Project Summary

Project Background
The External Cooperation of the European Commission to the countries under the former UDSSR (TACIS) covers 15 countries in 4 groups, namely Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, 3 countries in the Caucasus, 5 in Central Asia and 3 in the Western Balkan. Mongolia was included for the period 12/04 to 07/05. The External Cooperation comprises a total of more than 380 individual programmes and projects which fall into 10 major sectors ranging from agriculture, SMEs and the financial sector to transport, telecommunication, energy, environment, nuclear safety etc. The Commission monitors the progress of its external cooperation on input, activity and outcome levels, whereby the most important instrument is the Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system. ROM consists of external examinations and captures the actual progress towards results as well as the wider implications and impact of interventions. The system provides a regular reporting mechanism to ensure that projects remain on course.

Monitoring Objectives
The main objective of the ROM system was to gather result-oriented information on projects in the field and to report on progress in order to maintain and where possible improve the quality of external co-operation activities through timely, independent, well-targeted information on project implementation.

Monitoring Activities
- Establishment and management of the monitoring infrastructure: 13 project offices covering 19 countries and 380 projects/programmes
- Implementation of the monitoring programme: monitoring work plan, more than 600 monitoring reports per year, project data files
- Regular management (summary & thematic) reports
- Rigorous quality control; cross-check with stakeholders
- Up-dating of the MONIS database
- Coordination between projects and with EC Services
- Recommendations on the basis of “lessons learnt”

Implementation Features
Monitoring work was organised through 13 special monitoring offices, with regional headquarters in Moscow, Almaty and Sarajevo. External monitors (local and international) undertook field trips, gave ratings and comments according to the EC evaluation criteria and summarised findings into semi-standards reports. After the projects had been given a chance to comment, the reports were submitted to the Commission Services and data entered into the Monitoring Database (MONIS). This system provided an excellent overview and a basis for further analysis and feedback into project planning.

Services Provided
- Management of 13 monitoring offices covering 19 countries
- Monitoring of 380 projects at least once a year
- More than 600 monitoring reports per year
- Up-dating of the MONIS database
- Regular summary thematic and regional reports to EC
- Recommendations to EC Services