Agriculture

Standard Summary Project Fiche

Project Number LI 9909.01

1. Title

Ensure Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control Measures

2. Geographical Location

Ministry of Agriculture, Lithuanian State Veterinary Service and Lithuanian State Plant Protection Service

3. Objectives

The objective of this **3.5 MEUR Project** is to contribute to the continuation of the modernisation of the veterinary/phytosanitary field in Lithuania, while addressing the short and medium term priorities listed in the Accession Partnership and National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA), namely to:

- Continue to strengthen veterinary and phytosanitary border control on the borders between Lithuania and non-applicant states;
- Continue the adoption and implementation of the veterinary and phytosanitary requirements;
- Complete the upgrading of three veterinary and four phytosanitary border control posts.

4. Institutional Framework

The Project will be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, which is the recipient institution and responsible for formulating agriculture policy. This Project will support key elements of the current agricultural policy. The Project's direct beneficiaries are the State Plant Protection Service (SPPS) and the State Veterinary Service (SVS) who are responsible for implementing policy. Each service has adopted a strategy to implement the relevant aspects of state policy. A brief description of each service is given in the following sub-sections.

4.1 State Plant Protection Service

The SPPS is the official authority responsible for plant control at all import and export and national surveillance check-points and is the official plant protection organisation within the meaning of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Their remit includes domestic products as well as plant protection product registration. The SPPS is responsible for plant health control (control at import, export and national surveillance checkpoints) and for the control and use of plant protection products. The organisation is similar to other European countries' organisation of Plant Protection Organisation. SPPS' total staff is 202 employees with 22 check-points at border inspection posts (BIPs) scattered around and within the country (road, airports and railway BIPs), which are open 24 hour a day. SPSS' organisational structure covers 10 Regional Plant Protection Service (RPPS) in the country. RPPS are responsible for national surveillance, plant quarantine control at import as well as agricultural forecasting.

The BIPs have limited equipment, but, since only document controls are performed at the border crossing, there is no need for very sophisticated devices. Basic communication equipment such as fax machine telephone is the core of the minimum equipment necessary. However, many BIPs are poorly constructed, consisting of wood barracks, which are not suitable for carrying plant health checks. Further, at border crossing points there is usually no wharf for loading/unloading consignments; this explains the inefficient practice of conducting physical checks are carried out at the consignment's destination.

The Government's policy of establishing a modern, efficient and effective plant health service, calls for:

- New BIP buildings located at 6 strategic locations, with at least 2 rooms for plant health inspectors, one of which to be used as a small laboratory dedicated to plant health matters. Each will have a staff of four, two plant protection specialists and two plant quarantine specialists;
- An inspection shed with a wharf must be available which would be shared with customs and veterinary services.

4.2 State Veterinary Service

The SVS is responsible for animal health, the prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonoses and for control of foods of animal origin. The SVS controls all meat and meat products, raw milk and dairy products and other products of animal origin during production and processing.

Under the SVS, the State Veterinary Border and Transport Service (SVBTS) is responsible for effecting unified control of border crossing points under the jurisdiction of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and the Border Police and jointly with the Plant Protection Service. SVBTS has 21 BIPs in operation in which 122 veterinarians and 28 other staff members are employed. BIPs are open 24 hours per day with the exception of those at airports. BIPs have a number of features in common; office facilities with a telephone and a fax-machine and necessary equipment for taking samples from animal origin products; however, they do not have adequate premises and equipment for detailed inspection of the products.

EC requirements for livestock BIPs are laid down in the Directive 91/496/EEC and for products of animal origin the requirements are set out in Directive 97/78/EC. The practical implementation of these directives is explained in a provisional Vademecum (VI/2062/94), which states that each BIP should consist of 7 different areas, one each for:

- Loading,
- Unloading,

- Temporarily storage uncooled products,
- Inspection room,
- Temporarily storage of frozen products,
- Office.
- Temporarily storage cooled products,

At present none of the existing BIP meet these requirements.

The exact number of BIPs required in Lithuania depends mainly on the existing transport infrastructure among neighbouring countries; their economic relationships and prevailing treaties on import and export of live animals and products of animal origin. However, following a recent Phare funded analysis it is was proposed that there should be 9 BIPs, which will need to be upgraded to meet EC requirements. These 9 BIPs will control the flow of livestock, animal and animal origin products. At present, SVS is preparing the draft Government Decree necessary to establish these strategic BIPs; the Decree will also lay down the specification for their facilities and equipment.

5. Description

This **3.5 MEUR investment Project** will further strengthen phytosanitary and veterinary control at border control posts in order to ensure better public health to EC requirements during the flow of plant and plant origin and animal and animal origin products across Lithuania's borders. This Project will focus on the construction of border control posts including the supervision of works.

Funding for the proposed Project is dependent upon the results from previous Phare funded projects, in particular upon the project "Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control" from the Phare national programme 1998.

The appraisal and needs analysis of the current situation in SPPS and SVBTS BIPs was carried out by the EU Phare project "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Production and the Production of Plants and Plant Products" in 1998. The main objective of the analysis was to assess the needs of veterinary and phytosanitary border control posts to ensure proper border control of animals and products of animal origin as well as plant and plant origin products. The main output from the project was a short- and medium-term strategy defining the main bottlenecks of the present situation in border control. The strategy has been approved by the relevant services and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and funding from the State budget has been agreed to complete the implementation of the strategy, additional funding from the 1998 Phare Programme will help prepare the design specifications and tender documents.

A recent Phare funded project on the "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Production and the Production of Plants and Plant Products" (see Annex 3)ⁱ emphasised that there is little synergy between veterinary control and plant health control. However, there are possibilities to share office space and equipment at some border posts and a common lorry wharf; however, it is impossible to develop common laboratory facilities or inspection posts due to differing requirements of the examination and nature of products.

To meet this increasing demand upon these services nine new posts will be built in four phases:

- Phase I, is a pilot activity of upgrading the Medininkai BIP is funded from the 1998 Phare national programme with co-financing from the 1999-2000 State budget;
- Phase II, funded from this Project and the State budget for 2000-2001 will construct, equip and staff five more BIPs at Lavoriskes, Kybartai, Klaipeda, Vaidotai-Kena and Salcininkai;
- Phase III, funded by the private sector, is the renovation and equipping of BIPs at the ferry port and airports;
- Phase IV will complete the BIP building programme, possibly with funds from the 2000 Phare National Programme and the 2001-2002 State budget.

The design of these BIPs has yet to be finalised, but preliminary schematic diagrams exist and are available at SVS's office. As for the staffing, each BIP requires a minimum of 5 trained officers. The SVS has sufficient resources to run the BIPs, but additional training will be required once the new BIPs have been completed. In order to highlight the most important points of veterinary and phytosanitary project parts and make project description transparent, two parts of the project proposed will be dealt with separately. Therefore the Project comprises two semi-independent components: Veterinary and Phytosanitary.

5.1. Veterinary Component

The persons responsible for the implementation and supervision of this component are:

Dr. K. Lukauskas - Director of SVS, Tel 40 43 61, e-mail klukauskas@vet.lt

Dr. D. Jonauskas - Chief of SBTVS, Tel 40 43 40, e-mail djonauskas@vet.lt

Dr. T. Briedis - Head of EU Integration Department of SVS, tel. 40 43 67, e-mail tbriedis@vet.lt

The veterinary component of the Project will focus its activities on investment into construction of four veterinary border control posts (see Annex 3)ⁱⁱ:

- Lavoriskes veterinary border control post located on the eastern border,
- Kybartai border control post situated on the border with Kaliningrad region,
- Klaipeda border control post located at the Klaipeda seaport, and

• Salcininkai border control post located on the eastern border with the Republic of Byelorussia

BIP		1997		1998									
	Import	Export	Transit	Import	Export	Transit							
Lavoriskes	51	590	8,174	65	994	7,395							
Kybartai	8	462	8,235	27	338	9,256							
Klaipeda	10,557	530	9,702	1,708	361	8,525							
Salcininkai	207 1407		3456	159	671	1980							

During 1997-1998 the following number of veterinary checks were performed at these BIPs:

Phare funding from this investment Project will construct the four posts subject to the prerequisites described in conditionality article below. It is envisaged that Lithuanian Government co-financing will be finalised before the Project commences and that it is allocated for equipping all four-border control posts with necessary equipment. The 1997 Phare project assessed that the average costs for equipment for a single border control post for veterinary checks is approximately 44,000 Euro. The Lithuanian Government will also fund the design of the posts.

The investment component will be supported with a part time EU adviser who will be an expert in veterinary border control issues. The adviser will be responsible for the co-ordinating the preparation of tender documents, participate in the tender evaluation and supervise the construction works. The expert will be also responsible for the preparation of the prerequisite reports associated with the activities of the Project.

5.2. Phytosanitary Component

The persons responsible for the implementation and supervision of this component are:

Mr. Edmundas Morkevicius, Director of SPPS, tel. 62 49 40, e-mail vaat@vaat.lt, and

Mr. Jogaila Mackevicius, Head of European Integration Division, SPPS, tel. 31 25 42, e-mail plant.service@post.omnitel.net.

The phytosanitary component of the Project will focus its activities on investment into five border control posts. Designing of the border post facilities is in process already. Brief information on each of the posts is provided below:

- Kybartai road and railway border control post, located on the border with Kaliningrad region. This road border control post is under construction, but must be adapted to the requirements for the phytosanitary control. The railroad border control post requires a new building.
- Klaipeda sea port border control post is located in the port area of Klaipeda.
- Klaipeda ferry ground border control post is the main ferry crossing in the port area.
- Vaidotai-Kena railway border control post is situated on the Belarussian border. Scoping the necessary works for this border control post has already begun,
- Salcininkai road border control post located on the eastern border with the Republic of Byelorussia

BIP		1998										
	Import	Export	Transit									
Kybartai	441	209	data unavailable									
Klaipeda sea port	440	data unavailable	data unavailable									
Klaipeda ferry	1251	3740	data unavailable									
Vaidotai-Kena	28,256	7,274	17,244									
Salcininkai	2.359	data unavailable	data unavailable									

During 1997-1998 the following number of phytosanitary checks was performed at these BIPs:

SPPS has a shortage of human resources and technical equipment and is therefore unable to carryout examination of plant and plant origin products in transit. The Government is committed to providing additional resources, but these will not able available until the year 2001.

It is envisaged that Lithuanian Government co-financing will be finalised before the Project commences and that it is allocated for equipping all four-border control posts with necessary equipment. The Lithuanian Government will also fund the design of the posts.

The investment component will be supported with a part time EU adviser who will be an expert in phytosanitary border control issues. The adviser will be responsible for the co-ordinating the preparation of tender documents, participate in the tender evaluation and supervise the construction works. The expert will be also responsible for the preparation of the prerequisite reports associated with the activities of the Project.

6. Budget (in million EUR)

Project	Investment	Institution Building	Total Phare (= I + IB)	Recipient	IFI	TOTAL
Veterinary & Phytosanitary BIPS	3.5		3.5	2.2		5.7
TOTAL	3.5		3.5	2.2		5.7

7. Implementation Arrangements

The CFCU is the Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting. Responsibility for technical preparation and control will remain with the Project recipient institution - Ministry of Agriculture. Two tenders will required, one for the five phytosanitary border posts and an other for the four veterinary border posts; both will follow Phare DIS procedures. The investment components also include a small allocation (c. 0.1 MEUR) for technical advise and supervision of works.

8. Implementation Schedule

Start of tendering:	2Q/2000
Start of Project activity:	4Q/2000
Completion:	4Q/2001

9. Equal opportunity

The beneficiary is committed to ensure equal access of men and women throughout the tendering process and the implementation as well as to the project results.

10. Environment

Formal environmental impact assessments (EIA) are a prerequisite, as these investment projects will influence the environment and landscape of the locations where the border control posts are to be built. EIA are foreseen to be funded by the Government during 1999/early 2000 and are a precondition for the Project to start. The likely major environmental effects associated with the Project's activities are summarised below:

- The site of the Lavoriskes border control post is within a state owned woodland area, careful planning and construction will be necessary to minimise the deforestation and impact upon the fauna and flora;
- The Kybartai border control post is located within the small town of Kybartai, construction is likely to have some impact of social fabric of the town as well as the environment, particularly as the expected increase of traffic flows through the town itself will have to be well organised and adequate measures envisaged to mitigate the impacts;
- The Klaipeda sea port border control posts will be constructed within the territory of the port itself; therefore the natural land environment will not be adversely affected. However, there is likely to be an impact on marine pollution unless the posts are carefully designed to minimise run-off and other ground contamination.

11. Rates of Return

The investment components of this Project all relate to investments in Government services, therefore the calculation of the rates of returns is almost impossible. However, improving the administrative and technical capacity of the services is expected to generate additional tax revenue and reduce state costs substantially through amongst others the reduction of food-related diseases and related health costs.

12. Investment Criteria

There is an element of additionality is provided as the Project builds on the existing SVS and SPPS border control network and is as such sustainable. The project follows the medium term strategy provided defined as a result of a previous Phare projectⁱⁱⁱ. Investment in border control is a necessity as a precondition for enlargement of the European Union. The project is catalytic in that it is designed to stimulate the sub-sectors into being prepared for accession and it is ready for implementation as soon as the funds are available and the conditionalities are met. Competition is ensured through open tender.

13. Conditionality and Sequencing

Conditionality will be applied as follows:

- It is expected that the Government Decree on "Upgrading of Border Control Posts for Veterinary Control at Import, Export and Transit on the Border with Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus and through Air and Sea Ports" will be adopted by the end of 1999;
- Government funds are committed prior to investment procedures begin;
- Environmental and economic impact studies of the border control post construction produced and included in the tender documents necessary for the project tendering procedures;
- Any land ownership issues on which projected BIPs are to be constructed are resolved;

• EU Phare project "Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control" from the 1998 Phare national programme should have given measurable and transparent results. The 1998 project will assist in setting up a pilot Border control post in Medininkai. It is therefore expected that the visible presence of the of the fully functioning border control post facilitated with all the necessary equipment will roll out the programme to a number of other BP the total needed number of which is still under discussion but will likely amount to 9. The completion and measurable results of the 1998 project will be a necessary precondition of the Project from the 1999 Phare national programme.

Logframe Matrix

Ensure Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control Measures	Project Number: LI 9909.01	Date of Drafting: 04/99	
	Contracting Period Expires: 31/10/2001	Disbursement Period Expin	res: 31/10/2002
	Total Budget: 5.7 MEUR	Phare Contribution:3.5 MI	EUR
Wider Objectives	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Information	Assumptions and Risks
 Continue assistance to the development of phytosanitary and veterinary control in border posts in accordance with EU requirements Immediate Objectives Construction of priority SVS and SPPS border control posts to EU requirements; provision of equipment for the chosen border control posts 	 Positive annual review at the end of 2001 of Lithuania's accession process in the agricultural sector Indicators of Achievement approval of border control posts by EU; improved skills of inspectors responsible for carrying out product inspections; improved performance of the SVS and 	Annual review of accession progress issued by EC in 2001 Sources of Information State Plant Protection and State Veterinary Service monitoring reports. Periodic assessment reports prepared by	Assumed that government resources are allocated to the project according to the defined project time scale Assumptions and Risks Assume that veterinary & phytosanitary services co-operate to achieve project objectives. Assume project will ensure continuity of Phare "Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control"
Outputs	SPPS border control; Indicators of Achievement	international bodies. Sources of Information	Assumptions and Risks
Approved phytosanitary and veterinary border control posts with adequate control and information system.	Physical existence of border control system operating in accordance with harmonised legislation; Highly competent staff of SPPS and SVS working according to EU practice, able to carry out checks of plant, plant origin, animal and animal origin to EU quality.	Annual Government report on the progress of Lithuania in relation to implementation of the NPAA. Project reports, supported by independent assessment by OMAS or the PHARE evaluation unit.	Assumed that sufficient absorptive capacity exists in the beneficiary institutions to effectively utilise substantial project resources from this project.
Inputs			
Technical Assistance: 0.01 MEUR Investment: 3.49 MEUR	Constructed and equipped border control posts	Project reports and time- sheets of activities performed	Assumed project tendering and contracting proceeds smoothly according to the EU procedures.

Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project (MEUR)

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Cumulative Quarterly Contracting Schedule (MEUR)

Project	4Q/99	1Q/00	2Q/00	3Q/00	4Q/00	1Q/01	2Q/01	3Q/01	4Q/01	1Q/02	2Q/02	3Q/02	Total
Ensure Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control			0.1	0.1	3.5								3.5
Measures													

Cumulative Quarterly Disbursement Schedule (MEUR)

Project	4Q/99	1Q/00	2Q/00	3Q/00	4Q/00	1Q/01	2Q/01	3Q/01	4Q/01	1Q/02	2Q/02	3Q/02	Total
Ensure Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control Measures			0.05	0.075	0.1	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.5				3.5

Detailed Implementation Chart

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Year	1	1999			2000													2001									2002									
	0	N	D	J	F	М	А	Μ	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	J	F	М	А	М	J	J	А	S	0	N	D	J	F	М	Α	Μ	J	J	А	S
Phytosanitary and Veterinary Border Control Measures																																				
Preparation of tender documents (Lithuanian budget)	X	X	X	X	X	X																														
Technical advise and supervision							Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х									
- Review of tender documents							Х	X																												
Construction & Equipment Procurement:																																				
- Tender Launch								Ì	Х	Х	Х	Х								1						Ì		Ì				Ì				
- Contract Signature													Х																1							
- Construction & equipment of BIPS													Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х									

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Annex 2 b)

Relation of Project with Previous Phare Activities and On-Going Projects Financed from Other Sources

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The Project is a continuation of systematic EC Phare assistance to the development of the food control system in Lithuania. 2 MEUR allocation was made from COP95 for the project "Development of a National Food Control Programme and Upgrading of Food Control Laboratory". The project is due to finish in May 1999. Recent EC Phare project financed from 1997 financing line has developed Terms of Reference for the EC Phare project "Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control" from the Phare national programme 1998 which will assist the restructuring and upgrading of border control posts.

In the beginning of 1998 two framework projects were contracted to continue the food control system. One of them, "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Production and the Production of Plants and Plant Products" prepared Terms of Reference for the project "Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control" funded from COP98. Whereas the second one, "Assessment of Needs on Animal Identification System" assessed the needs for animal identification system in Lithuania.

Tendering procedures for the Project "Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control" from COP98 are due to start by June 1999 whose main aim of the project is to provide financial and technical support to SVS and SPPS. The project will implement the strategy, which was laid down by the Phare project "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Production and the Production of Plants and Plant Products". The implementation of the Project from COP99 will strongly depend upon the outcomes and measurable results of the project from COP98 as the Project will further continue the begun activities and put emphasis on the initiation of the stage 2 of Commission White Paper.

Outside the field of food control assistance has also been provided to assist processing enterprises to improve product quality and competitiveness mostly with EC Phare projects "Quality Management in Dairy Industry" (0.4 MEUR) and "Agro-industrial restructuring" (0.33 MEUR).

The Project also relates to the bilateral projects such as:

- "Training of Veterinary Specialists in Germany, Anhalt Provinces" (German assistance);
- "Implementation and Adoption of Swedish Forecasting and Warning Methods for Plant Protection in Lithuania" (Swedish assistance);
- "Development and Implementation of Decision Making Systems in Plant Protection" (assistance of Ministers Council of Nordic Countries).

All these projects aim to develop human resources of related institutions.

ⁱ "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Production and the Production of Plants and Plant Products"

ⁱⁱ The are specific features of sea port border control post relating to port administration, which may prevent the Klaipeda BIP from being completed. If this happens to be the case the investment activities will be transferred to the Salcininkai border control post which is situated on the eastern border with Belarus.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Assessment of Needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Control in relation to Domestic Food Control in Lithuania"