Project Summary

Project Background
To provide a framework for its relations with all regions and third countries, the European Commission develops Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) which include details of EU assistance programmes, called National Indicative Programmes (NIP). CSPs identify sectors and activities, which complement those of other donors and are coherent with EU policies. They identify indicators and establish a multi-annual programme of activities. The CSP preparatory process includes dialogue with the beneficiaries, civil society and other donors.

Project Objectives
The project concerns a group of projects in Latin America, due for the preparation of CSPs. The missions objective was to support the EC in preparing the country strategy paper for these countries:
• by updating the Commission’s analysis of the national policy agenda, the political, social and economic situation;
• through an assessment of ongoing cooperation;
• and by identifying possible areas or sectors of intervention for future EC cooperation

Project Activities
The mission was conducted in two phases:
Phase 1: Review and concept note
• review of development agenda, current social and economic situation and the key EC policy areas with relevance to Nicaragua;
• review of international cooperation by all major donors;
• assess the sectoral mix of the CSP for its continued relevance;
• review of progress in the implementation of current EC projects vs. the actions contemplated in the CSP 2002 – 2006;
• summarise findings in a report and develop the CSP (2007-2011) Concept Note
Phase 2: stakeholder involvement and final report
• identify key stakeholders and obtain their comments;
• conduct a national consultative workshop;
• feedback comments to EC Delegation and
• produce report incorporating stakeholder views.

Implementation Features
• Close coordination with EC Delegation, key stakeholders and other donors active in the country;
• Coordination of the CSPs with other current CSP formulation, also implemented by INTEGRATION, e.g. Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Uruguay in one group.

Services Provided
• Review of past programmes performance
• Assessment of EC country programmes vs. other donor’s projects
• Consultation with stakeholders
• Inputs to programme concept
• Reports and CSP concept notes