

BUSINESS INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SMEs**(TC-01-10-01-9-UR)****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Executing agency:	Liga de Defensa Comercial [Business Advocacy League] (LIDECO)		
Beneficiaries:	The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the approximately 1,200 enterprises, mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), that will be motivated to use business information services in Uruguay. Use of the services is expected to help the enterprises better assess their business risks, increasing their prospects of collection on the sales they make. The indirect beneficiaries will be Uruguayan businesses in general, since the project will contribute towards greater transparency in business relations and therefore to a lower incidence of bankruptcies due to fraudulent business practices.		
Financing:	MIF (Window III-A):	US\$350,000	
	Local counterpart:	<u>US\$229,200</u>	
	Total:	<u>US\$579,200</u>	
Objectives:	<p>The general objective (goal) of the project is to help increase transparency in business relations in Uruguay, improving access to credit on the part of SMEs and providing them with tools for decision-making. Its specific objective (purpose) is to increase the use of business information systems by Uruguayan enterprises, especially SMEs.</p> <p>The project consists of two mutually complementary components: (i) improving the supply of business information services so that they are accessible and of interest to SMEs; and (ii) stimulating demand for business information services on the part of all Uruguayan enterprises, but especially SMEs, through an awareness-raising campaign.</p>		
Execution timetable:	The project execution period will be 36 months, and the disbursement period, 42 months.		

Special contractual clauses:	As a condition precedent to the first disbursement of the financing, LIDECO must submit: (i) evidence that the executing unit for the project has been established; and (ii) the annual work plan for the first year of execution, broken down by component and activity.
Exceptions to Bank policies:	None.
Environmental and social review and proposed measures:	The Committee on Environment and Social Impact (CESI) reviewed the program abstract at its 4 April 2003 meeting, and did not require any special assessments or measures. However, it recommended including background information on performance in environmental protection, use of natural resources, and occupational safety and health with respect to the applicable national legislation in the business reports prepared by LIDECO. The recommendation was incorporated into this document.