Increased in number and quality of applications for funding	Yes	Indicator is applicable, missing the time line and is not quantifiable	Effectiveness, impact
Number of projects/activities carried out successfully	No	Indicator is not applicable, requires more precise definition	
Increased number of NGOs/NPOs active in EU-wide networks	Yes	Indicator is applicable, missing the time line and is not quantifiable	Effectiveness, impact

Proposed Indicators of Achievement for further development and consideration:

Indicators of Achievement	Reference to evaluation criteria
Increased number of Roma studying at standard primary schools by 10 percent in 2004 compared to 2002	Effectiveness, Impact
Increased number of municipalities using the technical documentation for construction of infrastructure by 5 percent in 2004 compared to 2002	Effectiveness, Impact
Increased in number and quality of applications for funding by at least 10 percent in 2002 compared to 2001	Effectiveness, Impact
Increased number of NGOs/NPOs active in EU-wide networks by at least 25 in 2003 compared to 2002	Effectiveness, Impact

ANNEX 2. LIST OF INTERVIEWS

INSTITUTION	INTERVIEWEE	DATE
Office of the Government of the SR Section of Human Rights and Minorities Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms Maria Cabova	03/02/2003* 13/02/03*
NGO Samaritan Estolova 21 SK-03601 Martin	Ms. Jana Gajdosova	04/02/2003*
NGO Bridges for Roma Svatoplukova 21 SK-04001 Kosice	Mr. Anton Koleno	04/02/2003*
Office of the Government of the SR Aid Co-ordination Unit Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Mr Martin Orth	04/02/2003*
Delegation of the European Commission Panska 3 SK-811 01 Bratislava	Ms. Ivana Skodova	03/02/2003
Office of the Government of the SR Section of Human Rights and Minorities Namestie slobody 1 SK-813 70 Bratislava	Ms Kinga Novotna	03/02/2003*
NGO Sosna Prazska 2 SK-041 11 Kosice	Mr Samuel Pacenovsky	04/02/2003*
Central Finance and Contracting Unit Mlynske Nivy 61 SK-821 09 Bratislava	Ms. Zora Paulikova	10/01/02* 22/01/2003*
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Regional Development Support Agency Spitalska 8 SK-816 44 Bratislava	Ms Anna Polniserova	03/02/2003*
Ministry of Education of the SR EU Policy and Programme Dept. Hanulova 5/b SK-813 30 Bratislava	Ms Julia Stepankova	10/02/2003*
Civil Society Development Foundation Ruzova dolina 6 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Ms Katarina Vajdova	03/02/2003
Civil Society Development Foundation Ruzova dolina 6 SK-821 08 Bratislava	Ms Judit Young	03/02/2003
NGO Inkluzia Kollarska 14 SK-81106 Bratislava	MS Viera Zahorcova	04/02/2003*
<i>Telephone interviews are indicated with * and e-mail/fax correspondence with **</i>		

ANNEX 3. LIST OF DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE INTERIM EVALUATION

Name of Originator	Date	Title of Document
Government of the Slovak Republic/ European Commission	2000	Financing Memorandum and Project Fiches SK-0002, SK-0013
Government of the Slovak Republic/ European Commission	2001	Financing Memorandum and Project Fiches SR-0103.01 and 02
Government of the Slovak Republic/ European Commission	2003	Financing Memorandum and Project Fiche 2002/000.610-03
Aid Co-ordination Unit of the Office of Government of the SR	May 2002	Monitoring Report No M/SR/JHA/010010
Aid Co-ordination Unit of the Office of Government of the SR	October 2002	Monitoring Report No M/SR/CIV/02002
Aid Co-ordination Unit of the Office of Government of the SR	November 2002	Monitoring Report No M/SK/SOC/02002
Government of the SR and RACINE, France	December 2001	Twinning Covenant Nr. SK0002/SK00/IB-OT-01 for the twinning project under SK-0002
RACINE France	May-October 2002	Progress Reports Nr. 1-3
Office of the Government of the SR	2002	Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance, and Technical Specifications under SK-0002
Office of the Government of the SR	2002	Terms of Reference and Technical Specifications for TA and Supplies under SR-0103.01 and 02 Projects
Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR	August 2002	Inception and Interim Reports for TA under SR-0103.02 Project
OMAS Consortium Middle Unit	25 September 2001	R/SK/JHA/01.041 Interim Evaluation Report (Sector: Justice and Home Affairs/ Political Criteria)
EMS Slovak Republic	05 February 2003	Draft Interim Evaluation Report R/SK/JHA/03.044 (Sector: Justice and Home Affairs, Minorities and Public Administration)
RDSA	December 2002	Progress Report on SR-0103.02
ECD and CSDF	November 2001	Memorandum of Understanding
CSDF	March 2002	Guidelines for Applicants to Call for Proposals – ACCESS 2000
CSDF	July 2001	Terms of Reference Networking Facility

Documents requested but not made available (with reasons): none

ANNEX 4. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ADOPTION OF THE *ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE* (NPAA)

Legal Act	Priority Code	Action	Activity/Measure	Responsible Body	Implementation Date	Cost Estimate
Minorities						
		<i>Short-term priorities</i>				
Law on Human Rights' Ombudsman			Adoption of the law	Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	1/1/2002	2000: State Budget n.a. Phare ME3.8 2001: State Budget ME 5 Phare ME 5
European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages			Ratification of the charter	Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	31/12/2001	
			Prepare a report on the implementation of the Phare project on Minority Tolerance Programme for 2000-2001	Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	31/12/2001	
			Prepare a project of the Minority Development Programme for 2001-2002 with ME 5 allocation	Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	31/12/2001	
			Prepare a project for setting up a Central Node of Drug information Centrum System	Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	30/09/2001	
			Strengthen the Office of Governments Commissioner on Roma Affairs by means of World Bank grant	Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development	31/12/2001	
			Prepare information on the status of preparation of the re-codification of the Roma language	Government's Commissioner on Roma Affairs	31/12/2001	
			Evaluate public discussion on the problem of discrimination, public and domestic violence	n.a.	31/12/2001	

Legal Act	Priority Code	Action	Activity/Measure	Responsible Body	Implementation Date	Cost Estimate
	<i>Mid-term priorities</i>					
			Complete the building of the system of institutions for effective protection of human rights in accordance with the amended law through the Office of the Ombudsman, National Centre for Human Rights, Centre Against Xenophobia	Deputy Prime Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Regional Development, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	continuous	
			Permanently train teachers, judges, police officers in the human rights area	n.a.	continuous	
			Create conditions for implementing provisions of the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages within 12 months of its ratification	n.a.	continuous	
			Create conditions through the new school law for multicultural education in Slovakia, not only through ensuring the possibility of education in the mother tongue, but also through including multicultural issues into the curricula	n.a.	2002	
			Develop a comprehensive system of financing minority cultures in Slovakia	n.a.	2002	
			Ensure successful conditions for the co-existence of Roma and non-Roma communities	n.a.	continuous	
			Develop principles and mechanisms for effective teaching of children and young persons coming from socially disadvantaged environment	n.a.	continuous	

ANNEX 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT / INTERIM EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Assessment / Interim Evaluation Reports No.R/SR/JHA/01041 issued on 25 September 2001

Programmes/Components evaluated: SR-9813 Pre-Ins Facility Programme, SR-9904 Pre-Ins Facility Programme/Minority Development Programme, SR-9905 Political Criteria/Minority Tolerance Programme and SK-0002 Political Criteria/Roma Minority Programme

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
<p>4.1.1 In order to ensure effective supervision and co-ordination of the Roma assistance Programmes by the Department for Project Co-ordination (DPC) at the Section for Human Rights and Minorities (SHRM), the Office of Government should:</p> <p>(i) acknowledge the critical workload of the DPC and immediately ensure that each Phare Programme involving the characteristic complexities of this type of work will be supervised by a single person. Additional officers should be recruited not later than by January 2002 to the level of one per Programme; moreover, possibilities to recruit temporary external technical assistance should be identified; and</p> <p>(ii) consider the need to develop and implement an inter-sectoral strategy for the solution of the problems of the Roma minority, which will only be realised effectively if an overall competent body is directly charged with this responsibility. Therefore, the DPC within the SHRM should be given a strengthened role of overseeing and steering all relevant Phare activities, including the upcoming 2001 'Infrastructure for Roma Settlements' Programme.</p>	Yes	SHMR	January 2001	<p>(i) Recommendation is being implemented. Additional staff – two staff – should be there in January, and is likely to be approved. SHMR would also like to hire someone to supervise the 2001 Infrastructure project.</p> <p>(ii) Recommendation is being implemented. According to the NAC unit, from January 2002 a regulation on the strengthening of PIUs will be in place. The role of SA will be strengthened; they will have more responsibility and powers. The whole Phare programme is suffering from lack of attention in high places. Regarding the capacity of the MoCRD, it's a precondition of FM 2001 to have adequate implementing capacity. There is a provision for supervising the infrastructure project in FM 2001.</p>

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
<p>4.1.2 In order to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes of the SR-9813.04 'Community for You' project the SHRM/ DPC should:</p> <p>(i) in collaboration with the Technical Assistance (TA) project team, the appropriate regional departments and the relevant ministries, develop an exit strategy, demonstrating how the activities will be continued after the termination of Phare support. These follow-up activities should serve as a continuing experiment and as a developing example of good practice and for these reasons fully justify wider regional and national support, in addition to what can reasonably be expected to be provided locally;</p> <p>(ii) request from the relevant municipalities funding to ensure the maintenance of the kindergarten and community centre buildings; the responsibility for salaries of Roma teaching assistants should be shared between the region and the Ministry of Education (MoE). Likewise, responsibility for social workers' salaries should be borne by the region as a statutory duty but with the active assistance of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Local Roma involvement should be demonstrated by supplementary fund-raising activities and contributions of voluntary labour; and</p>	Yes	SHRM	Contin.	<p>(i) Under implementation. SHRM reports that the Plenipotentiary has been visiting sites of the SNV 98 project, and has identified two types of settlements: 1) those where integration could be strengthened and 2) those where there is no will by Roma to integrate. In the latter case ability of self-government to be strengthened. Hungary has good results and practices to be implemented in Slovakia.</p> <p>(ii) SHMR – the relevant bodies are informed about this, they know about the need for transfer. The SHRM have discussed this with local authorities but have met with resistance. There was some jealousy and envy on their parts as to that received Phare projects, but they – the local authorities seemed to understand their responsibilities.</p> <p>In FM 2000, two of the community centres will continue to receive support. Regarding assistant teachers, there is an agreement between MoE and DPM Csaky's office.</p> <p>MoE-kindergartens are under the responsibility of local admin. MoE is responsible for the content. Secondly, there is still no legal provision for teaching assistants. The new Act on Education will provide for teaching assistants. This comes into effect 1 September 2002. The Act provides for Roma teaching assistants in kindergartens and primary schools.</p>

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
(iii) assess, together with the TA team and volunteers associated with community centres, the possible benefits of establishing the community centres as Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs).				(iii) Recommendation is being implemented as there is a project to help to establish such NGOs that should be ready in December. However, foreign donor support is necessary for the continuation in any case. While SHRM is responsible for follow up for all the above, the basic problem is that SHRM has no local competencies and can only persuade, rather than reward or punish. In the future, such projects should be organised at the local level. Regarding the community centres, as they did not exist before the local community is still sceptical as to their utility and purpose. Gradually, however people are coming to appreciate them. The heads of community centres would continue even without financing, as fundamental trust is at issue. Regarding infrastructure, SHRM have obtained signatures in beneficiary villages so that whole community approves the projects or is at least aware of their purpose.
<p>4.1.3 As for the educational parts of the Roma Programmes (see 2.3.3) the MoE should ensure that:</p> <p>(i) an Implementation Unit with at least three additional staff will be established at the Department for European Integration not later than 1 January 2002. A strong and effective organisational structure created within the MoE is necessary to ensure professional management and effective delivery of the educational components of Phare programmes; and</p> <p>(ii) an effective monitoring system is introduced; the MoE officials with responsibility for planning and co-ordination should meet on a monthly basis with the SHRM/ DPC and with the Commission Services at the Delegation (D) in order to liaise on progress.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>MoE</p> <p>MoE, SHRM</p>	<p>January 2002</p> <p>Continuous</p>	<p>(i) Minister has decided to establish a unit-how to solve a complex of problems concerning <i>acquis</i> as of 1 January. 1 – 3 persons. Accepted by the MoE, and is being implemented with involvement of SHRM.</p> <p>(ii) to be implemented. M monthly meetings will take place, to be shared by MoE&SHRM with the latter being primarily responsible. All sectors involved in minority Phare projects should attend these meetings and file Joint Monitoring and Assessment Reports.</p>

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
4.1.4 In order to spread valuable lessons of the 'Community for You' project as widely as possible, the SHRM/ DPC in close co-operation with the TA team and the regional authorities should arrange seminars at regional and national level with the active participation, at both regional and national events, of all levels of society from local citizens, representatives and regional officials to national bodies such as ministries and government. Such events should receive extensive local and national media coverage by television and the press.	Yes	SHRM	On-going	Recommendation under implementation. SHRM has troubles with the Agency contracted under Phare responsible for publicity – Pro Publicum s.r.o. Instead their local TA generates PI through articles, TV and radio pieces.
4.1.5 In order to ensure closer and more effective co-ordination between the donors and NGOs involved in projects concerning minorities, especially Roma, the SHRM/ DPC and the D should request the Donors' Forum, as the already existing institution performing this function, to play a more pro-active and dynamic role in calling meetings and promoting exchange of information between all participants in minority related programmes. A first workshop should be initiated by the Director of the Donors' Forum not later than by the end of January 2002.	Yes	SHRM	Not available	To be implemented. The donors' forum is not officially established, but in the past there has been a great deal of donor co-ordination, both formal and informal. For example, the SSTAF on Roma projects was part of the larger Donors' forum project.
4.2.1 In the event of major governmental changes (e.g. dissolution of the present coalition government) the ability of the Government to maintain effective co-ordination of Phare programmes in the area of Roma matters would be threatened as administrative changes which could result in either the dissolution or relocation of the current co-ordinating SHRM/ DPC. This could put at serious risk the delivery of Programmes to which the Slovak Government is committed. Therefore, the D should request from the Slovak Government that this co-ordinating section is retained in its present structural form or as near to this as is possible, particularly in relation to the ministerial bodies whose activities, vis-à-vis minorities, it now supervises, and that this continuity should be guaranteed by the Government.	Yes	SHRM, NAC	On-going	To be implemented as much as possible, and the D closely follows the process. SHRM has proposed government materials for just this purpose. However, it is difficult to bind future government in such a manner. Not likely to shift Phare responsibilities to the Plenipotentiary as this is not a permanent structure. The NAC Unit proposes a MoU as a precondition of Phare 2001 and 02 support. PPF for land ownership issues to be prepared by end of 26 October. NAC Unit-SHRM should ask MoCRD for help.

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
<p>the SHRM should:</p> <p>(i) assist the regional authorities in taking action to ensure that their own departments and municipalities take action when cases of non-fulfilment of statutory duties against Roma population occur, preferably by firm and directed encouragement but if necessary by administrative or legal enforcement. The regions should be pro-active in checking on non-compliance with statutory duties (e.g. to collect waste regularly) for all municipalities. Particular attention should be paid to the inclusion of proportionate numbers (quotas) of Roma in public works programmes;</p> <p>(ii) actively contribute to resolve fundamental legal issues affecting the integration of Roma citizens (e.g. refusal of registration of Roma individuals since their dwellings are supposed to be illegal), by establishing a working party to resolve neglected contradictions between rights and current practices. Under the overall co-ordination of the SHRM, such a working party should involve all relevant ministries, particularly those of Internal Affairs and of Justice; and</p> <p>(iii) encourage community centre activists to prioritise Roma awareness of the importance of their participation in the electoral process, so that they vote regularly at elections, and are represented by an appropriate numbers of municipal councillors.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Partially Yes</p>	<p>SHRM</p> <p>SHRM, Plenipotentiary for Roma Issue</p> <p>SHRM</p>	<p>2002</p> <p>None</p> <p>Continuous</p>	<p>(i) there are plans in the works to apply through 2002 to address this. A concrete project is under preparation.</p> <p>(ii) the new Plenipotentiary for Roma Affairs established a cross ministerial body to facilitate binding decisions. This issue will be taken up with no deadline.</p> <p>(iii) related to the above mentioned point. There is a programme by several NGOs to explain the electoral process. This is also promoted with community centres, but it is not a key role of the centres. Self-government efforts, based on the Hungarian model and funded by Norway are under consideration.</p>
<p>4.2.4 The single most effective step in avoiding the referral of Roma children to special schools would seem to be the provision of further free kindergarten places in all locations with Roma children, as piloted by Programme SR-9813.04. The SHRM, in collaboration with the MoE and the Plenipotentiary for Roma Issues, should assess ways how this could be done with a suitable curriculum and an adequate support network, which includes Roma assistant teachers. In</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>SHRM, MoE</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Steps are being taken to develop legal framework. Legal issues to be resolved but a question remains how to implement it in regions. Free kindergarten-including free lunch-already exists for Roma children with postponed primary school attendance. Roma assistant teachers& curricula-reintegration to normal schools is already approved by MoE, and is supported by Phare 2001. The</p>

Recommendation	Applied	Responsibility for Follow-up	Deadline	Details of Action/Remarks
places without existing kindergartens, this would involve the establishment of new kindergartens. Ideally, all such establishments should be open to all children whether Roma or non-Roma.				<p>basis for the implementation of the act is also a question of testing, a task for experts and psychologists. The tests are already changing, although further improvements are expected. The SHRM raised the Letanovce case, where 25 children from Romany population excluded from 1st class because a psychologist's report stated that 100% of Roma children eligible for 1st class are retarded. The Section intervened and 10 were immediately transferred to normal classes. Segregation remains a problem also regional practices are racist towards the children.</p> <p>MoE can support it via Phare to help to create new tests. This will be discussed. New kindergartens must be established at community level due to decentralisation. SHRM also to include reintegration "Conception is dead paper without adequate training". Concrete steps are needed in the region. Monitoring the practice.</p>
4.2.4 In order to ensure a valuable outcome of the educational parts of the upcoming Phare Programmes, the MoE should urgently take action to abolish what usually amounts to a segregated school system in practice, in order to ensure the educational integration of the Roma minority. A definite time-period of five years maximum should be specified in which this goal should be achieved. Likewise the current system of testing, which ignores the genuine intellectual capacity of the great majority of Roma children, should be reviewed and abolished within two years and replaced by a more sensitive and realistic assessment scheme.	Yes	SHRM, MoE	On-going	As above, steps are already being undertaken to change the tests.

ANNEX 6. ANNEX TO CHAPTER I SECTORAL BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION SCOPE

SK-0002 Improvement of the Situation of the Roma in the SR

Sub-programme 1 (M€ 1.300) Improved conditions for mutual tolerance between Roma and non-Roma inhabitants of municipalities

The purpose of this sub-programme is to increase tolerance between the Roma minority and the majority population by continuous and planned work of field workers in Roma settlements and by providing training on communication and planning in municipalities, where the Roma and non-Roma inhabitants are at similar social or economic level, but co-operation is difficult because of communication gaps. The sub-programme to be implemented in co-operation with the Office of the Plenipotentiary on Roma Affairs and to contain the following activities:

- A special 21-week training programme module for 30 field workers recruited from the priority region East to live in future in Roma settlements will be delivered. The field-workers will also play a key role in housing projects on local level by setting-up working groups for basic construction works and by motivating the members of these groups. (Indicative budget M€ 0.100). The core curriculum to include among others areas, such as intercultural mediation, communities development, promotion of education, housing, employment or community centres development;
- After completion of the training module, individual one-year contracts with approximately 20 successful field-workers are envisaged (allocation M€ 0.510) in order to provide assistance to activities addressing the Roma minority and to provide assistance to other Roma-related activities, such as kindergartens, preparatory classes, retraining courses or construction works in the existing or the planned community centres;
- Five community centres for local inhabitants to serve also as training centres and for free time activities will be established (total budget available M€ 0.060);
- Approximately 450 local Roma and non-Roma leaders in 30 municipalities where Phare SR 0103.02 infrastructure component is being implemented will be trained on development of self-knowledge, on explanation of the origin of prejudices and on elimination of communication gaps within a 10-day long training. During seminars special emphasis will be put on the importance and value of education, health issues, childcare and home economy. Experiences from previous training seminars under the 1999 Phare Programme will be incorporated into the curricula of the training module (total allocation M€ 0.080);
- The existing 'Government Strategy for the Solution of Problems of the Roma Minority and the Set of Measures for Its Implementation' will be reviewed and improved by implementing best practice of EU MS through the means of a PAA assignment (allocation M€ 0.550).

Sub-Programme 2 (M€ 0.780) Improved conditions for young Roma people to enter the labour market

The aim of this sub-programme is to improve the conditions for young Roma people at the age of 15 to 26 by providing counselling and training seminars for them focused on motivation, retraining and craft skills complemented by work experience. This Phare intervention to be jointly implemented with the National Labour Office (NLO) will focus on improved conditions for young Roma to enter the labour market and to include the following:

- Special training programme modules will be delivered and 30 future trainers and counsellors will receive training in order to develop special intervention techniques, career

guidance, development of curricula and special methodology responding to the particular needs of young socially excluded Roma (allocation M€ 0.200);

- Following this it is envisaged to deliver the training modules to approximately 450 young Roma aged 15–18 who left school early without qualifications or vocational training (allocation M€ 0.200); training will be provided in 15 district labour offices with the highest rate of unemployed Roma and equipment supply in the amount of M€ 0.060 is foreseen for these training centres. The work experience training programme to last 25 days and to focus on ‘soft skills’, such as carrier guidance, communication skills or family responsibilities. The training should result into development of individual employment plans for the trainees;
- A small activity (budget M€ 0.020) is planned to provide a group of about 400 young unemployed Roma aged 18-26 with individual action plans in order to find employment. The participants will be provided with the range of options following initial contacts, individual or group counselling and guidance, individual action plan preparing, advanced education, placement, retraining courses, supervised work experience, participation in socially useful jobs, etc. In addition methodological support will be provided to 50 programme leaders in the form of seminars focused on exchange of information related to counselling services for the most risk groups;
- A pilot training activity scheduled from 6 to 12 weeks for 150 long-term unemployed Roma with low level of personal/work confidence or habits will be delivered through means of work experience (mostly craft skills) in three incubators (allocation M€ 0.200); for these simulated firms additional equipment in the amount of M€ 0.100 is to be provided by Phare.

Sub-Programme 3 (M€ 1.720) Better conditions for Roma self-realisation in the education system

The main goal of this sub-programme is to set up relevant pre-conditions for strengthening the systematic education of Roma children and youth with direct involvement of parents (especially mothers) as well as local authorities. The long-term objective is to establish an institutional framework for permanent education of Roma with the perspective to increase their chances on the labour market in the future. The sub-programme will be realised by the involvement of the MoE and intends to ensure better conditions for Roma self-realisation in the education system by the following activities:

- Firstly, a common approach in order to reinforce a comprehensive pre-school education system for Roma children, including mothers’ involvement into the education process, assisted by trained Roma teaching assistants will be developed; in the next stage, 50 teachers and 50 teacher assistants will be trained and 50 of such kindergartens will be established in settlements with high share of Roma inhabitants. (Total allocation M€ 0.230); complementary budget for equipment supplies for the 50 kindergartens amounts to 0.200. The activity will aim at preparation of 3-6 year old children for school attendance, support contacts multicultural education, involvement of mothers and families in the education process;
- Moreover, a modular approach for the establishment of preparatory classes to foster elementary education of about 1000 Roma children coming from socially and linguistically disadvantaged environment, intensive whole-day care alternative education system will be developed, which would include the curricula of the work of these classes and training of 140 teachers and 24 experts. It is also envisaged to establish preparatory classes in 70 selected basic schools. The budget for the TA in order to assist in the preparation and delivery of this project amounts to M€ 0.420, equipment supplies for 70 elementary schools are foreseen to the value of M€ 0.315;

- A special pilot project activity is planned in order to develop vocational and training education for Roma children without completion of compulsory school attendance. A 3-year certified vocational training is envisaged at 4 schools in areas with high density of Roma population. This activity will include TA (M€ 0.140) as well as the provision of equipment for teaching and workshops for four vocational schools (M€ 0.085);
- Finally, training for educational staff, such as 150 teachers of primary and secondary schools, 70 Roma teacher assistants for elementary and secondary schools located in regions with high density of Roma population will be delivered. The TA budget including training costs is estimated at M€ 0.160. Teaching equipment for six university departments or methodological centres and for ten pilot elementary schools will be also provided in the amount of M€ 0.170.

SR-0103.01 Support of the Roma Minority in the Educational Field

Activity 1 Pre-school education in kindergartens

Emphasis will be placed on the reinforcement of alternative methods in the educational process of minorities. The “mother and child” type kindergarten will be introduced under the project representing the first kind of institution in a series of educational facilities where next to the professional teachers; *assistant teachers* will actively participate in the educational process. 50 kindergartens will be established and equipped in the areas with high density of Roma population. As the current conditions of kindergartens are usually not suitable for the “mother and child” model, the refurbishment of kindergartens should be carried out before implementing it. Indicatively, 20 children and 5 mothers will be invited to attend one kindergarten where all activities for children and mothers will be carried out under the supervision of professional teachers and assistant teachers. At the end of the project, the curriculum for training mothers in childcare, as one of the outcomes of the 2000 Phare programme, will be further developed by including surveys and experience of the assistant teachers. Under the 2001 intervention, Phare is funding equipment for 50 kindergartens, such as teaching and electric devices and furniture.

Activity 2 Strengthening of the whole day care system and enhancement of concepts of preparatory classes

This project aims at establishing and equipping (including IT) 70 additional preparatory classes at primary schools with the purpose of strengthening the whole day care system and enhance the concept of preparatory classes. This concept is addressed to socially disadvantaged children while respecting their needs and facilitating their individual development. In order to encourage and motivate the Roma community also, ‘parent rooms’ in each school will be established as areas of interaction between school, child and family. Also great emphasis will be placed on the role of assistant teachers who will provide several lessons per week in Romany language. Under this project, Phare funds cover IT, teaching devices and furniture for 70 primary schools and parent rooms.

Activity 3 Reintegration of socially disadvantaged children from special schools into the standard primary schools

The purpose of this activity is to increase the number of pupils reintegrated from special schools into the standard primary schools via establishment of 20 additional transition classes at 20 special schools in micro-regions with high density of Roma inhabitants. The personnel of one experimental class to consist of two main key figures with their specific job description, namely trained teachers for special classes and their assistants. Under this project diagnostic tests will be re-evaluated in order to increase the number of pupils reintegrated from special

schools into standard primary schools, for pupils to be adequately diagnosed by enrolling to the first grade of a primary school and pupils sufficiently prepared for standard school education. Seminars will be for teachers and teacher assistants. The new tests and methodology of teaching children expected to be reintegrated into regular schools. Also a new software will be developed for the new evaluation and a sector-wide strategy for implementation of the results of the project. Equipment for special schools to comprise IT including software, teaching and electric devices. A framework (FWC) contractor has started in January 2003.

Activity 4 Establishment of Community Centres

This activity will focus on the development of the Roma community, through the establishment of community centres. Phare support the establishment, equipment, maintenance and work of mediators of 10 new community centres in those locations where large number of Roma are situated and at the same time a Phare financed SR 0103.02 infrastructure intervention will be realised. After assessment of specific needs of communities involved in the project, community centres social field workers will be selected and later trained using a training module and a combination of a 15-day classroom and later on-the job training. The 10 new community centres to be established and operated will function as meeting places for local inhabitants and therefore places of interaction of various cultures (especially the Roma and non-Roma). Tendering procedure for the TA to community centres was in the evaluation phase of bids at the time of this IE. The supplies for community centres to include teaching and electric devices, IT, furniture and to be contracted together the ones for kindergartens and schools. Technical specification was still in a draft stage at the time of this IE.

SR-0103.02 Infrastructure for Roma Settlements

Activity 1 Co-ordination of Implementation

Separate activities are proposed to guarantee the active involvement of the Roma population in the project, the acceptance of changes by the majority population and the improvement of mutual tolerance between the Roma and non-Roma communities. A team of ten “mediators” will be trained and later work in settlements in east Slovakia where infrastructure is built under SR-0103.02, besides community development activities and co-ordination of the work and communication among all parties involved in the component implementation, they will prepare regular reports on the situation in the villages with a special focus on the settlements and progress in community development and improvement of living conditions and monitor actual realisation of the construction works.

Activity 2 Preparation of technical documentation

Includes assistance with different phases in preparing the investment project must which have to be finalised before the tender can be launched and the works can start, such as preparation of the land-use plan, submission of detailed technical drawings to the district authority for obtaining the building permits or drafting the full tender dossier for launching the construction tender.

Activity 3 Construction Works

In the selected 30 Roma settlements different works will be performed, such as roads construction, water supply, sewerage, waste water treatment plants. The realisation of the works is planned to assure the active involvement of the Roma in the construction phase through the Public Beneficial Works Programme financed from the State Budget to enhance the sustainability of the project results. After a successful tendering, the works on the first group of settlements to start in spring 2003 and to last about a year.

SK-0013 ACCESS 2000 (M€ 0.900)

In Slovakia, ACCESS 2000 supports NGO/ NPOs in two main areas:

- (i) Activities related to the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in the following fields: environmental protection; socio-economic development (such as promotion of worker's rights, social dialogue, promotion of consumers' interests, strengthening of associations representing cooperatives, mutual and other organizations with a socio-economic role).
- (ii) Activities in the social sector, contributing to the social reintegration and/or promoting sustainable health and social support for marginalised groups of population (such as members of minority groups, handicapped, elderly, homeless, street or abused children, illiterate, unemployed, victims of addictions, of AIDS, victims of cruelty, etc.)

Networking Facility (M€ 0.050)

The purpose of the Networking Facility is to allow the non-governmental and non-profit organisations of the candidate countries to participate in multinational activities organised by NGOs or NPOs in the EU Member States and other candidate countries. This participation should promote the integration of candidate country based NGOs/NPOs in the existing networks and platforms, notably at the EU level. Grants are provided to cover travel and accommodation costs. The CSDF contracted SAIA in July 2001 for technical support to assist in the technical management of the Phare ACCESS programme/Networking Facility in Slovakia, in order to ensure professional implementation of the programme. SAIA's tasks include among other maintaining information system for the networking facility, organising calls for proposals, manage and maintain an information system for the Networking Facility; assist the beneficiary organisations during the project implementation in all project related matters and evaluate and report on the performances of the beneficiaries to the CSDF.

2002/000.610-03 Further Integration of the Roma Children in the Educational Field and Improved Living Conditions

This follow-up Phare Programme is split into the following three activities:

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

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. 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. Phare is funding also equipment in the form of teaching devices, furniture and media players for the selected 20 classes.

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, esp. those which 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.

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 SR 0103.02 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.

SK-0013		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations on the implementation, management, and budget issues between the EC Delegation and CSDF started in July 2001; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing Agreement signed by the NAO and PAO in May 2001;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting ToR, the Service Contract and the negotiation report for SAIA; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking facility signed with SAIA – July 2001;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC meeting social sector– 10 September 2001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of Understanding between the ECD and the CSDF signed on 21 November 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting guidelines, call for proposals for micro projects; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines approved by ECD in March 2002;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro projects scheme announced by the CSDF on March 15, 2002; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Programme on the press conference organized by the CSDF on March 20, 2002. -15 journalists attended; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation to NGOs on micro projects – March 2002; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 presentations of the Networking Facility to 114 NGOs – June- October 2002; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 calls for proposals for micro projects - May and September 2002; 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 evaluation committee meetings for micro projects – July- October 2002; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 grants awarded - M€ 0.760;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation committee meeting for Networking – July 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 networking grants awarded - M€ 0.050;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of grants for Networking finished in December 2002; 	
2002/000-610.03		
	No activities have started	No outputs to be reported