

17. TRACECA CO-ORDINATION TEAM

Geographic focus:	All 10 TRACECA participating states: Ukraine, Republic of Armenia, Azerbaijan Republic, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Mongolia.
Project budget:	EURO 1,650,000
Contractor:	Tractebel Development
Implementation timetable:	September 1996 to August 1998

Background

The TRACECA programme for trade and transport technical assistance was launched in May 1993 and by February 1995 a programme management team comprising four sectoral experts was appointed, based in Brussels.

Objectives

- To stimulate co-operation among the participating Republics in all matters related to the development and improvement of trade within the Region and to promote the Central Asian - Trans Caucasian - European Transport Corridor.
- To identify problems and deficiencies in the Region's trade and transport systems and to define, in terms of contents and timing a Technical Assistance Programme
- To increased coherence, efficiency, diffusion and sustainability of existing projects by effective co-ordination and to identify and develop new projects fitting the TRACECA objectives

Key Issues

There is a need to increase cohesion between projects, especially the exchange of information and data between contractors and to develop cohesion between these existing project activities and TRACECA Participating States. There is also a requirement for the presentation for budget approval of new project concepts or extensions of existing projects, the launching of new projects including preparation of ToR and the introduction of the contracted consultant into the TRACECA environment. Ultimately projects must be used to stimulate the investment by international financial institutions and commercial partners.

Achievements

The focus of the co-ordination in each participating state has been greatly improved by the establishment of regional offices in Tashkent and Tbilisi and sub offices in Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, Ashgabat, Baku and Yerevan. These offices have provided strong links between Contractors and the participating states and between the Contractors working in country. A close working relationship between the project team and the participants of each state has helped them to appreciate that projects which promise external investment are only possible after commercialisation and structural reform of the present transport systems has taken place, so that loan conditions imposed by the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) can be met. Communication between all participants, and between the programme and the outside world, is of continuing concern and to facilitate this a World Wide Web site has been created and maintained. This contains TRACECA background information and project reports. It is interactive, multi-layered, and links with other EU sites. It also functions as the programme newsletter.

Discussions have been held with all IFI transport related missions known to have visited the TRACECA states, including those that are not directly related to a TRACECA project component. Contacts with the EBRD and with the WB are particularly frequent.

All IFIs are therefore kept aware of what TRACECA is doing through the Co-ordination Team and by this means, duplicated actions are avoided and investment is attracted.