

Project Fiche

Title	Combat the negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus		
Total cost	€ 2,8 million		
Aid Method	Centralised management		
DAC-code	41010	Sector	Other – Environmental Policy and Admin. Management

1 RATIONALE

1.1 Strategic framework

After the Chernobyl nuclear power station exploded in April 1986, the territory of Belarus received over 70 % of the radioactive fallout. As a result, almost 23 % of its territory was contaminated. Results of medical examination of children and adults living in the affected regions show that a large number of them exhibit deviation from the norm. These phenomena are intensified by the fact that these population are confronted for every daily activity with the contamination problem.

1.2 Lessons learnt

The past experience shows that the problem of rehabilitating the afflicted regions includes both issues of radiation and medical protection and solution of the demographic, social and psychological problems, the development of infrastructure and the restoration of economic potential. This has also influenced the Chernobyl project, which will base itself on an integrated approach, which includes NGOs and local authorities.

1.3 Complementary actions

Building up on results of previous projects (ETHOS I and II), financed by DG Research (radiation protection), DG Environment, and EuropeAid Co-operation Office (Nuclear Safety), the Belarus Chernobyl State Committee (CSC) promoted a new integrated project with the involvement of foreign experts participating in the ETHOS projects. This gave origin to an integrated approach to the issues of social and economical rehabilitation in a context of radiological contamination (CORE).

This project is a follow up of the project “Support to reduce the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe” funded under BEL NAP 2003.

1.4 Donor coordination

UNDP launched an initiative designed to renew attention to the issue and to attract more attention to the social issues generated by the Chernobyl catastrophe and by economic transition in the affected areas. Regional development, social initiatives and the strengthening of local capacity are at the core of the proposals made by the UNDP report “The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident - A Strategy for Recovery” in 2002. As a result of this initiative, a targeted project to support CORE programme has been initiated by

UNDP. The project is designed to create an administrative and technical framework for successful implementation of the international CORE Programme in Belarus. Many other donors active in Belarus are involved in the CORE programme such as OSCE, Swiss Development and Co-operation Agency, Embassies of the Member States, etc.

2 COUNTRY CONTEXT

2.1 Co-operation related policy of the beneficiary country

Belarus has allocated substantial resources in the past and today to tackle the negative consequences of the catastrophe. The rehabilitation of the contaminated areas has been included as one of priorities of the National Programme of Belarus.

Belarusian authorities are also involved in the CORE Programme. The Committee on the Problems of the Consequences of the Catastrophe at the Chernobyl NPP under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus is one of the CORE partners.

2.1 Sector context

n/a

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Objectives

Exposure to radiation does not only adversely affect the health of the population, but it also affects severely the economy of the region, which is mostly based on agriculture. The economic depression is based on (among other reasons) a high level of uncertainty about the impact of the radiation exposure on the health of the inhabitants and their children. This uncertainty combined with the knowledge about the contamination of the environment led to a depreciation of the quality of life, a loss of natural resources and paralyses the energy and activities of the largest part of the population.

There is agreement among the international donors that integrated strategy for the rehabilitation of the living conditions in the area, such as being used by CORE programme, is needed. To be effective this approach needs the concentration of the available resources in specific and well-targeted region(s). The integrated approach address the public health sector, the environment, the economical development, dose measurement, radiological protection, pedagogy etc.

The objectives of this project are:

- To enable local communities to deal with the day-to-day consequences of the catastrophe. Improving their ability to respond independently to the challenge of environmental contamination by radionuclides.
- To enhance the ability of local community to develop social and economic initiatives designed to effectively improve the situation of the population in the contaminated areas.
- To improve the capacity of the population in the area to cope with the radioactive contamination, in particular through support for initiatives that are designed to improve the knowledge of children, families and local communities on the risks posed by radioactive contamination and on effective ways to reduce its harm.

- To increase the support for cost effective health care for the local communities of affected areas, including further development of research on the effects of the radioactive contamination of soil on local population. Strengthening of local institutional capacity at all levels of government and within the society.
- To provide the CSC with assistance designed to improve its ability to support and co-ordinate local initiative within the framework of the national plan to reduce the effects of the catastrophe.
- To increase the ability of CSC and local administration to effectively use the additional resources made available by international donors and IFIs. In particular, through enhancing the CSC and local administration ability to structured planning and to efficiently allocate resources.
- To enhance the ability of the CSC, regional and local administration to effectively support sustainable regional economic development.

3.2 Expected results and main activities

The project activities are:

- To select following the technical advice of the CORE Approval Board the projects that are most suitable for EU funding with grants.
- The main part of the funding will be allocated for small to medium size grants designed for local authorities, communities, and NGOs, to strengthen their capacity to deal with issues identified in project objectives. This includes supporting partnerships with EU authorities, institutions and NGOs. To ensure the proper and adequate use of the EU funding in the supported projects.

The expected results of the project will be:

- Local administration staff and CSC staff will be trained in policy issues relevant to sustainable rural development in the areas most affected by the Chernobyl accident.
- Improved local community understanding of issues related to environmental contamination by radionuclides and implementation of sustainable measures in order to minimise risks and reduce harm.
- Improve the Health care related to radiation induced diseases in local community affected by the Chernobyl Catastrophe. The main target groups in this field will be children and pregnant women.
- Improve the ability of local community to deal with the economical and social day to day consequences of the catastrophe, in particular through improving the knowledge and understanding about environmental contamination by radio nuclides and its consequences on agriculture and production activities.
- Increased opportunities for sustainable regional development, including local employment.

3.3 Stakeholders

CORE Programme, Belarussian State Chernobyl Committee, local and regional authorities, other institutions and NGOs.

3.4 Risks and assumptions

CORE Programme and all its structures (Preparation and Assessment Committee, Approval Board, etc) should be in place at the time of the project implementation.

3.5 Conditionalities

n/a

3.6 Crosscutting Issues

The projects will address a wide range of issues such as environment, training and education, SME development, local financial markets, health, social sector. Furthermore, during the project's implementation, gender issues will be addressed with particular attention.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1 Implementation method

Centralised Management by the EC Delegation, Kiev.

Service contracts and/or grants will be offered. The co-operation with relevant International organisations in implementing contracts could be foreseen.

4.2 Budget and calendar

Total Budget €2,8 million

The maximum operational duration of the projects is estimated to be 36 months.

4.3 Procurement and award of grants procedures

All contracts implementing the financing agreement must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

4.4 Performance monitoring

The project will be monitored according to standard procedures.

4.5 Evaluation and audit

Project evaluation will be based on periodic assessment of progress on delivery of specified project results and towards achievement of project objectives. The projects' audit will be performed in accordance with standard procedures for grant/service contracts.

Annex: logframe