





SE

THE SOUTH
EAST

A REGION
OF THE
EUROPEAN
UNION



Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,
Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, East Sussex

SE



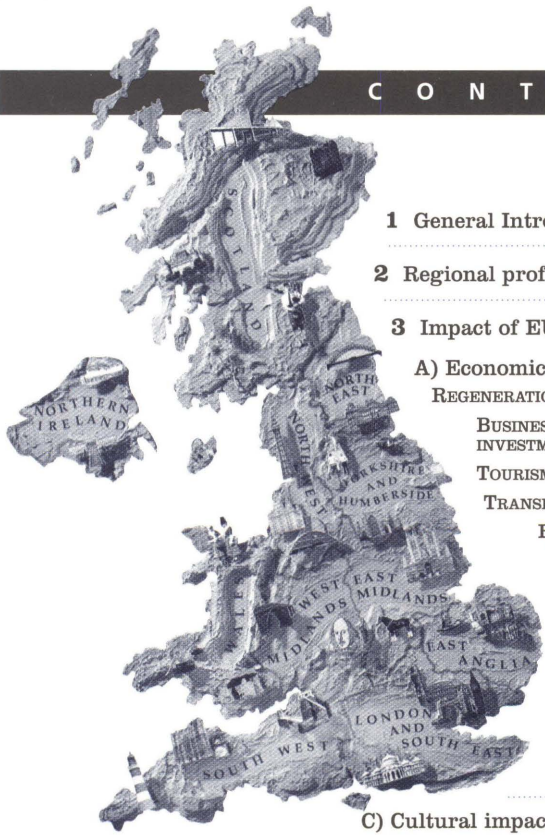
PART 1

- HAMPSHIRE
- ISLE OF WIGHT
- SURREY
- WEST SUSSEX

THE SOUTH
EAST

A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

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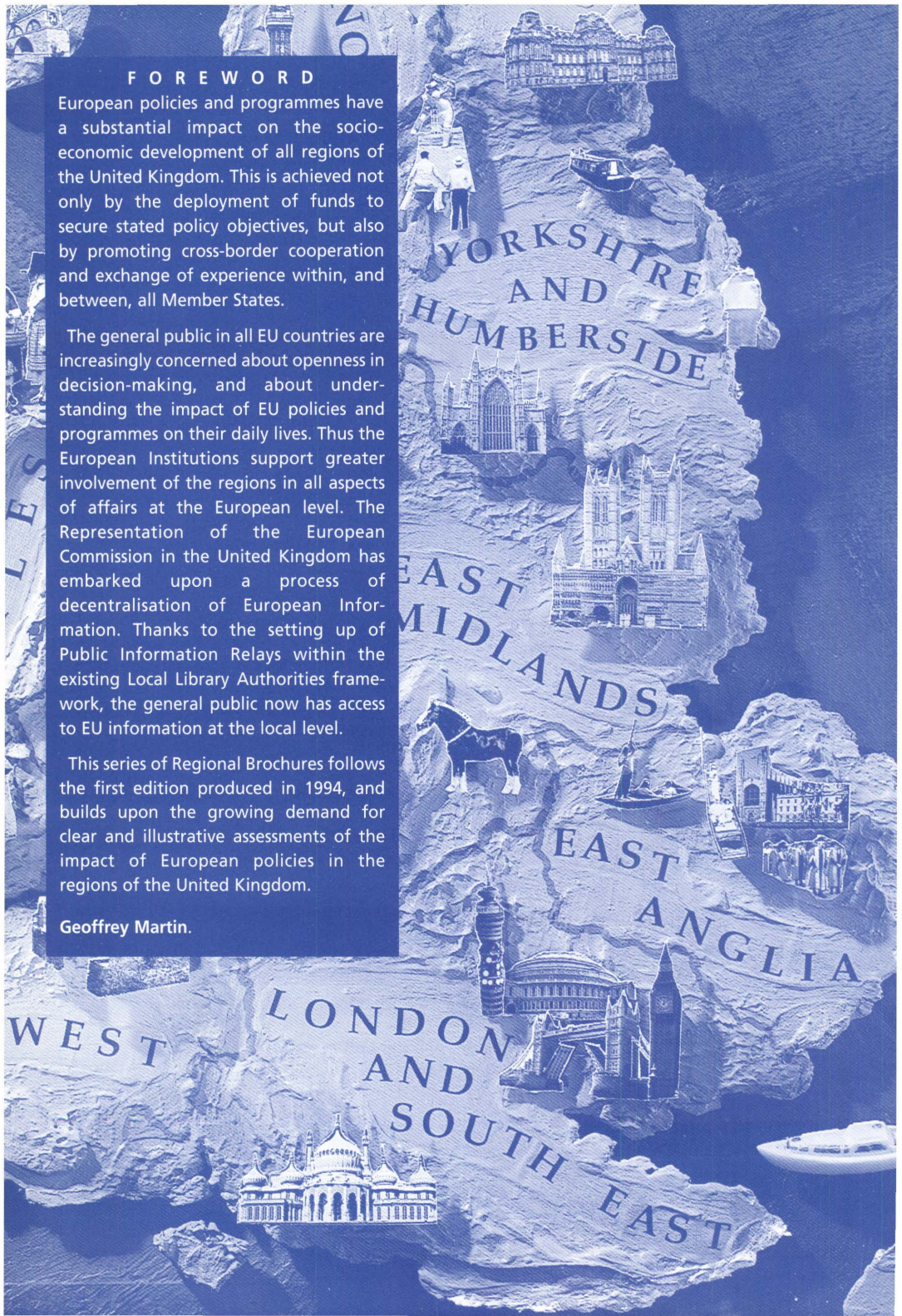
FOREWORD

European policies and programmes have a substantial impact on the socio-economic development of all regions of the United Kingdom. This is achieved not only by the deployment of funds to secure stated policy objectives, but also by promoting cross-border cooperation and exchange of experience within, and between, all Member States.

The general public in all EU countries are increasingly concerned about openness in decision-making, and about understanding the impact of EU policies and programmes on their daily lives. Thus the European Institutions support greater involvement of the regions in all aspects of affairs at the European level. The Representation of the European Commission in the United Kingdom has embarked upon a process of decentralisation of European Information. Thanks to the setting up of Public Information Relays within the existing Local Library Authorities framework, the general public now has access to EU information at the local level.

This series of Regional Brochures follows the first edition produced in 1994, and builds upon the growing demand for clear and illustrative assessments of the impact of European policies in the regions of the United Kingdom.

Geoffrey Martin.



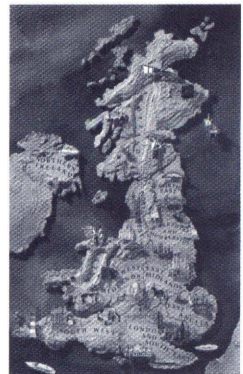
THE EUROPEAN UNION is composed of 15 Member States but it comprises a much greater number of regions whose dynamic diversity is one of the Union's greatest strengths. The current European Union of 15 is clearly very different from the Common Market

1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

of the original 6. However, its political geography will soon be further changed as negotiations take place over the next few years with Cyprus, Malta and countries in Eastern & Central Europe, the result of which will be a still wider Union. In this radically reshaped Union, the sense of regional identity will be a useful counter-balance to the decision-making by Ministers which national Governments will undertake at the level of the Union itself.

An Inter-Governmental Conference starts in 1996. It will reflect on the current state of the Union and progress made since Maastricht. It will put forward adaptations necessary to carry this reshaped Union forward into the twenty-first century.

The removal of internal frontiers in Europe and the arrangements for completing a Single Market in which there is free movement of people, goods, capital and in the provision of services, has increased the extent of cooperation between regions, be it at the level of the regional or local authorities themselves or through companies and business organisations, or through the educational system and in many other diverse ways. These inter-regional links have grown up throughout the Union, some of



1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION CONTD.

them based on Community development programmes such as INTERREG, while others are of a much simpler kind, based often on long-standing twinning agreements with recent trade-related components added.

As the Union adapts to change the desire for greater democracy and openness in the way decisions are made at the European level increases. Some discussion is focusing on the future role of national Parliaments where Westminster has a contribution yet to make. A recent development has been the establishment of the Committee of the Regions where European Union matters are appraised from a regional perspective by representatives drawn from the regions themselves.

The broad policies of the European Union affect all its citizens and regions both directly and indirectly. These include the creation of the Single Market, the common trade policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, consumer protection rules, environmental improvement, education and training, social policy including health and safety protection and,

of special interest to the regions, the establishment of Trans-European networks in transport, energy and telecommunications.

There are, of course, certain policies and programmes with a more definite regional perspective. These include the Structural Funds, geared to the poorest regions in the Union and those that have been affected by industrial decline. Many regions have suffered from similar changes in key local industries such as steel, coal, textiles, shipbuilding and the defence sector. Policies have, therefore, been drawn up at the European level to address these problems in a similar way in each country. This is one example of the dynamics which the Union is creating at regional level.

Outside the capital cities and sometimes within the most peripheral regions, much of Europe's scientific and educational resources are based. The development of European-wide policies in these areas has helped forge a vast network of regional links that have become part of the nervous system of the Union as a whole.



THE SOUTH EAST is a large and diverse region. With its close position to other Member States many links have been formed between Local Authorities in the South East and those in France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and elsewhere. There are also increasing links with Eastern European countries. This close proximity has also resulted in much transport investment, particularly in the Channel Tunnel which is serving to shorten the mental distance between the South East and other parts of Europe.

The South East has traditionally not been regarded as an area of economic problems but rather as a region of affluence. However, changing economic fortunes over the last twenty years now mean that there are extreme pockets of deprivation often too small to attract European concern but of considerable influence locally. New programmes such as URBAN together with the use of the European Social Fund are starting to make a contribution. The disparities in London remain a continuing concern.

The South East is also an area of high environmental quality and

regarded as such by the people of the region. Many of the Union's initiatives to promote improved environmental standards and regulation have been welcomed.

The European connection is well established in the South East and has increasingly become a focus for much of its activities. This booklet illustrates the extent of existing European relationships and activities at the local level together with the scope for neighbours all over Europe which share the same characteristics. The inter regional momentum is growing. This is why it is timely to take stock of the South East region's assets and prospects within the European Union.



*Southampton
Airport*

2 REGIONAL PROFILE

ROMAN AND NORMAN links are evident across the sub-region to show that the ties with Europe stretch far back into history. Today, thousands enjoy the new benefits available through Europe.

In modern times, 20 million travellers a year pass through Gatwick Airport in West Sussex - the region's major international airport - en route to destinations world-wide, or via the major Hampshire ferry ports of Portsmouth and Southampton. More and more are using Southampton International Airport, which recently has been transformed into one of the most modern regional airfields in Europe thanks to a £24 million redevelopment programme. This is also very close to the railway station with connections to the Waterloo International Terminal. It won the 1994 European Award for Architecture and connects with Le Shuttle. Heathrow Airport is also close to the Surrey border.



3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

THIS IS A RELATIVELY prosperous region. It has areas of unemployment and has engaged in a number of EU programmes designed to improve education and training as well as industrial conversion.

A Economic Impact

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

Although relatively prosperous, the region has been affected by unemployment arising from defence cuts. The EU has helped the affected areas through the KONVER programme. The Hampshire Business Liaison Group co-ordinated a successful £1 million bid from KONVER.

The major partners seeking funds from the KONVER II programme include Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Gosport and Rushmoor Borough Councils and Hampshire TEC. Nearly 60 small and medium sized companies received counselling and support for the re-training of employees through the TEC. The new projects are expected to range from re-training of workers in defence industries, possible building works for surplus MOD sites and finding new markets for defence related firms, including on the Island provision of tourism.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

The Isle of Wight Business Link was opened officially in May 1995, but had been operating in Newport for the previous six months. It has been a successful, flourishing partnership between the Rural Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the Enterprise Agency, the Isle of Wight Council, and the Wight Training and Enterprise Council (TEC). It provides a common client database for the Island, and in particular is trying to help Island businesses to grow. It will continue to encourage trade missions in Europe as well as further afield.

Similar links and bases are being formed throughout the region. In West Sussex an Export Support Programme has seen trade missions recently to Upper Normandy, Holland, Hungary and Belgium where the mission was supported by the British Ambassador and where local companies signed many contracts.

The County Council works closely with District Councils and the business organisations across the county, notably the Sussex Chamber

of Commerce, Training and Enterprise, who hosts the European Information Centre, one of 250 such centres computer-linked to Brussels to provide up-to-date business information.

Another centre, based in Southampton Civic Centre, deals with more than 200 detailed enquiries a month, plus a constant flow of visitors and telephone callers. Companies throughout Hampshire are given advice about such events as the twice-yearly EUROPARTENARIAT, a massive European trade fair and exhibition.

Local partnerships are growing everywhere and developing broader horizons. Surrey County Council has sponsored an International Business Award, part of the Surrey Business Awards which were introduced by Surrey TEC. The 1994 winner was an engineering company employing 21 people which successfully launched its products in the Czech and Slovak Republics and in Hungary.

Four Surrey companies benefited from a new EU programme called EURO MANAGEMENT, which aims to help smaller firms to find continental partners and to bid for EU research and technology funding. Surrey TEC supported the scheme.

Individual firms and companies also have their own European links and also make use of their respective Chambers of Commerce and other organisations to lobby or seek funding or do business generally as we become more integrated.

West Sussex has representation in Brussels through the Kent County Council office. Hampshire shares an office there with Basse-Normandie Regional Council, Dorset County Council, Southampton University and Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) while Surrey established an office situated in the Brussels base of a Surrey company in May 1993.

Surrey was one of a few UK regions invited to take part in the British Village event in Brussels in September 1994, and three Surrey companies (garden nurseries, consultant engineers and spirit exporters) took stands, enabling them to develop leads in the Belgian market.

Firms in Surrey keep abreast of events thanks to a special Surrey edition of European Update - a bimonthly newsletter produced in conjunction with the Thames Valley Euro Info Centre. The County Council also produces a newsletter "Surrey Euronews" which is circulated monthly to councillors and officers, as part of the County's European strategy.

The South Coast Metropole Partnership, which includes Southampton and Portsmouth, and perhaps eventually the Isle of Wight, is developing training and business networks using European funding to promote the



area. It attends trade fairs, has a bimonthly magazine and sends delegates abroad.

TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Isle of Wight represents one of the country's largest resort concentrations and tourism is one of the main stays of the economy. It attracts around 2.3 million visitors each year and they spend over £175million which, directly or indirectly, result in employment for a quarter of the Island's working population. The infrastructure and greater range of facilities supported by tourism are of general benefit. In Hampshire, nearly 30,000 people are employed in the tourism industry that brings more than £400 million into the local economy.

Winchester City Council and the local Chamber of Commerce work closely on an international project looking at the special problem posed by historic areas seeking to retain their individuality while ensuring that their commercial centres remain vibrant.

West Sussex County Council and business organisations have set up the West Sussex Tourism Initiative which seeks to publicise the county abroad, but which is also sensitive to the need to conserve the environment of the county. The Council is bidding for funding for a project related to sustainable tourism in conjunction with another islands network, ISLENET, a network that deals with the energy and environmental issues of islands.

TRANSPORT

Recognising the importance of Gatwick Airport, West Sussex County Council has formed a network of regional planning authorities across Europe who host major international airports. It has done this jointly with the Provincial Council of Noord Holland in the Netherlands, home of Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and the two authorities now work very closely together on airport related issues. About 150 delegates from all over Europe attended a major conference at Gatwick in West Sussex and now 19 regions hosting most of Europe's major airports have joined West Sussex in a network, the "Airport Regions Conference" to exchange experience, to discover whether there are common problems or common solutions to problems, and to make the views of airport regions known to government at European and national level.

The much improved A27 and A24 routes benefit West Sussex in the same way that Hampshire has reaped the rewards of the M27 and the completed M3 at Twyford Down, which also makes travel to the Isle of Wight more attractive for its many tourists and other visitors.

Hampshire highway chiefs are monitoring light rapid transport networks in France and hope to build a supertram scheme between Portsmouth, Fareham and Cosport. This follows the success of the ROMANSE scheme (Road Management System in Europe) which was introduced at a cost of £8 million in Southampton. Developed in partnership with Cologne and Piraeus, Greece, it uses advanced telematics to provide a comprehensive travel information service.

HEADSTART is a transport awareness campaign to reduce the use of the car and Hampshire District Councils are encouraging more park and ride schemes and cycle ways as well as other traffic calming measures to kill speed on the roads.

Travel conditions are also improving on the other side of the channel where many regional links are being established. Hampshire County Council signed an Accord in 1989 with the Basse-Normandie region. A further accord has been established with Bizkaia in Spain and informal agreements of cooperation with Noord Brabant ' Holland, Nograd, Hunedoara, Romania and the Moscow region.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY

The Isle of Wight Council's Directorate of Planning, Economic and Tourism Services is a leading partner in a SPRINT funded feasibility study with Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire TEC. This study explores the possibilities for setting up a networked telematic rather than property based science park.

Surrey Research Park was one of 14 successful applicants out of 60 European science parks for a grant of £50,000 from the EU's SPRINT programme for innovation and technology transfer. It will enable a major study to be made evaluating its performance over the last decade.

The ENTRANCE project (Energy Saving in Transport Through Innovations in the Cities of Europe) is an initiative which will involve trials of alternative fuels for buses, public transport and a park and ride scheme on the western side of Southampton.

AGRICULTURE

Much of the sub-region remains rural and so agriculture continues to play a part in the economy, and farmers and landowners benefit from EU programmes.

The Test Valley was deemed a river valley under threat, and there are now about 40 agreements where farmers are paid for not using fertilisers and to be environmentally aware.



Farmers also claim under the IACS (Integrated Administration and Control System) scheme operated by MAFF for payments for set-aside land, which gets funding from Europe.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

The Island is an active member of the Islands Commission, a sub-group of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions created in 1973, which raises issues with the European institutions as a lobbying vehicle.

The Island also joined a pilot project, EURISLES, set up in 1992 with seven other island regions, with financial support from the RECITE programme. The project has created an information network between the eight regions and developed a database management system containing databanks specialising in themes of particular interest to the islands, for example, transport and taxation.

Further funding is being sought for EURISLES 2, a four year framework programme containing a number of projects designed to broaden the scope of the network and to develop its activities in new domains.

Hampshire also belongs to the Atlantic Arc Commission, a grouping similar to the Islands Commission, which seeks funding from the EU through the ATLANTIS programme.

Surrey is developing transregional partnerships with Utrecht in the Netherlands, part of the Ile de France surrounding Paris and also Luneburg near Hamburg in North Germany. These regions were chosen because of their similarities to Surrey. The common factors include relative economic success, proximity to major cities, a green environment, small high-tech business base and location in the most developed part of Europe.

All four counties in the sub-region belong to the Assembly of European Regions (AER), a political body which seeks to support projects of co-operation, and Hampshire provides one of the UK's four members on the Bureau (policy committee). Meetings of this body have been held in West Sussex and Hampshire. AER is also involved in economic development, education and cultural issues and east-west co-operation, and the other counties are all involved in work dealing with European, regional, environmental and tourism policy.

B Social Impact

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Much is happening on the educational front. Southampton Institute in conjunction with the University of Alicante is setting up a £500,000 maritime centre, offering internationally approved leisure management degrees.

The University of Surrey, with a turnover of 680 million in 1993/94, and more than 7500 students and a Research Park housing companies employing more than 2500 staff, has also benefited significantly from Europe. Research grants and contracts (typically £2 to £3 million annual income from awards by the European Commission) through the ERASMUS scheme for exchange of students between European Universities and through the European Social Fund (ESF).

Southampton University, with more than 400 links with Europe, has appointed a full time liaison officer to help secure EU grants.

Portsmouth University has 280 overseas students enrolled on a four year European Business Programme and their degrees will be recognised by employers throughout the EU.

The Isle of Wight College has been involved with a LINGUA programme working with partners in the Republic of Ireland and Germany. The Council's education directorate manages one small ESF project for the young disabled and has experience of the Youth Exchange Programme.

In West Sussex, the exchange of teachers of modern languages with France and Spain was fostered by a LINGUA grant.

All the further education colleges in the county and the Chichester Institute of Higher Education have active links with other parts of Europe. At the West Sussex College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Brinsbury, all full-time students study a modern-language as a component of their course and a large number spend a period of time abroad.

West Sussex county education department has recently signed a formal Protocol with the Academie in Rouen, its opposite number, to enhance links with the schools and the education services.

There are increasing links between schools. Surrey was one of the English counties chosen to take part in an educational link with an Italian region, organised by the UK Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges.

Surrey primary schools have developed electronic links with schools in Imperia, North West Italy, where the Surrey Youth Choir has performed.



Fifty Hampshire primary and secondary schools have exchange links with schools in France and some have taken part in live satellite video links at IBM, Hursley Park, near Winchester.

One Surrey and one West Sussex primary school were among the six UK schools to be main winners of a European Curriculum Award for 1995, awarded by the UK Centre for European Education.

TRAINING

The Isle of Wight's Council and TEC are seeking ESF money to help train the disabled for the job market. The college also benefits from the Know How Fund. Staff have travelled to Kalisz, Poland, to provide managers with sound management training and specialist knowledge in marketing.

Major European grants have been obtained by West Sussex County Council from the ESF for the disadvantaged in Crawley and for the training of young offenders in Worthing. A grant under the EUROFORM programme funded joint vocational training with colleges in France and Spain.

Under the NOW programme a scheme for re-skilling women in the labour market was set up in partnership with organisations in Greece, Spain and France.

SOCIAL-SUPPORT MEASURES

The Surrey Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service gained EU funding to produce a pack of materials designed to be used in modern language teaching in secondary schools to increase awareness about the risks of taking drugs. Funding was also achieved for training during the European Drug Prevention Week 1994.

There are other links being arranged between various organisations such as Trading Standards, police authorities and social services and their overseas counterparts. Hampshire Social Services Department was among the first in the country to appoint a dedicated European specialist to co-ordinate its projects.



C Cultural Impact

RESTORATION OF CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural ties across the continents are strengthened all the time, and as part of the VE Day 50th anniversary celebration Hampshire hosted three separate concerts when young people from nine different countries performed together.

Painshill Park, an historic garden in Cobham, Surrey, was one of six gardens in the UK to receive EU funding in 1993, for its conservation work as part of the European Architectural Heritage scheme.

A KALEIDOSCOPE grant for youth drama festivals involving young people from West Sussex, the former East Germany and Spain, led to five performances in the Arundel Festival and abroad.

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Many towns, cities and villages share twinning links of formal and less formal arrangements which include frequent visits or exchanges to one another - often involving sporting functions - although none achieved quite the high profile associated with Le Tour when the cyclists rode briefly through the region in 1994. They are encouraged, however, and in West Sussex for example 20 twinning associations meet together regularly.

West Sussex has linked formally with the Regional Council of Upper Normandy in France and the County Council of Tolna in Central Hungary.



4 THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS

HATRICES centres are found in Southampton, Winchester, Portsmouth and Farnborough libraries. They offer fast access to current information on technical and business matters such as product design, manufacturing standards financial issues, law and marketing. All centres have information to help exporters and hold details of EC regulations and directives. The Official journal of the European Communities is an invaluable source of information and is available at info-centres in Southampton and Winchester. Southampton University is a European Documentation Centre.

Surrey European Information Relay launched on Europe Day, 9th May 1995, in Woking was among the first in the country to join part of a national network of public libraries providing information about the European Union including: who makes decisions; how it works; languages; statistics; publications and leaflets; on-line and CD-ROM sources. West Sussex is part of the same European Relay.

i SOURCES OF EUROPEAN UNION INFORMATION

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDCS)

help universities promote and develop studies in the field of European integration. Some of them receive the complete range of EU documentation, others receive selective documentation. Both enjoy privileged access to EU databases. EDCs also allow access for European information to the public and to students. The EDC network is supported by the European Commission.

George Edwards Library
University of Surrey
GUILDFORD, Surrey GU2 5XH
Contact: Sue Telfer
Tel: 01483 259 233
Fax: 01483 259 500

Frewen Library
University of Portsmouth
Cambridge Road,
PORTSMOUTH,

Hampshire PO1 2ST
Contact: Ian Mayfield
Tel: 01705 843 239
Fax: 01705 843 233

Hartley Library
University of Southampton
SOUTHAMPTON,
Hampshire SO9 5NH
Contact: Mr R Young
Tel: 01703 595 000
Fax: 01703 593 007

EUROPEAN REFERENCE CENTRES (ERCS)

are based in academic institutions and public libraries. They have small collections of EU publications for reference only. All are open to members of the general public and students. ERCS are, however, not able to offer a specialised consultancy-type service and may direct visitors to another source of information if necessary. The

ERC network is supported by the European Commission.

There is no ERC in this region, please refer to the other regions in this brochure.

EURO UNITS

provide a range of European orientated support services to all providers of vocational training and education. Euro Units have contacts in Government, industry, education and other bodies. Services include the provision of regional resource and information centres, organisation of conferences, study visits, the development and promotion of initiatives for teaching languages and developing and disseminating of good practice in the Europeanisation of the curriculum.

There is no Euro-Unit in this region, please refer to the other regions in this brochure.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION
RELAYS (PIRS)**

consist in public libraries who have set up, in partnership with the European Commission, a network to provide the general public with access to EU information on the established policies and programmes of the EU at a local level. They receive some of the information and materials published by EU institutions and other relevant bodies in printed, and possibly in electronic form.

Camberley County Information Centre
Camberley Library, Knoll Road
CAMBERLEY, Surrey GU15 3SY
Contact: Graham Haiselden,
Information Manager
Tel: 01276 683 626
Fax: 01276 65701

Isle of Wight Council
Cultural, Leisures Services
Directorate,
Lord Louis Library
Orchard Street, **NEWPORT**,
Isle of Wight PO30 1LL
Contact: Mr Lister, County
Reference Librarian or
Michelle Hadlow
Tel: 01983 823 800
Fax: 01983 825 972

Hampshire County Library
Civic Centre, **SOUTHAMPTON**,
Hampshire SO14 7LW
Contact: H A Richards,
Divisional Librarian
Tel: 01703 832 459
Fax: 01703 336 305

Worthing Library
South Division Office
Richmond Road, **WORTHING**,
West Sussex BN11 1HD
Contact: Dr Irene Campbell,
Head of Information Services
Tel: 01903 212 414
Fax: 01903 821 902

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

stock a comprehensive collection of official EU documentation which can be consulted by the general public. In addition, the material held by the British Library Document Supply Centre is available through the national network for inter-library lending.

**London - Westminster
Central Reference Library**
Contact: Kathleen Oxenham
Tel: 0171 798 2034

**Liverpool - Business and
Information Library**
Contact: Edwin Fleming
Tel: 0151 225 5430

Wetherby - British Library
Document Supply Centre
Contact: Andrew Smith
Tel: 01973 546 044

**LOCAL AUTHORITY EURO-
PEAN LIAISON OFFICERS**

are responsible for the coordination of EU general awareness raising activities and/or dissemination of general EU information within the local authority. They may also coordinate their authority's applications for European Union funding.

Isle of Wight Council
Newport, Isle of Wight
Contact: Tony Maine,
European Officer
Tel: 01983 823 856

West Sussex County Council
Chichester, West Sussex
Contact: Richard Mead,
Assistant to Chief Executive
Tel: 01243 777 752

Surrey County Council
Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey
Contact: Margaret Batty,
European Officer
Tel: 0181 541 9452

Hampshire County Council
Winchester, Hampshire
Contact: Malcolm Cole,
Principal Co-ordinating Officer
Tel: 01962 847 385

Runnymede Borough Council
Addlestone, Surrey
Contact: Mrs R Willsher,
Administration Assistant to
Chief Executive
Tel: 01932 845 500 x 209

**Basingstoke and Deane
Borough Council**
Basingstoke, Hampshire
Contact: Robert Jolley, Business
Development Manager
Tel: 01256 845 652

Surrey Heath Borough Council
Camberley, Surrey
Contact: Mr B Townley, Chief
Planner (Forward Planning)
Tel: 01276 686 252

Mole Valley District Council
Dorking, Surrey
Contact: Mr C London,
Principal Surveyor
Tel: 01306 885 001 x 191

Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh, Hampshire
Contact: Judie Barnes,
Economic Development Assistant
Tel: 01703 614 646

**Epsom & Ewell Borough
Council**
Epsom, Surrey
Contact: Graham Petty,
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy)
Tel: 01372 732 000

Fareham Borough Council
Fareham, Hampshire
Contact: Robert Leach,
Assistant to Chief Executive
Tel: 01329 236 100 x 4302

Rushmoor Borough Council
Farnborough, Hampshire
Contact: Mr W D Cooke, Head

of Policy and Review
Tel: 01252 398 800

Waverley Borough Council

Godalming, Surrey
Contact: Sue Petzold, Executive
Assistant to Chief Executive
Tel: 01483 869 202

Arun District Council

Littlehampton, West Sussex
Contact: Ian Sumnall,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01903 716 133

New Forest District Council

Lyndhurst, Hampshire
Contact: Tina Colclough,
European Liaison Officer
Tel: 01703 285 483

Adur District Council

Shoreham-by-sea, West Sussex
Contact: Sarah Foster, Assistant
Director of Administration
Tel: 01273 455 566

Worthing Borough Council

Worthing, West Sussex
Contact: Keith Eales,
Head of Secretariat
Tel: 01903 236 552

Southampton City Council

Southampton, Hampshire
Contact: Sue Mullan,
European Service Manager
Tel: 01703 832 383

UK MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEPS) -

There are now 87 MEPs for the UK, who have been elected by universal suffrage for a five year term (1994-1999). Their role is to represent their constituency in the European Parliament, which monitors proposals made by the European Commission and decisions made by the Council of Ministers and can suggest amendments. It also

has important powers over the EC budget. MEPs may enquire about any Community legislation by submitting oral and written questions. Finally the Maastricht Treaty gave MEPs new powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers in certain policy areas.

Hampshire North and Oxford

Graham Mather (Conservative)
European Policy Forum
20 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA
Tel: 0171 222 0579
Fax: 0171 233 1953

Hampshire South and Isle Of Wight

Roy Perry (Conservative)
Tarrants Farmhouse
Maurys Lane, West Wellow
Romsey, Hampshire SO51 6DA
Tel: 01794 322 472
Fax: 01974 323 498

South Downs West

James Provan (Conservative)
Middle Lodge, Barns Green
Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7NL
Tel: 01403 733 700
Fax: 01403 733 588

Surrey

Tom Spencer (Conservative)
Barford Court, Lampard Lane
Churt, Surrey GU10 2HJ
Tel: 01428 712 375
or 0171 222 1720
Fax: 01428 712 377

Surrey East and London South

James Moorhouse
(Conservative)
1 Dean Farrar Street
City of Westminster
London SW1H 0DY
Tel: 0171 416 0093/4
Fax: 0171 416 0095

Crawley and Sussex South

Brendan Donnelly
(Conservative)
72 High Street
BRIGHTON, East Sussex BN1 1RP
Tel: 01273 626 614
Fax: 01273 626 693

UK MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS RESIDENT IN THIS AREA -

There are 24 UK Members of the Committee of the Regions who are appointed on a political and geographical basis to represent all types of UK local government for a period of four years. Acting as an advisory body, it must be consulted on subjects such as education, youth, culture, public health, transport, etc. It may also take the initiative to give its opinion in other areas of interest to the regions, including agriculture, environmental protection, etc.

Dame Elizabeth Anson DL JP (Conservative)

81 Boundstone Road, Rowledge
Farnham, Surrey GU10 4AT
Tel: 01252 792 724

Councillor Peter Bowness **CBE DL**

(Conservative)
London Borough of Croydon
Town Hall, Katharine Street
Croydon, Surrey CR0 1NX
Tel: 0181 686 4433
or 0181 760 5693
Fax: 0181 760 5657

Councillor Lord Graham **Topc CBE**

(Labour)
London Borough of Sutton
Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way
Sutton, Surrey SM1 1EA
Tel: 0181 770 5000
Fax: 0181 770 5404

EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRES (EICS)

provide information on European Union issues to SMEs. EICs receive a continuous flow of information on Europe and have access to EU databases, including Tender Electronic Daily (TED) which carries details of invitations to tender for public works, supply and service contracts. Some EICs also assist companies looking for business partners in the EU through the Business Cooperation Network (BC-Net) - see description below - and advise businesses on their participation in EU activities. The EIC network is supported by the European Commission.

Southern Area EIC
Civic Centre, **SOUTHAMPTON**,
Hampshire SO9 4XP
Contact: David Dance
Tel: 01703 832 866
Fax: 01703 231 714

BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRES NETWORK (BC-NET)

was established by the European Commission to give companies a framework within which to expand into the EU market and the practical means, through specialist support, to develop commercial, financial and technical co-operation at a European level. Its primary task is to help identify, through a European network of business advisers, other businesses with which they can work. It operates through a network of 600 business advisers, who endeavour to find a partner for any type of business activity, eg mergers, joint ventures, franchises, etc. The cost for such a service varies quite considerably. In general, there is an administrative charge and a consultancy fee.

Alliot Peirson International Ltd
96 High Street
GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 3DL
Contact: David Almond
Tel: 01483 35112
Fax: 01483 37339

Trinity Business Development
Horsted Keynes Business Park
HAYWARDS HEATH,
West Sussex RH17 7BA
Contact: Peter E Smith
Tel: 01342 810 810
Fax: 01342 811 180

Leatherhead Food Research
Association
Randalls Road, **LEATHERHEAD**,
Surrey KT2 7RY
Contact: Dr Suzanne E Emmett
Tel: 01372 376 761
Fax: 01372 386 228

Services for Industry Ltd
Worcester House, Dragon Street
PETERSFIELD, Surrey GU31 4JD
Contact: Roger Carter
Tel: 01730 269 300
Fax: 01730 269 303

South East Hampshire Chamber
of Commerce and Industry
27 Guildhall Walk
PORTSMOUTH,
Hampshire PO1 2RP
Tel: 01705 294 111
Fax: 01705 296 829

Southern Area European
Information Centre
Civic Centre, **SOUTHAMPTON**,
Hampshire SO9 4XP
Contact: David Dance
Tel: 01703 832 866
Fax: 01703 231 714

INNOVATION RELAY CENTRES

promote the EC's research and technological development policy by offering specialist advice to local industry in the identification of partners through the Community Research and Development

Information Service (CORDIS), of opportunities for participation in R&D programmes and for the submission of proposals. They provide a range of services to contractors involved in R&D to help them protect, exploit and disseminate the results of their work.

Defence Research Agency
Q101 Building,
FARNBOROUGH,
Hampshire GU14 6TD
Contact: Dr Piers Grey-Wilson
Tel: 01252 394 607
Fax: 01252 394 646

INTEGRATED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

bring together the regional offices of the Departments of Employment, Environment, Trade and Industry and Transport, pooling their expertise. The role of Government Offices is to work in partnership with the local community to maximise the competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life in the region. They also represent the UK Government in regions. Their European branches provide a secretariat for organisations and individuals on various European programmes including the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, etc. The Scottish Office, Welsh Office and Northern Ireland Office perform similar functions within their area.

Government Office for the South East

Charles House
375 Kensington High Street
LONDON W14 8QH
Contact: Lucy Robinson, Head
of European Branch II
Tel: 0171 605 9051
Fax: 0171 605 9068



TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCILS (TECs)

in England and Wales and Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland are independent private companies formed by local business people, working under performance-related contracts to the Government. There are 81 TECs covering England and Wales. Their counterparts in Scotland are the 22 LECs. The fundamental aim of every TEC is to foster economic growth and contribute to the regeneration of the community it serves. TEC initiatives include Training for Work, Youth Credits, Modern Apprenticeship, Investors in People, National Vocational Qualifications, Education Business Partnerships, Business Start Up and Business Link.

Hampshire TEC

Fareham, Hampshire
Contact: Alison Long, European
Development Officer
Tel: 01329 230 099

Sussex Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise

Horsham, West Sussex
Contact: Tony Elliot
Tel: 01403 271 471

Isle of Wight Training and Enterprise

Newport, Isle of Wight
Contact: Pat Metcalf, Youth
and Adult Training
Manager
Tel: 01983 822 818

Surrey TEC

Woking, Surrey
Contact: Jason Eliadis,
Development Manager
Tel: 01483 728 190

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN) deals with planning, transport and economic issues. It is increasingly engaged in a European dialogue at the European level and works closely with members of the Committee of the Regions and MEPs. It also has a network of advisors on regional matters with a European significance.

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN)

14 Buckingham Gate
LONDON SW1E 6LB
Contact: Janice Morphet
Tel: 0171 931 8777
Fax: 0171 828 9712



PART 2

THAMES VALLEY

- BERKSHIRE
- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
- OXFORDSHIRE

THE SOUTH

EAST

A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

C O N T E N T S



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Following page:
Windsor Castle, Berkshire

SE



THE EUROPEAN UNION is composed of 15 Member States but it comprises a much greater number of regions whose dynamic diversity is one of the Union's greatest strengths. The current European Union of 15 is clearly very different from the Common Market

1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

of the original 6. However, its political geography will soon be further changed as negotiations take place over the next few years with Cyprus, Malta and countries in Eastern & Central Europe, the result of which will be a still wider Union. In this radically reshaped Union, the sense of regional identity will be a useful counter-balance to the decision-making by Ministers which national Governments will undertake at the level of the Union itself.

An Inter-Governmental Conference starts in 1996. It will reflect on the current state of the Union and progress made since Maastricht. It will put forward adaptations necessary to carry this reshaped Union forward into the twenty-first century.

The removal of internal frontiers in Europe and the arrangements for completing a Single Market in which there is free movement of people, goods, capital and in the provision of services, has increased the extent of cooperation between regions, be it at the level of the regional or local authorities themselves or through companies and business organisations, or through the educational system and in many other diverse ways. These inter-regional links have grown up throughout the Union, some of



1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION CONTD.

them based on Community development programmes such as INTERREG, while others are of a much simpler kind, based often on long-standing twinning agreements with recent trade-related components added.

As the Union adapts to change the desire for greater democracy and openness in the way decisions are made at the European level increases. Some discussion is focusing on the future role of national Parliaments where Westminster has a contribution yet to make. A recent development has been the establishment of the Committee of the Regions where European Union matters are appraised from a regional perspective by representatives drawn from the regions themselves.

The broad policies of the European Union affect all its citizens and regions both directly and indirectly. These include the creation of the Single Market, the common trade policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, consumer protection rules, environmental improvement, education and training, social policy including health and safety protection and,

of special interest to the regions, the establishment of Trans-European networks in transport, energy and telecommunications.

There are, of course, certain policies and programmes with a more definite regional perspective. These include the Structural Funds, geared to the poorest regions in the Union and those that have been affected by industrial decline. Many regions have suffered from similar changes in key local industries such as steel, coal, textiles, shipbuilding and the defence sector. Policies have, therefore, been drawn up at the European level to address these problems in a similar way in each country. This is one example of the dynamics which the Union is creating at regional level.

Outside the capital cities and sometimes within the most peripheral regions, much of Europe's scientific and educational resources are based. The development of European-wide policies in these areas has helped forge a vast network of regional links that have become part of the nervous system of the Union as a whole.



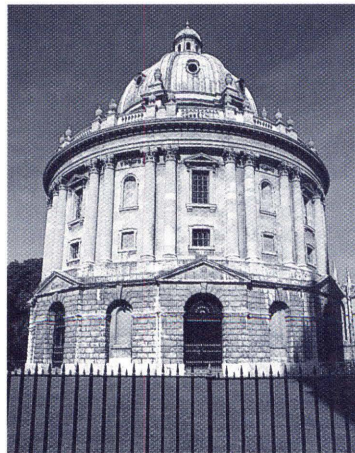
THE SOUTH EAST is a large and diverse region. With its close position to other Member States many links have been formed between Local Authorities in the South East and those in France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and elsewhere. There are also increasing links with Eastern European countries. This close proximity has also resulted in much transport investment, particularly in the Channel Tunnel which is serving to shorten the mental distance between the South East and other parts of Europe.

The South East has traditionally not been regarded as an area of economic problems but rather as a region of affluence. However, changing economic fortunes over the last twenty years now mean that there are extreme pockets of deprivation often too small to attract European concern but of considerable influence locally. New programmes such as URBAN together with the use of the European Social Fund are starting to make a contribution. The disparities in London remain a continuing concern.

The South East is also an area of high environmental quality and

regarded as such by the people of the region. Many of the Union's initiatives to promote improved environmental standards and regulation have been welcomed.

The European connection is well established in the South East and has increasingly become a focus for much of its activities. This booklet illustrates the extent of existing European relationships and activities at the local level together with the scope for neighbours all over Europe which share the same characteristics. The inter regional momentum is growing. This is why it is timely to take stock of the South East region's assets and prospects within the European Union.



*Radcliffe Camera,
Oxford*

2 REGIONAL PROFILE

THE THAMES VALLEY, comprising the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, is one of the most dynamic regions in the United Kingdom.

The Thames Valley, with a population of 1.9 million, is home to many international companies in high-tech and fast-moving industries. The continuing development of economic, political, cultural, educational and social links between the United Kingdom and other European countries, both east and west, have major implications for the economy, environment and people of the Thames Valley. Competition is already on a European scale for local companies.

As the European Union develops, the overriding concerns of the region are to respond to a changing environment, obtain information and pursue new opportunities.

The region's excellent motorway, road and rail networks and proximity to London are major features and is well connected to Europe with good access to the London international airports.

The Thames Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in Britain. The Royal County of Berkshire's economy was traditionally based on agriculture and manufacturing, but in recent years Berkshire has seen a considerable rise in high-tech industries and the service sector. The variety of landscape and attractions such as Windsor Castle, the River Thames and Royal Ascot bring visitors from all over the world.

Buckinghamshire has a strong economy characterised by a high proportion of new and growing industries, a highly skilled workforce, an unemployment rate consistently below the national and regional average, prosperous urban centres and a dynamic rural economy all set in an attractive environment.

Oxfordshire is one of Europe's major concentrations of academic and commercial research. This ranges from the Joint European "Torus" fusion programme, to work at the University of Oxford, the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell, Oxford Brookes University, and the world-famous Rutherford-Appleton laboratories. The county has a strong automotive industry with important European links and markets. Local authorities participate in the European CAR network via the Motor Industry Local Authority Network. The county is also home to the UK's high performance car industry.



To ensure the region is responding effectively to the opportunities and challenges of Europe local authorities in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire established a European Forum for the Thames Valley in March 1995. This was launched by Vice President of the European Commission Sir Leon Brittan, who praised it as an example of co-operation and a lesson for others.

The Forum aims to promote the Thames Valley as a region within Europe and to consider what the Thames Valley can contribute in terms of skills and knowledge. The Forum seeks to communicate European information at a regional level, and to develop initiatives including financial and other opportunities presented by the European Union.



3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A Economic Impact

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

The Thames Valley Economic Partnership is bidding for European funding under the KONVER II programme, designed to help areas affected by contraction in the defence industry. Reductions in the level of defence expenditure throughout Europe affect the region's economy.

The closures of the Upper Heyford Airbase in North Oxfordshire and Greenham Common Airbase near Newbury, for example, have had a significant local impact. Cherwell District Council successfully sponsored a regeneration project for Upper Heyford under KONVER I, and is also looking at the EU's SPRINT programme to examine technology-focused futures for the former airfield.

Within the Thames Valley newly-eligible areas under KONVER II are Newbury, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest and Slough.

New projects being considered include a Cold War and peace museum based at Greenham Common, a Newbury Enterprise Centre offering units for small businesses together with on-site support and a weather tower as a new tourist attraction for Bracknell town centre tied to the nearby Meteorological Office.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

There are two Economic Partnerships in the region operating as initiatives between the public and private sector - the Milton Keynes Economic Partnership in the north and the Thames Valley Economic Partnership (TVEP) in the south. The Partnerships work with the local authorities, Training and Enterprise Councils, Chambers of Commerce and other public and private sector organisations to foster economic development across the region. All partners recognise the importance of ensuring that local companies are aware of the export opportunities provided to them by the Single Market. For example, the TVEP recently hosted an Export Forum in High Wycombe; and in June 1995 representatives of ten companies from the former East Germany visited the region on a fact finding mission. During their stay the business representatives visited technology firms to encourage joint ventures, share technology, negotiate licensing agreements and exchange information. The event was organised by the German-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the support of TVEP.

The TVEP aims to capitalise on the opportunities offered by the Single Market to make the area one of Europe's top 20 regions. The Partnership has a number of initiatives aimed at encouraging companies to invest or re-invest in the region.

The Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise has trade links with Sweden, Slovenia, Germany and Poitiers Business School and is developing new links with eastern Europe, recently hosting a seminar for local businesses which highlighted opportunities for trading with the Upper Silesian Area of Poland. Wycombe District Council is exploring the opportunities for economic twinning with Angoulême, a French town with a similar economic profile.

A valuable source of information on European matters for small to medium sized companies in the Thames Valley is the Thames Valley European Information Centre based at the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Slough. Contacts are maintained by local authorities with the region's Members of the European Parliament to ensure businesses are kept up to date about the activities of the European Union. One local MEP, for example, reports back after each EU summit to representatives of local businesses at an event co-ordinated by Business Link Thames Valley.

All the Chambers of Commerce in the region have strong European connections in economic development and for many years have undertaken substantial export promotion activity. A Business Link for Heart of England is also opening to complete the network of Business Links in the Thames Valley.

TOURISM

Tourism is very important to the economy of the Thames Valley. To take advantage of the opportunities offered by Europe for the hotel, catering and leisure trade, Berkshire County Council's tourism service translates its promotional literature into German and French. An agreement negotiated with a national ferry company means Berkshire is promoted on ferries and at trade exhibitions. A recent travel industry workshop in Cologne led to a substantial increase in hotel bookings in Berkshire. Milton Keynes has been promoted at travel exhibitions in Belgium and Holland and marketed in Europe through a Southern Tourist Board campaign.

TRANSPORT

Ways are being sought to improve the region's already extensive transport network to provide fast and effective links with Europe. Reading in Berkshire, Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire and Didcot in

South Oxfordshire will be served by the Eurostar service to Paris and Brussels on the Trans-European rail route via the Channel Tunnel.

Local authorities support the development of rail rather than road connections for east-west links across the country. As a pilot transportation project for Europe, Berkshire County Council is bidding for EU Telematics funding for a project in Reading to make park and ride more viable to ease environmental pressures on the county. Already a national leader in the field of automatic traffic management systems, the Council is planning to introduce measures such as electronic information on bus arrival times for passengers and bus priority on strategic routes into town centres. The Council is currently seeking European partners for the project.

A transport strategy has been developed for the historic city of Oxford and support has been sought for this from a variety of European programmes. The County Council is also furthering its European links in the transport field by participating in a European Exchange of Experience programme with Spain, Portugal and Greece. Oxford City Council is a member of CITELEC, the network of European cities promoting the use of electric vehicles.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

A number of Buckinghamshire research companies are engaged in European Research and Technological Development programmes developing initiatives under both the EUREKA and SPRINT programmes.

Many of Oxfordshire's research companies and institutions are engaged in European research and technical development programmes. As a result, the County takes a keen interest in the research initiatives of the European Union. Funds have been secured under the European Commission Directorate General XIII's EUROMANAGEMENT programme to enable local companies to undertake strategic audits of their technological capacities and be better able to participate in European projects. The programme is run by Oxford Innovation Ltd and the Teaching Company Directorate.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

Milton Keynes Borough Council will take part in an EU funded ECOS/OUVERTURE (Exchange of Experience) programme with Lille in France and Tychy in Poland. Several opportunities have been identified, such as the development of motorway service areas, the construction of new sewerage works, energy conservation in multi-storey housing and shopping centre development, and development work is now in progress.

With funding from the EU Telematics budget, Berkshire County



Council is working together with partners in Belgium, Gateshead, and Clwyd in Wales to develop an interactive home information system based on the cable television network which will give residents access to a wealth of information from their homes. Currently in its design stage, the project entitled European Reactive Telecom will mean it is possible to dial-up a voice activated system to request specific information from menus displayed on the television screen. In addition, the Oxfordshire "OXCIS" electronic information service has worked with partners in Spain and Ireland to bid for European Telematics programmes.

B Social Impact

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Education Departments are working together on a regional project to mark the European Year of Lifelong Learning in 1996. This will focus on different stages of the learning process: primary, secondary and adult education and aims to raise awareness in the community about the benefits of lifelong learning. The project will also provide an opportunity for schools to develop a European dimension to their curriculum. A variety of bids are currently being prepared across the region to the EU SOCRATES and LEONARDO programmes for education and training.

There are many well-established links between the region's schools and their European counterparts. Berkshire's links with the French Département of la Vienne have led to many exciting new projects. Pupils from Park House School, Newbury, for example, recently took part in a video conference with counterparts from the Collège Leon Huet, near Poitiers, giving them the chance to practice their language skills. A joint project by Kendrick School, Reading, and the Lycée Alienor d'Aquitaine in Poitiers to establish a two-way video link also won a prize in the Eurotunnel Twinning Competition. For the first time this year, a scheme has been set up offering work experience placements at the Futuroscope science park in Vienne to sixth form students at Charters School in Ascot.

In addition to the many existing links between individual Buckinghamshire schools and schools in the rest of Europe, Buckinghamshire's Education Authority has recently established a link with the Education Authority in West Madrid which has led to new links between local schools. Schools in Buckinghamshire are kept informed about European activities through the Authority's European Newsletter "Eurofile", and last year a major education conference on Europe was organised in Buckinghamshire followed by an in-service training day.

Higher and further education establishments in the region such as De Montfort, Buckingham and the Open University, Buckinghamshire College, and Milton Keynes College have long established links for student exchange, research co-operation, programme development and exchanges of experience with colleges in Central and Eastern Europe. Funding for some of the projects came from the COMETT and ERASMUS programmes.

Oxfordshire County Council is working with the three institutions of higher education in the county, all of which have strong European and international profiles, to encourage schools to develop the European dimension in the curriculum. Westminster College, Oxford, is supporting clusters of primary schools in West Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse, in bids for SOCRATES funds. Gosford Hill School, Kidlington and Wheatley Park School, Holton have undertaken work experience placements in the Paris region. Oxfordshire is also home to the European School at Culham.

TRAINING

One of the most significant sources of European funding for the region is the European Social Fund (ESF), which aims to improve employment opportunities by funding training schemes and job creation programmes.

Projects supported by the scheme in Berkshire include: a £80,000 training scheme for women returning to work; and a £22,000 commercial horticulture training scheme for adults with learning disabilities in Maidenhead.

ESF projects supported in Buckinghamshire include: the "Jobsearch" initiative, which provides a free, open access unemployment counselling service both in Central Milton Keynes and in neighbourhoods experiencing high levels of unemployment; basic vocational training for persons exposed to exclusion from the labour market. Beneficiaries targeted are unemployed people with particular disadvantages such as those for whom English is a second language needing help with basic literacy and numeracy skills, and/or those with childcare responsibilities. Students receive training in business administration, computing, caring and craft and design.

Oxfordshire has also taken full advantage of Europe's training initiatives to develop innovative programmes. Through the ESF the county has developed an innovative "Training for Carers" course, which has had considerable success in raising unemployed people's skills in the field of caring and enabling them to acquire jobs within the caring profession or gain access to further training. Oxford City has also used the ESF to support a computing and building skills course for women

returners. The project is a member of Europe's IRIS network. The Heart of England Training and Enterprise Council is also active on European issues and has used ESF monies to extend its work in the accreditation of prior learning. It also works closely with the County Council to support European initiatives.

Cherwell District Council and North Oxfordshire College and School of Art have also submitted applications under the NOW and YOUTHSTART programmes for women returners and young people, to gain useful training.

Milton Keynes Economic Partnership is developing transnational partnerships for the submission of bids for funding under the EU Community Initiatives. The Strategic Education Forum in Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire, Countec, have co-ordinated this work through a European Working Group on Training. Partners have been found in France, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, Ireland, Spain, Greece and Italy. The bids cover training for visually impaired, childcare, marginal entrepreneurs, recycling computers and creation of computer recycling jobs, and establishing women enterprise centres.

Major funding has been secured in Berkshire to establish a programme of exchange visits and work projects for young people; for example a £12,000 grant from the EC PETRA scheme helped to set up an innovative bicycle repair workshop at Silverdale Youth Centre in Wokingham district as a specific vocational training project.

Cultural Impact

CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

With the wealth of cultural heritage in the Thames Valley, for example in Windsor and Oxford, which are centres for European visitors and tourists, and the surrounding countryside, the region is eager to participate in European cultural programmes, and is actively working up proposals under the EC KALEIDOSCOPE AND RAPHAEL programmes.

Berkshire's links with Krakow have enabled dance students from Newbury College and the Polish New Forms Ballet Company to perform in each others towns. The County Youth Dance Company has also gained £7,000 TEMPUS funding for an exchange with Kanon Youth Dance Company in Krakow.

Local artists and schoolchildren are being given the opportunity to exhibit their talents to a wider audience in Europe through competitions and festivals arranged through European partners. During 1996 and 1997 there are plans in Berkshire to add a European dimension to an



initiative bringing together different styles of music with performances by Traditional Arts Projects and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Youth exchanges are continuing to develop and gain recognition and respect as an integral part of the youth work curriculum. The focus for the future will be on training, including study visits for young people, work shadowing and seminars.

The Milton Keynes Youth Council is also active in helping to formulate Youth Policy in Brussels, and has organised visits for young people to the European Parliament.

Local church groups have extensive links, particularly in Eastern Europe - these include the Christian Foundation with Romania and East Germany and Lightforce with Albania. With the English Historic Towns Forum, the City of Oxford is developing links with similar areas and networks throughout Europe.

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Twinning with other towns and regions has long been seen as an effective means of establishing the region as a community in Europe. The major towns in the Thames Valley are all actively involved in twinning initiatives, and many of the exchanges are in the educational and cultural fields.

Berkshire County Council has links with the Voivodship of Krakow in Poland and the Département of Vienne in France, for example, which have led to a whole range of joint initiatives. Representatives from Reading's twin towns of Clonmel in Ireland, Dusseldorf in Germany and San Francisco Libre in Central America, for example, recently met with representatives of Reading Borough Council to discuss joint challenges and opportunities for their communities.

In Buckinghamshire the County Council has links with Trier; High Wycombe is twinned with Kelkheim, and Milton Keynes is twinned with Bernkastel (all in Germany). Many smaller towns have established links with similar sized European towns, e.g. Winslow is twinned with Cours de Ville and Wendover with Liffre, both in France.

Oxfordshire has long been active in developing European partnerships with District Councils heavily involved in a network of twinning links and exchanges. Oxford City is itself very active in its twinning work with Grenoble, Bonn and Leiden and in the development of an "Oxford in Europe" association; in addition, a Europe Week is held in the city. These links have led to an extensive programme of exchanges, often with a cultural perspective. Moves are now being made to extend this work into the commercial sphere. In addition active links are being established with the Russian city of Perm.



4 THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS

The importance of ensuring information about Europe is easily available to the public is recognised across the Thames Valley.

In 1995 Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire libraries joined the European public information system called RELAY, as part of a network across the European Union. RELAY offers people of all ages information ranging from basic guides on the structure of the European Union to information on law, health care, passport requirements, town twinning and the rights of European citizenship.

i SOURCES OF EUROPEAN UNION INFORMATION

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDCS)

help universities promote and develop studies in the field of European integration. Some of them receive the complete range of EU documentation, others receive selective documentation. Both enjoy privileged access to EU databases. EDCs also allow access for European information to the public and to students. The EDC network is supported by the European Commission.

Bodleian Law Library
University of Oxford
St Cross Building, Manor Road
OXFORD, Oxfordshire OX1 3UR
Contact: Elizabeth Martin
Tel: 01865 271 463
Fax: 01865 271 475

Main Library Whiteknights
University of Reading
Whiteknights, PO Box 233
READING, Berkshire RG6 6AE
Contact: Rachel Foster
Tel: 01734 318 782
Fax: 01734 312 335

EUROPEAN REFERENCE CENTRES (ERCS)

are based in academic institutions and public libraries. They have small collections of EU publications for reference only. All are open to members of the general public and students. ERCS are, however, not able to offer a

specialised consultancy-type service and may direct visitors to another source of information if necessary. The ERC network is supported by the European Commission.

Buckinghamshire College
The Library, Newland Park
Gorelands Lane, **CHALFONT ST GILES**, Buckinghamshire HP8 4AD
Contact: Louise Voakes
Tel: 01494 603 081
Fax: 01494 603 082

The Library
Bulmerse College,
Bulmerse Court, Earley
READING, Berkshire RG6 1HY
Contact: Gill Skidmore
Tel: 01734 875 123
Fax: 01734 352 080

EURO UNITS

provide a range of European orientated support services to all providers of vocational training and education. Euro Units have contacts in Government, industry, education and other bodies. Services include the provision of regional resource and information centres, organisation of conferences, study visits, the development and promotion of initiatives for teaching languages and developing and disseminating of good practice in the Europeanisation of the curriculum.

Southern Regional Council For
Education and Training
Mezzanine Suite,
PO Box 2055, Civic Centre
READING, Berkshire RG1 7ET
Contact: Julia Wills,
International Officer
Tel: 01734 390 592
Fax: 01734 390 510

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELAYS (PIRS)

consist in public libraries who have set up, in partnership with the European Commission, a network to provide the general public with access to EU information on the established policies and programmes of the EU at a local level. They receive some of the information and materials published by EU institutions and other relevant bodies in printed, and possibly in electronic form.

County Reference Library
County Hall, Walton Street
AYLESBURY,
Buckinghamshire HP20 1UU
Contact: Mr R Strong, Chief
Reference and Information Librarian
Tel: 01296 383 252
Fax: 01296 382 405

Department of Leisure and Arts
Holton, **OXFORD**,
Oxfordshire OX33 1QQ
Contact: Clare Snape,
County Reference and

Information Librarian
Tel: 01865 810 210
Fax: 01865 810 207
Berkshire County Council
Shire Hall, Shiefield Park
READING, Berkshire RG2 9XD
Contacts: Clair Drever,
Information Manager of
Melanie Harper, Assistant
Information Manager
Tel: 01734 233 234
Fax: 01734 233 238

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

stock a comprehensive collection of official EU documentation which can be consulted by the general public. In addition, the material held by the British Library Document Supply Centre is available through the national network for inter-library lending.

**London - Westminster
Central Reference Library**
Contact: Kathleen Oxenham
Tel: 0171 798 2034

**Liverpool - Business and
Information Library**
Contact: Edwin Fleming
Tel: 0151 225 5430

**Wetherby - British Library
Document Supply Centre**
Contact: Andrew Smith
Tel: 01973 546 044

LOCAL AUTHORITY EURO- PEAN LIAISON OFFICERS

are responsible for the coordination of EU general awareness raising activities and/or dissemination of general EU information within the local authority. They may also coordinate their authority's applications for European Union funding.

**Buckinghamshire County
Council**
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
Contact: Alison Smith, Head of

Planning and Transport Research
Tel: 01296 382 793

Oxfordshire County Council
Oxford, Oxfordshire
Contact: Martin Scott,
European Officer
Tel: 01865 815 919

Oxford City Council
Oxford, Oxfordshire
Contact: Brian Spragg,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01865 252 162

Berkshire County Council
Reading, Berkshire
Contacts: Sue Roberts, External
Relations Manager or Barry Deller,
Head of External Relations
Tel: 01734 233 029/026

**Vale of White Horse District
Council**
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
Contact: Caroline Day,
European Relations Officer
Tel: 01235 540 346

Chitern District Council
Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Contact: Michael Hartley,
Chief Planning Officer
Tel: 01494 732 033

Aylesbury Vale District Council
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
Contact: Miss T Lane, Head of
Marketing and Information
Tel: 01296 555 006

**Bracknell Forest Borough
Council**
Bracknell, Berkshire
Contact: Tony Malden,
Head of Personnel and
Management Services
Tel: 01344 424 642

Wycombe District Council
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire
Contact: Mieke Gaynor,

Head of Administration
Tel: 01494 461 000

**Royal Borough of Windsor
and Maidenhead Council**
Maidenhead, Berkshire
Contact: Stuart Marilton, Public
Relations and Information Officer
Tel: 01628 796 410

**Milton Keynes Borough
Council**
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire
Contact: J R Cutts, European
Projects Officer
Tel: 01908 682 533

Newbury District Council
Newbury, Berkshire
Contact: Mr M J Harris,
Director of Legal and
Administrative Services
Tel: 01635 519 423

Slough Borough Council
Slough, Berkshire
Contact: Paul Stimpson,
Forward Planning Office
Tel: 01753 875 836

**South Berkshire District
Council**
Slough, Berkshire
Contact: Paul Geehan,
Director of Planning Services
Tel: 01753 533 333 x 205

**West Oxfordshire District
Council**
Witney, Oxfordshire
Contact: Neil Robson,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01993 702 941

UK MEMBERS OF THE EURO- PEAN PARLIAMENT (MEPs)

There are now 87 MEPs for the UK, who have been elected by universal suffrage for a five year term (1994-1999). Their role is to represent their constituency in the European Parliament, which monitors proposals made

by the European Commission and decisions made by the Council of Ministers and can suggest amendments. It also has important powers over the EC budget. MEPs may enquire about any Community legislation by submitting oral and written questions. Finally the Maastricht Treaty gave MEPs new powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers in certain policy areas.

Buckingham and Oxfordshire

James Elles (Conservative)
Conservative Office
100 Walton Street,
AYLESBURY, Buckinghamshire
HP21 7QP
Tel: 01296 82102
Fax: 01296 398 481

Hampshire North and Oxford

Graham Mather (Conservative)
European Policy Forum
20 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AA
Tel: 0171 222 0579
Fax: 0171 233 1953

Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire

Eryl McNally (Labour)
3 Union Street, LUTON,
Bedfordshire LU1 3AN
Tel: 0158 231 882
Fax: 0158 231 885
or
Labour Hall, Newport Road
New Bradwell,
MILTON KEYNES,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AA
Tel: 01908 314 974
Fax: 01908 311 713

Thames Valley

John Stevens (Conservative)
27 St James' Place
LONDON SW1A 1NS
Tel: 0171 493 8111
Fax: 0171 493 0673

UK MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS -

There are 24 UK Members of the Committee of the Regions who are appointed on a political and geographical basis to represent all types of UK local government for a period of four years. Acting as an advisory body, it must be consulted on subjects such as education, youth, culture, public health, transport, etc. It may also take the initiative to give its opinion in other areas of interest to the regions, including agriculture, environmental protection, etc.

There is no Member of the Committee of the Regions resident in this region, please refer to the other regions in this brochure.

EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRES (EICS)

provide information on European Union issues to SMEs. EICs receive a continuous flow of information on Europe and have access to EU databases, including Tender Electronic Daily (TED) which carries details of invitations to tender for public works, supply and service contracts. Some EICs also assist companies looking for business partners in the EU through the Business Cooperation Network (BC-Net) - see description below - and advise businesses on their participation in EU activities. The EIC network is supported by the European Commission.

Thames Valley EIC
Commerce House,
2-6 Bath Road
SLOUGH, Berkshire SL1 3SB
Contact: Mark Sharman
Tel: 01753 577 977
Fax: 01753 524 644

BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRES NETWORK (BC-NET)

was established by the European Commission to give companies a framework within which to expand into the EU market and the practical means, through specialist support, to develop commercial, financial and technical co-operation at a European level. Its primary task is to help identify, through a European network of business advisers, other businesses with which they can work. It operates through a network of 600 business advisers, who endeavour to find a partner for any type of business activity, eg mergers, joint ventures, franchises, etc. The cost for such a service varies quite considerably. In general, there is an administrative charge and a consultancy fee.

BCMS Tradesplan Ltd
Plantaganet House
Kingsclere Park, **NEWBURY**,
Berkshire RG15 9BR
Contact: Mr S Rebbettes
Tel: 01635 299 616
Fax: 01635 299 502

INNOVATION RELAY CENTRES

promote the EC's research and technological development policy by offering specialist advice to local industry in the identification of partners through the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS), of opportunities for participation in R&D programmes and for the submission of proposals. They provide a range of services to help them protect, exploit and disseminate the results of their work.

Thames Valley Technology Ltd

Magdalen Centre
The Oxford Science Park
OXFORD, Oxfordshire OX4 4GA
Contact: John Duckett
Tel: 01865 784 888
Fax: 01865 784 333

INTEGRATED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

bring together the regional offices of the Departments of Employment, Environment, Trade and Industry and Transport, pooling their expertise. The role of Government Offices is to work in partnership with the local community to maximise the competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life in the region. They also represent the UK Government in regions. Their European branches provide a secretariat for organisations and individuals on various European programmes including the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, etc. The Scottish Office, Welsh Office and Northern Ireland Office perform similar functions within their area.

Government Office for the South East

Charles House
375 Kensington High Street
LONDON W14 8QH
Contact: Lucy Robinson, Head
of European Branch II
Tel: 0171 605 9051
Fax: 0171 605 9068

TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCILS (TECs)

in England and Wales and Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland are independent private companies formed by local business people, working

under performance-related contracts to the Government. There are 81 TECs covering England and Wales. Their counterparts in Scotland are the 22 LECs. The fundamental aim of every TEC is to foster economic growth and contribute to the regeneration of the community it serves. TEC initiatives include Training for Work, Youth Credits, Modern Apprenticeship, Investors in People, National Vocational Qualifications, Education Business Partnerships, Business Start Up and Business Link.

Heart of England Training and Enterprise Councils

Abingdon, Oxfordshire
Contact: Mr J Lessiter
Tel: 01235 553 249

Thames Valley TEC

Reading, Berkshire
Contact: Paul Dexter
Tel: 01734 568 156

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN) deals with planning, transport and economic issues. It is increasingly engaged in a European dialogue at the European level and works closely with members of the Committee of the Regions and MEPs. It also has a network of advisors on regional matters with a European significance.

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN)

14 Buckingham Gate
LONDON SW1E 6LB
Contact: Janice Morphet
Tel: 0171 931 8777
Fax: 0171 828 9712

PART 3

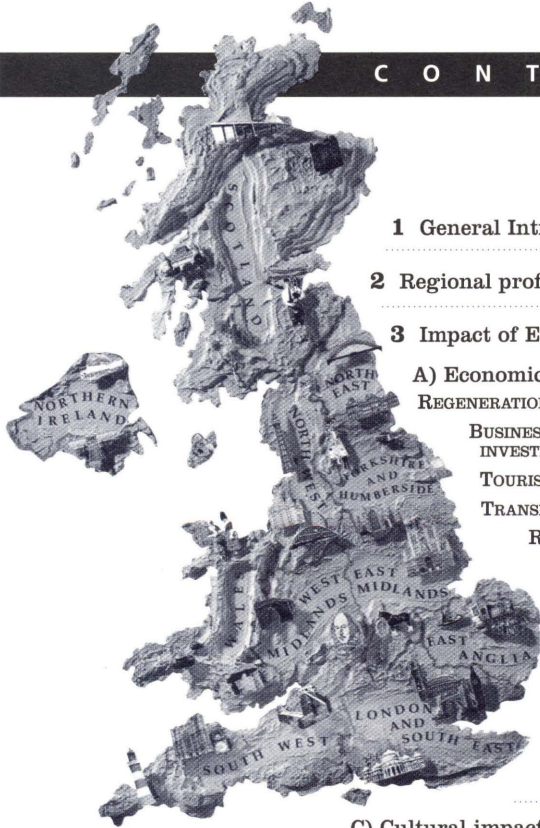
- BEDFORDSHIRE
- ESSEX
- HERTFORDSHIRE

THE SOUTH

EAST

A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

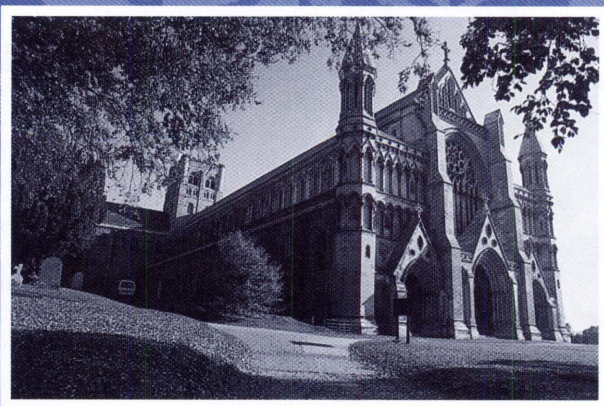
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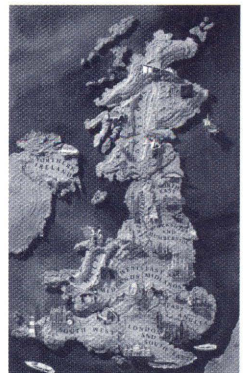
THE EUROPEAN UNION is composed of 15 Member States but it comprises a much greater number of regions whose dynamic diversity is one of the Union's greatest strengths. The current European Union of 15 is clearly very different from the Common Market

1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

of the original 6. However, its political geography will soon be further changed as negotiations take place over the next few years with Cyprus, Malta and countries in Eastern & Central Europe, the result of which will be a still wider Union. In this radically reshaped Union, the sense of regional identity will be a useful counter-balance to the decision-making by Ministers which national Governments will undertake at the level of the Union itself.

An Inter-Governmental Conference starts in 1996. It will reflect on the current state of the Union and progress made since Maastricht. It will put forward adaptations necessary to carry this reshaped Union forward into the twenty-first century.

The removal of internal frontiers in Europe and the arrangements for completing a Single Market in which there is free movement of people, goods, capital and in the provision of services, has increased the extent of cooperation between regions, be it at the level of the regional or local authorities themselves or through companies and business organisations, or through the educational system and in many other diverse ways. These inter-regional links have grown up throughout the Union, some of



1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION CONTD.

them based on Community development programmes such as INTERREG, while others are of a much simpler kind, based often on long-standing twinning agreements with recent trade-related components added.

As the Union adapts to change the desire for greater democracy and openness in the way decisions are made at the European level increases. Some discussion is focusing on the future role of national Parliaments where Westminster has a contribution yet to make. A recent development has been the establishment of the Committee of the Regions where European Union matters are appraised from a regional perspective by representatives drawn from the regions themselves.

The broad policies of the European Union affect all its citizens and regions both directly and indirectly. These include the creation of the Single Market, the common trade policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, consumer protection rules, environmental improvement, education and training, social policy including health and safety protection and,

of special interest to the regions, the establishment of Trans-European networks in transport, energy and telecommunications.

There are, of course, certain policies and programmes with a more definite regional perspective. These include the Structural Funds, geared to the poorest regions in the Union and those that have been affected by industrial decline. Many regions have suffered from similar changes in key local industries such as steel, coal, textiles, shipbuilding and the defence sector. Policies have, therefore, been drawn up at the European level to address these problems in a similar way in each country. This is one example of the dynamics which the Union is creating at regional level.

Outside the capital cities and sometimes within the most peripheral regions, much of Europe's scientific and educational resources are based. The development of European-wide policies in these areas has helped forge a vast network of regional links that have become part of the nervous system of the Union as a whole.



THE SOUTH EAST is a large and diverse region. With its close position to other Member States many links have been formed between Local Authorities in the South East and those in France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and elsewhere. There are also increasing links with Eastern European countries. This close proximity has also resulted in much transport investment, particularly in the Channel Tunnel which is serving to shorten the mental distance between the South East and other parts of Europe.

The South East has traditionally not been regarded as an area of economic problems but rather as a region of affluence. However, changing economic fortunes over the last twenty years now mean that there are extreme pockets of deprivation often too small to attract European concern but of considerable influence locally. New programmes such as URBAN together with the use of the European Social Fund are starting to make a contribution. The disparities in London remain a continuing concern.

The South East is also an area of high environmental quality and regarded as such by the people of the region. Many of the Union's initiatives to promote improved environmental standards and regulation have been welcomed.

The European connection is well established in the South East and has increasingly become a focus for much of its activities. This booklet illustrates the extent of existing European relationships and activities at the local level together with the scope for neighbours all over Europe which share the same characteristics. The inter regional momentum is growing. This is why it is timely to take stock of the South East region's assets and prospects within the European Union.



Tilbury Docks,

Essex

2 REGIONAL PROFILE

BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire is a compact county of 550,000 people, centred on the two major towns of Bedford and Luton. Whilst the County contains a significant manufacturing base, 75% of the County's land is agricultural. Outside the urban areas the County includes the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other areas of attractive landscape.

ESSEX

Originally the "Kingdom of the East Saxons", Essex is the largest of the three counties (1.6 million population) and has one of the longest coastlines in England, bordering the North Sea on its eastern edge and the estuary of the river Thames to the south. It is a major gateway, particularly for freight traffic and plays an important part in the European distribution chain.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hertfordshire's 987,529 inhabitants live in an area of 1,639km² just north of London. There is no dominant urban centre but a large number of small and medium sized towns dispersed within attractive countryside. The County has played its part in the development of modern technology and research in a number of important fields, including aviation and pharmaceuticals. Although the importance of aviation, along with other manufacturing industries, has declined industry still accounts for 30.7% of employment. Services, which have grown rapidly in recent decades account for 68.7% of employment and agriculture accounts for a mere 0.6%.



3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A Economic Impact

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

The significance of Europe was brought home to the people of Hertfordshire forcefully with the end of the Cold War division of the European continent. This played a major role in the loss of over 10,000 jobs since 1990 from Hertfordshire's defence industry. Nevertheless much encouragement was taken from the fact that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Community as a whole saw fit to address this issue, even when it affected areas of the Union which had hitherto been seen as "prosperous" and "central". The funding initiatives taken since 1990, PERIFRA and KONVER, have had two principal effects: impetus to partnership working, within local government and between it and the business and academic communities to develop and mount high quality bids, and, more importantly, benefits from successful bids for former defence workers and businesses seeking to diversify.

The money received from PERIFRA in 1993 paved the way for a successful bid for Government and other support for the establishment of Business Link Hertfordshire. This joint venture between the Training and Enterprise Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the University and the County Council brings together support services to improve business competitiveness.

Hertfordshire's success with PERIFRA would not have been possible without the enthusiastic cooperation of the partners involved: the County Council, the Training and Enterprise Council, Stevenage Borough Council and the defence businesses in the County. This showed the way to others in the region and when KONVER, the new Community Initiative specifically targeted on areas suffering from the peace dividend, was proposed, a wider partnership was forged, this time involving Bedfordshire organisations as well. This again was successful and it is hoped that this style of working will continue now that most of Hertfordshire and parts of Bedfordshire have been deemed eligible to receive KONVER funding until 1997.

Bedfordshire, in cooperation with Hertfordshire, applied for KONVER funding to support the economic conversion and diversification of parts of the area which experienced a decline in the arms industry and closure of military installations at the end of the Cold War. Assistance is



provided to the companies affected by this change, enabling them to develop other fields of expertise. The problems of other sectors of industry which have been affected by economic restructuring are also assisted through a Countywide partnership working towards an ADAPT bid.

A further £200,000 from KONVER I has been used by Essex Training and Enterprise Council to train over 500 workers who were made redundant or were under threat of redundancy, as a result of defence cuts. Trainees have gained qualifications in management, in electronic practice, computer aided design and satellite communications. Some trainees have had work placements in other European countries. The following areas in Essex are eligible to receive KONVER funding until 1997: the District Council areas of Chelmsford, Colchester, Uttlesford, Harlow and the Southend Travel to Work area which includes Basildon.

A partnership approach in Bedfordshire has led to two very successful bids for national government funding for regenerating the declining inner-urban areas, including strands to: encourage business growth through support for exports and the promotion of technology and innovation; enhance the environment; tackle crime; support community development; improve transport infrastructures, including expanding the airport and upgrading the east-west road links.

The Europeanised strategies of the partnerships ensure that EU funding is sought to match available local and government funding wherever possible, to increase the multiplier effect of financial inputs and maximise the boost to local economies. In Bedford, for example, the FORCE project focused on town centre management, and DECODE projects have tackled the problems created by the reduction in the defence industry.

Thurrock in Essex has a small area included in the Thames Gateway initiative, some parts of which have EU Objective 2 funding. The Gateway is the largest and most ambitious urban regeneration project in the EU and is identified in the Commission's spatial planning report, "Europe 2000+", as a potential growth corridor. The new Thames Gateway Partnership organisation is competing with other similar areas for EU support, not just in the UK but in the rest of Europe: towns like Antwerp and Rotterdam are direct competitors for major investment.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

All three counties offer support to their business communities, to access information about the Single Market and other EU legislation, to identify sources of finance for research and business development, and to provide opportunities for European business cooperation, exporting

and trade. Central computer databases in Brussels, such as BC-NET and BRE help companies operating in different countries, but with similar goals and profiles, to find each other and form partnerships. Companies can register their profile with a network co-ordinator, such as the Essex Libraries International Business Information Service (IBIS). Similar database search services are provided by IBIS for companies interested in European contracts and tenders (Tenders Electronic Daily) and in scientific and technical research (CORDIS). EU programmes, such as INTERPRISE, have been used by the Essex Business Centre to bring together companies from several European regions working in the same sector, for example, environmental management or packaging, to facilitate the establishment of joint ventures and other forms of business cooperation.

Essex County Council offers potential overseas investors support service which includes locating appropriate sites and premises.

In Bedfordshire County partnerships are assisting businesses, and especially SMEs to improve competitiveness and adapt to the challenges of new European markets by training and networking to improve quality and efficiency, again through transnational partnerships, in accordance with the principles of the ADAPT programme. Regular trade missions organised by the Chamber of Commerce support Bedfordshire exporters.

TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The completion of the Single Market is making travelling for business and pleasure within Europe much simpler through the virtual removal of border and customs checks. General attempts at 'Europeanisation' are also serving to encourage citizens of the European Union to find out at first hand about the other members of the 'club'. The cultural and geographical diversity of Europe is a particular strength in tourism marketing terms both in attracting domestic and overseas visitors.

The main markets for the three counties within continental Europe are: Germany, the Netherlands, northern France, Belgium and Scandinavia. Essex County Council uses opportunities for raising awareness of Essex as a holiday destination in the European regions where it has administrative, professional or commercial links, in particular, through reciprocal marketing actions and through EU funded transnational projects, such as support for the development of rural tourism. A new publication "Essex Visitors Consumer Guide" has been produced in English, French and German by Essex Trading Standards to provide consumer information for foreign visitors to Essex. Available at ports of entry and tourist information centres, the booklet details consumer rights, where to go for information and who to contact for help and assistance.

Tourism in Bedfordshire is promoted not only in the countryside, but also in the towns where the Luton Carnival (the second biggest in the UK) and the Bedford River Festival are examples of events attracting international attendance. Bedfordshire is a county with potential to develop its attractions for tourists and it is exploring the opportunities for EU assistance in this.

In all three counties, the European Union's 5th Environmental Action Plan and the messages from the Rio world environment conference are reflected in County Structure and Local Plans, in what the Local Authorities are doing to progress Local Agenda 21, in State of the Environment reports, and in a variety of practical projects and initiatives. European financial support for environmental initiatives is sought wherever appropriate.

Hertfordshire County Council is keen to learn from and contribute to the environmental debate in Europe. An example of this was its participation in the Aalborg Conference in May 1994 where it signed up to the "Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability". For this conference, presentations were invited on the Hertfordshire Structure Plan, as an example of current best practice on integrating sustainable development and land use planning. Colchester Borough Council have signed the Aalborg Charter more recently.

Essex has a long coastline which is affected by activities elsewhere in Europe around the North Sea: these factors are reflected in a new coastal strategy and the Council's recent decision to join the North Sea Commission network. Cooperation with European partners on environmental projects comprises: business links between SMEs in the environmental field; an environmental education project; and the development of common passive solar energy systems in public buildings. The French region of Picardie stages an Environment Week each year and invites its European partners, including Essex to participate in the events. The 1995 theme was landscape protection and enhancement.

Bedfordshire is fortunate to enjoy a large area of unspoilt landscape and protection of the land permeates development policies within the County. However, a large area within the County has been affected and continues to be affected by the brick making industry. Today industries are being encouraged to tackle the problems and to consider making proposals under the LIFE programme.

TRANSPORT

Accessibility to Essex and Hertfordshire is continually improving with the introduction of new European flights to London Stansted and



London City Airports, the opening of the Channel Tunnel coupled with improved ferry services from Dover, the upgrading of the Harwich ferry services to meet competition from the Channel Tunnel, and internal road improvements.

All three counties have good communication links with London and there are significant international gateways in Essex to continental Europe: the seaports of Tilbury, which has TERN status, Harwich and neighbouring Felixstowe; and major London airports at Stansted, Southend and nearby City Airport. London Luton Airport, Bedfordshire, is one of the UK's biggest centres for European-based tourism, and an important source of employment in the area.

Two of the Essex MEPs have fought a successful campaign to get recognition for road and rail routes to be included in the Trans European Network: the A120 (Harwich/ Stansted Airport/ M11/ to the Midlands, Wales and Ireland); and the London-Tilbury-Southend Railway Line.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY

The Fourth Framework programme has assisted a number of companies in the area to develop and continue their research and technical development capabilities.

Essex County Council and the European KONVER I initiative have provided £600,000 worth of support for "The Regional Centre for the Advancement of Manufacturing and Technology" (AMT), a project which clearly demonstrates the benefits of co-operation between the European Commission, DTI and the regional Authorities. The AMT is willing to work with any small or medium sized enterprise which is striving to improve competitive performance. Experienced manufacturing specialists covering a wide range of sectors and disciplines can be accessed through the Centre for free open discussion on how they can work with companies and individuals to help agree a plan to improve business performance.

In Bedfordshire, the Technology Exchange Ltd, based at the Wrest Park site of Cranfield University, is a voluntary agency that provides specialised services for the transfer of technology between individuals, businesses, regions and counties. Examples of its work include listing of products licensed for use in other countries, a database of skilled technological inputs available from businesses formerly serving the defence industries and Euromanagement Research and Technological Development Consultancy for the European Commission.



Essex County Council has taken advantage of opportunities provided by European Energy Programmes to develop technology and investigate how public buildings perform in terms of energy conservation.

The three projects funded under THERMIE were as follows:

- Energy conservation in existing schools in Essex, developing a model to check energy values in large premises;
- Energy conservation measures in relocatable school buildings;
- The testing of retrofit passive solar panels in a single school.

AGRICULTURE

In response to the EU Common Agricultural Policy to deal with agricultural surpluses, the UK Government has introduced a number of measures including set-aside grants, the Farm Diversification Scheme, the Farm Woodland Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Essex.

In common with other counties in the East Midlands, Bedfordshire has seen a change in the crops grown in parallel with changes in CAP support prices. Thus land planted with wheat has increased, while barley has decreased in area over half since 1982. Similarly, many farmers began to grow oil-seed rape.

A number of schemes has been introduced to farmers and landowners in return for environmental improvements. The most important schemes for Essex have been the Environmentally Sensitive Areas designated along the Essex Coast and the Stour River Valley covering some 27,000 hectares, within which farmers are encouraged to use methods designed to protect and enhance their environmental quality; Countryside Stewardships Schemes designed to protect and enhance valued landscapes; and various Woodland Schemes which aim to encourage new planting and better management of existing woodlands.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

The counties of Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire lie to the north and east of London, and while they are part of the South East Standard Region, there are also strong links with neighbouring counties in the region of East Anglia. All three counties are actively involved in the European Union and are individual members of the Assembly of European Regions.

Local and inter-regional partnerships within Bedfordshire comprise a wide range of bodies, including local authorities, the Training and Enterprise Council, the Chamber of Commerce, private industry,



education institutions and the voluntary sector. Individually and collectively, they have extensive transnational links. For example, there is a Brussels office facility initiated by Luton Borough Council; Bedford Borough Council convenes the Bedford European Forum; the Chamber of Commerce is the only UK member of CIRCLE, a unique network of Chambers across Europe; and, there are other links between universities, local authorities, and a host of other bodies. Many of these links are highly active, developing beyond traditional twinning type links into real partnerships for change. Partnership is fundamental to addressing the key issues within the County and to finding innovative solutions to problems. From 1st April 1997, the existing Luton Borough Council will become a Unitary Authority, but the existing two tier structure will remain for the rest of the County.

Essex County Council has been active in European affairs for nearly 20 years and has, since 1991, shared a common office in Brussels with the French Regional Council of Picardie. This joint arrangement is not only cost effective in operational terms, it also serves to cement the co-operation between a variety of partners in both regions, such as the Essex Training and Enterprise Council, the Universities and business organisations, and is a practical demonstration to other European institutions and authorities of the benefits of transnational partnerships. The link between Essex and Picardie was created in 1990 with the signing of an Accord with the Conseil Régional de Picardie. "The two regions seek to promote and develop dialogue, co-operation and joint activities in the areas of economic development, education, tourism, transport and culture not only between themselves but with other European regions". Picardie has a similar sized population to Essex - 1.7 million and both regions are located on the edge of capital cities with international airports at Roissy and Stansted. A joint Essex/Picardie office was established in Brussels in 1991 and a wide range of cooperation activities and town/village twinings have ensued, involving the private, public and voluntary sectors in both regions.

Picardie and Essex have now formed a three-way interregional partnership with the Land of Thüringen, in former East Germany. In 1994, the County Council signed a common Declaration with Picardie and Thüringen to carry out joint projects in the fields of economic development, research and new technology, tourism, education, culture, agriculture, the environment and social services. There is also a long standing friendship link between Essex and the German Landkreis Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, which is being re-focused to concentrate on the development of business and economic connections.

The countries of Eastern and Central Europe are actively seeking experience and expertise in setting up and operating local democratic



systems. Financial assistance for British local authorities to develop technical and friendship links with these emerging democracies is available from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and through various EU funded programmes. Essex County Council is providing technical assistance to Pest County which surrounds the Hungarian capital of Budapest covering: waste disposal, environmental protection, social services, library management and regional planning. EU funding from the PHARE programme has given the means to the Essex Business Centre to run several programmes in Vas County, Hungary and in the Czech and Slovak Republics, training business advisers to provide business support services and to facilitate the setting up of enterprise agencies.

Colchester was the first Essex District to sign an Economic Partnership agreement with one of its twin towns, Avignon in France. The other Colchester partners are the University of Essex and the North and Mid Essex Chambers of Commerce and it is hoped to add Colchester's German twin town of Wetzlar in this network. Braintree District Council, in north Essex, has economic links with Delft, Netherlands, Svendborg, Aalborg, Denmark and in Finland.

The involvement of authorities below the level of national governments in European affairs has developed not only on a constitutional level, through, for example, the setting up of the Committee of the Regions, but also at a working level. This can be seen in the development of co-operation between regions across the European Union and increasingly, the European Commission is giving priority in funding terms to projects which stem from regional networks. The main reasons for joining such networks are to disseminate information, to exchange experience on common areas of interest, to work together on solving problems which have a European wide applicability and, if appropriate, to act as a lobby for changes to EU policy and funding programmes.

Essex County Council is in membership of two such European networks: the Airports Regions Conference which represents regions in Europe with major international airports in or near their territory; and, the North Sea Commission which aims to further partnerships between regions responsible for managing the challenges and opportunities presented by the North Sea and to promote the North sea Basin as a major economic entity. Another example is a proposal to build on the bi-lateral interregional cooperations established between County Councils in the south of England and their French regional counterparts to bring together these existing links under the umbrella of a new network of regions bordering the Channel.



There are several important reasons why the County Council is actively involved in European and international affairs, in particular, to seize opportunities to influence EU policies and programmes; to assess and monitor the direct effects on the authority itself and on its residents and businesses of legislation and policies originating from Brussels; and to access European and international funds for local communities. In partnership with other major organisations in Essex, the County Council has a strategy to strengthen the region's competitive position in the European Union, to set priorities for stimulating local economic development, and to provide a framework for selecting future European regional alliances. Essex, as a European region, also needs to play an active part in the formulation of EU regional policy. For example, by monitoring and influencing important policy documents such as, Europe 2000+ - Cooperation for European territorial development, which provides a framework for planners at local, regional and European level and stresses the need for common action in the field of spatial planning.

The significance of European regional links is emphasised in a recent County Council report on the development of a European Strategy for Hertfordshire:

“the starting point must be the recognition that the prosperity and quality of life of the people of Hertfordshire cannot be treated in isolation from the County's relationship with the rest of the European Union. Whether the issue be trade, the original basis of what was then the European Economic Community, inward investment to provide jobs, career opportunities for the children in our schools, or the quality of the air we breathe or the water we drink, there is no escaping the impact of the European Union”.

Working with the European Union is seen as an essential component in the County Council's Economic Development Strategy and Programme and this has received strong endorsement from the business and other organisations that were consulted on it. Immediate priorities are to promote among small and medium sized enterprises opportunities under the Fourth Framework Research and Technological Development Programmes and the adoption of environmental policies and management systems.

The County Council, working with the County's two Members of the European Parliament, hosted a conference in November 1995 for all those organisations that share a concern with the impact of Europe on the life of the County to debate and take forward the European strategy for Hertfordshire.

Many people from all parts of the three counties have striven over the

last fifty years to strengthen ties with Continental Europe. For example, such was the strength of the joint working that had been established between Hertfordshire and Rheinland-Pfalz that the link was elevated to the Land's Parliament and Government in 1970. These links are still developing: the County Council has been offered the use of accommodation in the Rheinland-Pfalz "representation" in Brussels (their embassy in effect); and, as both areas are active members of the Assembly of European Regions, it is only natural that they consult each other on matters being discussed by this body. A common problem, the defence run-down is strengthening the relationship. Technical discussions have helped the two regions in their search for appropriate solutions to the problems of former defence sites. These discussions are leading to further work in developing business partnerships and tourism.

Hertfordshire's other main regional link is with Burgundy in France. This takes the form of twelve town-twinings and strong cooperation in the educational sphere. The latter dates from 1972 and the country's impending accession to the European Community.

B Social Impact

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The EU's influence has been significant in establishing a European dimension to the education of the majority of young people.

In Essex, the availability of grants such as LINGUA, PETRA, ERASMUS and ARION to develop innovative projects and exchanges with partners has acted as catalyst: all secondary schools and colleges are actively linked with at least one institution in Europe, many have several partners and there is a growing involvement of primary schools. The Essex Careers and Education Partnership Service has produced information leaflets and videos on opportunities to work and study in Europe.

EU support for a Youth Information Exchange project between young people in Essex and in two other EU countries has culminated in three international conferences seeking to improve understanding of opportunities in Europe. Five Essex secondary schools are currently taking part in a EU funded joint curricular project involving the County Council's Planning Department and institutions in Picardie and Thüringen with the aim of producing curricular materials on environmental issues.

In Bedfordshire, European theme days, Careers in Europe evenings and the development of a European competitions project are but three of the measures used to "Europeanise" the whole school curriculum, developments very much in line with the key themes of the SOCRATES programme.



As long ago as 1947 Hertfordshire County Council was forging links with the French educational system and in the mid-fifties the County's response to the needs of German reconstruction was enthusiastic: a special relationship was developed with part of the German Land of Rheinland-Pfalz which involved numerous school links and, eventually the twinning of fourteen towns. The link with Rheinland-Pfalz was extended to include Burgundy with the help of the European Commission who funded a joint project dealing with the teaching of foreign languages to slow learners, which led to the publication of a vocational French course.

The 1996 European Year of Life-long Education and Training is designed to raise awareness of the key role of education and training in the personal development of individuals. The Committee of the Regions has drawn attention to the vital role that can be played by regional and local authorities in the European Year, especially in view of the fact that many of them are responsible for both general education and vocational training and have a crucial role in promoting co-operation between education systems and businesses (especially SMEs).

In Essex, as in many other regions, close co-operation has developed on EU matters between local authorities and their local universities: accessing each others' international contacts and networks; lobbying for EU policy changes; joint research and training projects; and work placement schemes for European students. Across the three counties, external finance for university exchanges and European projects has come from several EU programmes: ERASMUS, COMETT, SPRINT, LINGUA, HORIZON, TEMPUS, IMPACT, FORCE, TIDE, with no doubt, SOCRATES and LEONARDO to come.

The University of Essex, in Colchester, has strong European connections, attracting nearly 700 students from EU countries outside the UK. It has a Centre for European Studies; various exchange schemes with educational institutions throughout the EU; also joint degree schemes, such as a postgraduate course in European Business Law under the Pallas Project which involves a network of seven Law Departments at European universities. The University receives substantial grants from the EU for a wide range of research projects, such as the Eurotra project, the development of machine-translation of all the languages of the Member States.

With its main campus in Essex at Chelmsford, Anglia Polytechnic University cooperates with over 30 universities, polytechnics and business schools in Europe and has formal academic cooperation agreements with seven institutions in France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, enabling student and staff exchanges for work, study and research purposes. The European context is present in the students

learning process: European specialist modules developed on undergraduate courses and professional courses, such as the part-time MBA programme, include study visits to the Netherlands, Germany and France; students are offered a range of language study skills modules through the University's open access Language Centre; the 1994/95 EU funding for student exchanges enabled up to 330 students to study abroad.

Bedfordshire has a significant research & development base, with three universities offering a wide range of courses, including at post-graduate levels, local investment particularly in high-technology industries, and the national base of the Technology Exchange. Successful placements of graduates into stable jobs are amongst the highest in the country.

In Bedfordshire, a number of active twinning and other transnational links between towns exist. This has led to a centrally co-ordinated programme of international exchanges and visits. This allows not only students, but also groups of teachers from schools from throughout the County to participate in joint schemes. The programme includes links with France, especially L'Oise, Italy and Spain.

The University of Luton has a widely recognised expertise in the field of European activities. The University has received EU funding for projects in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Portugal and Eire and has current and recent consultancy and technical assistance contacts with the European Commission and the UK Government. Cranfield University is unique in being an almost totally post-graduate university, with students from every EU country. Over the last decade, it has developed extensive contacts throughout the EU, including collaborative agreements with institutions in France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Spain and Italy. De Montfort University, with a campus in Bedford, offers a European studies programme and has exchange links with various EU countries, including Norway and Finland.

The University of Hertfordshire together with a partner in Le Mans has been working on a project funded by the EU's LINGUA programme. The project is intended to help personnel in SMEs learn a foreign language through the use of helpful technology (audio and video cassettes, computer diskettes) as well as texts. The distinguishing feature of the approach is that it is learner-driven. A key part is the analysis of the needs, language experience, awareness, attitudes and motivations, and learning styles of the students. The methods chosen are adapted to the individual's learning style in the interests of efficient learning and the autonomy of the learner. This has been one of the University's most significant contributions to Hertfordshire Business Link. While these programmes at the University, essentially concerned with training and



research, serve to strengthen links with European partners, it is also considered that they are critical to the preservation and development of Hertfordshire as a high-skill, high value-added economy.

TRAINING

As elsewhere, there is recognition in Bedfordshire that the workforce needs help with skill enhancement. This is being tackled by drawing down European, national and local funding, through Countywide and transnational partnerships. European funding is being applied to the many different sectors of training needs in the County. Integrated Countywide bids have been made for LEONARDO and the Community Initiatives NOW, YOUTHSTART and HORIZON. Bedfordshire's work to address the training needs of employees at risk from redundancy is reflected in a bid for the ADAPT Community Initiative. This addresses skills deficits among workers in companies needing restructuring. Well over £1 million was received from the European Social Fund (ESF) in 1994, and co-ordination across the sectors is helping to ensure that this money is spent in a balanced way. Particular care is taken to target the areas of most severe need in both deprived urban and rural areas of the County.

In Essex the ESF has helped the Witham Technology Centre to fill a gap in local training provision by giving some 132 work returners the opportunity to learn about IT and gain a vocational qualification. Over 3 years, 80% have gained a vocational qualification and over 65% have gone into employment or further/higher education after completing the programme. Through the ESF the Centre has been able to provide quality training to a group of people who, in most cases, would not have had access to any sort of training/retraining facility. An Essex County Council sponsored programme, "Just for Women" for those wishing to explore options, to prepare themselves before returning to the job market or to acquire computing skills is another example of the use of ESF grants. Over 200 women have benefited in two years. A programme to assist the disabled into self-employment is being developed.

SOCIAL-SUPPORT MEASURES

Essex Social Services has been actively involved in developing links in the EU and within central and eastern Europe for several years and this has led to the identification of innovative practice and the exchange of expertise and knowledge on specific issues, such as care of the elderly. Consultancy services are provided in Russia, Hungary and the Czech Republic addressing policy, organisational development, and practice issues arising from the direct delivery of services. The ESF, the UK Government's Know How Fund and specific EU programmes such as "Lien" have been pursued to support this work and by involving the voluntary sector, further opportunities to integrate European initiatives have been achieved.

Cultural Impact

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Local Authorities and local Twinning Associations play an important role in assisting further economic and social integration at a regional and local level by creating links and cementing long-term friendships with other people and communities in Europe. Working together, local government can influence EU policies, spread ideas and know-how and obtain funds for joint projects.

As Britain's oldest recorded town, Colchester, in Essex, is the only UK representative on the "Most Ancient European Town" network, established in 1994 and funded through the EU's Article 10 Programme for Interregional Cooperation - Exchange of Experience. Colchester has been offered the Presidency of this network in 1996.

S E



4 THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Regional and local authorities have access to a variety of channels through which they can influence EU policy: one of these is the Committee of the Regions (COR), which was established recently in order that tiers of government below that of central government could be involved in the policy formulation and legislative processes of the European Union. It provides a forum in which regional and local government can comment on draft legislation between the time that it is proposed by the European Commission and when it is adopted by the Council of Ministers. The comments will be in the form of an "opinion". Paul White, an Essex County Councillor, is an Alternate Member of the COR, serving permanently on Commission 6: Education and Training. He was rapporteur for a COR Own Opinion on "Education and training in the face of technological, industrial and social challenges", which outlines measures which are necessary to ensure that education and training systems are able to respond appropriately to socio-economic change.

i SOURCES OF EUROPEAN UNION INFORMATION

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDCS)

help universities promote and develop studies in the field of European integration. Some of them receive the complete range of EU documentation, others receive selective documentation. Both enjoy privileged access to EU databases. EDCs also allow access for European information to the public and to students. The EDC network is supported by the European Commission.

Albert Sloman Library
University of Essex, PO Box 24
COLCHESTER, Essex CO4 3UA
Contact: Nigel Cochrane
Tel: 01206 873 181
Fax: 01206 872 289

EUROPEAN REFERENCE CENTRES (ERCS)

are based in academic institutions and public libraries. They have small collections of EU publications for reference only. All are open to members of the general public and students. ERCS are, however, not able to offer a specialised consultancy-type service and may direct visitors

to another source of information if necessary. The ERC network is supported by the European Commission.

The Library
Anglia Polytechnic University
Rivermead Campus
Bishop Hall Lane
CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 1LL
Contact: Rachel Hewings
Tel: 01245 493 131 x 3750

EURO UNITS

provide a range of European orientated support services to all providers of vocational training and education. Euro Units have contacts in Government, industry, education and other bodies. Services include the provision of regional resource and information centres, organisation of conferences, study visits, the development and promotion of initiatives for teaching languages and developing and disseminating of good practice in the Europeanisation of the curriculum.

Association of Colleges in the Eastern Region (ACER)
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Contact: Geoff Scaplehorn,
Manager
Tel: 01223 424 022

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELAYS (PIRS)

consist in public libraries who have set up, in partnership with the European Commission, a network to provide the general public with access to EU information on the established policies and programmes of the EU at a local level. They receive some of the information and materials published by EU institutions and other relevant bodies in printed, and possibly in electronic form.

Chelmsford Library
PO Box 882, Market Road
CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 1LH
Contact: Mary Rowlett, Head
of Information Services
Tel: 01245 492 758
Fax: 01245 492 536

Bedfordshire Libraries
Dunstable Library, Vernon Place
DUNSTABLE,
Bedfordshire LU5 4HA
Contact: Jim Gledhill, Area
Manager South West

Tel: 01582 30161/45458
Fax: 01582 24638

Hertfordshire Libraries, Arts
and Information
Central Resources Library
New Barnfield, Travellers' Lane
Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 8XG
Tel: 01707 281 511
Fax: 01707 281 514

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

stock a comprehensive collection
of official EU documentation
which can be consulted by the
general public. In addition, the
material held by the British Library
Document Supply Centre is
available through the national
network for inter-library lending.

London - Westminster Central Reference Library

Contact: Kathleen Oxenham
Tel: 0171 798 2034

Liverpool - Business and Information Library

Contact: Edwin Fleming
Tel: 0151 225 5430

Wetherby - British Library Document Supply Centre

Contact: Andrew Smith
Tel: 01973 546 044

LOCAL AUTHORITY EURO- PEAN LIAISON OFFICERS

are responsible for the coordin-
ation of EU general awareness
raising activities and/or dissemi-
nation of general EU information
within the local authority. They
may also coordinate their
authority's applications for
European Union funding.

Bedfordshire County Council

Bedford, Bedfordshire
Contact: Sue Beech
Tel: 01234 228 170

Essex County Council

Chelmsford, Essex
Contact: Lynn Ballard,
European Liaison Officer
Tel: 01245 492 211

Hertfordshire County Council

Hertford, Hertfordshire
Contact: John Papadachi,
European Liaison Officer
Tel: 01992 555 607

Bedford Borough Council

Bedford, Bedfordshire
Contact: Kirsten Mitchell,
Principal European Adviser
Tel: 01234 267 422 x 2645

Mid Bedfordshire District Council

Bedford, Bedfordshire
Contact: Anne Godfrey,
Business Services Manager
Tel: 01525 402 051

Hertsmere Borough Council

Borehamwood, Hertfordshire
Contact: Angela Fieldhouse,
Executive Assistant to the
Managing Director
Tel: 0181 207 7417

Tendering District Council

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex
Contact: Mr P A Gerrie,
Principal Enabling Officer
Tel: 01225 255 140

Colchester Borough Council

Colchester, Essex
Contact: Graham White,
Director of Administration
Tel: 01206 282 212

South Bedfordshire District Council

Dunstable, Bedfordshire
Contact: Chris Barnes, Strategic
Planning and Economic
Development Officer
Tel: 01582 474 127

Epping Forest District Council

Epping, Essex
Contact: John Bambrook,
Corporate Support Officer
Tel: 01992 564 006

Dacorum Borough Council

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Contact: Mr C G B Barnard,
Director of Planning
Tel: 01442 228 583

East Hertfordshire District Council

Hertford, Hertfordshire
Contact: David Beales, Director
of Planning and Property
Tel: 01279 655 261

Luton Borough Council

Luton, Bedfordshire
Contact: David Kerrigan,
Europe Officer
Tel: 01582 746 122

Rochford District Council

Rochford, Essex
Contact: John Wood, Chief
Assistant (Forward Planning)
Tel: 01702 546 366

Southend-on-sea Borough Council

Southend-on-sea, Essex
Contact: Mr B R Cole,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01702 766 255

Stevenage Borough Council

Stevenage, Hertfordshire
Contact: Dianne Cooper,
Principal Planning Officer
Tel: 01438 766 255

UK MEMBERS OF THE EURO- PEAN PARLIAMENT (MEPs)

There are now 87 MEPs for the
UK, who have been elected by
universal suffrage for a five year
term (1994-1999). Their role is
to represent their constituency
in the European Parliament,
which monitors proposals made
by the European Commission
and decisions made by the
Council of Ministers and can
suggest amendments. It also
has important powers over the
EC budget. MEPs may enquire
about any Community
legislation by submitting oral
and written questions. Finally
the Maastricht Treaty gave
MEPs new powers of co-
decision with the Council of
Ministers in certain policy areas.

Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes

Eryl McNally (Labour)

3 Union Street
LUTON, Bedfordshire LU1 3AN
Tel: 0158 231 882
Fax: 0158 231 885
or

Labour Hall, Newport Road
New Bradwell, MILTON KEYNES,
Buckinghamshire MK13 0AA
Tel: 01908 314 974
Fax: 01908 311 713

Member of the Research,
Technological Development and
Energy Committee and substitute
for the Monetary Affairs
Committee. Vice-President of
Energy Forum. Member of the
South-East Europe Delegation.

Essex North and Suffolk South

Anne McIntosh (Conservative)
The Old Armoury, Museum
Street, SAFFRON WALDREN,
Essex CB10 1JN
Tel: 01799 522 349
Fax: 01799 523 631

Anne McIntosh is a member of
the following Committees:
Transport and Tourism; Women's
Rights; Legal Affairs and
Citizen's Rights. Co-Chairman
of the Transport Safety Council.

Essex South

Richard Howitt (Labour)
Suite 3, Top floor, Tudor Chambers
Station Lane, Pitsea
BASILDON, Essex SS13 3BQ
Tel: 01268 550 600
Fax: 01268 550 700

Richard Howitt MEP is seeking
to support local business,
training and other local
European initiatives and is
available via his office or
through regular monthly
surgeries (advertised in local
newspapers). He is a member
of the following Committees:
Regional Policy, Regional
Planning and Relations with
Regional and Local Authorities;
Development and Cooperation.

Essex West and Hertfordshire East

Hugh Kerr (Labour)
Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way
HARLOW, Essex CM18 7BL
Tel: 01279 414 464
Fax: 01279 414 465

Hugh Kerr serves on the Social
Affairs and Employment
Committee and on the Culture,
Youth, Education and Media
Committee. He is Chair of the
European Parliament's Australian
delegation, which makes him
primarily responsible for the
Parliament's relations with
Australia and New Zealand. He
is also the "rapporteur" (the
Parliament's lead member) on
the present revision of the
Acquired Rights Directive (TUPE)
and is the spokesman for the
Socialist Group in Parliament on
drug abuse prevention and
public health issues.

Hertfordshire

Dr Peter Truscott (Labour)
The Weltech Centre, Ridgeway
WELWYN GARDEN CITY
Hertfordshire AL7 2AA
Tel: 01707 336 969
Fax: 01707 393 853

Member of the Foreign Affairs,
Security and Defence Policy
Committee and Vice-Chairman
of the Security and
Disarmament Sub-Committee;
substitute Regional Policy
Committee and member of the
Russia Delegation.

UK MEMBERS OF THE COM- MITTEE OF THE REGIONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA

There are 24 UK Members of
the Committee of the Regions
who are appointed on a political
and geographical basis to
represent all types of UK local
government for a period of four
years. Acting as an advisory
body, it must be consulted on
subjects such as education,
youth, culture, public health,
transport, etc. It may also take
the initiative to give its opinion
in other areas of interest to the

regions, including agriculture,
environmental protection, etc.

ClIr Paul White - Alternate
Member of the COR,
permanent Alternate on
Commission 6, Education and
Training.
Essex County Council
County Hall, Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX
Tel: 01245 492211
Fax: 01245 400486

EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRES (EICS)

provide information on European
Union issues to SMEs. EICs
receive a continuous flow of
information on Europe and
have access to EU databases,
including Tender Electronic Daily
(TED) which carries details of
invitations to tender for public
works, supply and service
contracts. Some EICs also assist
companies looking for business
partners in the EU through the
Business Cooperation Network
(BC-Net) - see description below
- and advise businesses on their
participation in EU activities.
The EIC network is supported
by the European Commission.
*There is no Innovation Relay Centre
in this region, please refer to the
other regions in this brochure.*

BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRES NETWORK (BC-NET)

was established by the European
Commission to give companies
a framework within which to
expand into the EU market and
the practical means, through
specialist support, to develop
commercial, financial and
technical co-operation at a
European level. Its primary task
is to help identify, through a
European network of business
advisers, other businesses with
which they can work. It operates
through a network of 600
business advisers, who endeavour
to find a partner for any type

of business activity, eg mergers, joint ventures, franchises, etc. The cost for such a service varies quite considerably. In general, there is an administrative charge and a consultancy fee.

International Business Information Service (IBIS)
Chelmsford Library, PO Box 882
Market Road, **CHELMSFORD**,
Essex CM1 1LH
Contact: Sara Ann Kelly
Tel: 01245 492 535
Fax: 01245 492 536

Van-Holst Associates Ltd
11 St Mary's Close, Great Baddow
CHELMSFORD, Essex CM2 8EG
Contact: Mr H Van Holst
Tel: 01245 478 880
Fax: 01245 473 307

Tendring District Council
Economic Development Unit
Thorpe Road, Weeley
CLACTON-ON-SEA,
Essex CO16 9AJ
Contact: Mr Stewart,
Director of Planning
Tel: 01225 256 155
Fax: 01225 831 420

INNOVATION RELAY CENTRES

promote the EC's research and technological development policy by offering specialist advice to local industry in the identification of partners through the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS), of opportunities for participation in R&D programmes and for the submission of proposals. They provide a range of services to contractors involved in R&D to help them protect, exploit and disseminate the results of their work.

There is no Innovation Relay Centre in this region, please refer to the other regions in this brochure.

INTEGRATED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

bring together the regional

offices of the Departments of Employment, Environment, Trade and Industry and Transport, pooling their expertise. The role of Government Offices is to work in partnership with the local community to maximise the competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life in the region. They also represent the UK Government in regions. Their European branches provide a secretariat for organisations and individuals on various European programmes including the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, etc. The Scottish Office, Welsh Office and Northern Ireland Office perform similar functions within their area.

Government Office for the Eastern Region

Room 123, Heron House
49-53 Goldington Road
BEDFORD,
Bedfordshire MK40 3LL
Contact: Mrs Anne Stanford,
Head of European Secretariat
Tel: 01234 276 129
Fax: 01234 276 341

TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCILS (TECs)

in England and Wales and Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland are independent private companies formed by local business people, working under performance-related contracts to the Government. There are 81 TECs covering England and Wales. Their counterparts in Scotland are the 22 LECs. The fundamental aim of every TEC is to foster economic growth and contribute to the regeneration of the community it serves. TEC initiatives include Training for Work, Youth Credits, Modern Apprenticeship, Investors in People, National Vocational Qualifications, Education Business Partnerships, Business

Start Up and Business Link.

Essex TEC

Chelmsford, Essex
Contact: Diane Mookherjee,
Economic Development
Strategy Manager
Tel: 01245 450 123 x 309

Bedfordshire TEC

Kempston, Bedfordshire
Contact: Terry Hughes,
Economic Development Manager
Tel: 01234 843 100

Hertfordshire TEC

St Albans, Hertfordshire
Contact: Hilary Oakley,
Planning Manager
Tel: 01727 813 600

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN) deals with planning, transport and economic issues. It is increasingly engaged in a European dialogue at the European level and works closely with members of the Committee of the Regions and MEPs. It also has a network of advisors on regional matters with a European significance.

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN)

14 Buckingham Gate
LONDON SW1E 6LB
Contact: Janice Morphet
Tel: 0171 931 8777
Fax: 0171 828 9712

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Mr P Hoskins (Bedfordshire)
Tel: 01582 23456

Mr J Hutchings (Hertfordshire)
Tel: 01727 813680

Mr J Wellerd (North and Mid
Essex) Tel: 01206 765277

Mr D Horsley (South Essex)
Tel: 01702 77090

PART 4

- KENT
- EAST SUSSEX

THE SOUTH
EAST

A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

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Following page:
Whitbread Hop
Farm, Kent

SE



THE EUROPEAN UNION is composed of 15 Member States but it comprises a much greater number of regions whose dynamic diversity is one of the Union's greatest strengths. The current European Union of 15 is clearly very different from the Common Market

1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

of the original 6. However, its political geography will soon be further changed as negotiations take place over the next few years with Cyprus, Malta and countries in Eastern & Central Europe, the result of which will be a still wider Union. In this radically reshaped Union, the sense of regional identity will be a useful counter-balance to the decision-making by Ministers which national Governments will undertake at the level of the Union itself.

An Inter-Governmental Conference starts in 1996. It will reflect on the current state of the Union and progress made since Maastricht. It will put forward adaptations necessary to carry this reshaped Union forward into the twenty-first century.

The removal of internal frontiers in Europe and the arrangements for completing a Single Market in which there is free movement of people, goods, capital and in the provision of services, has increased the extent of cooperation between regions, be it at the level of the regional or local authorities themselves or through companies and business organisations, or through the educational system and in many other diverse ways. These inter-regional links have grown up throughout the Union, some of



1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION CONTD.

them based on Community development programmes such as INTERREG, while others are of a much simpler kind, based often on long-standing twinning agreements with recent trade-related components added.

As the Union adapts to change the desire for greater democracy and openness in the way decisions are made at the European level increases. Some discussion is focusing on the future role of national Parliaments where Westminster has a contribution yet to make. A recent development has been the establishment of the Committee of the Regions where European Union matters are appraised from a regional perspective by representatives drawn from the regions themselves.

The broad policies of the European Union affect all its citizens and regions both directly and indirectly. These include the creation of the Single Market, the common trade policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, consumer protection rules, environmental improvement, education and training, social policy including health and safety protection and,

of special interest to the regions, the establishment of Trans-European networks in transport, energy and telecommunications.

There are, of course, certain policies and programmes with a more definite regional perspective. These include the Structural Funds, geared to the poorest regions in the Union and those that have been affected by industrial decline. Many regions have suffered from similar changes in key local industries such as steel, coal, textiles, shipbuilding and the defence sector. Policies have, therefore, been drawn up at the European level to address these problems in a similar way in each country. This is one example of the dynamics which the Union is creating at regional level.

Outside the capital cities and sometimes within the most peripheral regions, much of Europe's scientific and educational resources are based. The development of European-wide policies in these areas has helped forge a vast network of regional links that have become part of the nervous system of the Union as a whole.



THE SOUTH EAST is a large and diverse region. With its close position to other Member States many links have been formed between Local Authorities in the South East and those in France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and elsewhere. There are also increasing links with Eastern European countries. This close proximity has also resulted in much transport investment, particularly in the Channel Tunnel which is serving to shorten the mental distance between the South East and other parts of Europe.

The South East has traditionally not been regarded as an area of economic problems but rather as a region of affluence. However, changing economic fortunes over the last twenty years now mean that there are extreme pockets of deprivation often too small to attract European concern but of considerable influence locally. New programmes such as URBAN together with the use of the European Social Fund are starting to make a contribution. The disparities in London remain a continuing concern.

The South East is also an area of high environmental quality and

regarded as such by the people of the region. Many of the Union's initiatives to promote improved environmental standards and regulation have been welcomed.

The European connection is well established in the South East and has increasingly become a focus for much of its activities. This booklet illustrates the extent of existing European relationships and activities at the local level together with the scope for neighbours all over Europe which share the same characteristics. The inter regional momentum is growing. This is why it is timely to take stock of the South East region's assets and prospects within the European Union.



*Channel Tunnel
terminal, Kent*

2 REGIONAL PROFILE

BORDERED BY LONDON and the Thames Estuary to the north and the English Channel to the south and east, the Kent and East Sussex sub-region is a peninsula with a coastline of 310km and an area of 5,530 square km. Bordered to the west by Surrey and West Sussex, the sub-region is ideally located to develop links throughout the South-East of England and Northern France.

Kent has a population of 1.52 million people, distributed throughout the County in 14 District Council areas. The largest conurbation with a population of approximately 250,000 covers the North Kent Medway Towns of Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester. A net migration into the County has helped since 1981 to increase the population by 43,000.

Demographically, East Sussex is dominated by the coastal urban belt, which accounts for 70% of the 722,000 population, with the major towns being Brighton & Hove, with a combined population of 230,000 plus Eastbourne and Hastings and three rural Districts.

Kent and East Sussex share many social and economic circumstances resulting from their geographical location, their social and commercial development and physical environment. The perception of the region as the prosperous South East of England masks many problems which have only recently been recognised by Whitehall and Brussels. Kent and East Sussex now have access to INTERREG II funding and a part of East Kent has Objective 2 status of the Structural Funds.

Historically the counties of Kent and East Sussex have been European in the broadest sense for some time. Occasionally they have been unwilling, as with the arrival of the Romans and Normans, but always they have realised the benefit and opportunities offered by trade and co-operation. Today, both counties see their future prosperity inextricably linked to Europe and the development of social, economic and environmental partnerships.

The links between the inhabitants of East Sussex and Haute-Normandie and Kent and the Nord-Pas de Calais stretch back well before the Norman invasion of 1066 with a tradition of ties between merchants and the transport of commodities. The Roman pharos at Dover guided shipping safely across the English Channel, helping to develop trade with mainland Europe. The social and economic links between the regions have continued to develop ever since.



Even military measures, like the development of the Cinque Ports, a system of naval defences based on towns such as Dover, Sandwich and Rye, subsequently evolved to provide the expertise to develop trading links with Europe and beyond.

Once Britain's first line of defence, Kent and East Sussex now promote themselves as strategic locations for businesses looking to trade with the rest of Europe, helped by the Channel Tunnel, investment in Kent's ports, road and rail network and development of the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry route.

The Channel is the busiest waterway in the world with traffic both across and along it. Today the Port of Dover handles about two-thirds of the passenger traffic with Continental Europe and over one third of the freight. It has now been joined by the Channel Tunnel, a triumph of Anglo-French cooperation. The ports of the region - including Dover, Folkestone, Newhaven, Ramsgate, Rye, Sheerness and Shoreham - continue to be the country's major arterial routes to mainland Europe, all rising to meet the challenge of the Tunnel.



3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A Economic Impact

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

Kent splits into three distinct areas, North, East and Mid & West, with each displaying individual characteristics, and specific strengths and weaknesses. Overall, the County is home to 45,000 businesses, 93% of which employ fewer than 25 people.

North Kent, traditionally the workhorse of the Kent economy, has undergone major structural change during the late 1980s and 1990s. Gone is the concentration of medium and heavy industries. In their place have come modern industries and a growing service sector.

East Kent has also suffered from economic restructuring with thousands of jobs lost in traditional industries like tourism, shipping, fishing and agriculture. The loss of jobs in Customs and Excise at the ports following the completion of the Single European Market exacerbated the situation.

New investment is helping regenerate the area. The Thanet area secured Objective Area 2 status while the problems caused by the closure of the East Kent coalfield attracted European Coal and Steel Community Loan status. Altogether, led by the County Council, Kent has attracted over £60m of EU funding over the last nine years.

Mid & West Kent is the most affluent area of the county. With good rail and road links to London, a large proportion of the workforce commutes. Primary industry is limited to agriculture with a minimum of small manufacturing and assembly operations. The majority of the area's employment is in the service sector with companies attracted by high quality offices in attractive town centre locations with well-trained staff.

East Sussex displays a high level of diversity and economic dependence on small companies. 80% of companies employ less than 10 employees and only 1% of firms employ over 200 staff. Manufacturing in East Sussex accounts for only 11% of the County's jobs, half the national average, with specialisms in pumps, furniture, optics, plastics, electronics, process control and food products.

Over 80% of employment in East Sussex is in the service sectors, particularly tourism, education, media, the arts, and business and financial services. Brighton and Eastbourne are internationally renowned conference centres. Unemployment is the highest in the



South East owing to major structural change in coastal tourism upon which the area heavily depends.

To help coastal communities heavily dependent on the fishing industry to diversify, the European Union has developed the PESCA Initiative, under which areas of East Sussex including Hastings, Rye and Newhaven, and Ramsgate in Kent are eligible for financial assistance.

Hastings was granted Intermediate Assisted Area status in April 1993. A public/private sector partnership led by the local authorities achieved new investment of £10 million and created over 100 jobs in the first 12 months through expanding indigenous enterprises. The partnership is now targeting the electronics, engineering, chemical and tourism sectors for inward investment.

Kent and East Sussex, working with their European partners, are tackling the regeneration of urban areas. Brighton submitted a bid through the URBAN Initiative to address severe socio-economic urban problems through improvements to infrastructure and the environment. East Sussex will be seeking Objective 2 status for Hastings and Brighton & Hove.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

Major investment has been made by the County Councils and their partners to create countywide networks of business support organisations. The recent launch of the Government backed Business links in both Kent and East Sussex will ensure that businesses have a single point of access to business support services. The extensive range of support for business includes planning, marketing, export advice and training.

Through the activities of the Kent Enterprise Office (KEO) considerable success has been achieved in attracting inward investment to Kent. Recently KEO has agreed to work with their opposite numbers in Nord-Pas-de Calais, as part of the INTERREG programme, to jointly promote the two areas to potential investors throughout Europe, North America and the Far East.

In Kent recent efforts to raise awareness of the business opportunities presented by European trades have included the highly successful Transchannel 95 business exhibition which attracted over 150 exhibitors and 2,000 visitors from Kent, Nord-Pas de Calais and Wallonia. The event was supported by the INTERPRISE Programme and the three participating regions.

The Sussex Training and Enterprise Council has recently merged with the Chamber of Commerce to create the Sussex Chamber of Commerce Training and Enterprise as a basis for the development of Sussex Business

Link and the delivery of comprehensive programmes appropriate to the needs of local businesses. Trans-national business support projects will be implemented under the Rives-Manche INTERREG-Programme.

In East-Sussex, inward investment action plans are in place in Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Hastings using public-private sector partnerships. The regeneration of these (predominantly seaside) towns, including through inward investment, is a priority for the work of the COAST Network and for joint work with French partners in Seine-Maritime and Somme through INTERREG.

TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

For many years the Tourism Officers of Kent and East Sussex have been working with their counterparts in Nord-Pas de Calais and Haute-Normandie, alongside ferry operators and South East England Tourist Board to promote tourism. They aim to develop a sense of unity within the tourism industry and create awareness of the Transmanche and Rives-Manche regions as tourism destinations. This work is important in off-setting the decline suffered by many coastal resorts as a result of changing holiday patterns.

The opening of the Channel Tunnel and recent investment by ferry operators led to a dramatic increase in cross-Channel passenger numbers. New services, including the fast passenger ferry between Brighton Marina and Fécamp, boosted day trips in both directions.

The Transmanche Tourism Trophy promotes innovation and tourism development in Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais. Since 1993, five selected Kent towns and villages have competed florally against communities in Nord-Pas de Calais for the annual Transmanche in Bloom award.

With 63% of East Sussex designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the issue of environmental protection and conservation is important. There are also 62 sites of special scientific interest for wildlife or geology and a further 263 other sites of nature conservation interest. Striking the right balance between economic development and conservation of the region is an issue for Kent and East Sussex.

Through the EU's LIFE initiative, East Sussex developed the "Weald Wood Net" to bring together wood producers and users in a centre of excellence to benefit both the economy and the environment. Strong cooperative links have been forged between the Sussex High Weald and the Parc de Bretonne and between Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and the Baie de Somme.

Another activity has been the development of a Euroregion Environment Charter.



TRANSPORT

Both counties lobbied for the inclusion of port access links in Trans-European Networks to ensure that the rail and road port links were included in the Network by the European Commission.

Recognising the importance of ports to the economic prosperity of the South-East, Kent County Council with the ports and operators including Eurotunnel commissioned a study of the port related industries. The result is a comprehensive Port Strategy to help Kent ports remain viable in the future.

A key priority for East Sussex is the development of the port and ferry service at Newhaven to ensure that the port can make the most of its links with the recently-modernised port of Dieppe, serving Iberian and Irish traffic on the most direct line between London and Paris. UK and EU funding is being sought to develop the Newhaven harbour facilities, facilitating a high speed ferry service and related developments in the port and the town.

Kent County Council's Highways and Transportation Department successfully influenced UK and European institutions to secure investment in infrastructure. Kent has won three times as much investment as any other UK county over the past few years.

As participants in the Transmanche and Euroregion initiatives Kent has, with its partners, enjoyed support for a number of projects through programmes such as the DRIVE CORRIDOR. Kent has also provided technical assistance to the new democracies of Eastern Europe through the OUVERTURE programme.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY

Adapting to technological change and embracing new technologies will be vital to the long term competitiveness of the UK economy. The Kent Technology Transfer Centre (KTTC) operates the EU's SPRINT programme bringing together specialist technology brokers and companies from throughout Europe to commercially exploit new technologies. The Sussex TTC administers the COMETT programme locally.

Similarly, both counties liaise through the RELAY Initiative with their French partners in using telematics to provide public service information and desk-top conferencing throughout the region.

The Kent Co-operative Development Agency works with its equivalent in Nord-Pas de Calais. Since 1990 it has been involved in over 70 projects and the creation of 13 co-operatives.

The once prosperous coalfield in East Kent closed down in the late 1980's. Since then, through the assistance of the European Coal and Steel Community loans and the activities of British Coal Enterprise, considerable efforts have been made to economically regenerate the area.

The County Council is responding to the need to improve energy efficiency and use sustainable materials and practices through a number of initiatives. The economic development and the environment groups have joined forces to create a partnership to encourage the use of green technologies and energy efficient work practices on a number of industrial estates. The use of sustainable materials for energy conservation is promoted through the Weald Woodnet Partnership, which began as a LIFE project. Within this work, a local specialist has developed wood-based energy systems and a demonstration Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant will be established within the Woodland Enterprise Centre.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE

With most of the towns located along the coast, East Sussex is largely an agricultural area. Over 60,000 hectares are classed as a Rural Development Area although not given Objective 5b status. Woodland has always been important and is being revived with the aid of LIFE funding. The project brought together growers and users of wood to bring both environmental and job creation benefits. A Woodland Enterprise Centre is being created around an old windmill.

Rural tourism is also being developed to aid farm diversification. The County Council are involved with the Assembly of European Regions Committee developing recommendations and best practice on rural tourism and tourism and the environment.

A local mushroom grower/processor has benefitted from a Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products grant for a modern processing facility.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

The completion of the Channel Tunnel helped Kent qualify for INTERREG I. To address development issues and to promote cross-border cooperation with northern France, Kent and East Sussex have now been granted INTERREG II status. This encourages projects on mutual awareness and communications; education, research and training; economic development; tourism, recreation and culture; and environmental conservation and enhancement, in partnership with neighbours in France.



1987 saw the creation of Région Transmanche, the formal partnership of Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais, set up to overcome the economic problems experienced by both areas through the development of joint activities. One of the positive outcomes for the 5.5 million people of the region was funding from the EU through INTERREG I for initiatives to promote business development, technology and tourism.

In 1991 the original Transmanche Region was expanded to create a European Economic Interest Group (EEIG) known as the Euroregion - a partnership between Kent, Nord-Pas de Calais, Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels Capital with a population of 15.5 million. The Euroregion focuses on the development of cross-border co-operation among the five regions.

East Sussex has developed and participated in European partnerships, including the Seine Maritime département in the Region of Haute-Normandie and the Somme département in Picardie to create the Euroregion Rives-Manche - an area with a population of 2.5 million.

The long standing relationship between East Sussex County Council and the Conseil Régional de Haute-Normandie was cemented by their 1993 Accord, designed to promote their respective communities as a Region of Europe. The aim is to build upon the many formal and informal links between a number of organisations, including the town councils of Brighton and Dieppe, Lewes District's EEIG with Dieppe, the Sussex Chamber of Commerce Training and Enterprise and counterparts in Dieppe and Le Tréport. The outcome has been various trade missions, joint meetings and events to promote and support trading and environmental links between the two regions. Intensive language and business culture courses are offered by the University of Brighton with the Chamber of Commerce of Le Tréport. A notable result of this cooperation was the successful lobby for INTERREG II status.

Cooperation has not been confined to INTERREG - East Sussex and Haute-Normandie were involved in a Heritage Tourism Trail project with regions in Wales and Ireland as well as in an Exchange of Experience Project working on drugs misuse.

East Sussex was a founder member of the COAST (Co-ordinated Action for Seaside Towns) Network of nine seaside areas around Europe, set up under the RECITE Programme - 1992-94 - to tackle common socio-economic problems. East Sussex piloted practical projects aimed at diversifying the economy and improving quality within the tourism industry through training. The Network has gone on to work on similar and wider development projects with Eastern Europe and non-member Mediterranean coastal regions and is becoming a focus for all issues concerned with sustainable development and regeneration of coastal areas.



The spirit of cooperation has been marked in Kent by the Sans Frontières programme, managed by the County Council's Arts and Libraries Department, celebrating the wider movement of people, culture and ideas. Similarly, the County's Social Services Department is engaged in a broad programme of European activities involving the exchange of people and ideas. East Sussex Social Services was part of the HELIOS Network working together on integrating the handicapped into society.

Business development between Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais and recently Wallonia has proved very beneficial. Initiatives have included the joint organisation of Transchannel '94 and '95 business-to-business exhibitions to foster cooperation and trade.

Planners are increasingly working at a European level. Both counties are founder members of CRONWE, the Conference of Regions of North West Europe, involved in Europe 2000 and 2000+. Kent County Council's Planning Department plays an active role in the development of the Euroregion. The pioneering report, "A Vision for Euroregion", takes an overview of the key issues facing the Euroregion.

Both East Sussex and Kent are involved with colleagues in the English south coast counties and North French regions in the creation of Arc Manche. The Channel regions aim to work together on common environmental, economic and infrastructure problems unique to the coastal areas of the Channel.

B Social Impact

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Kent and East Sussex are well served by the Further and Higher Education sectors with centres of excellence well distributed throughout the region. The full spectrum of academic disciplines is catered for, providing professional and vocational qualifications to meet the needs of students, businesses and the region into the next century.

Notable academic centres are located at Canterbury in Kent and Brighton in East Sussex both of which have links with academic institutions in Nord-Pas de Calais, Haute-Normandie, Somme and beyond. Kent also increasingly benefits from the University of Greenwich which plans to develop purpose-built campuses at Dartford and West Malling.

In Brighton, with two universities and the College of Art and Technology, the Higher and Further Education sector employs more than 5,000 people, supports 25,000 students and has a combined turnover of £200 million per annum. The study of English as a foreign



language is also a major activity in all the East Sussex coastal towns.

The Further and Higher Education sectors of both counties have seized the opportunities to develop joint research and collaboration projects with institutions throughout Europe and with the help of EU initiatives. The University of Kent at Canterbury won research grants and contracts in biology, chemistry, computing, communications and business studies. Canterbury Christ Church College has partnerships throughout Europe, securing funding from ERASMUS, the ESF programmes under EUROFORM and HORIZON and LINGUA.

The University of Sussex has extensive links and joint programmes with Universities across Europe, some through ERASMUS or TEMPUS. The University of Brighton has strong ties with universities in 13 Member States plus countries outside the EU. From further afield Queen's University of Ontario has recently established an International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex.

The three academic institutions in Brighton with the County and Borough Council and Sussex TEC have created The Sussex Academic Corridor Initiative building upon the academic and research excellence of East Sussex, and aims to enhance employment opportunities for graduates and stimulate regeneration. This includes the creation of an Innovation Centre.

Academic institutions are laying the foundations for the future prosperity of the young people of Kent and East Sussex. Partnership with neighbours across the Channel and beyond will be central to that future.

TRAINING

To develop a competitive economy for the year 2000 and beyond a trained workforce which is capable of meeting the needs and aspirations of employers and employees is essential. Kent and East Sussex each has a Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) which promotes an extensive range of training initiatives supported by the DTI, Employment Service and the European Social Fund.

Local initiatives have also been promoted by the County Councils to overcome the problems associated with employment and training in remote rural areas through their support for teleworking, the provision of rural resource centres and rural outreach. In Kent, the Romney Resource Centre received funding via INTERREG for a pilot scheme to address employment and training on the Romney Marsh.

Kent has received funding through the ESF to promote training initiatives delivered via the County Council, business support network and Further Education colleges. Initiatives have been developed to improve the employment



opportunities of the long-term unemployed, disadvantaged and disabled.

Education and training are strengths in East Sussex, with the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, respected Further Education colleges at Brighton, Lewes, Eastbourne, Hastings and Plumpton Agriculture College, as well as a high number of private organisations. The County Council are trying to plug gaps and further stimulate a training culture, for example with training for the Tourism industry through the COAST (Co-ordinated Action for Seaside Towns) Network of nine seaside areas around Europe, set up under the RECITE programme.

Cultural Impact

CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Culture and arts are a strength of the whole region with an extensive programme of festivals throughout the year. The Festivals of Brighton, Mayfield and Chiddingly, Glyndebourne Opera and their international reputation of all the many venues in Brighton, attract performances from across Europe and stimulate local artists including the use of high technology multimedia productions.

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES - Europe Weeks, twinning

At county and town level, Kent and East Sussex have developed extensive town twinning programmes and made excellent links with towns in Northern France and elsewhere. Performance Arts Groups from both countries have been involved in exchanges with groups from their twinned locations, as part of many music and arts festivals.



4 THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS

i SOURCES OF EUROPEAN UNION INFORMATION

EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDCS)

help universities promote and develop studies in the field of European integration. Some of them receive the complete range of EU documentation, others receive selective documentation. Both enjoy privileged access to EU databases. EDCs also allow access for European information to the public and to students. The EDC network is supported by the European Commission.

The Library
Wye College, **WYE**,
Near Ashford, Kent TN25 5AH
Contact: Wendy Sage
Tel: 01233 812 401
Fax: 01233 813 320
(NB: students from other institutions should make prior arrangements to use the EDC)

The Library
University of Sussex, Falmer
BRIGHTON, East Sussex BN1 9QL
Contact: Jackie Edgell
Tel: 01273 678 159
Fax: 01273 678 441

The Templeman Library
University of Kent
CANTERBURY, Kent CT2 7NU
Contact: Sarah Carter
Tel: 01227 764 000
Fax: 01227 475 495

EUROPEAN REFERENCE CENTRES (ERCS)

are based in academic institutions and public libraries. They have small collections of EU publications for reference only. All are open to members of the general public and students. ERCS are, however, not able to offer a specialised consultancy-type service and may direct visitors to another

source of information if necessary. The ERC network is supported by the European Commission.

Brighton Reference Library
Church Street, **BRIGHTON**,
East Sussex BN1 1UE
Contact: Maureen Berry
Tel: 01273 601 197
Fax: 01273 695 882

EURO UNITS

provide a range of European orientated support services to all providers of vocational training and education. Euro Units have contacts in Government, industry, education and other bodies. Services include the provision of regional resource and information centres, organisation of conferences, study visits, the development and promotion of initiatives for teaching languages and developing and disseminating of good practice in the Europeanisation of the curriculum.

There is no Euro-Unit in this region, please refer to the other regions in this brochure.

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELAYS (PIRS)

consist in public libraries who have set up, in partnership with the European Commission, a network to provide the general public with access to EU information on the established policies and programmes of the EU at a local level. They receive some of the information and materials published by EU institutions and other relevant bodies in printed, and possibly in electronic form.

Hove Central Library
182-186 Church Road
HOVE, East Sussex BN3 2EG
Contact: Chris Smith,
Principal Library Manager

Tel: 01273 770 473
Fax: 01273 822 932

Arts and Libraries
Kent County Council, Springfield
MAIDSTONE, Kent ME14 2LH
Contact: Ian Dodds,
Information Officer
Tel: 01622 696 514
Fax: 01622 753 338

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

stock a comprehensive collection of official EU documentation which can be consulted by the general public. In addition, the material held by the British Library Document Supply Centre is available through the national network for inter-library lending.

London - Westminster Central Reference Library
Contact: Kathleen Oxenham
Tel: 0171 798 2034

Liverpool - Business and Information Library
Contact: Edwin Fleming
Tel: 0151 225 5430

Wetherby - British Library Document Supply Centre
Contact: Andrew Smith
Tel: 01973 546 044

LOCAL AUTHORITY EUROPEAN LIAISON OFFICERS

are responsible for the coordination of EU general awareness raising activities and/or dissemination of general EU information within the local authority. They may also coordinate their authority's applications for European Union funding.

COUNTY COUNCILS

East Sussex County Council
Lewes, East Sussex
Contact: Chris M Williams, Head

of External Affairs
Tel: 01273 481 651

Kent County Council
Maidstone, Kent
Contact: Stephen Barber, Head
of European Operations
Tel: 01622 694 011

DISTRICT/BOROUGH COUNCILS

Rother District Council
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex
Contact: Mr A Lee,
Assistant Secretary
Tel: 01424 216 321

Brighton Borough Council
Brighton, East Sussex
Contact: Paul Bevan,
Asstt Chief Executive
Tel: 01273 712 040

Wealden District Council
Crowborough, East Sussex
Contact: Ms E Davis, Economic
Development Officer
Tel: 01892 653 311

Dover District Council
Dover, Kent
Contact: Alan Elder, Economic
Development Project Officer
Tel: 01304 821 199

Gillingham Borough Council
Gillingham, Kent
Contact: Adrian Gowan,
Policy and Review Officer
Tel: 01634 282 045

Hove Borough Council
Hove, East Sussex
Contact: David Fisher,
Director of Leisure Services
Tel: 01273 720 371

Lewes District Council
Lewes, East Sussex
Contact: David Stone,
Economic Development
and Estates Officer
Tel: 01273 471 600 x 4200

Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone, Kent
Contact: David Matson, Business

Development Officer
Tel: 01622 602 262

Thanet District Council
Margate, Kent
Contact: Tom McGuckin, Senior
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01843 225 511 x 2016

Swale Borough Council
Sittingbourne, Kent
Contact: Peter Jolley,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01795 417 396

CITY COUNCILS

Canterbury City Council
Canterbury, Kent
Contact: Barbara Le Pelley,
Senior Planner
Tel: 01227 763 763

**Rochester Upon Medway
City Council**
Rochester, Kent
Contact: Ron Gregory,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01634 727 777

UK MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEPS)

There are now 87 MEPs for the UK, who have been elected by universal suffrage for a five year term (1994-1999). Their role is to represent their constituency in the European Parliament, which monitors proposals made by the European Commission and decisions made by the Council of Ministers and can suggest amendments. It also has important powers over the EC budget. MEPs may enquire about any Community legislation by submitting oral and written questions. Finally the Maastricht Treaty gave MEPs new powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers in certain policy areas.

East Sussex and Kent South
Sir Jack Stewart-Clark
(Conservative)
Puckstye House, Holtys Common
Near COWDEN, Kent TN8 7EL

Tel: 01342 850 285
Fax: 01342 850 789

Kent East
Mark Watts (Labour)
Transport House, Aspley Street
ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1LF
Tel: 01233 663 668
Fax: 01233 663 510

Kent West
Peter Skinner (Labour)
JC House, Priory Hill
DARTFORD, Kent DA1 2ER
Tel: 01322 281 500

Sussex South and Crawley
Brendan Donnelly (Conservative)
72 High Street, BRIGHTON,
East Sussex BN1 1RP
Tel: 01273 626 614
Fax: 01273 626 693

UK MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS RESIDENT IN THIS AREA

There are 24 UK Members of the Committee of the Regions who are appointed on a political and geographical basis to represent all types of UK local government for a period of four years. Acting as an advisory body, it must be consulted on subjects such as education, youth, culture, public health, transport, etc. It may also take the initiative to give its opinion in other areas of interest to the regions, including agriculture, environmental protection, etc.

Councillor David Belotti
(Liberal Democrat)
East Sussex County Council
Pelham House, St Andrews Lane
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UN
Tel: 01273 481 000

EUROPEAN INFORMATION CENTRES (EICs)

provide information on European Union issues to SMEs. EICs receive a continuous flow of information on Europe and have access to EU databases, including Tender Electronic Daily (TED) which carries details of invitations to tender for

public works, supply and service contracts. Some EICs also assist companies looking for business partners in the EU through the Business Cooperation Network (BC-Net) - see description below - and advise businesses on their participation in EU activities. The EIC network is supported by the European Commission.

Sussex Chamber of Commerce,
Training and Enterprise (SCCTE)
169 Church Road
HOVE, East Sussex BN3 2AS
Contact: Vivienne Gray
Tel: 01273 326 282
Fax: 01273 207 955

Kent EIC
Springfield, **MAIDSTONE**,
Kent ME14 2LL
Contact: David Oxlade
Tel: 01622 694 109
Fax: 01622 691 418

BUSINESS COOPERATION CENTRES NETWORK (BC-NET)

was established by the European Commission to give companies a framework within which to expand into the EU market and the practical means, through specialist support, to develop commercial, financial and technical co-operation at a European level. Its primary task is to help identify, through a European network of business advisers, other businesses with which they can work. It operates through a network of 600 business advisers, who endeavour to find a partner for any type of business activity, eg mergers, joint ventures, franchises, etc. The cost for such a service varies quite considerably. In general, there is an administrative charge and a consultancy fee.

Federation of Sussex Industries
Sussex Chamber of Commerce
and Industry, 169 Church Road,
HOVE, East Sussex BN3 2AS
Contact: Vivienne Gray

Tel: 01273 326 282
Fax: 01273 207 955

INNOVATION RELAY CENTRES

promote the EC's research and technological development policy by offering specialist advice to local industry in the identification of partners through the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS), of opportunities for participation in R&D programmes and for the submission of proposals. They provide a range of services to contractors involved in R&D to help them protect, exploit and disseminate the results of their work.

Kent Technology Transfer Centre Ltd

Research and Development
Building, University of Kent
CANTERBURY, Kent CT2 7PD
Contact: Peter Parsons
Tel: 01227 763 414
Fax: 01227 763 424

INTEGRATED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

bring together the regional offices of the Departments of Employment, Environment, Trade and Industry and Transport, pooling their expertise. The role of Government Offices is to work in partnership with the local community to maximise the competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life in the region. They also represent the UK Government in regions. Their European branches provide a secretariat for organisations and individuals on various European programmes including the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, etc. The Scottish Office, Welsh Office and Northern Ireland Office perform similar functions within their area.

Government Office for the South East

Charles House, 375 Kensington
High Street, LONDON W14 8QH

Contact: Lucy Robinson,
Head of European Branch II
Tel: 0171 605 9051
Fax: 0171 605 9068

TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCILS (TECs)

in England and Wales and Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland are independent private companies formed by local business people, working under performance-related contracts to the Government. There are 81 TECs covering England and Wales. Their counterparts in Scotland are the 22 LECs. The fundamental aim of every TEC is to foster economic growth and contribute to the regeneration of the community it serves. TEC initiatives include Training for Work, Youth Credits, Modern Apprenticeship, Investors in People, National Vocational Qualifications, Education Business Partnerships, Business Start Up and Business Link.

Kent TEC

CHATHAM, Kent
Contact: Ian White, Business and
Economic Development Manager
Tel: 01634 833 328

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN) deals with planning, transport and economic issues. It is increasingly engaged in a European dialogue at the European level and works closely with members of the Committee of the Regions and MEPS. It also has a network of advisors on regional matters with a European significance.

The London and South East Regional Planning Conference (SERPLAN)

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THE SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

No consideration of the South East can be complete without reference to its relationship with London. The presence in the centre of the region of a major city which is not only the national capital at the leading edge of the nation's economy, but also a leading world financial, cultural, commercial and administrative centre, has had a shaping influence on the region, and the linkages between the metropolitan area and its immediate hinterland, which includes much of the South East region, remain very important.

Traditionally, London has drawn a substantial part of its labour force from the rest of the South East in the form of daily commuters. This, together with its position as capital city and the UK's largest port and commercial centre have created such a strongly radical transport system that orbital links between other parts of the region have tended to be weak. However recent and planned infrastructure projects covering both rail and road are improving this situation.

The South East region is also the location for major transport interchanges associated with the world standing of London. Gatwick is a major airport. Dover is the world's busiest passenger port, and several other ports important for freight traffic and the Channel Tunnel are also located in the region.

Outward development pressure resulting from congestion in the city, economic decentralisation, the desire of people for suburban or country living and the recreation needs of Londoners have placed great pressure on the rural and coastal areas of the region over many decades, prompting a response to manage and contain urban sprawl by the early application of Green Belt and other land use planning/management measures. Pressures have tended to shift to areas offering an attractive living environment outside the green belt, requiring measures to protect and manage countryside, cultural heritage and quality of urban living.

Culturally also, the position of London as a leading world centre has an influence on the rest of the South East. Whilst to some extent the region lies in the shadow of the capital, it also benefits from good accessibility to the centre. Exciting developments and initiatives in the areas of education, heritage, leisure, tourism, shopping, etc are being developed in outer sub-regional centres such as Oxford, Brighton, Canterbury, Southampton and many other towns.

As a Europe of strong regions steadily develops, so too will the links between London and much of the South East, forming an increasingly powerful European economic force.

A separate brochure on London is in the course of production.



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The Regional Brochures have been organised on the basis of the Government's existing standard regions for England. These are the areas covered by the English Regional Associations which, inter alia, are responsible for advising the Secretary of State for the Environment on regional planning guidance. Some of the Regions have been subdivided to reflect their population and/or geographic size. Cumbria has been included in the North West brochure as its European Structural Funds are handled from Manchester, as part of the North West programme.

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THE SOUTH

EAST

