

Eurostat
Unit A5 Phare

**Fourth Meeting of the
Management Group on Statistical Co-
operation**

14 - 15, March 2002

Luxembourg, BECH building
Room Ampère

Start: 10.00 am

Phare budget 1999

(Document MGSC/2002-2/08)

Point 5.1 of the Agenda



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate A: Statistical information systems; research and data analysis; technical cooperation with Phare and Tacis countries
Unit A-5: Technical cooperation with Phare and Tacis countries



**Management Group on Statistical Co-operation Phare
Fourth Meeting on 14-15, March 2002
Luxembourg, start 10.00 am
MGSC/2002-2/09**

Phare budget 1999

NW/23.1.2002

Conclusion:

The MGSC (Phare candidate countries) is requested to:

- *Take note of the financial situation of the Phare 1999 budget;*
- *To adapt their co-operation activities to the budgetary framework provided;*

Phare 1999

The Phare budget 1999 is the current one from which all ongoing activities are financed. Even at the time of the meeting only very minor activities may have started concerning the Phare 2000 budget.

The purpose of this document is to give a brief overview of the situation and to attract the attention to potential problems and discuss solutions to them.

The scope and amounts allocated are shown in the following table in detail.

Contract	Content	MEUR	Responsible	Contractor and date of effect
1	Sectoral projects OS-F: Agriculture, environment, fisheries	4.3	OS-F	Landsis, November 2000
2	Sectoral projects OS-B,C, D, E: Macro-economic statistics 1.0, Transport 0.4 (0.5), Structural business statistics, DOSME (2.4),	4.6	A5	CESD/ICON/Artemis May/June 2001

	Social statistics 0.8			
3	General statistical assistance	4.4	A5	DHV consultants, May 2001
4	Compliance monitoring, Progr.Secretariat	1.1	A5	Camire, October 2000
5	Employment review	0.3	A5	End 2001, ICON Institute
	Reserve	0.3		Attempt being made for use in agriculture
	Total	15.0		

Several complications and problems have led to the delay in implementing some of the contracts, which is quite regrettable. It has led now to a situation where

- We had quite small budget and thus few possibilities during the first half of the year 2001;
- We now have quite large budgets to implement in a rather short time, as all contracts end 31, August 2002. No extension can be foreseen;

Nonetheless all projects are now running started despite of some difficulties, it is also hoped that they can finish with the contract duration. Sub-contracts with beneficiaries have been offered and signed. We are certain that the system will be able to cope with the challenge even in the shorter period remaining.

Globally we can be all the more satisfied, as the budget for this year was exceptionally high.

Point 1: Sectoral projects on agriculture and environment

After some initial doubts on the capacity to fully implement there is now good hope that this will be the case. The doubts concerned mainly the very large project on farm structures.

A more detailed description of the system is attached hereto.

Point 2: Mixed sectoral projects

A very recent project review meeting revealed that the projects are going quite smoothly. We can hope that there will be no major problems, neither major re-allocation among the projects. This even concerns the SBS project, which had substantial start-up problems.

Point 3: general statistical assistance

This programme was unfortunately from the beginning linked with problems and delays. It must also be seen that the operations are complicated and the new contractor totally unfamiliar with them. Nonetheless the performance of the contractor does not yet give satisfaction despite efforts to improve. Things which worked out particularly slowly or badly comprise: contracts with Member States, sectoral projects on national accounts and external trade.

We have to be very careful in order to use all of the funds available. Beneficiary countries are invited to report very rapidly and to demand new advance payments as soon as ever possible.

Point 4: Programme Secretariat

This is a smooth operation, repeated from a previous budget. The challenge here lies in the timely production of results, a publication on statistical systems based on global assessments.

Point 5: Employment review

Contract is concluded with ICON Institute, normal implementation is expected. It is very likely that this is the last contract of this type.

Point 6: Reserve

Directorate F has undertaken, just before the commitment deadline, to use these funds for specific projects in agriculture. The operation seems to be successful.

Attachment: Situation of Contract with Landsis

The following brief information has been compiled by the contractor.

1999 PHARE MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMME ON STATISTICAL CO-OPERATION
PILOT PROJECTS ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS
CONTRACT N°ESTAT/F0/2000/01

The contract has been signed on the 23th of October 2000 and will expire on the 15 August 2002. It is covering 4 different pilot projects: Farm Structure Surveys (FSS), Supply Balance Sheets (SBS), employment in the fisheries sector (FIS) and harmonized environmental statistics (ENV) subdivided into two sub-projects: municipal waste and environmental expenditures. The total budget is amounting 4.298.125 Euros, the FSS project representing 65% of the total. On the whole budget a specific fund of 916.100 Euros has been proposed for covering specific pilot activities to be implemented by CC's.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION 31.01.2002

Activities are systematically implemented with a strong support of experts from Official National Statistical Services of EU Member States (21 services in total).

FSS project (Farm Structure Surveys).

Objective is to build up a common know-how and infrastructure to allow CC's to be able to conduct Farm Structure Surveys. This is achieved through transfer of know-how (seminars, on-the-job training), collection of already existing data and production of national methodological reports, support for conducting pilot surveys in several countries and specific support on Typology and Standard Gross Margins. In general terms the activities of transfer of know-how (5 seminars organized) and the exercise of collection of old data and methodological report (10 contracts concluded with CC's) are progressing very well. The implementation of specific pilot surveys is a more difficult task since many of the countries are or were engaged into the preparation of general censuses of agriculture. Concerning Typology and Standard Gross Margins needs are important and a specific focus for developing more activities in this field is envisaged in the coming weeks.

SBS project (Supply Balance Sheets).

Objective is to support the CC's in the operational production of SBS for main crops through the organization of workshops, training sessions and on-the job training. Activities have very well progressed and all CC's have been able to send provisional data applying the Eurostat recommendations. Some specific surveys are on-going in several countries (mainly on stocks at farm level)

FIS project (Employment in the Fisheries sector).

Objective is to obtain a better knowledge of the active population employed in the fisheries sector and assessing the comparability with EU data. This field requires both contacts with fishery and labour force statistics experts. Activities have progressed also in this field but it appeared that non-availability of data is a situation encountered in most of the countries.

ENV project (Environmental statistics).

Aim of the Municipal Waste Statistics was to support CC's in accomplishing the complex system of obligatory European and International waste reporting obligations. Aim of Environmental Expenditure project was to give the necessary support to CC's to establish appropriate statistics on environmental expenditure. In general terms activities have well progressed in this field: training sessions have been organized for the two sub-projects, handbooks are in process of elaboration and specific pilot activities have started in the countries.

By the end of January 2002 according to current estimations (not all costs have been invoiced yet to Landsis and therefore minor modifications are possible) following has been used :

Total budget available	Used by 31.01.2002 excluding Special Fund	Used by 31.01.2002 including Special fund
4 298 125 EUR	2 064 755 EUR 48%	3 026 900 70%

The distribution by pilot project :

	FSS	SBS	FIS	ENV
Used from total budget available	38% 1 053 662 EUR	59% 355 202 EUR	63% 243 515 EUR	80% 412 397 EUR
Used from total budget available, including contracts issued on Special fund use	45% 1 253 662 EUR	75% 451 327 EUR	no Special Fund	83% 427 397 EUR
Used from total budget available excluding Special fund	68% (840 000 EUR)	75% (96 125 EUR)	no Special Fund	85% (26 000 EUR)

The Special fund indications are made with assumption that an addendum to the contract (planned for May 2002) will be approved with about 50 000 EUR in addition to current available 916 100 EUR will be allocated to the Special fund from Direct Costs budget lines.

Taking into account that currently we have completed 15 months out of 22 months contract duration (i.e. 68% of contract duration), the overall consumption of budget is almost in line.

It is expected that problems in completion of activities on use of special fund mainly related to the project FSS could occur. This is why an extension of the duration of the contract is foreseen for some months.