



STW

THE SOUTH

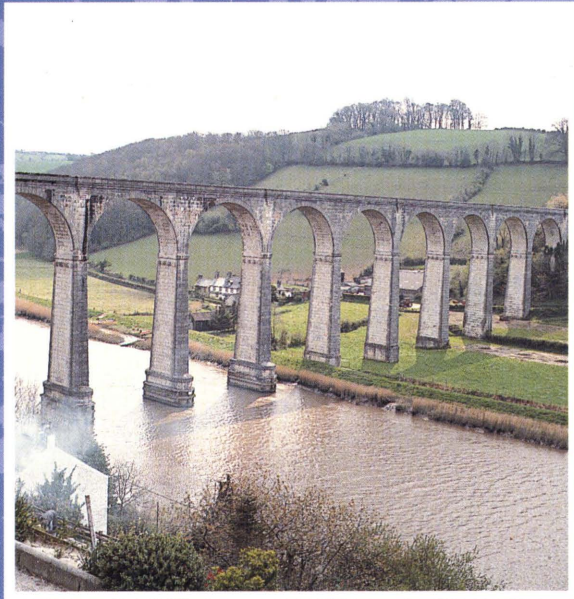
WEST

A REGION
OF THE
EUROPEAN
UNION

Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset, Avon,
Wiltshire, Isle of Scilly, Gloucestershire



STW



PART 1

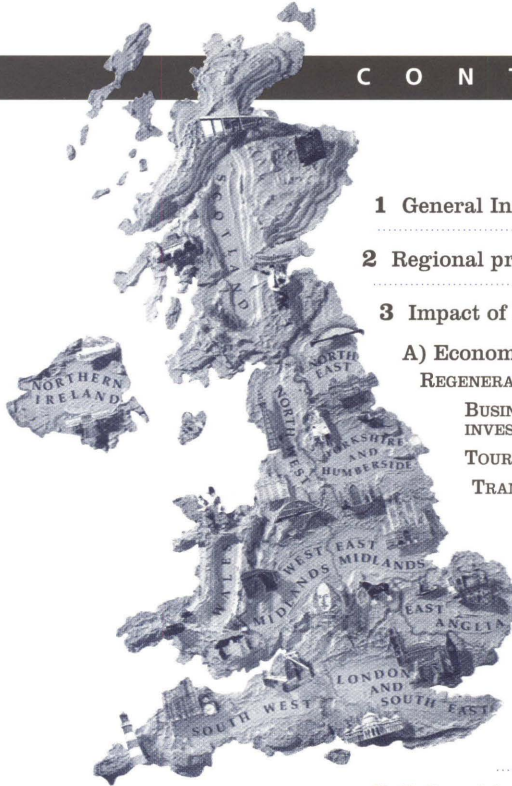
- DEVON
- CORNWALL

THE SOUTH

WEST

A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

C O N T E N T S



1	General Introduction	3
2	Regional profile	6
3	Impact of EU policies and programmes	10
	A) Economic impact	10
	REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES	10
	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT	13
	TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT	14
	TRANSPORT	14
	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY	15
	RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE	16
	CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION	18
	B) Social impact	20
	EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	20
	TRAINING	20
	C) Cultural impact	21
	INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES - EUROPE WEEKS, TWINNING	21
4	Involvement of local and regional bodies and individuals	22

Opposite:
Calstock Viaduct
and Ferry Farm
- River Tamar

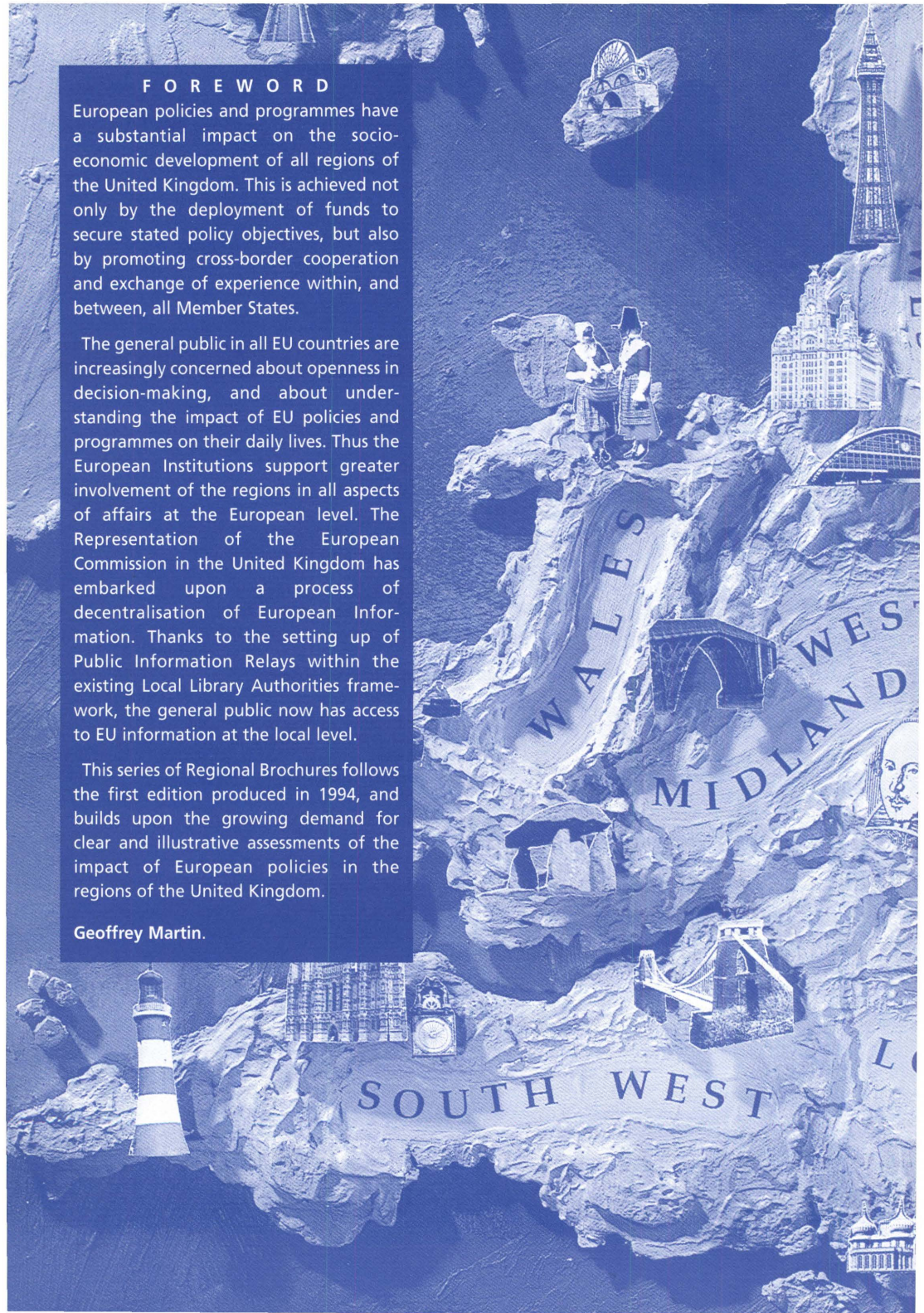
FOREWORD

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.



OTHE 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 WEST, with its large arable and dairy sectors, has long been affected by the Common Agricultural Policy and has had to face up to often painful changes which reforms in that policy have brought. Similarly, the impact of the Common Fishing Policy has placed enormous pressures on the fishing industry and brought calls for radical reforms. As in other regions, small and medium-sized businesses have benefited from the opportunities brought by the Single Market and other common trade policies. Many businesses have forged links with other European partners. This region is a major tourist destination, and the increasingly widespread European travel and tourism market is starting to have a significant influence on this sector. Large parts of the region are vulnerable to reductions in defence expenditure and have benefited from the EU Konver programme, which seeks to encourage alternative employment. The region has also attracted US, Japanese and other overseas investment, which reflects the advantages this region can bring in the context of the European Union as a whole. With a rich and varied natural and built environment, the region has a strong interest in the

development of European policies and programmes seeking to safeguard and enhance environmental quality.

The European dimension is shaping, and will increasingly shape, the development of the South West in key policy areas, as this brochure demonstrates. The brochure also illustrates the scope for the expansion of inter-regional relationships, particularly with regions having similar characteristics to the South West. The inter-regional momentum within the European Union is growing rapidly at various levels. That is why it is timely to take stock of the South West region's assets and liabilities in a European-wide context.



*Mousehole
-Cornwall*

2 REGIONAL PROFILE- DEVON & CORNWALL

DEVON AND CORNWALL are the two most westerly counties in England and are renowned in the UK and Europe for the outstanding quality and variety of the natural environment and particularly for the coastal scenery bordering both the Atlantic and the English Channel. The total population of Devon and Cornwall is 1,526,200.

This area is rich in history and by, British standards, the area is a large one; covering about 10,260 square kilometres, with a total population of 1.5 million, split almost equally between males and females. There is an above average elderly population compared with the rest of the UK, with some 145,000 (9.4%) people aged 75 or over, whereas the UK average is 7.3%.

It contains a wide variety of communities ranging from small villages and hamlets associated with the region's traditional industries to the City of Plymouth, the 20th largest city in the UK with a population of 259,000.

In terms of both the UK and the European Union the area can also be considered as "peripheral" the distance of Penzance from London being 440 kilometres, from Brussels 725 kilometres and from Milan 1,465 kilometres. The development of the Trans European Networks offers an opportunity to the South West to seek improvements in transport and telecom infrastructure to benefit from European developments of combined transport, high speed and rail freight to achieve greater integration with European core areas for business and tourism. This is being implemented through Community finance and advanced planning.

Enhanced telecommunications by cable or satellite also represent a valid alternative to physical movement. Enhancement of nodes and systems with general availability of access at non distance related tariffs are being pursued in the interests of SMEs and the public.

In both a UK and a European context, Cornwall and Devon in relative terms have a low GDP per head, low earnings and high unemployment. The industries traditionally important to the region are tourism, agriculture, fishing and defence. HM Dockyard at Devonport is the most strategically placed in the UK.

The most significant recent development in the European Union has been the creation of the Single Market allowing free movement of goods, people and capital and freedom to provide services within its boundaries.

The South West, despite the distances involved has benefited and will continue to benefit from this market by establishing sound export markets in Europe.

PRINCIPAL EXPORT MARKETS OF OF 172 COMPANIES

EU Countries	No. of companies in sample	%
Germany	35	20.35
France	24	13.95
Ireland	15	8.70
The Netherlands	10	5.80
Spain	8	4.60
Other EU Countries	4	2.30
		<u>60.30</u>
Non EU Countries		
USA	29	16.90
Middle East	13	7.60
Australia	8	4.70
Sweden	6	3.50
Canada	6	3.50
Africa	6	3.50
EU proportion of export markets =	60.3%	<u>100%</u>

It is interesting to note that, despite the difference in size of the two countries, the South West has a greater share of German markets than does the United States of America.

Including all classifications, the region's network of roads exceeds 21,821 kilometres in length. There are main trunk roads entering the two counties with the M5 to Exeter and the A38 and A30 to Land's End. There is also a main link route to North Devon. It has an operational rail network of some 530 kilometres.

The airports at Exeter, Plymouth, Newquay and Land's End handle over 419,000 passengers per annum, including the helicopter air link between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly. There are approximately 5,100 bus route kilometres and 36 million bus kilometres are covered per annum.

The ports of Falmouth, Plymouth, Fowey/Par and Teignmouth between them carry 4 million tonnes of freight and 576,000 passengers per annum (1994 figures).

A regional transport strategy has been developed for the South West to enhance the road, rail, port and air communications. The aim is to integrate Cornwall and Devon with the networks being developed elsewhere in Europe.



THE REGION'S RESOURCES AND TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

Based on the Autumn 1994 Labour Force Survey, 58% of over 16s were classed as economically active. A comprehensive set of European statistics cover the period 1988-1990 and show Cornwall and Devon as a region well down the European "league table" in terms of unemployment (117th out of 218) at that time.

The position has improved considerably since then, with the unemployment rate in the region in May 1995 running at 8.4% compared to 10.7% in May 1993.

TABLE 1 DEVON AND CORNWALL**ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE/INACTIVE PEOPLE AGED 16 AND OVER (Winter 1994/5 Labour Force Survey)**

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE		706,000
Employees	full time 364,000	part time 123,100
Self Employed	with employees 45,600	without employees 91,500
On a Government scheme		11,400
Receiving job-related training		102,000
Unemployed (International Labour Org. rate)		75,000
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE		524,000
Aged 16-24		60,000
Economically inactive 50+		65,000
TOTAL		1,230,000

Source: Department of Employment

FISHING

Fishing has played an important role in the life of both Cornwall and Devon, providing, today, over £50 million of output per annum and employing directly some 4,500 people. Employment statistics in the fishing industry are masked by the fact that most fishermen are self-employed.

The fishing industry is particularly affected by European Union decisions on quotas, which will lead to a reduction in the number of vessels allowed to fish and may limit the time they spend at sea. These reductions will affect significantly the industry and local economy in areas like Newlyn (the biggest fishing port by value in England), Brixham, Looe and to a lesser extent Plymouth. Reductions in Newlyn will also have a significant indirect effect on Penzance.

TABLE 2 DEVON AND CORNWALL

EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE BY INDUSTRY (Employees and Self Employed)

Industry	Devon	Cornwall	Total	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	18,570	10,870	29,440	5.0
Energy and water	5,820	2,170	7,990	1.4
Mining	7,180	5,130	12,310	2.1
Manufacturing	56,480	18,890	75,370	12.8
Construction	33,850	16,880	50,730	8.6
Distribution and catering	97,530	45,560	143,090	24.3
Transport	23,130	9,140	32,270	5.5
Banking and Finance	38,730	13,900	52,630	8.9
Other Services	130,150	54,900	185,050	31.4
Total Persons	411,440	177,440	588,880	100.00

Source: Department of Trade and Industry (Mid-1995)



*Dartington Glass
Factory and Shop
- Devon*

3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A Economic impact

The areas of Devon and Cornwall with structural economic problems have become increasingly dependent on EU funding and a tremendous amount of help has been given when industries such as tourism, agriculture, fishing and defence have met major obstacles. Aid is channelled through effective measures and procedures designed to stimulate cooperation between those directly involved in the field.

In general terms, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund (EAGGF) benefit the region's economy, infrastructure and environment, whilst the European Social Fund (ESF) supports vocational training and job creation programmes. The territorial dimension of EU expenditure is outlined in "Europe 2000+", published by the EC in May 1995; ISBN 92-826-9099-7 available from HMSO (tel : 0171 873 9090).

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)

Since 1989, there have been several "mainstream" operational programmes in the South West, including:

- a) The Cornwall NPCI (National Programme of Community Interest). The programme, which ran until December 1991 covered the Assisted Areas of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The ERDF grant was £16,310,000 and a total of 41 projects were initially approved for assistance under this programme, including:
 - i) the building of the "Tate Gallery of the West" at St. Ives, which qualified for a grant under the Tourism section of £877,500 towards the total cost of £3.3 million, to display paintings, sculptures and ceramics. The Tate Gallery in London has some 250 Cornish works of art and is providing these on permanent loan to the new gallery, which was officially opened in June 1993. The applicant was Cornwall County Council,
 - ii) improvements to the runway at St. Mary's airport on the Isles of Scilly, which qualified for a grant under the Communications section of £680,000 towards the total cost of £2.1 million. The applicant was the Council of the Isles of Scilly,

- iii) development of the Indian Queens Industrial Estate, which qualified for a grant under the Industrial Land Buildings section of £711,000 towards the total cost of £1.36 million.
 - b) The Plymouth TTWA (TraveltoWork Area) NPCI. This programme ran from 1989 to December 1991 covering the whole of the large Plymouth TTWA. The ERDF grant was £7,520,000 and a total of 40 projects were initially approved for assistance under this programme, including:
 - i) improvement of the physical environment of Princetown which, being at the centre of Dartmoor, is an important visitor destination. The improvements make it a more attractive location for residents and visitors alike, encouraging inward investment to assist the local economy. Under the Environmental Action section, Devon County Council was granted £56,400 towards the total cost of £112,700;
 - ii) Tavistock, on the southwestern fringe of Dartmoor and some 24 kilometres from Plymouth, is regarded as an "inland resort". West Devon Borough Council, seeking to enhance the tourist facilities built the Meadowlands Leisure Pool complex to create jobs and stimulate the local economy. Under the Tourism Development section, £1,229,000 was granted towards the total cost of £2,240,000,
 - iii) Plymouth Hoe is one of the best known tourist attractions of Plymouth's many historic areas. Devon County Council sought to provide direct access to the Hoe and at the same time reduce the traffic which would otherwise pass through the Barbican, another historic part of the City, thereby improving journey times and enhancing the environment. Under the Transport and Communications section, a grant of £379,000 towards the total cost of £1,356,000 was received.
 - c) RENAVAL. This was a special programme for areas adversely affected by the decline in the shipbuilding and repairing industries. This covered the Plymouth TTWA (other areas in the country with similar problems were also covered). The Plymouth programme ran from December 1990 to 1993, the initial grant allocation being £10,790,000, although with subsequent exchange rate variations this increased to £12,726,000 by the end of the programme. A total of 49 projects were initially approved for assistance under this programme, including:
 - i) the access to Millbay Docks at Plymouth. The first phase

provided, in particular, a more suitable entrance and exit for European ferry traffic that passes through the Docks. Considerable areas of derelict land within the Dock will, when redeveloped, benefit from the new access;

The second phase, which started in early 1994 provides improvements to the Millbay Road/Crescent junction which is on the main route to and from the Docks. An application from Devon County Council, under the Industrial Development section, secured a grant of £200,500 towards the total cost of £432,000.

- ii) tourist car parking needs. These concern the historic Barbican area (as well as those generated by the anticipated rejuvenation of the Coxside area, with the help of other ERDF assisted access improvements), together with the proposed National Marine Aquarium. Under the Tourism Infrastructure section, Plymouth City Council received a grant of £1,736,000 towards the total cost of £3,541,000 for significant new parking facilities;
 - iii) rail links. Due to the rapid expansion of Ivybridge over the last decade, rail links have been restored after an absence of many years by the provision of a new station. It is in keeping with the "park and ride" strategy to ease commuter traffic for the city of Plymouth. It will help to reduce road freight traffic in servicing the needs of the business community. Under the Multi-Objective Infrastructure, Devon County Council was granted £590,000 towards the total cost of £1,180,000.
- d) Objective 5b MultiFund Programme (MFP). This programme covered the period January 1992 to December 1993 and replaced the two previous NPCs for the Cornwall Assisted areas and the Plymouth TTWA. When initially approved, the ERDF grant allocation was £20,582,000 but by the close of the programme currency fluctuations had increased this to £22,951,000. A total of 124 projects were initially approved for assistance under this programme, including:
- i) preservation of Crownhill Fort, an historical fortification on the perimeter of Plymouth City and listed by English Heritage as an incorporate a museum centre and short stay holiday accommodation, together with additional car parking and toilet facilities. Under the Tourism section, the Landmark Trust was granted £201,900 towards the total cost of £403,900.



- ii) major improvements to the approaches to Falmouth town and Docks, designed to link up with previous ERDF projects which enhanced the Dock facilities and the environment. This project received funds from three sources: a Department of Transport Supplementary Grant and Cornwall County Council, who also applied for a grant under the Peripherality section and received £2,783,000 towards the total cost of £11,570,000;
- iii) redevelopment of the British Rail Depot at Laira to enable integration of the railway network into the European Passenger Service, which will provide a direct rail service from Plymouth to Paris via the Channel Tunnel. Under the MultiObjective Infrastructure, British Rail received a grant of £1,200,000 towards the total cost of £3,021,000.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

Competitiveness must be improved if the region's businesses are to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the EU. Training and guidance for new enterprises, networking of companies which can work together to help improve efficiency, the supply of advice and consultancy on R&D and the development and support for the adoption of new technology are all provided by the EU.

Grants for training, help with improvements to management's effectiveness, marketing and planning have been given. Business support measures have also helped areas of Devon and Cornwall.

Although there has been a downturn in the employment in traditional industries in Devon and Cornwall, there has been a dramatic improvement in the health of the new growth sectors. This growth is apparent both in companies with UK headquarters and those with overseas "parents".

There has been a rise in the number of enquiries from Europe from 100 to over 200, particularly where the opening up of the Scandinavian market for the first time has produced a surge of enquiries from that area. The level of visits to companies overseas shows a similar increase. A marketing agreement signed with the Plymouth Development Corporation gave rise to a whole range of new developments and, with their support opened up new markets for Devon and Cornwall Development International in France, the Benelux and Scandinavia.

TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- a) LIFE: This programme aims at developing and implementing environment laws and policies. A series of pilot projects focus on aspects of green tourism:
- i) the Heart of Devon project, based in North Devon seeks to develop an integrated, sustainable transport network based on footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways and to link this with public transport;
 - ii) the South Devon project is trying to "green" the tourism industry by encouraging environmental actions by hoteliers and other tourism businesses;
 - iii) the Blackdown Hills project addresses local concerns about an increase in tourism following designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It will look at agricultural diversification, energy conservation and waste.
- b) Atlantis: From the 4 themes of the Atlantis programme, Devon and Cornwall's projects fall under the Modernisation of Tourism and Environmental themes:
- i) the Devon Wildlife Trust's Marine Survey will help identify sensitive and nonsensitive areas for use in integrated coastal zone management;
 - ii) a Wetlands Information project with Somerset County Council will help establish common and compatible criteria across all Atlantic Arc regions for dealing with wetland issues;
 - iii) the Atlantic Otter project promotes the conservation of coastal, estuarine, riverine and terrestrial natural habitats characteristic of the regions of the Atlantic Arc.

TRANSPORT

The South West peninsula is served by two strategic roads and two main rail lines linking it to the rest of England. The M5/M4 motorways link the region to the Midlands, Wales, the North of England and the London-East Anglia area. The A303/A30 links the area with the South Coast/South London and Kent. Rail services operate along similar corridors. Completing the transport infrastructure are regional airports at Bristol and Exeter, whilst Plymouth and St Mawgan (Newquay) airports offer scheduled services to London. There are major passenger ferry ports at Poole and Plymouth for cross-channel services to France and Spain and a major freight port at Avonmouth/Portishead with smaller coastal trade and fishing ports dotted around the peninsula.

The major transport issue at present is interwoven specifically with regard to peripherality. Connections to Europe, both to the centre and throughout the Atlantic Arc require investment and development if the South West is not to be marginalised in Europe. Inclusion of all the region's strategic transport facilities in the Trans-European Network (TEN) is vital to future economic prosperity. Of critical importance is the inclusion of the Great West Main Line through Devon and Cornwall to Bristol/London/Midlands in the TEN, together with the creation of a multi-modal freight interchange at Plymouth so that both rail electrification and upgrading for combined transport services can be achieved to provide through rail passenger and freight services to Northern Europe via the Channel Tunnel and throughout the Atlantic Arc via Plymouth and maritime links. Likewise, airport infrastructure and air service links, particularly to the European cities require enhancements to reduce the region's isolation vis a vis the European mainland.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY

The European Community has a framework programme for scientific research promoting cooperation in precompetitive R&D in a variety of areas including Information Technologies (ESPRIT), Telecommunications (RACE), Telematics (BRITE/EURAM), Industrial Technologies and Advanced Materials, Biotechnology, Agriculture and the Food Industry, Marine Science and Technology (MAST), Energy and the Environment. The emphasis is on improving Europe's industrial competitiveness through the application of Europe's scientific resources to these key areas.

Institutions in the South West seeking support under these programmes include the universities of Exeter and Plymouth. Between 1991 and 1995, 79 research projects under programmes such as Radioactive Waste, BriteEuram, BioMed, Environment, Human Capital Mobility, Tempus and Copernicus won grants of 4,314,176 ECU (equivalent to £3,451,341 at current rates of exchange). Examples of research projects undertaken include:-

- i) The refinement of soil gas analysis as a geological investigative technique (215,676 ECU/£172,541) (Radioactive Waste Programme)
- ii) Chemical tuning etc. of properties of porous and crosslinked oxidepillared layer structured materials (206,000 ECU/£164,800) (BriteEuram)
- iii) Changes in organic matter reserves in soil - (435,055 ECU/£348,044)



- iv) Joint European Project ADEPT with Poland - (207,850 ECU/£166,280) (Tempus)
- v) Biogeochemical nutrient cycling in large river systems - (145,000 ECU/£116,000) (Environment).

ENERGY

Energy developments are supported by two EU programmes. Under ALTENER, the alternative energy programme to co-ordinate national initiatives in renewable energy, the EU part-funded a feasibility study in the Hatherleigh area of West Devon submitted by Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council and the Department of Trade and Industry's Energy Technology Support Unit. This assessed the potential for renewable energy generation, within identified existing environmental constraints from: energy from waste (including sewage sludge and farm slurry), energy forestry and crops, small scale hydro power, wind power and solar power and other renewable energy sources.

Additional support was secured from JOULE II for a research project into alternative energy sources. Phase Four of the Hot Dry Rocks Geothermal Energy project began in April 1992 at Rosemanowea Quarry, near Penryn. It was a collaborative project with France and involved the geophysical, engineering, instrumentation, numerical modelling, acquisition, reporting and project management aspects. CSM Associates Ltd were granted £1,620,000 towards the total cost of £3,237,000.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- i) the West Cornwall and North Tamar LEADER projects. LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Development de l'Economie Rurale) is a European initiative set up in 1991 to help the poorer agricultural regions within the European Union. In 1992, 217 projects were approved throughout 12 Member States with 2 in England, both of which are in this region: the West Cornwall project being based at Rosewarne, Camborne and the North Tamar project at Bude.

The West Cornwall project covers Penwith, Kerrier and the Isles of Scilly, bringing together key personnel from various organisations to manage and/or fund a wide range of schemes on the development of marketing expertise.



The North Tamar project covers the Bude and Holsworthy area and operates through smallscale, communitybased schemes, involving local bodies like Chambers of Commerce in the fields of agriculture, vocational training and small business and tourism development.

- ii) two new LEADER II initiatives have been set up to start in November 1994 -1999, in addition to the above schemes being rolled forward also to 1999. The new LEADERS cover the Greater Exmoor, South Devon and Dartmoor areas.

AGRICULTURE

EAGGF (European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund)

- a) EAGGF aid to the fish marketing and processing industry for the period 1991 to 1993 was designed to guarantee fishermen an adequate and lasting share of economic benefits. Grants contribute towards the cost of capital investment projects at a rate of up to 30% in Great Britain and 35% in Northern Ireland. Successful projects not eligible for aid under other UK grant schemes would normally receive an additional UK grant of 5% as required under the EU rules.

The grants were provided in two rounds. The first comprised £4,800,000 from the EU and £1,300,000 from the UK Government and was awarded to 46 projects across the UK. In the second round, a further £6,500,000 of European funding, and £1,700,000 of UK Government money was allocated to an additional 54 UK projects, this region receiving:

- i) £152,900 for the installation of new smoking and packing facilities at Plymouth;
 - ii) £18,000 for the installation of new grading units at Brixham;
 - iii) £121,600 investment in a fish processing factory at Buckfastleigh;
 - iv) £74,800 for the improvement and expansion of fish processing facilities at Exmouth;
 - v) £33,500 for the installation of new freezing and packing equipment at Plymouth.
- b) EAGGF aid for agriculture based projects in the region was made available as follows:
 - i) 667,200 ECU (approximately £517,600) of grant aid was

awarded to a meat processing company in the Bodmin area of Cornwall, which allowed them to construct an extension to their existing plant designed to produce boxed retail packs of meat and aimed at meeting the needs of supermarkets up to the turn of the century. There were also benefits for primary producers, as the company obtains a large proportion of its stock directly from farmers in Devon and Cornwall, the remainder being obtained indirectly from local markets.

- ii) a £48,250 grant was awarded to a Bideford firm for the improvement of cheese processing facilities.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

Apart from its growing links with the rest of Europe in the educational and scientific world, the South West participates in a number of initiatives designed to create institutional links across Europe.

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

The CPMR was established in 1973 when both Devon and Cornwall joined. This is an association of the Regions, relatively distant from the main centres of the European Union, tending to have a lower Gross Domestic Product than the European average and heavily dependent on primary industries and tourism. CPMR has, therefore, largely been a pressure group drawing the attention of the EU to these issues; to this end, the exchange of experiences between the 75 member regions has been valuable.

UK membership has been concentrated in Devon and Cornwall, Wales and Scotland. CPMR was the effective source of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and of the Atlantic Arc, which is one of the four Commissions of the CPMR.

The Assembly of European Regions

Formed in 1985 (Cornwall and Devon being founder members), the AER has increased greatly in size and considerably in influence. Its main objective is the promotion of the regions in playing a full and equal part in European Union affairs (Counties in England are accepted as being "regions"). Almost 300 European and East European regions are members, including 26 English and Welsh Counties and Scottish Regions.

The AER was instrumental in lobbying for the establishment of the Committee of the Regions, subsequently included in the Maastricht Treaty and has developed proposals for its operation.

Atlantic Arc

The Atlantic Arc Commission was created in October 1989 at Faro, Algarve by the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).



It is one of four Commissions: the North Sea Commission and the Mediterranean Commission were also created at this time, followed by the Islands Commission in 1990. The Arc began as a French initiative, centred on the Pays de la Loire region and administered from the regional capital of Nantes.

The South West forms part of the Atlantic Arc, a network which brings together the EU's westernmost regions stretching from the west of Scotland in the north, via Ireland, Wales and the South West to the Atlantic seaboard of France, Spain and Portugal.

The Atlantic Arc supports the common purposes of its 29 regions, including development policy within the Arc to reduce the effects of its member regions' peripheral natures; and promoting interregional cooperation, notably in the maritime field and territorial development. Solidarity among the regions is strengthened through the Atlantic Arc's programme of inter-regional cooperation, infrastructure and communications policies.

The European Centre for Regional Development

CEDRE, to use its European acronym, is a professional research organisation based in Strasbourg. It provides support to the three organisations previously described, particularly the AER, being based in the same building.

Links with Eastern Europe

Early in 1990 Devon established links with the County of Baranya in Southern Hungary in order to make a contribution to the emergent democracies and in the longer term, also, to contribute socially and economically to Devon.

Twinning Associations

Both Devon and Cornwall have flourishing twinning organisations. Currently around 200 have been established, the majority being signatories to formal charters. Both Cornwall and Devon are members of a protocol agreement with Finistere to develop economic and environmental links.

European Movement

The place of the South West in Europe is a subject of current debate. The Devon branch of the European Movement, a branch of the national movement which operates under the general rules of the Council of Europe provides the opportunity for citizens to discuss topical issues with the European parliamentary representatives and others and raise the awareness of residents to the impact of European policies in Devon and Cornwall. The organisation provides speakers and venues for European discussions and has run regular 6th form conferences since its foundation in 1976.



B Social Impact

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The EU has a range of education programmes each with different objectives but all designed for students, teachers, administrators and others involved in education with the aim of increasing cooperation at the European level. The value of the above has been strongly advocated in the Delors White Paper supported by national Governments.

SOCRATES supports European cooperation at all levels of education, including universities, schools, language learning, adult education, open and distance learning, teaching for immigrant and migrant children.

LEONARDO supports and complements projects to improve the quality of vocational training policy and practice. Leonardo fosters trans-national cooperation in devising innovative approaches to training methodology, content, delivery and materials.

Every school in Devon and Cornwall is linked with a school in Europe. There are particular links between Exeter schools and Calvados in Normandy and an educational agreement with Brittany. Over 50 schools are within that partnership. Schools in Totnes in Devon are linked with schools in Vier in Normandy. For the first time children as young as 5 at St David's school in Exeter have established a twinning link with a school in Rennes (France). There is a specific section of the Education Department in both County Councils which deals with and promotes twinning links.

The University of Exeter has a twinning agreement with several universities abroad by which students will be able to gain degrees from them. The University has close ties with Rennes University with students going to France and for a study trip every year. For the first time, in 1996, students will be able to gain a degree from Exeter University and a certificate from Rennes. There are also arrangements with the University of Salamanca in Spain, Turku in Finland and Krakow in Poland. There will be more as time goes on.

TRAINING

Between 1989 and 1993 more than 3,000 people in Devon and Cornwall were helped by the European Social Fund, which provided over £20 million to various programmes including:-

EUROFORM - for training to meet the new needs arising from the Single Market and technological development;

NOW - for the vocational training and employment of women;

HORIZON - for the social and professional integration of the handicapped.



Interesting examples include:-

- i) Objective 5b of the Structural Funds is designed to develop rural areas where incomes are low and social and economic development below average. A project run by the Agricultural Training board uses this funding to bring farmers together in the evening and provide advice and training on the use of computers and appropriate software for farming.
- ii) a project under the NOW programme to develop the business potential of women in rural areas by providing initial training and support at local centres.

C Cultural Impact

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Two "Europe Weeks" have been held in the region. The first included the County of Somerset, the second was held in Plymouth. The organisation of Europe Weeks is shared between the Local Authorities involved and the Representation of the European Commission in London, who supports the events with their Mobile Information Centre.

Devon has more twinning links with a European region than any other county in England or Wales. There are twinning links with over 150 towns and villages. The Twinning Circles promote the interest in other countries' culture and ideas and they feel that the best way to meet is in people's homes so that individuals can meet individuals from a European country. The promotion of twinning has encouraged many groups and organisations to twin - eg the Exeter Children's Orchestra is twinned with the Orchestre de Chartres de Rennes; many Exeter choirs are twinned with Bad Homburg in Germany; the Exeter Rowing Cluue and many other sporting organisations have twinning links, even pigeon racers compete with twinned cities and towns in Europe.



*The Tate Gallery,
St Ives - Devon*

4 THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS

The Commission wishes to involve representative organisations as fully as possible and to raise awareness amongst the general public of proposals and resultant actions. This desire is embodied in the principle of subsidiarity.

Partnership is another guiding principle behind the Structural Funds. Accordingly, partnerships between employers, local and national government, training providers, trades unions, higher education and other development agencies in the South West are promoted.

Any local or regional views on proposed legislation go through the Committee of the Regions consisting of elected members of local authorities.

The implementation of Objective 2 and 5b assistance programmes is co-ordinated by regional Government Offices. Regional partnerships are highly desirable, involving local government bodies, employers' organisations, training providers, trades unions etc. There is also a desire to develop the capacity of partnerships to respond to legislative ideas as well as to play a leading role in the implementation of programmes.

For a member of the public a first point of contact about issues relating to the EU is their Member of the European Parliament. MEPs promote the interests of their area and regional industries like farming and tourism and deal with wider issues like the environment, pensions, social and economic matters.

The dissemination of specialist advice to SMEs on the effects of legislation and available business opportunities is supported by the European Commission through the European Information Centres. There is a European Information Centre at Exeter University.



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 Law Library
University of Exeter
Amory Building, Rennes Drive
EXETER, Devon EX4 4RJ
Contact: Patrick Overy
Tel: 0139 226 3263 x 2072
Fax: 0139 263 196

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.

University of Plymouth
Faculty of Arts and Education
Room E205, Douglas Avenue
EXMOUTH, Devon EX8 2AT
Contact: Paul Taylor
Tel: 01395 255 352
Fax: 01395 255 303

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.

Eurodesk
PLYMOUTH, Devon
Contact: Richard Davies
Tel: 01752 385 353
Fax: 01752 385 343

EURODESK

provides EU information targeted at professionals in the education and training fields, and young people, on the policies and programmes affecting education, training and youth; materials for the introduction of the European dimension; and information on the EU and how it works. Eurodesk services include monthly newsletters, a schools alerting service and the provision of training. They are available on a subscription basis, with the exception of the telephone enquiry answering which is free.

European Business Centre
Plymouth, Plymouth College of Further Education,
Kings Road, **PLYMOUTH**,
Devon PL1 5QG
Contact: Richard Davies, Manager
Tel: 01752 385 353
Fax: 01752 385 343

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.

Exeter Central Library
Castle Street,
EXETER, Devon EX4 3PQ
Contact: Mark Peasley,
Reference Services Librarian
Tel: 01392 384 223
Fax: 01392 384 228

County Reference Library
Union Place
TRURO, Cornwall TR1 1EP
Contact: Susan Pearce,
Principal Librarian
Tel: 0187 272 702
Fax: 0187 223 772

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.

COUNTY COUNCILS

Devon County Council,
Exeter, Devon
Contact: Steve Smith,
European Officer
Tel: 01392 382 221

Cornwall County Council,
Truro, Cornwall
Contact: David Fieldsend,
Principal European Officer
Tel: 01872 322 000

DISTRICT/BOROUGH COUNCILS

North Devon District Council,
Barnstaple, Devon
Contact: Dianne Artmann,
Economic Development Assistant
Tel: 01271 388 216

Torrige District Council,
Town Hall, Bideford EX31 1EA

North Cornwall District Council,
Bodmin, Cornwall
Contact: Neil Pendleton,
Deputy Director of Planning
& Development
Tel: 0120 874 121

Kerrier District Council,
Camborne, Cornwall
Contact: Mr T E Richards,
Industrial Development Officer
Tel: 01209 713 360

Caradon District Council,
Lustowe House, Liskeard PL14 3DZ

Teignbridge District Council,
Newton Abbott, Devon
Contact: Mrs A.Clark,

Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01626 61101

Penwith District Council,
Penzance, Cornwall
Contact: John Lindfield,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01736 331 166

East Devon District Council,
Sidmouth, Devon
Contact: Mrs J Harris,
Research Officer
Tel: 01395 516 551 x 332

**Borough of Restormel
District Council,**
39 Penwinnick Road,
St Austell PL25 5JX

West Devon Borough Council,
Council Offices, Kilworthy Park,
Drake Road, Tavistock PL19 0BZ

Mid Devon District Council,
Tiverton, Devon
Contact: Gordon Cleaver,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01884 255 639

Torbay Borough Council,
Town Hall, Torquay TQ1 3DR

South Hams District Council,
Totnes, Devon
Contact: Trevor Smale,
Assistant Director (Policy)
Tel: 01803 861 289

Carrick District Council,
Truro, Cornwall
Contact: Mr R Radcliffe,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01872 224 325

**North Cornwall District
Council,**
Higher Tenant Road,
Wadebridge PL27 6TW

CITY COUNCILS

Exeter City Council,
Civic Centre, Exeter, EX1 1JN

Plymouth City Council,
Plymouth, Devon
Contact: Nigel Pitt, Head of
Economic Development and
Urban Regeneration
Tel: 01752 668 000 x 4170

**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.

Cornwall and West Plymouth
Robin Teverson (Liberal Democrat)
Newton Farm, Metherell
CALLINGTON, Cornwall PL17 5DQ
Tel: 01579 351 234
Fax :01579 351 321

Devon and East Plymouth
Giles Chichester (Conservative)
Constituency Office
21 Waverley Road
EXMOUTH, Devon FX8 3BL
Tel: 01395 264 787
Fax: 01395 264 787

Dorset and East Devon
Bryan Cassidy (Conservative)
11 Esmond Court, Thackeray Street
LONDON W8 5HB
Tel: 0171 937 3558
Fax: 0171 937 3558

Somerset and North Devon
Graham Watson (Liberal Democrat)
Euro Constituency Office

10 Belvedere Road
TAUNTON, Somerset TA1 1BW
Tel: 01823 333 441
Fax: 01823 333 272

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 Simon Day
(Conservative)
Devon County Council
County Hall, Tophsam Road
EXETER, Devon EX2 4QD
Tel : 01392 383 586
Fax :01392 382 286

TOURIST BOARD -

The West Country Tourist Board is the Official Tourist Board for Devon and Cornwall (including the Isles of Scilly), Somerset, western Dorset, Wiltshire and Avon. It is an independent limited company with nearly 2,000 members and forms a three-way partnership between private enterprise, local government and central government. Statistical information relating to overseas tourism is collated by the ECTB

West Country Tourist Board
60, St David's Hill
EXETER, Devon EX4 4SY
Contact: Delwyn Matthews,
Development Manager
Tel: 01392 76351
Fax: 01392 420 891

THE DEVON AND CORNWALL EUROPEAN LIAISON OFFICE,

Brussels was formally opened in May 1993. The Office was first established by both County Councils, Plymouth City Council and a number of District Councils. It provides prompt and first hand information on events in Brussels and forms a vital link for the benefit of the region

The Devon and Cornwall European Liaison Office
Rue Bordiau 200, 1040 Brussels
Belgium

TWINNING

The Twinning Committee for Cornwall is recognised as the official body for twinning in the County by both the Cornwall County Council and the International Bureau

Mrs H E Jones
40 Dobbs Lane, Truro TR1 3NB
Devon has over 100 twinning links with the EU and Eastern Europe. For further information please contact:

Geoff Thomas
Education Department
Devon County Council
Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

Prof Keith Cameron
Department of French
Queen's Building
University of Exeter EX4 4QH
Tel: 01392 264 211
Fax: 01392 264 377

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.

Euro Info Centre SouthWest
Reed Hall, Haley Wing,
University of Exeter
EXETER, Devon EX4 4QR
Contact: Diana Letcher
Tel: 01392 214 085
Fax: 01392 264 375

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.

Cornwall Innovation Centre Ltd
Rosewarne, Tehidy Road
CAMBORNE, Cornwall TR14 0AB
Contact: R Hugh Stapleton,
BRE Correspondent
Tel: 01209 612 670
Fax: 01209 612 671

Exeter Enterprises Ltd
Reed Hall, Haley Wing

EXETER, Devon EX4 4QR
Contact: Diana Letcher
Tel: 01392 214 085
Fax: 01392 264 375

Cornwall Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
West Cornwall Enterprise
Centre, Cardwell

REDRUTH, Cornwall TR15 1SS
Contact: Mike Puzey,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01209 314 884
Fax: 01209 313 762

County Reference Library
Union Place, **TRURO**,
Cornwall TR1 1EP
Contact: Susan Pearce,
Principal Librarian
Tel: 0187 272 702
Fax: 0187 223 772

INFORMATION CENTRES FOR RURAL AREAS (CARREFOURS)

the network is an EU initiative designed to provide information on Community policies and measures affecting rural society, promote awareness of rural development and encourage dialogue, partnership and cooperation between members of rural society and regions on common problems
Please refer to the West sub-region for contacts.

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.
Please refer to the West sub-region for contacts.

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 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 West

Pheonix House, Notte Street
PLYMOUTH, Devon PL1 2HF
Contacts : Fred Channing
or Viv Stevens
Tel: 01752 635 000
Fax: 01752 226 658

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.

Devon & Cornwall TEC,
Plymouth
Contact: Richard Field,
Negotiations Manager
Tel: 01752 767 929

WEST COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

is the strategic body to speak with one voice for the economic interests of the region of Devon and Cornwall, being a partnership between the private and public sectors, and the Devon and Cornwall Training and Enterprise Council

Westcountry Development Corporation

Windsor House, Tavistock Road
Plymouth, Devon PL6 5UF

THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE'S

principal concern is to maintain the balance between the need for economic development and the protection of the fragile environment. Liaison is maintained with the region's members of the Committee of the Regions and there is a network of "experts" to advise on European matters.

South West Regional Planning Conference

County Hall, TAUNTON
Somerset TA1 4DY
Tel: 01823 255 017
Fax: 01823 351 359

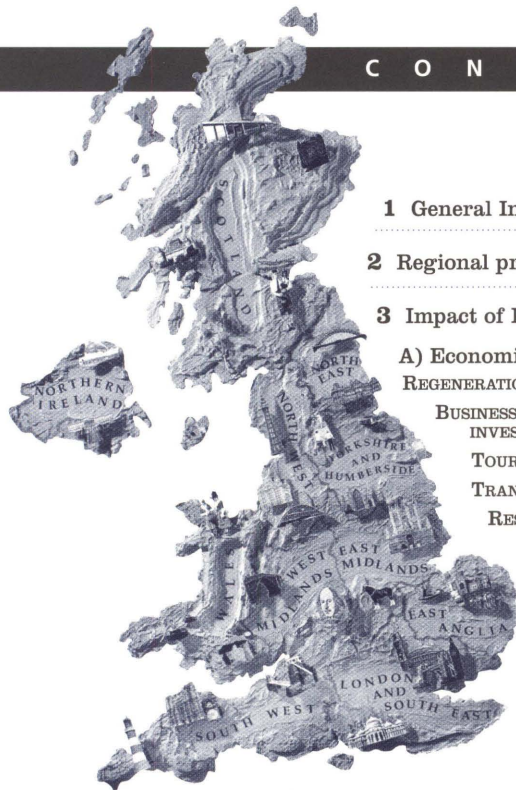
PART 2

- AVON
- DORSET
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE
- ISLE OF SCILLY
- SOMERSET
- WILTSHIRE

THE SOUTH
WEST

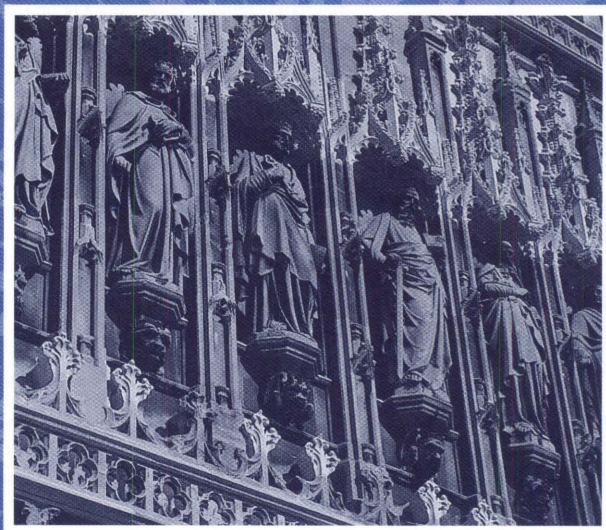
A Region of The
EUROPEAN UNION

C O N T E N T S



1	General Introduction	3
2	Regional profile	6
3	Impact of EU policies and programmes	7
	A) Economic impact	7
	REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES	7
	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT	8
	TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT	9
	TRANSPORT	11
	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY	12
	RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE	13
	CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION	14
	B) Social impact	15
	EDUCATION & TRAINING	15
	C) Cultural impact	17
	RESTORATION OF CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE	17
	INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES - EUROPE WEEKS, TWINNING	17
4	Involvement of local and regional bodies and individuals	18

STW



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 WEST, with its large arable and dairy sectors, has long been affected by the Common Agricultural Policy and has had to face up to often painful changes which reforms in that policy have brought. Similarly, the impact of the Common Fishing Policy has placed enormous pressures on the fishing industry and brought calls for radical reforms. As in other regions, small and medium-sized businesses have benefited from the opportunities brought by the Single Market and other common trade policies. Many businesses have forged links with other European partners. This region is a major tourist destination, and the increasingly widespread European travel and tourism market is starting to have a significant influence on this sector. Large parts of the region are vulnerable to reductions in defence expenditure and have benefited from the EU Konver programme, which seeks to encourage alternative employment. The region has also attracted US, Japanese and other overseas investment, which reflects the advantages this region can bring in the context of the European Union as a whole. With a rich and varied

natural and built environment, the region has a strong interest in the development of European policies and programmes seeking to safeguard and enhance environmental quality.

The European dimension is shaping, and will increasingly shape, the development of the South West in key policy areas, as this brochure demonstrates. The brochure also illustrates the scope for the expansion of inter-regional relationships, particularly with regions having similar characteristics to the South West. The inter-regional momentum within the European Union is growing rapidly at various levels. That is why it is timely to take stock of the South West region's assets and liabilities in a European-wide context.



*Durdle Door
- Dorset*



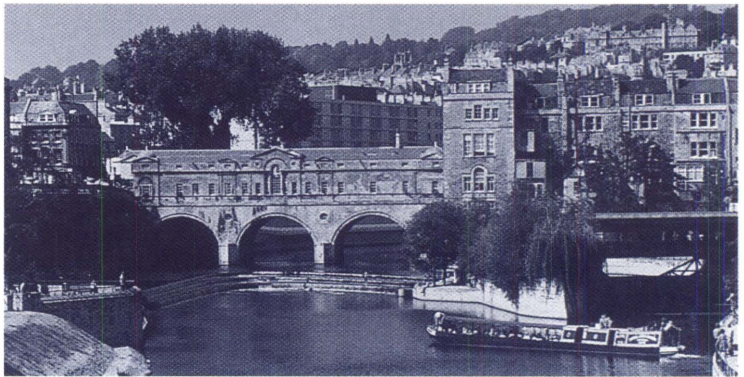
2 REGIONAL PROFILE- THE WEST

THE WEST OF ENGLAND region comprises the five counties of Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Predominately rural in character, the region also contains a number of significant urban areas - notably Bristol, Bath, Bournemouth, Poole, Swindon, Gloucester and Cheltenham. The region is widely considered to be scenically attractive with two coastlines, rolling countryside and a number of areas of outstanding natural beauty and a large number of picturesque small country towns and villages. The region has a population of 3,240,000, rising at a rate of 20,000 per annum.

Perceived as economically prosperous, the region is adversely affected by the decline of key industrial sectors, notably defence, military establishments, agriculture and traditional manufacturing industries. Bristol, Bournemouth, Swindon, Taunton and Cheltenham have benefited over the past twenty years from the major expansion of financial and business services. By way of contrast traditional seaside resorts have suffered as a consequence of changing holiday patterns. In 1994 unemployment in the region was below the UK average, although a number of areas within the region suffer much higher rates, notably coastal resorts, parts of larger urban areas, particularly Bristol and Swindon, and peripheral areas, including the Forest of Dean.

Bristol has long standing maritime trading links with continental Europe and cross-channel passenger and freight ferry services operate from Poole.

Pultney Bridge
- Bath



3 IMPACT OF EU POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A Economic impact

Economic indicators including employment growth, unemployment, household income, car ownership and population growth firmly mark the region as being relatively prosperous compared with most regions of the United Kingdom. A relatively low economic activity rate probably reflects the predominantly rural nature of much of the region and a tendency towards early retirement.

The region's economy expanded very rapidly in the 1970s and 1980s with a major expansion of financial and business services, and considerable Government investment in defence sector industries and establishments. The relocation of financial companies from London and the south-east and the subsequent expansion of these companies continues to underpin the economy of the region's main urban areas, particularly Bristol, Swindon and Bournemouth - financial and business service jobs now account for 20% of jobs in the Greater Bristol area.

REGENERATION OF AREAS AND INDUSTRIES

The Structural Funds are the Community's main impetus for regional development aid and the regeneration of areas and industries. Funding is channelled through Objectives and to the less-favoured areas, whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1), who are facing industrial decline (Objective 2) or rural areas (Objective 5b). Other measures apply to the whole of the UK, such as some of the so-called Community Initiatives and Objective 3 to combat long-term unemployment.

The West of England does not have Objectives 1 and 2 status, and the only Objective 5b eligible area consists of part of West Somerset. Therefore structural funding in the West is mainly through the European Social Fund (Objective 3), and Community Initiatives such as EMPLOYMENT and ADAPT (see section on "Social Impact of the EU"), but also LEADER II, which through the Exmoor Leader Project is concerned with involving the local community in identifying and realising sustainable employment opportunities in rural areas, having links with France, Spain and Portugal. The West is also active in participating in cross-border actions under Article 10 of the European Regional Development Fund. For example with its considerable coast line the West has been pursuing innovatory methods of coast-line management with a European-wide network.



DEFENCE

The defence sector directly and indirectly employed some 120,000 persons in the region in 1990 making it one of the most defence dependant in Europe. The post 1990 reduction in defence expenditure has consequently hit the region very hard with an estimated 20,000 jobs lost in the first half of the decade and a similar loss forecast before the year 2000.

Bristol is also one of the major European aerospace centres in Europe with Rolls Royce and British Aerospace (design work for Airbus Etc.) employing almost 10,000 employees. Gloucester, Cheltenham and Yeovil are also heavily dependant upon aerospace. Defence establishments and bases are prominent in Cheltenham (GCHQ), the Bristol-Bath area (the MOD Procurement Executive and Naval Support Services), in much of Wiltshire (RAF and Army bases) and at Portland/Weymouth (Naval Base).

The region has benefited from the European Union KONVER programme, aimed at diversifying the economy of defence dependant regions. Approximately £2 million was obtained under KONVER I programme and a considerably greater amount is being sought from the 1994-1997 KONVER II for which most of the region has been deemed eligible. The programme will provide for a range of business support, guidance, infrastructure and training projects run by local authorities, education/training providers and Training and Enterprise Councils.

In Somerset, a Technology transfer project has particularly welcomed KONVER finance for developing diversification in Hi-Tec SMEs previously dependant upon the defence sector contracts to enable the skill base to be retained and developed.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

The European Commission has financed a network of two hundred European Information Centres (EICs) whose function is to provide SMEs with vital information required to trade successfully in Europe. The region benefits from two EICs based in Bristol and Swindon.

Also the Local Authorities in the region have European Liaison Officers with the remit to guide, inform and support SMEs, Social Partners and individuals interested in obtaining information about Europe, its directives, policies and programmes.

The region benefits from varied access to the wide range of European Business Support databases and tools available including the BC-NET



programme, the DTI's Spearhead database and the Financial Times profile databases providing information of EU companies and markets. Many centres have on line access to the CORDIS database.

Great Western Enterprise in Swindon is involved in a PHARE project to introduce the Enterprise Support Agency idea to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. They are also at the leading edge of the European Network of Enterprise Agencies (EURADA) and provide regional access to the EU network including the European Business Network which co-ordinates Business and Innovation Centres.

Libraries are situated in most towns across the region and can access a range of European information to order. A rural mobile service is also available to the more isolated villages of the region, often on a weekly basis, and are able to draw upon the resources of the Central Libraries networks at each County.

The West of England has been keen to emphasize the importance of inward investment in the region and has therefore worked closely with the Government Office of the South West to set up its own Regional Development Organisation called the West of England Development Agency (WEDA). It is having success in securing inward investment both from Europe and internationally. Long-established businesses such as Rolls Royce and Rank Xerox have been joined by a host of internationally renowned companies including Hewlett Packard, Du Pont Electronics from the USA, Honda from Japan and Merck and Varta Batteries from Europe. The region's comprehensive communications network has already prompted companies such as Mitsubishi and Renault to establish major distribution depots in the West of England. The area around the port of Avonmouth, close to Bristol, is home to companies such as ICI, Pasmenco Europe Smelting and Rhone Poulenc Chemicals.

TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TOURISM

Tourism is a key economic sector with the region's coastal areas, historic towns and cities, and attractive rural areas playing host to millions of visitors each year, including an estimated 1.5 million visitors from overseas. While a number of tourism sectors, including business tourism and recreation and activity tourism are expanding, the traditional family beach holiday is in decline as tourists look increasingly to the Mediterranean, other locations and to other types of holiday. The emphasis in coastal resorts is now very much on diversification and the development of new facilities, attractions and types of accommodation.



ENVIRONMENT

The region attaches particular importance to protecting and enhancing its outstanding environmental qualities. The EU is helping the regional, county and local levels of government to attain their goal by providing EU funding for environmental projects. EU instruments and legislation, such as the directive on environmental impact assessment (which prescribe such assessments in environmentally sensitive areas prior to new industrial development being approved) directly assist the region.

The region is particularly rich in a wide range of landscapes, habitats and features of scientific and historic interest. This wealth of quality and diversity is recognised in the extent of statutory and other national designations. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (e.g. the Cotswolds, Salisbury Plain) and a National Park (Exmoor) cover approximately a third of the region; much of the southern coastline is designated as Heritage Coast. The varied habitats of the region include lowland heaths (Cranbourne Chase), chalk downland and wetlands (e.g. the Somerset Levels).

The region has over 700 conservation areas ranging in size from village centres to large urban areas most notably the City of Bath, which is recognised as a UNESCO, World Heritage Site. Within the region lie a number of the nation's most valued archaeological treasures, including Stonehenge and Avebury (also World Heritage Sites) and Maiden Castle.

The LIFE programme is aimed at developing and implementing environment laws and policies. The region has used the two tranches of the programme to develop a wide range of initiatives. The Somerset Parrett river trail programme is developing a focus for the river environment involving educational and the local community in SME development and sustainable tourism in tune with the environment between 1995 and 1997. Also between 1993 and 1996 a three year water purification development project under the LIFE initiative is being run in conjunction with European partners. Bristol City Council have run an education awareness raising programme relating to environment and latterly has submitted an application for the 'greening' of local SMEs.

'Architectural Heritage' funds have helped to restore the landscaped grounds of Prior Park, Bath, back to their original grandeur, and to remodel College Green in central Bristol.

Somerset has successfully developed a Wetlands Information project under the ATLANTIS I programme which is managed by the Atlantic Arc network. This project is concerned with establishing a common compatible set of criteria across all Atlantic Arc regions for dealing with wetland



*Galstonbury Tor
- Somerset*



management issues. Other innovative uses of funds under the sustainable tourism category of the ATLANTIS programme include the establishment of a series of cycle routes across the Atlantic Arc region and projects based around arts, crafts, culture and cooking. The development and promotion of tourism and improvement of the environment form two of the six themes of the ATLANTIS II (1995 - 99) programme.

Counties bordering the Severn Estuary are members of the Esturiales organisation, a European local authorities network concerned with promoting sustainable estuary management. The network is seeking funding from the 1995 LIFE programme and from the ATLANTIS II programme for projects to facilitate trans-national exchange of experience.

TRANSPORT

The region has three major routes which have been designated as part of the Trans-European road network. The northern part of the region is served by the M4 motorway providing links with London, the South East and South Wales. The M5 motorway links the western part of the region with Cornwall and Devon and provides direct access to the West Midlands and North West England. The southern part of the region is linked with London via the A303 trunk road and the M3 motorway.

The region is served by five Intercity rail routes - four providing fast links to London, the other providing a link to Birmingham and the North. Secondary lines serve smaller towns and rural communities. Apart from the electrified sections of the network South East services to Poole and Weymouth, all services are provided by diesel trains. International rail freight depots are currently planned at Swindon and Avonmouth, Bristol.

The principal freight movements between the region and continental Europe are through the ports of Bristol and Poole; Bristol (Royal Portbury Dock) is now the United Kingdom's largest car import/export port.

The region's principal airport, Bristol Lulsgate, handles over a million passengers per annum. Expansion and improvements at the airport will raise the capacity to over two million per annum by the end of the decade. The airport operates scheduled services to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt and Dublin. The southern part of the region is served by Bournemouth Airport. The northern and eastern parts of the region enjoy good access to London Heathrow.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ENERGY

With five higher educational institutions, the headquarters of four of the five UK Government Research Councils and a number of internationally renowned specialist research establishments, the region is very prominent in the area of research and development.

Research institutions and establishments lead on many European research and development programmes. Notable among the research establishments are the Winfrith Technology Centre which applies proven nuclear technology to non-nuclear activities such as petroleum services and advanced engineering, the Institute of Grinding Technology and the Food and Drink Organisation which has a world class reputation for research into food preparation and preservation.

The EU is a significant source of funding for research and development in areas designed to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry and improve international competitiveness.

The Fourth Framework provides 9.4b ECU to fund research and technological development programmes in fields such as Information Technologies, Non-nuclear Energy, Biotechnology and Transport. Many of the region's enterprises and universities seek and have secured EU seedcorn funding for related projects and new methodologies. These include 15 ESPRIT projects, THERMIE demonstration projects, JOULE and a raft of other R&D related projects. The framework has created an interesting partnership development across the five counties of the region between universities, local authorities and the private sector. This partnership supports the implementation of Research and Development activities between local universities and leading companies in the area. The University of Bristol had research grants of £7 million in September 1994 covering over 17 major programmes from materials to agro-industry; from research projects to postdoctoral training programmes.

Avon have submitted a major transport initiative proposal to ELGAR under the fourth framework which provides the umbrella for a number of projects at the leading edge of European transport policy. The Avon project will combine with other cities in the POLIS network and will focus on the research and validation of intelligent 'park and ride' systems on strategic urban corridors.

Also as part of the Atlantic Arc partnership, a Technology Transfer Network has been established in the region building upon nursery unit science parks across the EU. A European Business Innovation Centre is being established in Swindon with proposed links across the EU.

The Mid West Energy Group made up of the five counties is currently looking at funding opportunities in the field of energy-saving, particularly at training, advice and information.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE

In rural areas the loss of local employment opportunities in agriculture and traditional rural industries has created pockets of relatively high unemployment. One part of the region, West Somerset, was designated eligible for Objective 5b status under the Structural Funds in 1994.

The rural development programme for this area covers community regeneration, business development focusing on SMEs and tourism development using three strands of funding. ERDF moneys have been used for capital projects to fund regeneration in the traditional tourist seaside towns of Minehead and Watchet. The ESF has been used to fund SME business development and training and the EAGGF has support agricultural diversification work.

AGRICULTURE

Owing to the largely rural nature of the region, the West of England has an important agricultural base and is therefore closely linked with the workings of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The CAP and GATT reforms are substantially affecting farm incomes and are having both direct and indirect affects on the wider rural economy including a 5% annual reduction of agricultural related employment.

Over 80% of the land area of the region is devoted to agricultural use. The east of the region contains important cereal producing areas; a shift to oilseed rape and linseed production has occurred in more recent years. The west of the region has a higher proportion of land devoted to pasture although dairy herds have decreased significantly in line with milk quota reductions and beef herds have increased.

An estimated 6000 hectares of arable land has been taken out of production under the Set Aside scheme in line with the EU's policy to lower agricultural surpluses and bring supply more in line with demand. The agricultural community is faced with a number of alternatives as a consequence of both UK and EU intervention including less intensive farming methods, diversification into tourism, recreational and some industrial development activities.

Coastal parts of the region have also been affected by the impact of fishing quotas and benefited from EAGGF aid to the fish marketing and processing industry. This initiative was announced in March 1991 in an effort to guarantee the fishing industry an adequate share of economic



benefits. The guidance section of the agricultural funds has included funding for schemes of diversification and improvements in the marketing of produce. Projects aided have been diverse including Woodland Grants, Farming and Conservation Grants and more innovative examples such as financing the installation of wind powered generators on isolated farms in the region.

Other concentrated pockets of unemployment exists in the region's urban areas. Some estates in Bristol and Swindon have unemployment rates in excess of 20%. Bristol City Council is likely to consider a bid for Objective 2 status in 1996.

CROSS-FRONTIER COOPERATION

The Committee of the Regions provides a local and regional voice in the EU. UK delegates are chosen from locally elected representatives who provide the local representation and a means by which to implement the policy concept of subsidiarity. For individual members of the public the most prominent, and first point of contact about issues relating to the EU is their MEP.

The four coastal County Councils in the region are members of the Atlantic Arc Commission. The Commission brings together the westernmost regions of the European Union stretching from Ireland to the Atlantic seaboard of France, Spain, Portugal as far as the west of Scotland. Established in 1989 at Faro, by the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) it is one of four maritime related commissions established around that time. The objective of the Arc is to support the common purposes of its regions and it aims to define the elements for development policies, prioritise transnational projects, communicate objectives and prepare co-operation programmes. Proposals for the development of the Atlantic regions through the promotion of research and technology transfer, improving land, air and maritime transport, developing the tourism potential, improving the environment, developing fisheries and fish farming and encouraging business development are set out in a Business Plan covering the period 1995-1999.

Four of the County Councils in the region are also active members of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) which seeks to promote the interests of regions in European affairs. The AER was instrumental in lobbying for the establishment of the Committee of the Regions.

Networks are used across the region to link similar projects and expertise across the EU. The IRIS network forms an important link for Coleford and Bournemouth for Women's Initiative projects and under the NOW programme a rural project run by FACE of Glastonbury has linked via IRIS/CREW network with partner organisations in Spain.



HELIOS has also proven a useful networking tool for organisations such as the Hobbs Unit in Swindon running vocational assessment projects and supported employment projects for people with disabilities, and the ERGO Project network is used as the focus for projects relating to long term unemployment.

Dorset has an office in Brussels in conjunction with Hampshire and has developed a number of economic development and tourism projects in conjunction with other Counties on the South coast of England and Northern France. Common interest include ports, coastal issues, the role of the Channel and a general lobbying body.

Partnership is a key principal of the Structural Funds and the South West European Group is an excellent example of how networks within the region can ensure added value and maximum impact of EU resources across a region. Other networks of social partners include partnerships between employers, Local and National Government, Schools and Education establishments, training providers, Trades Unions and other development agencies. Objective 2 and 5b assistance programmes are co-ordinated by regional Government Offices.

With the economic and employment challenges facing the region, particularly the decline of key industrial sectors, local authorities, Training and Enterprise Councils and the private sector are now working in partnership at county and regional level to safeguard jobs and encourage new investments. In 1995 a new agency, the West of England Development Agency, was established by county economic partnerships to attract inward investment to the region. Also the West of England Initiative, launched in 1993, brings together elected members representing the member cities of Swindon, Bristol and Gloucester.

B Social Impact of the EU

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The region has four universities: Bath, Bristol, The University of the West of England and Bournemouth.

Throughout the region universities, colleges of Further Education and schools have benefited by participating extensively in the EU education training and exchange programmes.

Programmes accessed include: LINGUA, Youth For Europe, PETRA, ERASMUS, COMETT and FORCE with beneficiaries benefiting from trainer training, industry placements, language, initial and vocational training initiatives.



The LEONARDO trans-national programme will replace the vocational aspects of these programmes and applications have been submitted from across the region.

The SOCRATES transnational programmes will support a wide range of Education initiatives having three sections covering Higher Education (ERASMUS), School Education (COMENIUS) and Horizontal activities including language skills training, promotion of open and distance learning and exchanges of information and experience. The first tranche of SOCRATES applications from the region are currently under development by a wide range of education and training establishments working in close liaison with their trans-national partners.

The European Social Fund (ESF) of the Structural Funds supports over 200 vocational guidance and counselling and training projects in the region under the Objective 3 programme. This provides an estimated £15 million annually and from 1997 will move from a national sectoral allocation system to a regional administration system.

The only sector in the region currently administering a regional programme is the local authority sector which supports some 50 projects drawing on annual ESF finance of £750,000. Organisations from across the region have positively embraced the uses of ESF to deliver vocational training for unemployed adults, young people and people with specific disadvantages on the labour market.

The Community Initiative EMPLOYMENT programme of YOUTHSTART, NOW and HORIZON covering the period 1994-1997 has been used extensively across the region to develop innovatory projects with a trans-National focus.

The programmes have been used to resource projects to assist young people, trainer training, women's training, and disabled and disadvantaged groups by all sectors in the region. Projects to be submitted to the ADAPT programme to assist people affected by industrial restructuring are currently under development.

Vocational guidance has assumed increasing importance with the UK Government's policies on individual commitment to lifelong learning.

A significant number of guidance projects have been funded through Objective 3 of the ESF as a tool used across the region to underpin the EU focus on guidance activities in relation to education and training. A large application to Employment YOUTHSTART has been submitted by the Institute of Careers Guidance, part of which will be delivered in the region by local providers.



Bournemouth, Bath and Bristol are well established centres for the delivery of short intensive language training courses for overseas students.

Somerset is actively involved in the Technology Transfer Network under the Atlantic Arc and Swindon is the site of the Science and Engineering Research Council who administrate grants in the field of research and education.

Cultural Impact

RETORATION OF CULTURAL AND ARCHITETURAL HERITAGE

The European Union provides funding for the conservation and restoration of Europe's architectural heritage. In the West, Wells Cathedral, for example has received financial support.

INTER-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Across the region a raft of twinning arrangements have been established linking communities across Member States to underpin social, cultural and business development activities.

Twinning arrangements provide a regular focus for exchanges of artists, musicians, community groups and schools. Most districts have twinning links with at least one other Member State and these are normally publicly acknowledged one roadside signs and information materials. Recently Wellington in Somerset won the "European Flag" award for its long-standing twinning links with Lillebonne in France and Immenstadt in Germany. Most of these twinning organisations are signatories to formal charters. EU grants support individual specific events and are administered through the Local Government International Bureau in London.

Avon, Somerset and Swindon have held "Europe Weeks" in recent years in conjunction with the Representation of the European Commission in London who supports the events with their Mobile Information Centre. These Europe Weeks have encompassed a wide range of social, cultural and business development and information activities.

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
University of Bath
Claverton Down

BATH, Avon BA2 7AY
Contact: Tony Holbrook
Tel: 01225 826 826 x 5594
Fax: 01225 826 299

Wills Memorial Library
University of Bristol
Queens Road

BRISTOL, Avon BS8 1RJ
Contacts: Sue Pettit
or Sue Hopkins
Tel: 0117 287 944

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. *Please refer to the Devon and Cornwall sub-region for contacts.*

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.

Southwest Association for Further Education and Training,
Taunton, Somerset
Tel: 01823 335 491
Fax: 01823 323 388

EURODESK

provides EU information targeted at professionals in the education and training fields, and young people, on the policies and programmes affecting education, training and youth; materials for the introduction of the European dimension; and information on the EU and how it works. Eurodesk services include monthly newsletters, a schools alerting service and the provision of training. They are available on a subscription basis, with the exception of the telephone enquiry answering which is free. *For contacts please see the Devon and Cornwall sub-region.*

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.

Library Administration Centre
Mount Street, **BRIDGWATER**,
Somerset TA6 3ES
Contact: Jacqueline Campbell,
Information & Specialist
Services Manager
Tel: 01278 451 201
Fax: 01275 543 951

Bristol Central Library
County of Avon Community
Resources Department
College Green
BRISTOL, Avon BSI 5TL
Contacts: Robert Harrison,
Acting Head of Reference and
Information Services or Tim
Bronning, Commercial Librarian
Tel: 0117 927 6121
Fax: 0117 922 6775

Dorset County Library HQ
Colliton Park
DORCHESTER, Dorset DT1 1XJ
Contact: Carleton Earl, County
Librarian & Arts Officer
Tel: 01305 224 456
Fax: 01305 266 120

Library, Arts and Museums
Service
Quayside Wing, Shire Hall
GLOUCESTER,
Gloucestershire GL1 2HY
Contact: Liz Haldon

Tel: 01452 425 027
Fax: 01452 425 042

Wiltshire Libraries,
Museums & Arts
Bythesea Road, **TROWBRIDGE**,
Wiltshire BA14 8BS
Contacts: Chris Wildridge,
Information Services Manager
or Linda Matthews,
Information Librarian
Tel: 01225 713 725
or 01225 713727
Fax: 01225 713 993

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.

COUNTY COUNCILS

Avon County Council,
Bristol, Avon
Contact: David Sanderson,
European Officer
Tel: 0117 987 4930

Dorset County Council,
Dorchester, Dorset
Contact : Ann Minto,
Europe Officer
Tel: 01305 225 148

Gloucestershire County Council,
Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Contact: Shirley Woolner,
European Liaison Officer
Tel: 01452 425 838

Somerset County Council,
Taunton, Somerset
Contact: Miss A L Taylor, Head
of European & Economic Group
Tel: 01823 255 035

Wiltshire County Council,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire
Contact: Mike Parker,
Projects Manager
Tel: 01225 713 022

DISTRICT/BOROUGH COUNCILS

North Dorset District Council,
Blanford Forum, Dorset
Contact: Brian Morgan,
Head of Legal Services
Tel: 01258 484 010

Bournemouth Borough Council,
Bournemouth, Dorset
Contact: Alan Larcombe,
Head of Economic & Corporate
Development
Tel: 01202 552 066

Sedgemoor District Council,
Bridgwater, Somerset
Contact: Michael French,
Principal Economic
Development Officer
Tel: 01278 424 391

Cheltenham Borough Council,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Contact: David Hargreaves,
Corporate Support Officer
Tel: 01242 264 112

North Wiltshire District Council,
Chippenham, Wiltshire
Contact: C L Wilcox, Assistant
to the Chief Executive
Tel: 01249 443 322

Christchurch Borough Council,
Christchurch, Dorset
Contact: Jerry Douglas Saunders,
Head of Legal Services
Tel: 01202 486 321

Cotswold District Council,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire
Contact: Karen Thornton,
Policy and Review Officer
Tel: 01285 643 643

Forest of Dean District Council,
Coleford, Gloucestershire
Contact: Mr D J Whittington,
Head of Regeneration Services
Tel: 01594 810 000 x 384

Kennet District Council,
Devizes, Wiltshire
Contact: Alan Houghton,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01380 724 911

Poole Borough Council,
Poole, Dorset
Contact: Carole Parsons,
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01202 633 032

Salisbury District Council,
Salisbury, Wiltshire
Contact : Mr S Agland, Chief
Administration Officer
Tel: 01722 343 253

Stroud District Council,
Stroud, Gloucestershire
Contact : Alice Jolly, Economic
Development Officer
Tel: 01453 754 306



Thamesdown Borough Council,
Swindon, Wiltshire
Contact : Richard Harris, Senior
Economic Development Officer
Tel: 01793 480 518

Taunton Deane Borough Council,
Taunton, Somerset
Contact: Ralph Willoughby Foster,
Unit Manager (Policy & Promotion)
Tel: 01823 335 166 x 2417

West Somerset District Council,
Taunton, Somerset
Contact: Bruce Lang, Economic
Development Officer
Tel: 01984 632 291

Tewkesbury Borough Council,
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
Contact: Jill Bailey,
Technical Co-ordinator
Tel: 01684 295 010

West Wiltshire District Council,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire
Contacts: Nick Love or Philip
Hamilton,
Economic Development Officers
Tel: 01225 776 655

Purbeck District Council,
Wareham, Dorset
Contact: Richard Wilson,
Principal Planning Officer
Tel: 01929 556 561

Woodspring District Council,
Weston-Super-Mare, Avon
Contact: Mr M.L. Nicholson,
Deputy Solicitor & Secretary
Tel: 01934 631 701

East Dorset District Council,
Wimbourne, Dorset
Contact: Martin Day,
Head of Committee Services
Tel: 01202 886 201

South Somerset District Council,
Yeovil, Somerset
Contact: Clive Miller,
Policy Co-ordinator
Tel: 01935 462 582

CITY COUNCILS

Bath City Council,
Bath, Avon
Contact : Marion Cooper,
European Liaison Officer
Tel : 01225 477 278
Fax : 01225 477 279

Bristol City Council,
Bristol, Avon
Contact : Ginnie Norman,
Policy Officer
Tel: 0117 922 2013

Gloucester City Council,
Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Contact: Dr Clare Herbert,
Head of Economic Development
Tel: 01452 396 848

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.

Bristol
Ian White (Labour)
138 Gloucester Road,
North Filton
BRISTOL, Avon BS12 7BQ
Tel: 0117 923 6933
Fax: 0117 923 6966

The Cotswolds
Lord Plumb (Conservative)
Maxstoke, Coleshill

BIRMINGHAM,
West Midlands B46 2QJ
Tel/Fax: 01675 464 156

Dorset and East Devon
Bryan Cassidy (Conservative)
11 Esmond Court
Thackeray Street
LONDON W8 5HB
Tel/Fax: 0171 937 3558

Itchen, Test and Avon
Edward Kegett-Bowman
(Conservative)
18A Bargates, CHRISTCHURCH,
Dorset BH23 1QL
Tel: 01202 475 548
Fax: 01202 474 949

Somerset and North Devon
Graham Watson (Liberal Democrat)
Euro Constituency Office
10 Belvedere Road
TAUNTON, Somerset TA1 1BW
Tel: 01823 333 441
Fax: 01823 333 272

Wiltshire North and Bath
Dr Caroline Jackson (Conservative)
The Euro Office, 14 Bath Road
SWINDON, Wiltshire SN1 4BA
Tel: 01793 422 663
Fax: 01793 422 664

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. *For contacts please see the Devon and Cornwall sub-region.*

**THE WEST COUNTRY
TOURIST BOARD**

60 St David's Hill
EXETER, Devon EX2 4QD

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

South West Region, The Pithay,
BRISTOL, Avon BS1 2NQ
Contact : Rose Bird
Tel: 0117 945 6730
Fax: 0117 922 7307

EDUCATION

**Avon International
Education**

School House, Bishop Road
BRISTOL, Avon BS7 8LS
Contact: Jill Ritchie
Tel: 0117 924 0801
Fax: 0117 942 5859

**Dorset Education Business
Partnership**

Winfrith Technology Centre
DORCHESTER, Dorset DT2 8DH
Contact : Stephanie Matthews
Tel : 01305 853 992
Fax : 01305 853 995

Resources for Learning

Somerset County Council
Parkway, BRIDGWATER,
Somerset TA6 4RL
Contact : Christopher Jones,
County Schools Librarian
Tel : 01278 421 015

**Wiltshire Education
Business Partnership**

Bowyers Ltd, 55 Stallard Street
TROWBRIDGE, Wiltshire BA14 8HH
Tel : 01225 777 367

European Liaison Officer

University of Bristol, 3rd floor,
Senate House, Tyndall Avenue
BRISTOL, Avon BS8 1TH
Contact: Janice M Cullen
Tel: 0117 928 8120
Fax: 0117 929 8388

**School for Advanced
Urban Studies**

University of Bristol

Rodney Lodge, Clifton Down
BRISTOL, Avon BS8 4EA
Contact: Kevin Doogan
Tel: 0117 974 1117
Fax: 0117 973 7308

European Liaison Officer

University of Bath
Claverton Down
BATH, Avon BA1 7AY
Contacts: Lisa Vickers/
Pat Eastern-Orr
Tel: 01225 826 165
Fax: 01225 826 317

European Adviser

University of the West of England
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane, Frenchay
BRISTOL, Avon BS16 1JY
Contact: Caroline Bartle
Tel: 0117 965 6261
Fax: 0117 976 3839

European Officer

Bournemouth University
Fernbarrow, Talbot Campus
POOLE, Dorset BH12 5BB
Contact: Lynda Parsons
Tel: 01202 595 418
Fax: 01202 513 293

**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.

Bristol Chamber of Commerce
16 Clifton Park

BRISTOL, Avon BS8 3BY

Contact: Sarah Harris
Tel: 0117 973 7373
Fax: 0117 974 5365

European Business Centre
Business Link Dorset
4 New Fields Business Park
Stinsford Road

POOLE, Dorset BH17 7NF

Contact: Sharon Dart
Tel: 01202 448 805
Fax: 01202 448 838

**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.

European Business Information Centre
Business Link Gloucestershire
Chargrove House, Main Road
Shurdington, **CHELTENHAM**,
Gloucestershire GL51 5GA
Contacts: Rosemary Skivington
or Sarah Arnold
Tel: 01452 509 565/568
Fax: 01452 509 567

**INFORMATION CENTRES FOR
RURAL AREAS (CARREFOURS)**

the network is an EU initiative designed to provide information



on Community policies and measures affecting rural society, promote awareness of rural development and encourage dialogue, partnership and cooperation between members of rural society and regions on common problems

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

The Rural Communities Charity
Somerset Court,
Somerset Road, CIRENCESTER,
Gloucestershire GL7 1TW
Tel: 01285 653 477
Fax: 01285 654 537

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.

Western Training and Enterprise Council Ltd (WESTEC)

PO Box 164, St Lawrence House
29-31 Broad Street
BRISTOL, Avon BS9 7HR
Contact: Clive Wray
Tel: 0117 927 7116
Fax: 0117 922 6664

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 West,

Pheonix House
Notte Street, PLYMOUTH,
Devon PL1 2HF
Contacts: Fred Channing
or Viv Stevens
Tel: 01752 635 000
Fax: 01752 226 658

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.

Dorset TEC,

Bournemouth, Dorset
Contact: Sarah Bayne,
European Manager
Tel: 01202 299 284

Western Training and Enterprise Council Ltd (WESTEC),

Bristol, Avon
Contact: Janet Breffisford,
European Funds Manager
Tel: 0117 927 7116

Gloucestershire TEC,

Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Contact: Adrian Matthews,
Development Manager
Tel: 01452 524 488

Wiltshire TEC,

Swindon, Wiltshire
Contact: Tim Boucher,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01793 513 644

Somerset TEC,

Taunton, Somerset
Contact: Sally House,
Director of Planning and
Communications
Tel: 01823 321 188

THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

The South West Regional Planning Conference's principal concern is to maintain the balance between the need for economic development and the protection of the fragile environment. Liaison is maintained with the region's members of the Committee of the Regions and there is a network of "experts" to advise on European matters.

South West Regional Planning Conference

County Hall, TAUNTON
Somerset TA1 4DY
Tel: 01823 255 017
Fax: 01823 351 359



1995 REGIONAL BROCHURES

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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

WEST

