

## STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

### 1. Basic Information

- 1.1. CRIS Number:** 2003/005-704.03  
**1.2. Title:** Joint Small Projects Fund (JSPF)  
**1.3. Sub-programme:** Slovak Republic/Austria Cross Border Co-operation  
**1.4. Geographical location:** The Joint Small Project Fund will finance small projects for the Programme area described in the Joint Programming Document, notably in HTU-s (Higher Territorial Units) of Bratislava and Trnava

### 2. Objectives:

#### 2.1. Overall objectives:

- to support the further development of the economic potential of the border regions by strengthening existing structures;
- to reduce the peripheral character of these areas, thereby improving the quality of life and creating a co-operative network on both sides of the border;
- to contribute to the development and strengthening of an effective implementation structure for the programme.
- to create a flexible mechanism for supporting of mirror projects financed under INTERREG III A programme in Austria

In pursuing these objectives, the JSPF provides a flexible approach to funding smaller-scale actions, which are defined on the basis of local/regional needs, and which have a strong cross-border impact.

#### 2.2. Project purpose

The sub-projects of the JSPF are tailored to support development in the fields of small-scale activities across the border according the priorities and measures set up in the Joint Programming Document. The Joint Small Project Fund is supporting mainly the following fields: local democracy, economic development and tourism, cultural exchanges, ecology, health and information and communication links.

#### 2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA priority

The JSPF plays a key part in the process of preparation of Slovakia for accession, in particular through the capacity building dimension of local/regional actors. These funds are part of a process of creating "integration-minded" border regions. The project represents thus an important element in the preparation of Slovakia for the adoption of Structural Funds, in particular INTERREG III A Programme. In addition, the project supports the social and economic integration with the member states and the border regions of candidate countries.

#### 2.4. National Plan for Regional Development/Joint Programming Document

The project will contribute to the fulfilment of priorities and measures defined in the Joint Programming Document for Phare CBC/INTERREG III A Programme Slovakia – Austria.

## **2.5. Cross-border impact of the project**

The Programme will contribute to the removal of existing disparities between border regions and thus to the gradual alignment of economic and social development. This is particularly important in view of the future integration of Slovakia into the European Union. Full membership will require the approximation of levels of economic activity and living standards in particular in order to avoid undue problems connected to the removal of borders and the introduction of the principle of free movement.

The JSPF emphasise projects with a cross-border impact and encourages the development of linkages between the communities' (organisations) institutions on either side of the border. In general, the "people-to-people" character of the individual projects and the general direction of the fund guarantee a high degree of cross-border relevance of the scheme.

The JSPF will create a flexible mechanism, which allows overcome disparities in procedures of INTERREG III A and PHARE CBC programmes. This mechanism will allow support of mirror projects financed jointly by PHARE and INTERREG III funds.

## **3. Description**

### **Background**

The eligible area from both Slovak and Austrian side of the border includes the HTU of Bratislava (with the urban districts I-V and the districts of Malacky, Pezinok and Senec) and Trnava. On the Austrian side, the cross border area includes, the three Lower Austrian NUTS III regions of Weinviertel, Wiener Umland Nord, Wiener Umland Süd, Nordburgenland and the capital of Vienna.

The mentioned area corresponds to 12,197 square/Km and the number of inhabitants living into the area is 3,445,389 with a density of 282 inhabitants per square/Km.

The border region is characterised by a large urban-rural disparities. Both capital regions, Bratislava and Vienna are close to areas at extreme peripheral locations (e.g., northern parts of the districts of Bratislava, Trnava and Weinviertel).

The Joint Small Projects Fund (JSPF) was established in alignment with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 2760/98 concerning the implementation of a program for cross-border co-operation in the framework of the PHARE programme. Together with Economic Development through Tourism Grant scheme and the Environmental protection Grant scheme, supported from the main part of the programme, it will be a complementary tool in the framework of pre-accession measures in support of the regional development.

The inclusion of the JSPF in the 2003 Slovak-Austrian CBC Programme reflects the overall PHARE CBC Programme strategy in the Slovak Republic, in this case a flexible funding mechanisms, continuing with Small Projects Fund established with 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 Phare CBC Programme. Past experience has demonstrated that the fund approach is an efficient mechanism to address small-scale intervention. Moreover funds are as ideal mechanism

for the “maturing” of cross-border co-operation through allowing greater possibilities for the definition and preparation of joint INTERREG III A/PHARE CBC projects.

To summarise, the inclusion of the JSPF into the programme is a logical step forward in the overall context the Slovak Republic’s future accession to the EU, and in the specific context of the development of cross-border co-operation and evolution of the Phare CBC programme in the pre-accession context. Joint Small Project Fund shall serve as a tool for preparation of local/regional actors for participation in INTERREG III A programme.

### **Activities:**

The JSPF will provide financial support to small-scale actions in various fields of activities. Eligible actions to be supported under the JSPF are defined in more detail below.

The general aim of the sub-programme is to support “people-to-people“ projects and non-investment projects within the Phare CBC Programme. The purpose of the support of these projects is to broaden the field of activity of the CBC Programme, to encourage local involvement and to facilitate the implementation of small-scale actions that constitute the basis for larger cross-border co-operation projects.

The Fund will support small-scale people-to-people actions across the following priority areas:

### **Local Democracy:**

Schemes will be supported that help create and intensify the skills of organisational structures in local and regional public administration and other elements of a democratic society (chambers of commerce, trade associations, trade unions, NGOs). Relevant training courses and information will be provided supporting exchange visits, project preparation and procedural matters. Joint projects may also involve the elaboration of materials for distance learning and so forth. Exchange of know-how and experience in education at various levels will also be supported.

### **Economic Development:**

Support for small projects focusing on economies, which enhance the economic base of the border region. For example proposals for the development of small-scale enterprise, marketing initiatives, markets, exhibitions and advertising events, and so forth; the creation of cross-border co-operation structures and partnerships among supporting organisations;

### **Environment**

Projects focusing on specific problems of the environment of the region, such as the drafting of studies, assessment of problems, environmental training, actions aimed at increasing public environmental awareness and so forth.

### **Tourism:**

The JSPF will provide funding for a range of “soft“ actions for tourism development - studies, planning, institutional strengthening measures, specific SME training and related HRD programmes.

### **Cultural Exchanges:**

Those cultural exchanges that already exist and that are being newly established between local groups on both sides of the border region. Meetings and exchanges among youth; artistic and supporting activities; folk events and similar actions with the emphasis on the establishment of traditions and long-term co-operation;

## **Health**

SPF will provide funding for measures to promote co-operation in health, particularly the sharing of resources and facilities on a cross-border basis.

## **Flow of information**

Projects dealing with the development or establishment of facilities and resources to improve the flow of information and communications between border regions, including support for cross-border radio, television, newspapers and other media.

Besides activities mentioned, the SPF can support the projects that create the preconditions for joint planning in a border region, for framing joint research programmes, for drawing up joint strategies for regional development in a border area with the aim to jointly define the development priorities.

## **4. Institutional framework**

As the Joint Small Project Fund (JSPF) will be a regional development supporting facility, all of the institutions involved in this field will participate on the project. The Regional Development Support Agency at the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development will be in charge of the overall project supervision. The regional self-government authorities (VUC) as well as local governments (municipalities) will actively co-operate at the project.

The JSPF will be implemented in line with the Practical Guide to Phare, ISPA and SAPARD Contract Procedures, Chapter 6 – Grants. Guidelines for Applicants describing in detail procedures for JSPF implementation shall be prepared by Slovak Authorities and be approved by the Commission.

The Secretariat will be established at the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development in order to ensure administrative support for JSPF implementation. Functions of Secretariat shall be described in detail in Specific Guidelines and respective Contract Agreement, if some of its functions to be delegated. Up to 7% of overall allocation of funds for JSPF may be used for financing of administrative support.

The Evaluation Committee will include representatives of the relevant Austrian regions, as observers and on the Slovak side *inter alia* representatives of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development. Representatives of EC Delegation reserve the right to participate as observers at the meetings of Evaluation Committee.

## 5. Detailed budget (in MEUR):

	Investment	IB	Total Phare (=I+IB)	Recipient*	TOTAL
				Slovakia	
JSPF	-	0.6	0.6	0.067	0.667
Total	-	0.6	0.6	0.067	0.667

\* Co-financing (minimum 10% of the eligible costs) to be ensured by the final beneficiaries

## 6. Implementation arrangements:

### 6.1 Implementing Agency:

Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of SR  
Regional Development Support Agency  
Špitálska 8  
816 44 Bratislava  
Director General : Mr. Július Slovák (PAO)  
Tel: +421 2 5975 3414  
Fax: + 421 2 5975 3438

6.2 Twinning: N/A

6.3 Non standards aspects


The Practical Guide to Phare, ISPA and SAPARD contract procedures will be strictly followed.

## 7. Implementation Schedule:

Establishment of the Steering Committee:	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2004
First calls for proposals:	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2004
Contracting	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2004
Completion of projects	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2005

## 8. Conditionality and sequencing

No conditionalities apply.

	<b>Logical Framework Planning Matrix for:</b>	<b>Programme name:</b> Joint Small Projects Fund – CBC 2003 Slovakia - Austria	<b>Date of drafting:</b> 02/2003	<b>Total budget (M€)</b> 0.067
		<b>Programme no.:</b> 2003/005-704.03	<b>Contracting period expires:</b> 30.11.2005	<b>PHARE contribution (M€)</b> 0.6
		<b>Country:</b> Slovak Republic	<b>Disbursement period expires:</b> 30.11.2006	
<b>Overall objectives:</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Slovak-Austria border region</li> <li>Engage local actors from the border region in order to enhance their capability to identify, develop and implement such actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved socio-economic quality of life in the border region</li> <li>Number of local actors involvement in Phare activities, number of specialist involved in designing and implementing CBC projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governments reports</li> <li>Statistical Offices surveys</li> </ul>		
<b>Project purpose:</b>				
Promote joint small scale actions, with a genuine cross-border co-operation character	Cross-border links intensified, number of cross-border activities increased, opinion of inhabitants living in the other part of the border (indicator of approval)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JCC Reports</li> <li>IA CBC reports</li> <li>Monitoring and assessment reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued commitment of both of the Governments towards the priorities of the Phare CBC Programme</li> <li>Continued commitment of regional and local actors</li> </ul>	
<b>Results:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several sub-projects fulfilling the objectives of the JPD implemented</li> <li>Development of: local democracy, regional economy and tourism, cultural exchanges, environmental awareness, co-operation in health, and of the flow of information in the cross-border region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sub-projects, number of participants</li> <li>Civil servants in the regional institutions trained</li> <li>Number of “people to people” actions carried out, meeting of socio-economic and cultural organisation, published documentation on cross border activities, on tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of Evaluation Committee</li> <li>IA CBC reports</li> <li>Regional media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustained interest of the local / regional actors in development and co-operation</li> <li>Availability of qualified experts and contractor</li> <li>Co-ordination of the JSPF Evaluation Committee, Implementing Agency and Technical Secretariat</li> <li>Co-ordination with INTERREG III partner</li> </ul>	
<b>Activities:</b>	<b>Means:</b>			
Funding for eligible actions (sub-projects): cultural exchanges, youth and sports, training, conferences and seminars, planning and development studies, tourist information, infrastructure and environmental facilities	Grant scheme - Funds implemented in accordance with procedures set out in <i>Guidelines for Applicants</i>	0.6 MEUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well functioning co-operation between the Evaluation Committee, Implementing Authority, Implementing Agency and Technical Secretariat</li> <li>Availability of qualified staff from all involved institutions</li> </ul>	

## TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR PROJECT

## Joint Small Projects Fund

Component	2004				2005				2006			
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
JSPF		T	C	I	I	I	I					

T: Tendering

C: Contracting

I: Implementation

## CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (MEUR)

	1Q 2004	2Q 2004	3Q 2004	4Q 2004	1Q 2005	2Q 2005	3Q 2005	4Q 2005
Contracted			0.6					
Disbursed			0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	