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**DRAFT COUNTRY REPORT FOR
THE CZECH & SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC**

**BASED ON WORKING PROGRAM OF BUSINESS
AND INNOVATION CENTERS DEVELOPMENT IN
THE CSFR FOR THE 6 MONTHS UP TO JUNE 30, 1992**

50

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- A. Priorities of activity in the first half of 1992
- B. Budget for activities of BIC' during the first half of 1992
- C. BIC Prague
- D. BIC Brno
- E. BIC Bratislava

Introduction

Under Financing Memorandum, signed on the 1th October of 1991 the Commission of the European Communities - PHARE Programme - is undertaking a Programme of active employment policy in the field of small business development in the CSFR. In framework of this Programme three pilots of Business and Innovation Centres (BIC) in Prague, Brno and Bratislava are supported. The aim is to incorporate gradually three pilot projects of BIC's to the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) and to create regional network of BIC's in the CSFR which can effectively assists small business development at the local level.

A. Priorities of activity in the first half of 1992

Development of BIC's in the CSFR in the first half of 1992 will be include three main parts of activities:

- 1) three pilot BIC' s projects
- 2) Federal Council and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs activities
- 3) EBN Programme activities on training and consulting for the CSFR

Detailed items of individual parts of activities are as follow:

- 1) Operations of the three pilot BIC' s projects
 - preparing of the detailed business plans of BIC and its satellites;
 - selecting further local activities which will create BIC' s network in regions;
 - finilising of technical equipment of BIC' s;
 - making broader publicity of BIC' s activities and its firms ;
 - creating of regional information networks;
 - working out and carrying out the following training programmes for:
 - * staff of pilot BIC' s projects
 - * staff of BIC' s satellites in regions
 - * trainers who are involved in the SME' s development
 - * entrepreneurs - starting up in the BIC ' s incubators
 - existing in the regions
 - intended to start uo their own business separately
 - * preparing of basic financial assistance to the BIC' s firms and entrepreneurs activities in the regions.

2) Federal Council and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs activities :

- to coordinate development of BIC' s in the CSFR;
- to make broader publicity of BIC' s activities through mass media;
- to create a common project of BIC' s activity in the CSFR;
- to support the BIC' s development through local and foreign financial resources, particularly through the PHARE fund assistance.

3) EBN Programme activities on training and consulting for the CSFR:

- residential training course for managers, key personnel and experts of BIC' s in the CSFR;
- chief executive trainers through EBN training course in Western Europe;
- god-fathering;
- consulting;
- technical assistance and coordination.

B. Budget for activities of BIC's during the first half of 1992

Development of BIC' s in the CSFR will be supported by local and foreign financial resources. As far as PHARE fund assistance goes, the budget for activities of BIC' s during first half of 1992 is divided into two parts. The first part was agreed upon as Financial Memorandum and the second one was discussed and agreed by Federal Council at the meeting with representatives of EBN on the 16th and 17th December 1991. These parts of budget will be based on an agreement between PHARE and EBN separately.

The total amount of money designated by Financial Memorandum for BIC' s activities in the CSFR is ECU 700.000. This amount comprises ECU 200.000 for each pilot BIC project and ECU 100.000 for common BIC' s activities.

C. BIC Prague

The Innovation Centre of Czech Technical University has been established in 1991. This Centre with his five buildings occupies an area of about 2ha. The orientation of new SME admitted to IC is given by CTU. These SMEs will be admitted to IC after fulfilling criteria. The tendering process will be carried out by the CTU orientation in cooperation with each of its faculties: Faculty of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering and Faculty of Architecture. Each new project will be also judged according to its emphasis on environment, information systems and ability to transfer this technology to assist update city services.

D. BIC Brno

The Business Innovation centre BIC Brno has established in September 1991.

The BIC Brno forms the pilot centre Brno and satellite centres in Brno, Olomouc, Zlin, Kromeriz and three other centres starting its operation at the beginning of 1992 ie. in Trebic, Zdar nad Sazavou, Prerov and newly Znojmo.

The BIC Brno is well as individual satellites operates in close cooperation with municipal authorities, chamber of Commerce, entrepreneurs representation, Banks, Business esp. Brno Fair.

In the process of technology transfer BIC Brno operates in cooperation with Technical Universities.

"BiC FOUNDATION" is established for financing the activity and other forms of support .

E. BIC Bratislava

The business and innovation centre BIC Bratislava has been established in the end of 1991. The location of the centre is in the building of UTR IC Ltd., Nevadzova 5, Bratislava. BIC is orienting in foundation of small innovative firms, which have interest to business mostly in following branches: mechanical engineering, energetic, computer science and informatics. In this process BIC is cooperating with universities, banks and governmental institutions. This is necessary to achieve a synergy effect and thus the benefit of the whole project. For supporting of development of small and medium innovative enterprises was founded the Foundation BIC Slovakia in december last year.