



European Commission



Enterprise Directorate-General

Directorate D - Services, commerce, tourism, e-business
Unit D.3 Tourism

EU Schemes in Support of Tourism

An Internet Roadmap for the Tourism Sector

IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE

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INTRODUCTION

Most of EU funding of potential benefit to tourism is provided through various programmes which are not sector based, being designed to achieve one or other of the principal Community objectives such as employment, cohesion, sustainability, research etc.

In order to respond to the many requests from tourism-based interests to identify how Community programmes may benefit particular projects or plans, and in the continuity of a similar initiative taken in 1995, this guide is being made available. Accordingly, the *Internet Roadmap* should be of interest to all parties who are active in the field of tourism such as individual enterprises, non-profit organisations, public and private bodies as well as local, regional and national administrations.

The *Internet Roadmap* provides a comprehensive and clearly arranged overview of the financial and technical support available from the Community and which may help to develop tourism activities. It groups relevant Community schemes into fields of interest, presents them in a short executive summary style, assesses their possible relevance to the tourism sector and, for the purpose of further information, establishes relevant internet links.

With **Community schemes** this Internet Roadmap means programmes, funds and actions **managed by the Commission services**.

Whereas the "**national Mainstream Programmes**" and the "**Community Initiatives**" financed by the Structural Funds are within the responsibility of the Member States. The focal points for information on those programmes are therefore **local, regional or national authorities**. A local **Euro Info Centre** can assist to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is and page 144 explains how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Research for the various programmes, funds, initiatives and actions was based on existing information on the Internet homepages of the various services of the Commission. It relies also on the *Practical Guide – Tourism and the European Union* which was published by the Commission in 1995 and which was generally considered to be very helpful in providing information on tourism-related Community actions.

Each scheme in this Internet Roadmap is presented according to the following structure:

- (1) **Short description** (providing a summary of the objectives, mechanisms and procedures of the programme)
- (2) **Relevance to tourism** (indicating whether initiatives in relation to tourism could be eligible under the programme)
- (3) **Who may apply** (indicating the programme's target group)
- (4) **How to apply** (indicating any related requirements for applicants for funding)
- (5) **Programme duration**
- (6) **Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects**

- (7) **Websites for further information** (listing, with a short commentary on the contents, hyperlinks to web pages relevant to the programme)

Potential applicants for funding should bear in mind that in most cases it is a requirement that the project involves **partners from at least two Member States**. Some programmes give **priority** to project proposals that either involve **partners from 4 Member States** or focus on **one specific sector** with partners from at least two Member States.

Under most programmes grants are awarded following an open **call for proposals**. Grants are awarded up to maximum levels, from a minimum of 15% up to a maximum, exceptionally, of 85% of the total project costs. A minimum of co-financing by the applicant is always required. Depending on the conditions relevant to particular programmes a public contract is awarded upon an open **call for tender**. A call for proposals or for tender is often preceded by a **call for expression of interest**.

Calls for proposals, for tender or for expression of interest are published in the **Official Journal of the European Communities (series C and S)** which can be found on the website <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>. Alternatively, the **Tenders Electronic Daily (TED)** database gives access to public tenders; the related website address is <http://ted.eur-op.eu.int> or <http://eur-op.eu.int/engeneral/b7.htm>.

A Vademecum and information on how to apply for grants can be found on the following website: <http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/trade/opportunities/grants/grantmanag.htm>

Again, if advice on how to apply for funding from a particular EU programme is needed, potential applicants are recommended to contact the Commission's Euro Info Centres Network in the first instance. Its mission is to meet the information and assistance needs of small and medium-sized enterprises with regard to the European Union (see pages 79 and 144).

1. AID TO INVESTMENT

1.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

1.1.1. European Union

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Financial assistance to disadvantaged regions.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation For Balanced Development (INTERREG)

Action in relation to the borders and border areas between Member States.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative concerning Economic and Social Regeneration in Urban Areas (Urban)

Support to finding solutions to the serious social problems caused by the crisis in many depressed urban areas.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

Provision of market support and delivers aid for the adjustment of agricultural structures, for rural development and economic diversification.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative for Links between actions for the development of the rural economy (LEADER+)

Help to restore the vitality of rural areas and to stimulate the creation and maintenance of rural activities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Financial Instrument for Fisheries (FIFG)

Structural measures in the catching, marketing, processing and aqua-culture sectors, the creation of protected marine zones in coastal waters and the development of port facilities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Cohesion Fund.....51

Assistance to large public projects in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain that contribute to the improvement of the environment or to the development of transport infrastructure and networks.

Joint European Venture Initiative

(JEV).....110

Support mechanism for the creation of transnational joint ventures for SMEs in the Community.

Risk Capital for Business Start-ups (CREA).....127

Stimulates the supply of equity finance for the creation and transfer of innovative smaller businesses and creates a Community-wide network for seed capital funds.

European Venture Capital.....99
Stimulates the provision of seed and venture capital to SMEs.

1.1.2. Other Countries

Mediterranean Partners, Latin America and Asia.....119
The EU has co-operation, association and other agreements with certain countries; six programmes are implemented under these agreements.

1.2. LOANS / GUARANTEES / EQUITY

European Investment Bank (EIB).....90
The EIB was established to facilitate the funding of investments that promote balanced regional development of the Community and European integration.

European Investment Fund (EIF).....92
The EIF is a response to the need for easier access to finance in two important areas of the European economy: Trans-European Networks and SMEs.

1.3. OTHER SUPPORT

Mutual Guarantee Companies (MGCs)124
The Commission encourages the promotion, development and expansion of MGCs in the European Union.

2. MARKETING AND EXPORT PROMOTION

2.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

2.1.1. European Union

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Financial assistance to disadvantaged regions.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation For Balanced Development (INTERREG)

Action in relation to the borders and border areas between Member States.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative for Links between actions for the development of the rural economy (LEADER+)

Help to restore the vitality of rural areas and to stimulate the creation and maintenance of rural activities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Export Promotion Programme to Japan (EXPROM)..... 103

Assistance to European enterprises' efforts to penetrate the Japanese market and consists of three main pillars.

Executive Training Programme in Japan (ETP)..... 101

The objective of the ETP programme is to create a pool of EU executives equipped with the Japan specific linguistic, cultural and business skills and knowledge necessary to operate in the Japanese market.

2.1.2. Accession Candidate Countries

Phare Trans-European Co-operation..... 125

Phare finances the co-operation of accession candidate countries with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

2.1.3. Other Countries

Tacis Trans-European Co-operation..... 138

Tacis finances the co-operation of countries of the Community of the Independent States with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

2.2. OTHER SUPPORT

Euromarketing Guide..... 81

Tool for SME executives and managers to diagnose their company situation vis-à-vis the single market.

Market Access Data base..... 116

Tool for businesses to seek help from the Commission when encountered with unfair market barriers in countries outside the EU.

3. TRAINING AND PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT CREATION

3.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

3.1.1. European Union

European Social Fund (ESF)

Financial instrument for promoting employment and developing human resources.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative for the Development of Human Resources (EQUAL)

Promotion of new means of combating discrimination and inequality in connection with the labour market.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Community Initiative concerning Economic and Social Regeneration in Urban Areas (Urban)

Support to finding solutions to the serious social problems caused by the crisis in many depressed urban areas.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction..... 133

Leonardo da Vinci.....113

Encourages the transnational development of innovative policies and actions in the field of training.

Socrates.....131

Promotes the European dimension and helps to improve the quality of education by encouraging co-operation between the participating countries.

Community Action programme for Youth.....53

Co-operation in the area of youth policy, based on informal education, training and exchanges of young people within the Community and countries outside the EU.

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The objective of the ETP programme is to create a pool of EU executives equipped with the Japan specific linguistic, cultural and business skills and knowledge necessary to operate in the Japanese market.

3.1.2. Accession Candidate and Other countries

Community Action programme for Youth.....53

Co-operation in the area of youth policy, based on informal education, training and exchanges of young people within the Community and countries outside the EU.

3.2. OTHER SUPPORT

European Employment Services (EURES).....77

Aims to create a European labour market network in order to facilitate the mobility of employees within the European Economic Area.

4. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

4.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

4.1.1. European Union

Socrates.....131
Promotes the European dimension and helps to improve the quality of education by encouraging co-operation between the participating countries.

4.1.2. Accession Candidate Countries

Socrates.....131
Promotes the European dimension and helps to improve the quality of education by encouraging co-operation between the participating countries.

Tempus - Phare.....140
Develops co-operation between European Union countries and those of Central and Eastern Europe in the field of higher education.

4.1.3. Other Countries

Tempus - Tacis.....140
Develops co-operation between countries of the European Union and those of the Community of Independent States in the field of higher education.

Latin America Academic Education (ALFA).....112
Stimulates the exchange of students and researchers, as well as general co-operation between Latin American institutes of higher education and their equivalents in the EU.

5. BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES & CO-OPERATION BETWEEN FIRMS

5.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

5.1.1. European Union

3rd Multiannual Programme for SMEs.....37
Basis for actions aimed at improving the conditions that affect the competitiveness of SMEs, including the improvement of the business environment.

Europartenariat.....82
Stimulates the development of objective 1 and 2 regions, by encouraging small and medium-sized businesses from all over the Union and other countries to establish business relationships with their counterparts in these regions.

Initiative to encourage Partnerships among Industries or Services in Europe (INTERPRISE).....107
Support to local, regional and national initiatives that are aimed at promoting co-operation between SMEs in a certain sector in Europe.

Joint European Venture Initiative (JEV).....110
Support mechanism for the creation of transnational joint ventures for SMEs in the Community.

Community Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation For Balanced Development (INTERREG)
Action in relation to the borders and border areas between Member States.
-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

5.1.2. Accession Candidate Countries

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Phare finances the co-operation of accession candidate countries with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

5.1.3. Other Countries

Mediterranean Partners, Latin America and Asia.....119
The EU has co-operation, association and other agreements with certain countries; six programmes are implemented under these agreements.

Europartenariat.....82
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Tacis Trans-European Co-operation.....138
Tacis finances the co-operation of countries of the Community of the Independent States with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

5.2. LOANS / GUARANTEES / EQUITY

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The EIB was established to facilitate the funding of investments that promote balanced regional development of the Community and European integration.

European Investment Fund (EIF).....92
The EIF is a response to the need for easier access to finance in two important areas of the European economy: Trans-European Networks and SMEs.

5.3. OTHER SUPPORT

5.3.1. European Union

Mutual Guarantee Companies (MGCs)124
The Commission encourages the promotion, development and expansion of MGCs in the European Union.

Euromarketing Guide.....81
Tool for SME executives and managers to diagnose their company situation vis-à-vis the single market.

Market Access Data base.....116
Tool for businesses to seek help from the Commission when encountered with unfair market barriers in countries outside the EU.

Environmental Audit.....74
Encourages SMEs to adopt the voluntary regulations on environmental management and the eco-audit.

Eco-label.....69
Award of a Community Eco-label to products and, in the future, services with a reduced environmental impact.

5.3.2. European Union, Accession Candidate Countries and Other Countries

Euro Info Centres (EICs).....79
Network that provides information, advice and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in all EU matters.

Business Co-operation Network (BC-Net).....50
Establishment of long-term business partnerships and identification of strategic partners for SMEs on a confidential basis.

Bureau de rapprochement des entreprises (BRE).....48
Network promoting the concept of SME cross-border co-operation and widely publicising co-operation opportunities of non-confidential nature.

European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN/BIC Network).....86
Network assisting in the creation of innovative activities through a methodical and highly professional analysis and preparation of business ventures.

6. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REGIONS

6.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

6.1.1. European Union

Community Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation For Balanced Development (INTERREG)

Action in relation to the borders and border areas between Member States.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative concerning Economic and Social Regeneration in Urban Areas (Urban)

Support to finding solutions to the serious social problems caused by the crisis in many depressed urban areas.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative for Links between actions for the development of the rural economy (LEADER+)

Help to restore the vitality of rural areas and to stimulate the creation and maintenance of rural activities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

6.1.2. Accession Candidate Countries

Phare Trans-European Co-operation.....125

Phare finances the co-operation of accession candidate countries with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

6.1.3. Other Countries

Tacis Trans-European Co-operation.....138

Tacis finances the co-operation of countries of the Community of the Independent States with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

Mediterranean Partners, Latin America and Asia.....119

The EU has co-operation, association and other agreements with certain countries; six programmes are implemented under these agreements.

URB - AL.....142

Development of direct and sustainable partnerships between local actors from the European Union and Latin America.

Asia - Urbs.....44

Promotion of partnerships between local governments and communities in Europe and South and South-East Asia.

7. CULTURAL EVENTS PROMOTING TOURISM

7.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

7.1.1. European Union

1st European Framework Programme in Support of Culture (Culture 2000).....34
Contributes to the promotion of a cultural area common to the European people and supports the co-operation between creative artists, cultural operators and the cultural institutions of the Member States.

Media.....117
Strengthens the competitiveness of the European audio-visual industry.

7.2. OTHER SUPPORT

7.2.1. European Union

European City of Culture.....87
Annual event that aims to promote the cultural richness and diversity of Europe's cities, while highlighting their common heritage and the vitality of their artistic creation.

7.2.2. Accession Candidate Countries

European Cultural Month.....87
This event espouses the same aims as the European City of Culture and is intended especially for cities in Central and Eastern Europe.

8. TRANSPORT

8.1. OTHER SUPPORT

Instruments under Transport Policy.....109

European Investment Fund (EIF).....92

The EIF is a response to the need for easier access to finance in two important areas of the European economy: Trans-European Networks and SMEs.

Cohesion Fund.....51

Assistance to large public projects in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain that contribute to the improvement of the environment or to the development of transport infrastructure and networks.

9. IMPROVING ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

9.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

9.1.1. European Union

Energy Framework Programme.....73
Brings all financial and non-research related EU energy activities under one, single legal basis.

Save.....129
Framework for the implementation of the energy policy of the European Union.

Altener.....42
Measures and actions to promote renewable energy sources in the European Union that are open to co-operation with the accession candidate countries.

Life.....115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.

Cohesion Fund.....51
Assistance to large public projects in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain that contribute to the improvement of the environment or to the development of transport infrastructure and networks.

9.1.2. Accession Candidate Countries

Save.....129
Framework for the implementation of the energy policy of the European Union opened to the accession candidate countries.

Altener.....42
Measures and actions to promote renewable energy sources in the European Union that are open to co-operation with the accession candidate countries.

Synergie.....137
This programme is the international co-operation component of the *Energy Framework Programme* (see above)

Life.....115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.

9.1.3. Other Countries

Synergie.....137
This programme is the international co-operation component of the *Energy Framework Programme* (see above)

Energie.....70
Support of research & development, technology demonstration, dissemination and other reinforcing measures.

Life.....115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.

Asia - Urbs.....44
Amongst other objectives it also seeks to improve environmental conditions in urban areas.

9.2. OTHER SUPPORT

Environmental Audit.....74
Encourages SMEs to adopt the voluntary regulations on environmental management and the eco-audit.

Eco-label.....69
Award of a Community Eco-label to products and, in the future, services with a reduced environmental impact.

Environmental information and awareness raising activities.....75
Tourism-related project references.

10. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

10.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS

10.1.1. European Union, Accession Candidate and Other Countries

5th Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (FP 5).....39
Sets out the priorities for the European Union's research, technological development and demonstration activities.

Energie.....70
Support of research & development, technology demonstration, dissemination and other reinforcing measures.

10.2. OTHER SUPPORT

Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS).....67
Provides particularly SMEs with easy access to a wide range of information products and services on European Union research and innovation activities.

11. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

11.1. STRUCTURAL FUNDS

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Financial assistance to disadvantaged regions.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

Provision of market support and delivers aid for the adjustment of agricultural structures, for rural development and economic diversification.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

European Social Fund (ESF)

Financial instrument for promoting employment and developing human resources.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Financial Instrument for Fisheries (FIFG)

Structural measures in the catching, marketing, processing and aqua-culture sectors, the creation of protected marine zones in coastal waters and the development of port facilities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

11.2. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Community Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation For Balanced Development (INTERREG)

Action in relation to the borders and border areas between Member States.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative concerning Economic and Social Regeneration in Urban Areas (Urban)

Support to finding solutions to the serious social problems caused by the crisis in many depressed urban areas.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative for Links between actions for the development of the rural economy (LEADER+)

Help to restore the vitality of rural areas and to stimulate the creation and maintenance of rural activities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative for the Development of Human Resources (EQUAL)

Promotion of new means of combating discrimination and inequality in connection with the labour market.

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12. COHESION FUND

<u>Cohesion Fund</u>	51
Assistance to large public projects in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain that contribute to the improvement of the environment or to the development of transport infrastructure and networks.	

13. PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

13.1. CO-FINANCING / GRANTS / CONTRACTS

13.1.1. Accession Candidate Countries

Phare.....125
Prepares the accession candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe for future membership of the European Union.

Phare Trans-European Co-operation.....125
Phare finances the co-operation of accession candidate countries with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

Tempus - Phare.....140
Develops co-operation between European Union countries and those of Central and Eastern Europe in the field of higher education.

Socrates.....131
Promotes the European dimension and helps to improve the quality of education by encouraging co-operation between the participating countries.

Community Action programme for Youth.....53
Co-operation in the area of youth policy, based on informal education, training and exchanges of young people within the Community and countries outside the EU.

Save.....129
Framework for the implementation of the energy policy of the European Union opened to the accession candidate countries.

Altener.....42
Measures and actions to promote renewable energy sources in the European Union that are open to co-operation with the accession candidate countries.

Synergie.....137
This programme is the international co-operation component of the *Energy Framework Programme*.

Life.....115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.

13.1.2. Other Countries

Technical Assistance to the Community of Independent States (Tacis).....138
Fosters the development of market economies and democratic societies in 12 former Soviet republics and in Mongolia.

Tacis Trans-European Co-operation.....138
Tacis finances the co-operation of countries of the Community of the Independent States with EU countries in the framework of Interreg programmes.

<u>Tempus - Tacis</u>	140
Develops co-operation between countries of the European Union and those of the Community of Independent States in the field of higher education.	
<u>Community Action programme for Youth</u>	53
Co-operation in the area of youth policy, based on informal education, training and exchanges of young people within the Community and countries outside the EU.	
<u>Mediterranean Partners, Latin America and Asia</u>	119
The EU has co-operation, association and other agreements with certain countries; six programmes are implemented under these agreements.	
<u>Latin America Academic Education (ALFA)</u>	112
Stimulates the exchange of students and researchers, as well as general co-operation between Latin American institutes of higher education and their equivalents in the EU.	
<u>URB - AL</u>	142
Development of direct and sustainable partnerships between local actors from the European Union and Latin America.	
<u>Asia - Urbs</u>	44
Promotion of partnerships between local governments and communities in Europe and South and South-East Asia.	
<u>European Development Fund (EDF)</u>	89
Provides financing for the development co-operation agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the Lomé IV Convention.	
<u>Synergie</u>	137
This programme is the international co-operation component of the <i>Energy Framework Programme</i> (see above)	
<u>Energie</u>	70
Support of research & development, technology demonstration, dissemination and other reinforcing measures.	
<u>Life</u>	115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.	

14. INDEX OF PROGRAMMES PER DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

AGRICULTURE DG

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

Provision of market support and delivers aid for the adjustment of agricultural structures, for rural development and economic diversification.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

Community Initiative for Links between actions for the development of the rural economy (LEADER+)

Help to restore the vitality of rural areas and to stimulate the creation and maintenance of rural activities.

-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....133

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS DG – FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE

European Investment Bank (EIB).....90

The EIB was established to facilitate the funding of investments that promote balanced regional development of the Community and European integration.

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Joint European Venture Initiative (JEV).....110

Support mechanism for the creation of transnational joint ventures for SMEs in the Community.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE DG

Leonardo da Vinci.....113

Encourages the transnational development of innovative policies and actions in the field of training.

Socrates.....131

Promotes the European dimension and helps to improve the quality of education by encouraging co-operation between the participating countries.

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Develops co-operation between European Union countries and those of Central and Eastern Europe in the field of higher education.

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Contributes to the promotion of a cultural area common to the European people and supports the co-operation between creative artists, cultural operators and the cultural institutions of the Member States.

<u>European City of Culture</u>	87
Annual event that aims to promote the cultural richness and diversity of Europe's cities, while highlighting their common heritage and the vitality of their artistic creation.	
<u>European Cultural Month</u>	87
This event espouses the same aims as the European City of Culture and is intended especially for cities in Central and Eastern Europe.	
<u>Media</u>	117
Strengthens the competitiveness of the European audio-visual industry.	

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DG

<u>European Social Fund (ESF)</u>	
Financial instrument for promoting employment and developing human resources.	
-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....	133

<u>Community Initiative for the Development of Human Resources (EQUAL)</u>	
Promotion of new means of combating discrimination and inequality in connection with the labour market.	
-> Structural Funds - Introduction.....	133

<u>European Employment Services (EURES)</u>	77
Aims to create a European labour market network in order to facilitate the mobility of employees within the European Economic Area.	

ENERGY DG

<u>Energy Framework Programme</u>	73
Brings all financial and non-research related EU energy activities under one, single legal basis.	

<u>Save</u>	129
Framework for the implementation of the energy policy of the European Union.	

<u>Altener</u>	42
Measures and actions to promote renewable energy sources in the European Union that are open to co-operation with the accession candidate countries.	

<u>Synergie</u>	137
This programme is the international co-operation component of the <i>Energy Framework Programme</i> (see above)	

<u>Energie</u>	70
Support of research & development, technology demonstration, dissemination and other reinforcing measures.	

ENTERPRISE DG

<u>3rd Multiannual Programme for SMEs</u>	37
Basis for actions aimed at improving the conditions that affect the competitiveness of SMEs, including the improvement of the business environment.	

<u>Europartenariat</u>	82
Stimulates the development of objective 1 and 2 regions, by encouraging small and medium-sized businesses from all over the Union and other countries to establish business relationships with their counterparts in these regions.	
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Supports local, regional and national initiatives that are aimed at promoting co-operation between SMEs in a certain sector in Europe.	
<u>Joint European Venture Initiative (JEV)</u>	110
Support mechanism for the creation of transnational joint ventures for SMEs in the Community.	
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Network that provides information, advice and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in all EU matters.	
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<u>Bureau de rapprochement des entreprises (BRE)</u>	48
Network promoting the concept of SME cross-border co-operation and widely publicising co-operation opportunities of non-confidential nature.	
ENVIRONMENT DG	
<u>Life</u>	115
Provides co-financing for actions in the field of the environment.	
<u>Environmental Audit</u>	74
Encourages SMEs to adopt the voluntary regulations on environmental management and the eco-audit.	
<u>Eco-label</u>	69
Award of a Community Eco-label to products and, in the future, services with a reduced environmental impact.	
<u>Environmental information and awareness raising activities</u>	75
Tourism-related project references.	

FISHERIES DG

Financial Instrument for Fisheries (FIFG)

Structural measures in the catching, marketing, processing and aqua-culture sectors, the creation of protected marine zones in coastal waters and the development of port facilities.

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INFORMATION SOCIETY DG

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1ST EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF CULTURE (CULTURE 2000)

Short description

Culture 2000 replaces the three programmes, *Ariane*, *Kaleidoscope* and *Raphael* and establishes a single financing and programming instrument for cultural co-operation.

The following measures will be carried out under the programme:

- Integrated projects covered by structured, multi-annual transnational cultural co-operation agreements, particularly encouraged through networks. The proposed "cultural co-operation agreements", covering a maximum of three years, will cover some or all of the following:
- Co-productions and other large-scale cultural events, especially in the field of live arts, literature and the artistic heritage;
- Cultural events within the Community to bring European culture to a wider audience;
- Measures involving several different cultural disciplines: integrated projects across the sectors (combining the creative arts, heritage and new technologies, for example); and cultural operations which cause economic momentum, combining all or part of the occupational process from creation and design to completion;
- Measures to develop further training and mobility for those in the cultural professions in both academic and practical terms;
- Measures highlighting the richness and diversity of the cultural heritage, to teach Europeans about their common cultural values and roots, encourage mutual awareness of other's culture and history and to promote a cultural dialogue;

Relevance to tourism

The promotion of culture and the organisation of cultural events are closely inter-linked with tourism. Cultural tourism is an important sub-sector. Tourism can benefit from this programme if tourism development or tourism promotion and culture are integrated in the local planning or in a master plan.

Who may apply

Any cultural operator established in an eligible country may submit an application, with the exception of individuals acting as such: networks of public authorities, firms and institutions but mainly organisers of cultural events – institutes, associations, foundations, colleges and academics.

The major projects will include:

- European City of Culture
- European Union cultural festival of the performing arts in the country holding the Presidency of the Union

- Introduction of European Days in some major international cultural events
- Enhancing an event, monument or cultural site which represents a common cultural trend, located within the Union, of European importance, of major symbolic value and accessible to the public
- Recognition of great artistic talents
- Organisation of a Cultural Forum of the European Union as a result of the cultural dialogue both inside and outside the Community
- Broadcasting major cultural events across frontiers using new technologies
- Organisation of innovative educational artistic and cultural events

Each year the Community will support specific co-operation projects proposed by cultural operators from different Member States. The project priorities will be defined after consultation with the framework programme Committee. The projects, involving at least four Member States, must be innovative and experimental and have the following main aims:

- To encourage the emergence and spread, alongside culture in the classic sense, of new forms of cultural expression (nature, solidarity, science, peace etc)
- To facilitate access to culture and wider cultural participation by the diverse peoples of Europe, including the most underprivileged, and especially young people
- To support the creation of multimedia tools, tailored to meet the needs of different publics, making European artistic creation and heritage more visible and more accessible to all
- To encourage initiatives, discussions and co-operation between cultural and socio-cultural operators working in the field of social integration, especially that of young people
- To promote the profile of European cultures in countries outside the EU, in particular encouraging co-operation between institutes and/or cultural services from the Member States with a presence in other countries, on themes which are of European interest

The programme will be open to participation by the Countries of the European Economic area, Cyprus and the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Culture 2000 will also allow co-operation with non-member countries and joint actions with international organisations competent in the field of culture, such as UNESCO, or the Council of Europe.

How to apply

See website http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html below under “12 Questions on the programme”.

Programme duration

2000-2004

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The budget is 167 million euro.

Community support for major projects may not be less than 200,000 euro or more than 1 million euro.

Community support for specific co-operation projects may not be less than 50,000 euro or more than 100,000 euro.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html

http://dbs.cordis.lu/cordis-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=102861999-5-11&DOC=1&TBL=EN_PROG&RCN=EN_RCN:656&CALLER=PROGADVANCEDS RCH

3rd MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR SMEs

Short description

The main objectives of the Multiannual Programme are:

- to simplify and improve the administrative and regulatory business environment
- to improve the financial environment for enterprises
- to help SMEs to Europeanise and internationalise their strategies, in particular through better information services
- to enhance SME competitiveness and improve access to research, innovation and training
- to promote entrepreneurship and support special target groups

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Actions and financial instruments developed under this programme like *CREA* and *Venture Capital* (see pages 127 and 99), *Joint European Venture* (see page 110), and networks like *Business Co-operation Network*, *Bureau de Rapprochement des Entreprises* (see pages 50 and 48), *Euro Info Centres* (see pages 79 and 144), *Europartenariat* and *Interprise* (see pages 82 and 107) are also at the disposal of the tourism sector.

An example of a tourism project co-financed under the Multiannual Programme is *Net-Quality* which will support the transfer of best management practices and of appropriate IT-tools and thus will promote the use of new organisation and marketing techniques by small tourism businesses.

Who may apply

Tourism organisations or institutions representing SMEs and tourism SMEs can bid for all calls for proposals or tender published under this programme can use the established networks and participate in actions or events.

How to apply

See website below.

Programme duration

1997 – 2000 (a 4th Multiannual Business and SME Programme is in draft)

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The financial reference amount for the implementation of the Programme was set at 127 million ECU respectively euro.

Grant rates vary between 50% where the bidder has to finance the other 50% of the action or 100% following a call for tender.

Websites for further information

This is the homepage of the Enterprise DG and includes links to Enterprise and SME policy issues, services (the mentioned networks) and relevant programmes as well as recent calls for proposals or tender the full text of which can be downloaded in all official EU languages:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/index.htm>

5TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (FP 5)

Short description

The FP 5 runs from 1998-2002. To maximise its impact, it focuses on a limited number of research areas combining technological, industrial, economic, social and cultural aspects. The FP 5 is implemented in 5 "thematic" or specific programmes:

- (1) Quality of life and management of living resources
- (2) User-friendly information society
- (3) Competitive and sustainable growth
- (4) Energy, environment and sustainable development
- (5) Improving human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base

Under each thematic programme so-called "key actions" (KA) are implemented.

Relevance to tourism

The thematic programme *User-friendly information society* (also called *IST programme*) includes the key action *Systems and services for the citizen* (KA-1) which again includes the "domain" *Transport and tourism*. This domain is of particular relevance to tourism and will focus on three action lines: intelligent transport infrastructure and mobility management, systems for intelligent vehicles and systems and services for tourism.

The other key actions under the IST programme, *New methods of work and electronic commerce* (KA-2), *Multimedia content and tools* (KA-3) and *Essential technologies and infrastructures* (KA-4) also have strong implications for the technological development in tourism and related projects may as well be eligible.

Furthermore, the thematic programme *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development* (also called *EESD programme*) includes the key action *City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage*. Here tourism is implicitly included in the context of sustainable city planning and rational resource management and explicitly included in the fostering of tourism through the sustainable exploitation and conservation of cultural heritage in the urban setting.

For a full overview on all programmes implemented under the umbrella of the FP 5 consult the *CORDIS* website (see page 67).

Who may apply

Consortia made up of appropriate stakeholders including firms, in particular SMEs, public authorities, research centres and universities can apply.

How to apply

For the *IST Programme* see website <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/overview.htm> under “IST Work Programme”. This document includes information on the calls for proposals planned for 2000. On the same website you can also regularly click on “Participate in IST Calls”.

For the *Innovation/SME Programme* see website <http://www.cordis.lu/sme> under “How to participate”.

Programme duration

1999 - 2002

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

A budget of 13,700 million euro has been agreed for the implementation of the European Community section of FP 5.

For the said key action *Systems and Services for the Citizen* (KA-1) a budget of 646 million euro is reserved. For the other three key actions the following budgets are reserved: for KA-2: 547 million euro, for KA-3: 564 million euro, and for KA-3: 1,363 million euro.

3 funding models are available:

- Full cost (funded at 50 % for R&D, and at 35% for demonstration projects)
- Full cost + flat overhead rate (funded at 50 %): Under this model overheads are fixed at 80 % of the labour cost claimed
- Additional costs (funded at 100 %): this model is limited to those organisations whose accounting system is based on disbursements and not on costs (universities, governmental organisations, etc.).

Websites for further information

Find below the address of the CORDIS server. This server also includes the website of the foregoing Programme for Research & Technological Development, the FP 4, where tourism related R&TD projects have been launched through the *Esprit* and *Telematics* programmes (see page 67 CORDIS):

<http://www.cordis.lu>

The website of the FP 5 is the following:

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5>

The following website is especially designed for SMEs and presents the SME specific measures under the FP 5 (*Innovation/SMEs Programme*):

<http://www.cordis.lu/sme>

Information on the KA-1 *Systems and services for the citizen*:

<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka1/home.html>

and on the *IST Programme*:

<http://www.cordis.lu/ist> (direct e-mail link for the IST programme: ist@cec.be)

Receive background information on the *Transport and Tourism domain* of KA-1 under this address:

<http://www.trentel.org/transport/research/ISTimages/IST.html>

Contact points for the *Tourism action line* in the *Transport and Tourism domain*:

brice.lepape@cec.eu.int

carmen.mena-abela@cec.eu.int

francesco.nachira@cec.eu.int

The *Information Society Promotion Office* has the following website:

<http://www.ispo.cec.be>

Information on the KA-4 *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development* (EESD programme):

<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd>

Participation of non-EU countries:

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/3rdcountries.htm>

ALTENER

Short description

Altener is a five-year programme consisting of:

- an extension of actions undertaken under the Altener I Programme
- new initiatives aimed at mobilising private investments and facilitating the market penetration of renewables
- implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the European Union strategy on *Renewable Energy Sources* (RES)

Altener's specific target is to effect a 180 million tonnes reduction in CO2 emissions by 2005. This shall be achieved by:

- doubling the use of RES, from 4% of total consumption in 1991 to 8% in 2005
- trebling production of electricity from renewable energy sources
- securing a bio-fuels market share of 5% of total vehicle fuel consumption.
- helping to implement the results of research or technological demonstration projects
- encouraging the promotion of projects with a multiregional or multinational dimension or benefit.

Relevance to tourism

The scheme can be used to promote the use of renewable energy systems in tourist resorts, hotels, leisure facilities and other installations.

Who may apply

The programme is addressed to policy and decision-makers, industry, promoters, producers and users and their associations as well as to specific target groups such as public authorities, engineers and architects.

Eligible actions include:

- Studies and other actions intended to implement or complement Community measures taken to develop the potential of different sources of renewable energy
- Development of harmonised standards for products and equipment in the RES market
- Actions to increase confidence and RES market penetration and improve the sector's competitiveness through the development of new financial arrangements, such as third party financing, and the diversification of financial instruments

- Pilot actions aimed at creating or extending infrastructures for the development of RES in local and regional planning, design and evaluation, information, education and training
- Improved information dissemination and co-ordination between international, Community, national, regional and local activities, and exchange of experience and know-how
- Targeted actions facilitating the penetration of RES and encouraging investment by assisting the preparation and presentation of related projects (e.g. specialised advice, analysis of market prospects, choice of projects location, financial engineering); projects can cover such areas as bio-mass, thermal and photo-voltaic solar systems, solar systems in buildings, small scale hydroelectric projects, wind power and geothermal energy
- Actions to monitor progress in the implementation of the Union's RES strategy and action plan, as well as to evaluate the impact and cost effectiveness of measures under this Programme.

How to apply

See websites below.

Programme duration

1998-2000 (total duration is until 2002; see websites below).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

30 million euro.

Normally up to 50% of the costs of pilot projects (in exceptional cases, up to 60%). Studies that are carried out on the initiative of the Commission are fully financed.

Websites for further information

This website includes a link to the call for proposals 1998 and an e-mail link to the responsible service within the Commission:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/altener.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/thirdcou.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/dg17home.htm>

ASIA - URBS

Short description

The Asia-Urbs Programme is a new framework for decentralised co-operation between Europe and Asia initiated by the European Commission. The Programme is designed as the starting point of a sustainable initiative bringing Asian and European cities to work on common grounds based on urban pilot projects. It will enhance and strengthen links based on urban development co-operation between local governments and their communities in Europe and South and South-East Asia.

The aims of the Asia-Urbs Programme are:

- to set up partnerships between local governments from the European Union member States and South and South-East Asian eligible countries
- to improve the quality of life of the citizens in their cities and towns in assisting local governments to strengthen their efforts towards sound urban management
- to encourage local level co-operation involving the public and the private sectors in the European Union member States and in South and South-East Asian eligible countries
- to promote long-term co-operation initiatives
- to facilitate the exchange of experiences and know-how between local administrators and other actors of urban and community development in their areas of competence
- to promote the socio-economic development of Asian cities and towns
- to ensure the visibility and the dissemination of the Programme's achievements through the European Union and Asian countries

Eligible countries are:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam in Asia, and all the EU Member States.

Relevance to tourism

Tourism development projects can be put forward in particular under the areas "Urban socio-economic development including participation of women in the cities and towns, urban poverty alleviation" and "Urban environment, conservation and rehabilitation" (see chapter below).

Who may apply

The core of the Programme focuses on direct co-operation between local governments in Europe and Asia in close partnership, allowing a colleague-to-colleague approach within a city-to-city co-operation.

Local governments from the 15 European Union countries and the 16 eligible Asian countries with a legal status in their respective countries are the appropriate bodies to prepare project proposals, make financial requests and implement the related activities.

All relevant local governments at their highest decisional levels must approve participation in the Programme. Each project will be presented by a group of partners from the eligible countries in Asia and in Europe. Each project should involve a partnership between at least: - two local governments in Europe from different European Union member States, - and one local government in Asia.

The attention of the applicants is drawn to the fact that it is possible that two partners from the European Union come from the same country provided that at least one other partner comes from a different European Union country. Also in order to ensure the strong Asian dimension of each project, the Programme encourages the involvement of more than one Asian partner when it is appropriate, even though it is by no means an obligation. However, the total number of partners should not be too large in order to avoid the excessive scattering of tasks and budget allocation. Thus, each project should not usually involve more than 5 partners contributing to the budget in money and/or kind.

The Programme encourages initiatives involving both the private and public sectors represented by local governments.

Simultaneously, it strongly recommends the involvement of organisations/ institutions such as academic institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or community-based organisations (CBOs) representing the local Asian populations in the cities or towns where the projects are located. Local government partners may sub-contract specific tasks to such organisations/institutions.

The Asia - Urbs Programme is primarily designed to move urban development planning closer to the beneficiaries, focusing on citizen participation and capacity building.

As major actors, the Civil Society in cities and towns and the local governmental staff in Asia and Europe will benefit from the exchange of information and experiences.

The involvement of social and economic groups and institutions representing local community interests within the Programme will ensure that the needs of the urban communities will be addressed.

The priorities of the Programme are to promote and support activities aimed at forging and reinforcing partnerships between local governments in close relations with the Civil Society in the following areas (not ranked by order of importance):

- Urban management, including institutional development and urban design policies and techniques

- Urban socio-economic development including participation of women in the cities and towns, urban poverty alleviation
- Urban environment, conservation and rehabilitation
- Management of water and waste
- Urban social infrastructure

Preference will be given to:

- new approaches within the country: local governments and their partners are encouraged to solve urban problems by taking advantage of unused sources/opportunities, and/or by investigating new ways to solve them
- projects which may help in the process of developing local democracy
- project design and pilot projects where the substance and the proposed form of participatory implementation have demonstrative values
- projects aimed at improving the quality of life of urban dwellers through adequate provision of urban services
- projects which aim to achieve social integration
- projects which do not involve any serious displacement of population especially if adequate relocation alternatives are not provided, and which do not entail serious environmental threats or other negative side effects
- projects involving the local communities in their design and implementation
- projects that have a replication value

How to apply

See website below.

Programme duration

1995-continued (currently there is no expiry date foreseen).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total budget allocated for the projects is 26.2 million euro for a 3-year period. Participants can apply for two project types:

Project without Study

Applicants who already have a well-advanced project proposal (including partners) may submit a project proposal without undertaking a study and may apply directly for support under the Development Phase. Eligible European and Asian local governments that have already established links and have identified a project to submit to Asia - Urbs for financial and technical support can apply for a two year financing. The European

Commission will co-finance on a grant basis up to 65% of the total cost of a project for a maximum of 500,000 euro while at least 35% will have to come from the partners (in cash and/or in kind).

Project with Study

The main reason for organising a preliminary Study - lasting no longer than 6 months - is to give participants the means to elaborate an in-depth operational agenda prior to entering the Development Phase. The Study Phase must be considered as a preliminary stage during which development activities are identified. The Study should not be an academic one, but a pre-investment analysis geared to define a concrete investment and development programme, and practical operational rationales. Upon successful completion of the Study Phase - and if the Study has been approved through the relevant and monitoring mechanisms established by the European Commission - the project may become eligible for submission under the Development Phase of the Programme. Participants selected for the Study Phase through the Call for Proposals will receive financial support on a grant basis from the European Commission of up to 15,000 euro. This financial support will represent up to 65% of the total cost of the Study for which at least 35% is required from the partners (in cash and/or in kind).

Websites for further information

This website explains how to apply and includes, amongst others, links to calls for proposals as well as to guidelines and application material including an e-mail link to the secretariat:

<http://www.asia-urbs.com>

BUREAU DE RAPPROCHEMENT DES ENTREPRISES (BRE)

Short description

Like *BC-Net* (see page 50), BRE has been created under the Commission's 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37). Whereas BC-Net rather handles co-operation profiles on a confidential basis BRE is an extensive network of 500 correspondents, who promote the concept of SME cross-border co-operation and widely publicise co-operation opportunities of non-confidential nature.

Enterprises interested in establishing a financial, commercial or technical co-operation can directly fill in a co-operation profile (CP to download from the Internet), and send it to the Commission or contact a BRE correspondent.

The BRE correspondents will then care for widest possible dissemination: in the Internet, databases, through newsletters, direct mailings etc. Parties interested in the business opportunity, can get in touch with either the BRE correspondent or the enterprise itself.

The BRE, however, does not offer the additional advisory services of BC-Net.

Relevance to tourism

This tool is open to all sectors. Tourism SMEs which, for example, offer a niche product or are located in areas unexplored by tourism and are looking for marketing & sales channels could use the system to present themselves and to find a partner who could address their relatively small target group.

So far, mainly hotels, camping sites, restaurants, bars, canteens and catering companies have made use of the BRE.

Who may apply

Every enterprise located within the EU and interested in finding a commercial, technical or financial partner can contact a BRE-member. Its co-operation profile will then be widely disseminated; there are no access restrictions.

Membership in the BRE-Network is free. Therefore, the Commission expects members not to charge their clients for any related services.

How to apply

A co-operation profile can be downloaded from the websites below.

Programme duration

1997-2000 (a 4th Multiannual Business and SME Programme is in draft)

Websites for further information

More information on the functioning, members and geographical coverage of the BRE network can be found on the following homepages:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/bus_cooperation/bus_cooperation.html

<http://bre.cec.eu.int/>

BUSINESS CO-OPERATION NETWORK (BC-NET)

Short description

Created under the Commission's 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37) this network of 300 business advisers covers the EU, the EFTA and 24 other countries and tries to establish long-term business partnerships and to identify strategic partners for SMEs (e.g. distributor, agent, co-investor or technological partner). The BC-Network and the *Euro Info Centres Network* (see pages 79 and 144) are linked.

BC-Net counsellors draw up *co-operation profiles* (CPs) of interested firms that are put into a central electronic database where they are kept for 6 months. In the next stage the BC-Net counsellors identify co-operation opportunities by matching co-operation profiles and company activity records in the database.

Relevance to tourism

This tool is open to all sectors. Tourism SMEs which, for example, offer a niche product or are located in areas unexplored by tourism and are looking for marketing & sales channels could use the system to present themselves and to find a partner who could address their relatively small target group. So far, mainly hotels, camping sites, restaurants, bars, canteens and catering companies have made use of BC-Net.

Who may apply

Every enterprise located within the EU and interested in finding a commercial, technical or financial partner can contact a BC-Net member. However, BC-Net is an electronic network that is commercial and not freely accessible as is the Internet.

How to apply

A co-operation profile can be downloaded from the websites below.

Some BC-Net counsellors **might charge clients for their services**, because they themselves have to pay an annual membership fee of 1,000 euro. Some public organisations that are members of the network, however, offer their services free of charge.

Programme duration

1997-2000 (a 4th Multiannual Business and SME Programme is in draft)

Websites for further information

Information on the functioning, range of services, members and geographical coverage of BC-Net can be found on the following homepages:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/bus_cooperation/bus_cooperation.html

<http://bre.cec.eu.int/>

COHESION FUND

Short description

The Cohesion Fund is intended to contribute to the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the European Union and to help the least prosperous Member States to meet the strict budgetary and fiscal convergence criteria for the Economic and Monetary Union. The introduction of a common currency in the European Union calls for a high degree of convergence between the economies and the economic policies of the participating Member States.

Relevance to tourism

Funding under the Cohesion fund is only indirectly beneficial towards the development of tourism insofar that a healthy environment and an efficient transport infrastructure are important pre-requisites for tourism-related activities. The Cohesion fund supports large public projects rather than private projects.

Who is eligible

Funding goes directly to the responsible public authorities in the eligible Member states. Member States whose Gross National Product is below 90 % of the Community average and who follow an economic convergence programme are eligible for assistance. Today, only 4 Member States qualify: Spain, Greece, Ireland, and Portugal.

Public projects must belong to one of two categories:

1. Environment projects, i.e. projects that help to achieve the objectives of Community's environmental policy. These objectives are defined in the Maastricht Treaty and in the 5th Environmental Action Programme as preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, protecting human health and assuring prudent and rational use of natural resources.

In accordance with the environment Directives in force, the Fund gives priority to the supply of drinking water, waste water treatment and solid waste disposal. Reafforestation, erosion control and nature preservation actions are also eligible.

2. Transport infrastructure projects, i.e. projects to establish or develop transport infrastructure within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN), or projects providing access to the TEN.

An appropriate balance must be ensured between financing for transport infrastructure projects and environment projects; the Commission has set the target of a 50-50 share-out between the two categories.

How to apply

Not applicable.

Total allocation and grant rates for projects

The total budget between 1993 and 1999 will exceed 15 billion euro (Greece: 16-20 %, Ireland: 7-10 %, Portugal: 16-20 %, Spain: 52-58 %).

The Cohesion Fund can contribute 80-85% of total public expenditure on the project.

Websites for further information

This is the website of the Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General including a link ("Agenda 2000") to the principal texts relating to the reform of the Structural Funds, the revision of the Cohesion Fund and the creation of the pre-accession structural instrument for 2000-2006:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find the Cohesion Fund under:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/procf/cf_en.htm

News and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Cohesion Fund are on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Cohesion Fund:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

Short description

This programme puts a number of existing programmes on a single legal basis, in particular the *Youth for Europe* programme and the *European Voluntary Service*. It also supplements the *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Socrates* programmes (see pages 113 and 131).

Youth for Europe

The action funds exchanges of young people aged 15 – 25 between Member States and with other countries. The Community will support activities, preferably multilateral activities, based on transnational partnerships between groups of young people. The purpose is to enable them to discover different social and cultural environments.

European Voluntary Service

This action is aimed at young people aged 18-25 who for a limited period (max. 12 months) undertake to carry out a non-profit making and unpaid activity for the benefit of the society as an informal educational experience. The programme shall enable young people to acquire skills and abilities, both social and cultural, to contribute to meeting the society's needs in social, socio-cultural, environmental or cultural spheres, and to come into contact with other cultures and languages.

Youth Initiatives

These concern participation of young people in innovative and creative schemes and initiatives based on commitment at local, regional or European level. *Joint Actions* between this programme and other Community programmes will be implemented in the fields of education and vocational training. *Support Measures* concern the training of, and co-operation between, those involved in youth policy, information for young people at European level, and studies on youth.

Relevance to tourism

The first two components of the programme, Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service, are essentially intended to prepare young people for mobility in terms of linguistic knowledge and greater awareness of other cultures. While these components are not specifically aimed at tourism the programme helps to acquire attitudes and skills which are of great importance to tourism.

Who may apply

- youth organisations
- organisations operating at local, regional, national and European levels
- governmental and non-governmental organisations with responsibilities for youth-related matters (e.g. voluntary service organisations)

- young people who get together for the purposes of a project or any group or organisation working with young people (e.g. youth clubs)

The programme is biased in particular towards young people who do not have easy access to European programmes such as *Leonardo* and *Socrates* programmes (see pages 113 and 131).

How to apply

See website below.

Programme duration

2000 – 2006.

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

520 million euro.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html and click on “Programmes and strategic initiatives”

The website above also includes links to calls for projects, for proposals and for expressions of interest. Further details on eligibility and the application procedure as well as direct e-mail links for further information are on the website <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/progr.html> under “Youth Programmes”.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (EQUAL)

Short description

During the Structural Funds programming period 2000-2006, EQUAL will also support the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers. It will build on both the preceding human resource Initiatives *Adapt* and *Employment*. The Initiative will promote an integrated approach to tackling discrimination in the labour market, providing a transnational testing ground for the development of new ways of delivering labour market policies. It aims to bring new approaches on stream in order to support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy and the National Employment Action Plans. For this reason, EQUAL will work through transnational co-operation and in a number of thematic fields, linked to the four pillars of the European employment strategy.

The Initiative will provide support for the following actions:

- transnational, integrated actions through development partnerships
- national networking, dissemination and mainstreaming
- actions to achieve an impact at European level

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects for training and employment are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions.

Who may apply

Projects, called "development partnerships" (DPs), must involve all relevant partners and will address new means of delivering policies to combat discrimination and inequality in connection with the labour market either within a geographical area or a sector. Their activities should reflect thematic priorities agreed between the Member States and the Commission within the four pillars of the European Employment Strategy.

Each DP will be required to work with a transnational partner in a least one other Member State. There will be regular calls for the selection of projects in each Member State according to the following general **selection guidelines**:

- **Innovation**: this would be benchmarked against the strategic lessons of previous related work carried out within the Community Initiatives
- **Empowerment**: direct and active participation in all phases of the project of those most directly concerned by the fight against labour market discrimination and inequalities
- **Integrated Approach**: any solution to the problems of discrimination and inequalities in connection with the labour market requires a holistic approach. This implies that projects must integrate a range of actions (ranging potentially from diagnosis, guidance, and training, to enterprise creation and risk capital, ...)

Action 1: a preparatory phase lasting 1 to 6 months which should concentrate on the creation or consolidation of effective labour market development partnerships.

The development partnerships (DPs) should be established either within a geographical area or a sector, drawing together different relevant agencies (public - including local authorities -, private and voluntary). Each DP would plan a variety of separate actions that would, together, address the problem of inequality and discrimination in connection with the labour market in a comprehensive way. For this approach to be effective, projects should be large enough to involve a representative range of relevant key actors and to create a critical mass of innovative action

In parallel, appropriate transnational partners from at least one other Member State should be identified and involved in the project. Transnational co-operation between partners may include: comparison of the effectiveness of processes, methods and tools related to the chosen theme; mutual transfer and application of best practice on the chosen theme; exchanges of beneficiaries, trainers and managers of projects; joint development of products, processes, strategy and methodology ; common dissemination of results, visibility materials and events

At the end of Action 1, the partners involved must sign a partnership agreement setting out the role of each partner, the way the partnership will operate, and the project work programme to be implemented during Action 2.

Action 2: If the partnership agreements demonstrate that they fulfil the conditions of transparency, representative capacity and co-operative spirit, the initial selection will be confirmed and the development partnerships will launch the operational phase. This can last between 18 months and three years, during which time the work programme established under Action 1 will be implemented. This action should include on-going assessment and analysis of results

Action 3: It is mandatory for all development partnerships to participate in networking, dissemination and mainstreaming activities organised by the relevant national authority. Development partnerships will receive separate funding for such activities that they will implement either singly or in groups.

The ESF will be the Structural Fund to finance development partnerships under EQUAL. In order to achieve the maximum effectiveness of the planned activities, actions normally eligible under the ERDF, EAGGF Guidance or FIG rules, particularly in regard to local development, may be considered eligible.

How to apply

Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the Equal programmes implemented in the Member States: the focal point for detailed information on application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The EU contribution to this Initiative is budgeted with 2,847 million euro.

Grant rates are between 15% and 85%, in exceptional cases.

Websites for further information

Website of the Commission's Employment and Social Affairs Directorate-General:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/index_en.htm

Under "A-Z Index" you will find a link to Equal and a link to calls for tender:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/az_en.htm

Equal is financed through the Structural funds. The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds 2000 – 2006 such as the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REGENERATION IN URBAN AREAS (URBAN)

Short description

Urban is intended to help find solutions to the serious social problems caused by the crisis in many depressed urban areas by supporting schemes for economic and social revitalisation, the renovation of infrastructures and facilities, paying particular attention to actions aimed at promoting equality of opportunity, at tackling long-term unemployment and at environmental improvement.

Relevance to tourism

Of the eligible measures the following could be relevant for tourism:

- Infrastructure and environment linked to the above: renovation of buildings and cultural heritage; restoration of public areas, including green areas; reclamation of derelict and contaminated land; provision of cultural, recreational and sporting facilities
- Integrated public transport and communications
- Launching of new economic activities in public/private partnerships (particularly for integrated economic development programmes)
- Employment for local people: appropriate training; programmes to provide work experience for the long-term unemployed, job-intensive projects
- Waste minimising and treatment; efficient water management and noise reduction

Who may apply

Private and public bodies as well as voluntary organisations.

The urban areas to be supported may be located either within or outside areas eligible for support under Objectives 1 and 2. The Commission intends to part-finance a limited number of urban projects in geographically identifiable areas or administrative units:

- the maximum number of urban areas to be covered under the Initiative shall be in the order of 50; the population coverage of each urban area shall be at least 10,000
- objective 1 regions enjoy priority (the list of objective 1 regions are on the following website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/ag2000/carte_en.htm)
- suffering from high rates of unemployment, a decaying urban fabric, poor housing and a lack of social facilities

Exceptionally, smaller towns suffering from overall economic decline could be included among the areas eligible under Urban. Each Member State will send a limited list of proposed projects, in agreement with the local and other authorities concerned.

The projects, which will normally run for four years, should have a demonstrative character for other urban areas and priority will be given to innovative projects forming part of a long-term strategy for urban integration.

How to apply

Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the Urban programmes implemented in the Member States: the focal point for detailed information on application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The EU contribution for 2000-2006 is budgeted with 700 millions euro.

Project grants are up to 75% of the total cost in the Objective 1 regions and up to 50% elsewhere.

Websites for further information

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/urban/>

Guidelines on URBAN Community Initiative 2000-2006:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbdoc/docoffic/official/urban2/index_en.htm

The following is the website of the Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General including a link ("Agenda 2000") to the principal texts relating to the reform of the Structural Funds, the revision of the Cohesion Fund and the creation of the pre-accession structural instrument for 2000-2006:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contacts, funding) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds 2000 – 2006 such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR LINKS BETWEEN ACTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL ECONOMY (LEADER+)

Short description

The objective of Leader+ is to encourage, on the basis of local partnerships, the emergence of and experimentation with rural territorial development strategies that are integrated and in a pilot form. These new models of rural development will be disseminated and would increase their value through a significant level of networking. The initiative will encourage inter-territorial and transnational co-operation.

Relevance to tourism

In the past Leader already supported rural development and was based on development projects carried out by groups working at local level. Under the first Leader programme, out of a total of 217 so-called *Local Action Groups* a third had included the development of rural tourism in their projects. Almost all Leader programmes in the Member States included measures in tourism (under the first Leader programme almost 40% of the budget was devoted for measures for rural tourism).

The current Leader+ programme is structured around the following three strands:

- A. Support for integrated development strategies of a pilot nature for rural territories relying on the bottom up approach and the horizontal partnership with focus on:
 - new information technologies
 - improving the quality of life in rural areas
 - value enhancement of local products
 - development of natural and cultural resources
- B. Co-operation between rural areas:

This strand concerns co-operation within the same country (inter-territorial co-operation) or between territories from different countries (transnational co-operation) demonstrating a real added value.
- C. Creation of networks of actors and the setting up of a European observatory of rural areas, responsible for the animation of the network:

The networking of all rural territories of the European Union as well as all rural development actors, whether or not they will be beneficiaries under the new Community Initiative, will allow the exchange and transfer of experience, will stimulate interregional and transnational co-operation and will inform its members of the changes affecting the rural world and the responses to these changes.

Who may apply

Leader+ is applicable in all rural areas of the Community. It seeks to concentrate on areas demonstrating a real willingness and capacity to experiment with new and original forms of territorial development. Quality criteria and rigorous methods of selection will be used in this search.

Beneficiaries

The Local Action Groups, i.e. a combination of public and private partners jointly devising a strategy and innovative measures for the development of a rural area on the scale of a local community (less than 100,000 inhabitants) will continue to be the main beneficiaries.

Transnational co-operation as envisaged under strand B shall apply to Local Action Groups belonging to at least two Member States.

The beneficiaries of the new Initiative shall be under the obligation to participate actively in the dissemination and transfer of their experiences as envisaged under strand C. It may also be possible to envisage a system of “sponsorship/twinning” between old and new local action groups to ensure the considerable experience they have acquired is not lost.

Eligible measures

Minimum requirements relating to the development strategy under strand A are:

- the strategy must be integrated in the sense that it should not merely be a sum of projects but a global approach based on the interaction between actors, sectors and projects
- the strategy must demonstrate its foundation and coherence with the territory, its economic viability, its sustainable character (in environmental terms), its pilot character and more particularly its specificity and originality in relation to the operations of the mainstream programmes as well as the transferable nature of the methods proposed

Co-operation actions under strand B shall be eligible when they are dedicated to a clearly defined theme. They will allow, inter alia, the attainment of a critical mass for the implementation of the project. These co-operation actions cannot consist of a mere exchange of experiences but should consist of the implementation of a common action.

How to apply

Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the Leader+ programmes implemented in the Member States: the focal point for detailed information for the list of eligible regions and for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions. Direct links to national contact points are provided on the websites below.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The Member State and the EU will jointly finance the new Initiative. The total Community allocation is 2,020 million euro.

The rates of co-financing are up to 75% of the total eligible cost in the regions covered by Objective 1 and up to 50% in other areas.

Websites for further information

This is the website of the Community Initiative Leader+:

<http://www.rural-europe.aeidl.be>

A direct link to relevant contact points like National Co-ordination Units, the Local Action Groups and administrations in charge of Leader+ is provided here:

<http://www.rural-europe.aeidl.be/rural-en/contact.htm>

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds 2000 – 2006 such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

The following is the website of the Commission's Agriculture Directorate-General:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg06/rur/index_en.htm

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR TRANS-EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT (INTERREG)

Short description

The overall aim of the Interreg Initiative is that national borders should not be a barrier to the balanced development and integration of the European territory.

The main objectives or “sections” of this Initiative are:

Section A promoting concerns cross-border co-operation, including external and maritime borders;

Section B contributing to harmonious territorial integration across the EU;

Section C aiming at reinforcing interregional co-operation, and by the same token, to improve the policies and techniques of interregional economic development;

Where accession candidate countries, other Eastern European countries and Mediterranean countries co-operate with EU countries in the framework of Interreg *Phare* (see page 125), *Tacis* (see page 138) respectively *Meda* (see page 119) are the sources of funding.

Relevance to tourism

This initiative is open to all sectors, and projects for training and employment in tourism are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions.

Tourism-relevant objectives per section:

Section A:

- to promote urban, rural and coastal development
- to encouraging entrepreneurship and the development of small firms (including those in the tourism sector) and local employment initiatives
- to promote environmental protection, energy efficiency and renewable energies
- to improve transport (especially more environmentally friendly modes), telecommunications, water and energy systems

Strand B:

- to promote efficient and sustainable transport systems and improved access to the information society, especially with a view to promoting communication among insular and peripheral regions
- to promote the preservation of the environment and good management of natural resources, in particular water resources

Strand C:

- co-operation actions related to other topics to be defined by the Commission such as research, technological development and SMEs; the information society; tourism, culture and employment; entrepreneurship and environment, etc.

Who may apply

Private and public organisations as well as voluntary bodies.

How to apply

Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the Interreg programmes implemented in the Member States: the focal point for detailed information for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The EU contribution for the new Initiative is budgeted with 4,875 millions euro. The financial resources for the new Initiative will be principally allocated to strand A.

Project grants are up to 75% of the total cost in the Objective 1 regions and up to 50% elsewhere.

Websites for further information

This is the website of the Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General including a link ("Agenda 2000") to the principal texts relating to the reform of the Structural Funds, the revision of the Cohesion Fund and the creation of the pre-accession structural instrument for 2000-2006:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contacts, funding) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds 2000 – 2006 such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SERVICE (CORDIS)

Short description

Operating under the 5th Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (see page 39) and here in particular under the *Innovation/SMEs Programme*, CORDIS is aimed at all those wishing to participate in, or benefit from, EU research activities. These services, together with a number of products tailored specifically to the needs of SMEs (e.g. Research and Innovation Support Measures for SMEs and the Technology Stimulation Measures for SMEs Home Page), can help small businesses:

- Obtain background information on EU research and innovation programmes and policies
- Keep abreast of activities and developments within the programmes (calls for tender, research findings, events, etc.) and with general policy issues
- Identify potential funding sources for research projects and other activities
- Find partners to co-operate in specialised research activities and share expertise
- Form transnational consortia for exploitation of research results
- Licence out technology to create additional revenue streams
- Licence in technology to save development time and costs

The 9 CORDIS databases can be accessed directly through the easy-to-use CORDIS server. Many other useful services can also be accessed through the CORDIS home page.

Relevance to tourism

CORDIS facilitates access to the 5th Framework Programme for Research & Technical Development which includes specifically the *Tourism and Transport domain* as well as to such programmes as *Life* (see page 115) or *Esprit* which include a significant number of projects concerning tourism.

Websites for further information

This is the address of the CORDIS server:

<http://www.cordis.lu>

The website of the 5th Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (see page 39) is the following:

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5>

The following website is especially designed for SMEs and presents the SME specific measures under the 5th Framework Programme (*Innovation/SMEs Programme*):

<http://www.cordis.lu/sme>

This website informs on *Esprit*, another EU information technologies programme and by entering the word "tourism" into the "search projects database" option the user can view all tourism projects so far:

<http://www.cordis.lu/esprit/home.html>

For information technologies projects also contact the following websites on e-commerce and click on "Projects & actions":

<http://www.ispo.cec.be/ecommerce/Welcome.html>

The *Information Society Promotion Office* has the following website:

<http://www.ispo.cec.be>

ECO-LABEL

Short description

The Scheme is a part of a broader strategy aimed at promoting sustainable consumption and production.

At the core of the Eco-label scheme are the different product groups for which ecological criteria have been developed. The label is a flower on the products that guarantees their friendly impact on the environment. To-date, over 200 products have received the ecological label.

Websites for further information

On the website <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/index.htm> under “work schedule for 1999” you can see that the extension of this scheme to the tourism sector is under discussion.

On this website there are also hyperlinks to contact points, news releases and stakeholders.

ENERGIE

Short description

Funding of new activities under the *Joule-Thermie* Programme (1994-1998) has now concluded but the European Commission's activities in the field of energy are being continued through *Energie*. It is a new scheme within the 5th *Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development 1999-2002* (see page 39) and is part of the 4th thematic sub-programme *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development*.

Energie is organised principally around two "key actions" (KA), *Cleaner Energy Systems, including Renewable Energies*, and *Economic and Efficient Energy for a Competitive Europe* supplemented by co-ordination and co-operative activities of a sectoral and cross-sectoral nature.

Cleaner energy systems, including renewables (KA-5)

The aim of this key action is to minimise the environmental impact of the production and use of energy in Europe. Action will be taken to investigate cleaner, most notably renewable, energy sources, as well as to help reduce the environmental impact of existing fossil fuel use. Work will focus by way of priority on:

- large-scale generation of electricity and/or heat with reduced CO² emissions from coal, bio-mass or other fuels, including combined heat and power
- development and demonstration, including for the purposes of decentralised generation, of the main new and renewable energy sources, in particular bio-mass, fuel-cell, wind and solar technologies
- integration of new and renewable energy sources into energy systems
- cost-effective environmental abatement technologies for power production

Economic and efficient energy for a competitive Europe (KA-6)

The aim of this key action is to establish a reliable, efficient, safe and economic energy supply. Action will need to be taken at every stage of the energy cycle - production, distribution and final use - to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Work will focus by way of priority on:

- technologies for the rational and efficient end-use of energy
- technologies for the transmission and distribution of energy
- technologies for the storage of energy on both the macro and the micro scales
- improved exploration, extraction and production efficiency for hydrocarbons
- improving the efficiency of new and renewable energy sources

- the elaboration of scenarios on supply and demand in economy/environment/energy systems and their interactions, and the analysis of the cost-effectiveness (based on whole-life costs) and efficiency of all energy sources.

Relevance to tourism

Amongst the activities to which special attention will be given under the 5th Framework Programme, the areas of marine research, urban issues, transport and energy technologies are most relevant to tourism.

In particular, support is available for innovative systems for the use of renewables and for innovations in the rational use of energy. This could be of relevance to certain activities in the tourism sector (energy & resources management in hotels, leisure parks,...).

Who may apply

This programme is open to private and public bodies. Firms, in particular SMEs, research centres and universities with appropriate involvement in tourism and energy related projects could apply. "SME Co-operative" research projects enable at least three mutually independent SMEs from at least two Member States or one Member State and one Associated State to jointly commission research carried out by a third party.

Consortia can agree among themselves to integrate, at the conception stage, a group of proposals focused on a common objective and constituting a potential cluster. The content of each single proposal must be presented in the same way as would be any individually proposal submitted. Each proposal part of a potential cluster will be evaluated normally, as all other proposals, according to the same selection criteria mentioned in the relevant call for proposals.

A second possibility is the clustering during the contract negotiation of independently submitted and selected proposals. This will be on the initiative of the Commission, on the basis, inter alia, of expert opinions and with the full agreement of the participants.

Proposals corresponding to, or overlapping unnecessarily with, previously or currently EC-funded projects are likely to be rejected. It is the responsibility of the proposers to avoid such overlaps.

How to apply

See websites below.

Programme duration

1999-2002

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The indicative budget available for KA-5 *Cleaner energy systems, including renewables* is 95.4 million euro and for KA-6 *Economic and efficient energy for a competitive Europe* 109.1 million euro.

Grants can cover up to 50% of the total project costs.

Websites for further information

This website also includes a link to calls for proposals:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/prog5/index.htm>

On the 4th thematic programme "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development" (see page 70) including a link to calls for proposals:

<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/home.html>

Co-operation with countries outside the EU:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/thirdcou.htm>

ENERGY FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Short description

The *Multiannual Energy Framework Programme (1998 – 2002)* includes programmes such as the *Synergie* programme on international energy co-operation (see page 137), the *Altener* programme concerning the promotion of renewable energy (see page 42), and the *Save* programme aiming to promote energy efficiency (see page 129).

Contact point

e-mail: ronan.harbison@cec.eu.int

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Short description

Like large enterprises, SMEs are subject to national and Community regulations on environmental protection. In order to help them comply with these requirements, the Commission's environmental policy services have made a group of specialised Euro Info Centres (EICs) responsible for preparing a self-analysis tool and for increasing the awareness of the SMEs of the system of management and environmental audit.

The contribution of the Euro Info Centres has been to draw up a self-evaluation guide (on paper and on disk) to environmental performance for heads of firms, particularly SMEs. Most of these enterprises have not yet adopted a particular strategy in this area, since they see in it more threats than potential opportunities. However, the Guide is intended to raise the profile of environmental management by making enterprises aware of the range of benefits, both to the environment and to their business, which can flow from a thorough and positive approach to this issue (EMAS - Eco-Management and Audit Scheme).

Addresses for further information

Contact your nearest **Euro Info Centre** (see pages 79 and 144) or the European Commission's Environment Directorate-General, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

Short description

Although DG XI **did not devote funding for this area** in 1999 it had supported in 1997 and 1998 some projects that are related to tourism that are presented below.

Other funding opportunities, e.g. to non-governmental organisations, can be found on the website below.

The Blue Flag Campaign

It started in 1987 with 10 countries. Today, you can find the Blue Flag at beaches and marinas in 18 countries in Europe. Since the beginning the Blue Flag Campaign has aimed to:

- improve the understanding and appreciation of the coastal environment
- promote the incorporation of environmental concerns in decision-making

The Blue Flag Campaign is a private initiative under the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE) and is operated in each country by the national FEEE-member organisation. The Campaign gives an award - the Blue Flag - on the basis of criteria on:

- environmental education and information (e.g. information on bathing water quality and the local environment, tours and activities that raise awareness)
- environmental management (e.g. waste, nature protection, sewage treatment)
- water quality (for beaches clean bathing water of a specified quality)
- safety and services (e.g. lifesaving equipment, toilet facilities, first aid)
- environmental tourism at medium- and high-mountain altitudes

Conference "South meets North"

This dialogue on sustainable development provided public and private actors from the entire Mediterranean area with innovative and successful practical examples of sustainable development, whose logic and method can be implemented in the South.

Integrated pilot project

For the certification of the environmental quality of certain municipalities and tourist enterprises of the Emilia-Romagna region in compliance with the EEC regulation 1836/93-EMAS and the standard ISO 14000 and exchange of experience and dissemination of results to the EU seaside resorts.

Support for EU environmental organisations

The aim of these financial contributions was to provide support towards the costs inherent in carrying out the activities provided for in the annual work programme of European non-governmental organisations whose principal activity is in the field of environmental protection. Organisations had to be independent and non-profit making, operating at a European level, with an environmental objective aimed at the public good. Many of these organisations were actively working in tourism (such as EEP, ECOTRANS, Friends of the Earth)

Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP)

This was a framework programme for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It was adopted unanimously by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Helsinki on the 28 November 1997.

The SMAP was intended to become the common basis for environmental purposes (as regards both policy orientation and funding) in the Mediterranean region. The Partners have selected by consensus the following five priority fields of action for the SMAP: Integrated Water Management, Waste Management, Hot Spots (covering both polluted areas and threatened bio-diversity elements), Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and Combating Desertification.

Websites for further information

The website of the Environment Directorate-General informs on its organisation, policy areas, publications, funding opportunities and useful links. There you can also find a complete list of projects on environmental information and awareness raising:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/>

If you want to contact the Environment Directorate-General by e-mail for information on the above-mentioned actions:

dgxiweb@cec.eu.int

EURES

Short description

Eures links more than 500 "Euro-advisors" who specialise in employment issues and offer the following services:

- Dissemination of information about job opportunities in the European labour market
- Information on living and working conditions in all the countries within the EEA
- Counselling and advice on European labour mobility issues
- Recruitment and information services to employers wishing to recruit in other countries

Relevance to tourism

EURES covers all sectors including tourism. The programme is particularly interesting to the tourist sector as mobility has traditionally been important. Some Public Employment Services (PES) have also developed bilateral projects under EURES in order to solve some regional or national bottlenecks in the tourism sector (e.g. Greece/Austria, Spain/Germany, Ireland/Austria etc.).

The EURES network also includes 19 local partnerships in cross-border regions (for more detail, consult the website below) and some of these are also active in the promotion of cross-border work in the tourism sector.

Who may apply

Employers and jobseekers.

How to apply

Access to the services is not direct but via Euro-advisors (to locate your nearest Euro-advisor consult the website below).

Programme duration

Currently, there is no expiry date foreseen.

Websites for further information

The Eures homepage includes a database with around 30.000 European job offers on-line.

If the cross-border job offers (addressed to specific EEA borders) are taken into account, the total number of job-offers available in the database is around 180.000, of which tourism accounts for more than 27.000 offers, 15 % of the total of job-offers.

Information on living and working conditions in all the EEA countries, and links to national PES sites are also available:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/elm/eures/index.htm>

Website of the Commission's Employment and Social Affairs Directorate-General:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/index_en.htm

Under "A-Z Index" you will find a link to "Eures".

EURO INFO CENTRES (EICS)

Short description

Totalling 275, EICs are to be found throughout the European Economic Area mainly accommodated within public institutions (Chambers of Commerce and Industry, development agencies,...) or well established private institutions. The network is represented by 19 Correspondence Centres (EICCs) in Central and Eastern European Countries as well as in the Mediterranean area.

Under the Commission's 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37) the Commission has appointed Euro Info Centres as *First-stop shops*. If an SME has a question, needs an opinion, advice or assistance, or wants to submit a dossier with any EU relevance it should contact the nearest EIC. EICs help to transform the various European regulations into concrete actions, advice on the setting up of projects and putting together dossiers, for example, for public procurement, or for participation in European programmes and projects. They also assist SMEs with partner search and therefore work regularly in conjunction with other SME oriented networks, i.e. the *Business Co-operation Network*, the *Bureau de Rapprochement des Entreprises* (see pages 50 and 48), the *Europartenariat* and *Interprise* events (see pages 82 and 107). When very specific assistance is required EICs must refer SMEs to other specialised networks or organisations.

Relevance to tourism

The network is open to all sectors. The EICs are an important instrument for informing, advising and assisting SMEs in the tourism sector. Some examples from the range of activities for tourism-related SMEs are an information seminar on environmental management in the hotel sector, the promotion of co-operation between European and regional tour operators, expertise in financial engineering for tourist firms, a survey on EIB financing opportunities for tourism enterprises, a "Tourism On-line" seminar for tourism SMEs, the development of a "model hotel" for the "Eco Management Guide" or the promotion of tourism in a transnational region.

Who may contact

Every SME can address an EIC for information, advice or assistance with regard to the European Union.

How to contact

Any business can dial-up free of charge the respective national *green information number* (see websites below and page 144) and ask for the nearest EIC.

Websites for further information

More information on the EIC network's geographical coverage, organisation, tasks, expertise and activities can be found under the following addresses:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/bus_info/bus_info.html

<http://eic.cec.eu.int/>

If you want to directly contact an EIC by e-mail visit the Internet site *Dialogue with Business*:

<http://europa.eu.int/business>

This website provides you with an e-mail link to the EIC of your choice:

<http://europa.eu.int/business/en/advice/eics/index.html>

A list of the national green information numbers is available on the following website:

<http://eic.cec.eu.int/EN/Network/promotion/freephones.htm#top>

EUROMARKETING GUIDE

Short description

The Euromarketing guide provides case studies (both successes and failures) and guidelines on existing opportunities.

Relevance to tourism

The Euromarketing guide is not sector-specific but aims specifically at SMEs. Therefore it may also be of use to tourism SMEs.

How to obtain the guide

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
Rue Mercier 2
L-2985 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 29 29-1
Fax. (352) 49 57 19

Website of the Publication Office:

<http://eur-op.eu.int/index.en.htm> (including a public tenders link)

EUROPARTENARIAT

Short description

The action, that has been created under the Commission's 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37), provides for biannual two-days-events where chief executives of SMEs are offered a number of pre-arranged face-to-face meetings with interested counterparts coming from other countries. Institutions and organisations involved in organising Europartenariat employ experts who identify and/or define the real interest and value of potential partners.

Visiting companies pay only for their travel and accommodation expenses.

On average, 30-40% of enterprises in the host region conclude co-operation agreements as a result of a Europartenariat.

The Commission takes decisions on the future locations of Europartenariats on the basis of official requests from authorities of the Member States.

Affiliated events called *Med-*, *Asia-*, and *Al-Partenariat* shall help intermediary bodies in Europe and the Mediterranean non-EU countries, Asian, and Latin American countries to organise business meetings based on the formula of Europartenariat thus encouraging commercial relations between the EU and the respective regions (see page 119).

Relevance to tourism

The event is open to all sectors and tourism SMEs can participate.

Location and priorities of future events can be ascertained through the contacts listed on the website quoted below or through the nearest **Euro Info Centre**. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Who may apply

Chambers of commerce and industry, local, regional or national development agencies, employers' federations, business and innovation centres, *Euro Info Centres*, export promotion agencies, research, innovation and technology centres, and consultants.

The selected contractor identifies and selects 300-400 SMEs in the host region, which meet the specific criteria for participating in Europartenariat (established SMEs that look for business co-operation).

5-6 months before the event a multi-lingual catalogue is produced, which present the profiles of the selected SMEs and their co-operation projects. A network to promote the Europartenariat is set up, consisting of selected national counsellors in the participating countries. These national counsellors are responsible for the dissemination of the catalogue among SMEs and for registering businesses interested in meeting companies listed in the catalogue.

How to apply

The Commission selects the organiser of an Europartenariat upon a proposal by a Member State authority.

A business interested in participation in a Europartenariat should apply with an official form via an Europartenariat national counsellor.

Programme duration

1997-2000 (a 4th Multiannual Business and SME Programme is in draft).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total budget of the event is normally around 3 million euro.

The Commission provides two thirds of the total budget for the event, with one third provided by the host country. For the participation of SMEs from other countries to Europartenariat, funding may be requested from the *Phare*, *Tacis* (see pages 125 and 138), *Meda*, *Asia-Invest* and *Al-Invest* programmes (see page 119).

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/bus_cooperation/bus_cooperation.html

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND (EAGGF)

Short description

The EAGGF is divided into two sections: the *Guarantee Section* finances price support measures, export refunds to guarantee farmers stable prices, while the *Guidance Section* grants subsidies for rationalisation schemes, modernisation and structural improvements in farming as well as measures of rural development.

Relevance to tourism

Projects supported in the past concerned, for example, development of a tourism product around mountain hiking or the adaptation of canals for water sports or farm tourism. Other measures eligible for financing under the EAGGF Guidance section may also make an indirect contribution to the development of rural tourism, e.g. the renovation and development of villages, the protection and conservation of the rural heritage, measures to protect the natural environment of rural areas, the Community-wide dissemination of knowledge, experience and results of work done for rural development as well as the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Who may apply

The EAGGF Guidance Section supports projects in Objective 1 regions.

How to apply

Funding through the EAGGF is implemented by the Member States. Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the *Mainstream National Programmes*: the focal point for detailed information for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Grant rates for projects

The grant rates per project vary between 15% and 85%, in exceptional cases, of the total project costs.

Websites for further information

The following is the website of the Commission's Agriculture Directorate-General:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg06/index_en.htm

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

More specific information on rural development and tourism:

<http://www.rural-europe.acidl.be>

EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK (EBN/BIC NETWORK)

Short description

The aim of the EBN/BIC Network is to reduce the high failure rate common to such risk enterprises. In 1994 around 100 BICs were operating throughout the EU and in other European countries. Full membership of the network is open to BICs but other organisations wishing to support regional development through the creation of innovative enterprises may join as associates. Individuals or organisations wishing to receive regular information concerning the network, or wanting to use EBN services (information services, publications, seminars, etc.) can become *Correspondents*.

The following information is available:

- a newsletter, "Network and Capitals", published three times a year in EN, FR, IT or ES (25 euro p.a. or 9 euro per issue)
- monthly bulletin (members only) in EN, FR, IT or ES
- calls for proposals, a digest of EC calls for tenders published in the Official Journal, bimonthly, available in English or French
- monthly newsletter available in English or French.
- directory profiling members
- a set of nine technical guides on different aspects of setting up an innovative company; the guides are available only to members and correspondents and cost 200 euro each

Relevance to tourism

The network is open to all sectors. Firms from the tourism sector may access the EBN and its services.

Who may contact

SMEs established in EU Member States or in non-member countries.

How to contact

See website and e-mail address below.

Websites for further information

<http://www.citizen.be/ebn/>

E-mail to the EBN/BIC Network Secretariat: ebn@ebn.be

EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE AND THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL MONTH

Short description

European City of Culture

The European City of Culture was launched by the Council of Ministers on 13 June 1985. The host cities of the European City of Culture event have been designated up to the year 2000. In 2000, in view of the large number of applications submitted and the particular symbolism of that year, the following nine cities have been jointly designated European City of Culture: Avignon, Bergen, Bologna, Brussels, Cracow, Helsinki, Prague, Reykjavik, and Santiago de Compostela.

Up to now, the European City of Culture has been an intergovernmental initiative, the choice of city being a political decision taken by the representatives of the Member States. But the cultural competence assigned to the Community by the Treaty on European Union (Article 128) requires that this event be placed in the Community framework. That is why, on 25 May 1999, the Parliament and the Council decided to establish a Community action for the *European Capital of Culture* for the years 2005 - 2019. This action envisages that each year a city will be chosen to carry out, possibly in association with other European cities, a cultural project on a specific European theme.

European Cultural Month

Furthermore, in response to the widespread interest in hosting the European City of Culture event, which was expressed by European cities both inside and outside the Community, the Ministers for Culture established the European Cultural Month in their conclusions of 18 May 1990. In 1999 the European Cultural Month took place in Plovdiv (Bulgaria).

Since 1991, the Commission has supported the network of European Cities of Culture and every year, the Community has made a contribution to the European City of Culture as well as to the city chosen to host the European Cultural Month in the context of the former *Kaleidoscope* programme.

Relevance to tourism

Designation as a City of Culture or as host to the Cultural Month is of direct benefit to the local tourism business as these European-wide promoted events increase the attraction to, and awareness of, the city concerned.

Who may apply

The proposals come from the Member States and the choice is made by the EU Council of Ministers responsible for cultural affairs. Then the Member States where the events take place designate the cultural organisations that will be responsible for the organisation and financing of the events.

How to apply

See second website below.

Programme duration

1991-continued (currently there is no expiry date foreseen).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The funding for the European City of Culture is conceived as a contribution to the overall events that take place during the year. EU contribution is symbolic, about 300,000 euro per year.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.htm

The text of the Parliament's and the Council's decision on the establishment of an action for the European Capital of Culture **including** the order of entitlement of the Member States to nominate such a Capital can be found on the following website:

http://europateam.cc.cec/eur-op/ojol/en/oj/1999/l_16619990701en.html

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)

Short description

Indicative aid programmes are agreed between the Commission and the benefiting states to set out the broad parameters and priorities of the Community's financial and technical co-operation facilitated by the EDF. Individual projects are similarly agreed on within this framework.

Relevance to tourism

Many of the projects in the ACP countries relate to tourism. The Commission's overall approach is indicated in its co-operation strategy for tourism development in these countries (*Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a EU strategy to support the development of sustainable tourism in the developing countries*, COM (1998) 563, 14.10.1998).

Who may apply

EU organisations and firms wishing to take part in EDF projects should register with the Commission (but this is not obligatory). Tender documents are drawn up by the recipient countries and agreed with the Commission. As most contracts are awarded through restricted tenders, firms wishing to be considered should establish their capacity with the Commission and request short-listing. Some ACP countries and regional bodies also maintain registers of companies for the purpose of contract tenders.

How to apply

See websites below

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The budget for the current "five-year-protocol" (1996-2000) amounts to 14.625 billion euro.

Websites for further information

This is the website of the Commission's Development Directorate-General:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm

The following website includes tourism projects identified for future funding by the European Development Fund and financial decisions taken recently by the Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/project/projectsector_332_en.htm

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

Short description

The EIB provides loans at market rates in two forms:

- global loans to financial intermediaries operating at national, regional or even local level; there are over 130 such intermediaries; the loan packages are used (in accordance with the Bank's economic, technical and financial criteria) to support small and medium-sized investments made by SMEs
- loans on larger projects around 25 million euro can be agreed directly with EIB headquarters

In particular, the global loans enable regional financing institutions to provide greater long-term loan finance than would be available without EIB resources. The EIB also finances projects in other countries, mainly in the Mediterranean countries and in Central and Eastern Europe.

Relevance to tourism

EIB financing covers all sectors. A significant share of the funds lent by the EIB has been directed towards the development of tourism-related activities. Loans have mainly concerned small and medium-sized hotel facilities. Other activities which may be eligible for loans include a wide variety of facilities to make regions more attractive to tourists: for example camping sites, ski-lifts and leisure areas and places of cultural or architectural interest with tourism potential.

Who may apply

Organisations in the private and the public sector.

Projects must be financially and economically viable. In addition to the loan conditions, projects seeking EIB support must be consistent with Community policy, notably regional development priorities and environmental protection requirements, for example the environmental impact of the project must be assessed.

How to apply

SMEs should contact the financial intermediary in their own area. For larger projects that may be eligible for direct loans the EIB should be contacted directly (see websites below).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

In 1997 alone the EIB provided total loans of 26.2 billion ECU.

Since 1990, SMEs have been benefited from nearly 45% of the financing granted to industry and services.

Long-term loans are granted up to 50% of the project costs and can be used in combination with national or Community grant aid.

Websites for further information

The following website includes a link to the European Investment Fund:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/financing/financing.html>

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/schemes.htm>

<http://www.eib.org>

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND (EIF)

Short description

As a public/private partnership and as a complement to the banking sector, with which it shares risk, the EIF acts on a commercial basis and in co-ordination with other EU financial institutions and instruments.

With regard to SMEs the Fund's objective is to promote their development by facilitating access to financial resources. This is mainly achieved by:

1. Providing guarantees (up to three times the amount of its subscribed capital) to financial institutions (known as financial intermediaries) in order to support medium and long term investment; in 1995, the pilot project *Growth and Environment*, under which the EIF provides a partial guarantee on loans to SMEs was launched. As a result loans to SMEs should be cheaper than unsecured loans and/or more easily available.
2. The EIF invests in specialised venture capital funds supporting the creation and development of high growth and technology oriented businesses. Since 1996, the EIF has also been able to participate in the equity of enterprises specialised in the financing of the SME capital; it invests funds both from its own resources and through *the European Technology Facility* which the EIF manages for the EIB.
3. The *ETF Start-up Facility* and the *SME Guarantee Facility* form part of the European Union's *Growth and Employment Initiative*. While the ETF Start-up Facility is investing in funds providing risk capital to smaller businesses, the *SME Guarantee Facility* is designed to increase the availability of and facilitate access to debt finance for small companies with job creation potential in Europe.

Relevance to tourism

The financial intermediaries are open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. The financial intermediaries can finance environment-related tourism undertakings as well as fast-growing tourism businesses with a priority given to SMEs with fewer than 100 employees.

Who may apply

The Fund usually provides a guarantee to a group of firms in a form agreed with each financial intermediary, rather than giving a direct guarantee for an individual SME. It is also expected that risk will be shared between the Fund and the financial intermediary.

1. *Growth and Environment*:
 - under this facility the EIF provides a partial guarantee on loans to SMEs with fewer than 100 employees (with a preference for SMEs with fewer than 50 employees) for investments resulting in significant environmental benefits

2. *European Technology Facility:*

- this facility acquires holdings in funds or venture capital companies raising from euro 15 million upwards, which specialise in providing equity for SMEs in their start-up phase or undergoing expansion especially those developing or using advanced technologies in industry or services
- the particular activity of this facility is in funds targeting early stage companies, it does not invest in funds focused on the MBO and LBO market
- venture capital funds are required not to invest more than 15% of their capital outside the European Union and to invest only in businesses with less than 500 employees, with net fixed assets not exceeding euro 75 million

3. *Growth and Employment:* this programme provides two facilities:

- the *SME Guarantee Facility* will cover any cost/losses incurred by guarantees issued by the EIF for loans granted by financial intermediaries in the Member States to SMEs with fewer than 100 employees; guarantees will normally be provided free of charge
- The *ETF Start-up Facility* aims to invest in venture capital funds such as:
 - smaller or newly established funds
 - funds operating regionally
 - funds focused on specific industries or technologies
 - funds financing the exploitation of R&D results e.g. funds linked to research centres and science parks
- venture capital funds need to be able to support adequate professional management, make a sufficient number of investments and be in a position to provide follow-on finance, they have to be commercially oriented and designed to be financially
- the EIF expects that funds will normally be raising at least euro 10 million but the facility may be available to certain smaller funds of euro 5 million upwards
- all the fund's investments must be in smaller businesses with less than 250 employees (with priority to those with less than 100 employees); either turnover not exceeding euro 40 million or net assets not exceeding euro 27 million; and with no more than 25% of their capital held by entities which do not meet these criteria

How to apply

<http://www.eib.org/proj.htm>

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The EIF has 2 billion euro initial authorised capital, of which 1.7 billion euro has actually been subscribed by its three categories of shareholders: the European Investment Bank (40%), the European Commission (30%) and financial institutions from the European Union's Member States (19.3%).

In June 1997, the total sum of the guarantee operations signed in favour of the SMEs amounted to 613.5 million euro.

1. *Growth and Environment:*

- 397 million euro of the said 613.5 million euro are for this pilot project

2. *European Technology Facility:*

- since 1997, under the first trench of 125 million euro, 85 million euro have been invested in 19 venture capital funds; in 1998, the Commission proposed to allocate 300 to 320 million euro over three years to enhance the guarantee activity and consolidate the ETF mechanism
- whilst the size of investment will depend on the size and characteristics of each fund, the EIF typically commits between euro 2 and 12 million for a minority position of up to 25% of the total capital

3. *Growth and Employment:*

- the amount allocated to the *SME Guarantee Facility* will be decided on an annual basis and is expected to reach a total of 150 to 190 million euro until 2002; guarantees are normally limited to 50% of the investment cost and are priced according to the perceived risk; the loans that are secured by such guarantees must have a minimum maturity of three years and be no larger than the equivalent of 1 million euro in national currency
- investment through the *ETF Start-up Facility* will normally be for 25% of the venture capital fund, with a minimum of 10%; a maximum amount of euro 10 million will be invested in any single fund; at least 50% of any venture capital fund must be raised from private sector sources and no single investor may account for more than 50% of the fund

Websites for further information

This is the website on the "Growth and Environment" pilot project which also describes the eligibility criteria:

<http://www.eif.org/sme/G&E.htm>

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/schemes.htm>

<http://www.eif.org>

E-mail: info@eif.org

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

Short description

Under the ERDF financial assistance for disadvantaged regions is mainly targeted at:

- supporting small and medium-sized enterprises
- promoting productive investment
- improving infrastructure
- furthering local development.

Relevance to tourism

Within Community programmes the ERDF is a major source for funding of tourism development. Many of the above mentioned Structural Funds programmes include special measures for tourism development (see *The Structural Funds and their co-ordination with the Cohesion Fund: Draft guidance for Programmes in the period 2000-06*, Part 1.II.C., *Tourism and culture*, and Part 3.B., *Rural development*, and C., *Synergies between rural and urban areas*). Some examples from the range of projects assisted in the period 1994 – 1999 include improvements of hotels, development of tourism infrastructure (golf courses, conference centres,...), restoration of cultural heritage, promotion of rural tourism, and support for both setting up and upgrading tourism SMEs (from 1994-1999 a total of 4.4 billion ECU respectively euro have been disbursed for tourism-related projects).

Who may apply

The ERDF only applies in regions eligible under objectives 1 and 2.

How to apply

Funding through the ERDF is implemented by the Member States. Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the *Mainstream National Programmes*: the focal point for detailed information for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Grant rates for projects

The grant rates per project vary between 15% and 85%, in exceptional cases, of the total project costs.

Websites for further information

This is the website of the Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General including a link ("Agenda 2000") to the principal texts relating to the reform of the Structural Funds,

the revision of the Cohesion Fund and the creation of the pre-accession structural instrument for 2000-2006:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

Short description

The ESF provides financial assistance for vocational training, work experience and placement schemes, training of teachers, trainers and public officials, employment counselling and job search assistance, employment aids and childcare facilities, schemes for developing or improving in-company training systems and structures, as well as research projects which anticipate and help plan for future workforce needs. These actions are targeted particularly at unemployed youth, the long-term unemployed, socially disadvantaged groups and women.

Programmes are planned by Member States together with the European Commission and then implemented through a wide range of provider organisations both in the public and the private sector. The main priorities for action are:

- to combat long term unemployment and exclusion from the labour market
- to develop the professional skills and qualifications of potential job seekers
- to promote equal opportunities in the labour market
- to foster the creation of new jobs
- to pre-empt unemployment by adapting workers to industrial change
- to improve education and training systems.

Relevance to tourism

ESF funded projects can support tourism development in regions eligible for Structural Fund assistance.

The ESF provides funding for developing human resources, for retraining and re-qualification of the labour force and aid for employment in the tourism sector, amongst others.

Who may apply

The ESF applies only in Objective 2 regions and under Objective 3. The regions eligible for financing under Objective 3 are those **not** covered by Objective 1. “Provider organisations” include national, regional and local authorities, educational and training institutions, voluntary organisations and the Social Partners i.e. trade unions and works councils, industry and professional associations, and individual companies.

How to apply

Funding through the ESF is implemented by the Member States. Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the *Mainstream National*

Programmes: the focal point for detailed information for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Grant rates for projects

The grant rates per project vary between 15% and 85%, in exceptional cases, of the total project costs.

Websites for further information

The following is the website of the Commission's Employment and Social Affairs Directorate-General including a link ("Agenda 2000") to the principal texts relating to the reform of the Structural Funds. Under the link "A-Z Index" you will find more information on the ESF:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/index_en.htm

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives 2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services)* or *Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis* on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

EUROPEAN VENTURE CAPITAL

Short description

As part of its efforts to improve access to financing for SMEs, the Commission has focused under its 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37) on stimulating the provision of seed and venture capital. This is seen as an efficient and low-cost way of mobilising substantial amounts of private capital that would not otherwise be available to SMEs.

Measures include the *CREA* (see page 127) and support for the establishment of EASDAQ, a European capital market for SMEs.

In order to maximise the effectiveness of its activities, the Commission works closely with the *European Venture Capital Association* (EVCA). The EVCA aims to act as a catalyst for the development of capital markets for entrepreneurial managed European companies, and specifically to:

- promote opportunities in the capital markets for entrepreneurial companies and encourage the active involvement of institutional investors, investment banks, securities dealers, investment funds, regulators, policy-makers and others
- facilitate the development of contacts among, and exchange of information between, these market participants
- assess the need for, and viability of, a permanent association
- develop a framework for exploiting the opportunities offered by capital markets for entrepreneurial companies
- help specify priority actions for both policy-makers and market participants

Furthermore, the EVCA is responsible for the activities of *the European Seed Capital Fund Network* (see page 128).

Relevance to tourism

The funds supported are open to all sectors and tourism projects may be eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Typical projects eligible for support by those funds are projects with a long development phase, often involving new technology. The funds supported also give management and financial support to SMEs in their creation phase prior to embarking on the development and innovation phases. In addition to seed capital, the funds supported provide business support services such as financial planning, advice on further sources of finance, market analysis and business strategy development.

Who may apply

Eligible participants are venture capital funds. They need to have at least 4 million euro available for investments in small enterprises with fewer than 50 employees and with a maximum of 50% of the capital being of public sector origin. Applicants must be from a

Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA). The services may be provided in the EEA and in the 11 countries applying to join the European Union.

How to apply

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/schemes.htm>

Under “Venture Capital” and “European Venture Capital Association” the various venture capital initiatives and how to apply are described.

Programme duration

Details on the duration of the various initiatives through the website listed below:

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/schemes.htm>

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The said financial units, with an investment capacity of 50 million euro, agree to reserve at least 20% for participation in SMEs.

Websites for further information

The following website also includes links to NASDAQ (Stock Exchange New York), "Nouveau Marché" (Stock Exchange Paris), "Deutsche Börse A.G." (Stock Exchange Frankfurt), "European Economic Interest Grouping", EASDAQ (Stock Exchange Brussels), "Alternative Investment Market" (Stock Exchange London):

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/financing/financing.html>

EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN JAPAN (ETP)

Short description

The ETP was created in 1979 and the EU executives trained through it should be able to give effective assistance to their organisations in penetrating the Japanese market. ETP forms an integral part of a series of measures and actions implemented by the Commission to improve access of European Union goods and cross-border services to Japan. This should contribute to reducing the Community's trade imbalance with Japan.

The programme comprises a stay of 18 months in Japan, including a 1-year intensive Japanese language course with company visits and university seminars on business practices society and culture. This is followed by 6-month internship in one or more Japanese companies.

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Tourism firms may be interested in view of the importance of the Japanese outbound tourism.

Who may apply

The programme is open to young European executives from Japan-export-orientated companies. Candidates must, in principle, have a university degree and a minimum of 2 years' professional experience. They must be employed, both before and after the programme, by a European Union company, the size of which is not relevant, as long as it exports or has clear plans to export goods or services to Japan. Candidates are expected to be between 25 and 37 years of age. A good knowledge of the English language is essential.

Companies must submit applications for their executives. A consultant company is in charge of pre-selecting candidates, taking both the candidate's and the company's profile into account.

How to apply

<http://www.etp.org/index.html> under "Proceed"

Programme duration

1979-continued (currently there is no expiry date foreseen). The 19th edition of the programme (ETP 19) will start in Japan in January 2000 while ETP 20 is expected to start in the first half of 2001.

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

For the first participant of any company the European Commission covers the cost of a monthly allowance, installation expenses and language tuition, amounting to some 110,000 euro. Travel costs are to be paid by the sponsoring company, which is expected to provide further financial support. Companies that have already sent an employee to

participate in the ETP are asked to contribute 50 % of the total cost for a second participant and the full cost for every additional participant.

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg01/pol72.htm>

<http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/dg01/eujapen10.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg01/eujapen10.htm>

www.etp.org

Contact point:

European Commission
External Relations Directorate General
Unit for Relations with Japan and Korea
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Contract award, pre-information and tender notices as well as calls for expression of interest:

<http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/trade/opportunities/grants/grantmanag.htm>

EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAMME TO JAPAN (EXPROM)

Short description

EXPROM consists of three main pillars: the *EU Gateway to Japan*, the *Export Promotion Campaign*, the *Executive Training Programme for Japan* (see page 101) and EXPROM "ad-hoc" activities.

EXPROM "ad-hoc" activities are intended to reinforce and supplement the "EU Gateway to Japan" campaign by helping EU industry to promote particular products and sectors not directly promoted under the Gateway campaign. However, the resources available for this purpose are limited. The European Commission co-finances projects (up to 50% of total eligible expenditure) on the basis of high quality, clearly focused proposals submitted by enterprises from EU Member States.

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. The mentioned "ad-hoc" activities can be applicable for marketing activities of the European tourism industry in Japan.

Who may apply

Tourism service exporting companies (e.g. travel agents). It should be noted, however, that proposals for projects should contain a clear European dimension, i.e. involvement of project partners from at least 4 - 5 Member States.

How to apply

See websites below

Programme duration

1979-continued (currently there is no expiry date foreseen).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

Funds available for "ad-hoc" projects in 2000 will be around 1 million euro

Websites for further information

<http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/dg01/eujapen10.htm>

<http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/dg01/gateway.htm>

<http://www.eu-gateway-to-japan.be/>

The following website includes the co-ordinates and an e-mail address of the responsible service within the Commission:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg01/pol30.htm>

European Commission
External Relations Directorate General
Unit for Relations with Japan and Korea
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

E-mail: johan.slotboom@cec.eu.int

Contract award, pre-information and tender notices as well as calls for expression of interest:

<http://www.cc.cec:8082/comm/trade/opportunities/grants/grantmanag.htm>

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR FISHERIES (FIFG)

Short description

Since 1994, the FIFG has grouped together the Community instruments for fisheries. It is applied in all coastal regions, its main task being to increase the competitiveness of the structures in the fisheries sector and to develop viable business enterprises in the fishing industry, while at the same time striving to maintain the balance between fishing capacities and available resources. Other measures such as the promotion and identification of new markets as well as other initiatives undertaken by the industry could also benefit from support.

Relevance to tourism

Since the FIFG also aims at diversifying economic activities, tourism projects may be eligible provided they meet the relevant criteria.

Who may apply

The FIFG applies in Objective 1 regions and contributes to structural actions in the fisheries sector outside Objective 1 regions.

How to apply

Funding through the FIFG is implemented by the Member States. Tourism-related projects must meet the objectives and priority criteria of the *Mainstream National Programmes*: the focal point for detailed information for application is thus in the Member States, and frequently the regions.

Contact the nearest **Euro Info Centre** for assistance to identify the responsible national authority. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet.

Grant rates for projects

The grant rates per project vary between 15% and 85%, in exceptional cases, of the total project costs.

Websites for further information

The following is the website of the Commission's Fisheries Directorate-General:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg14/dg14.html>

The INFOREGIO website includes detailed and up-to-date information (overview, news, documents, contact, funds) on the structural actions foreseen in the period 2000 – 2006:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int>

Find all news and relevant official documents on the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds such as the **lists of eligible areas**, the report *The Community Initiatives*

2000-2006 (Working document of the Commission services) or Reform of the Structural Funds 2000-2006 – Comparative analysis on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm

On this website you find information on what type of expenditure is covered by the Structural Funds:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prord/prords/eligible/elih_en.htm

INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG INDUSTRIES OR SERVICES IN EUROPE (INTERPRISE)

Short description

Created under the Commission's 3rd *Multiannual SME Programme* (see page 37) Interprise is based on the successful formula of the *Europartenariat* (see page 82) events. Under the programme every year around 30 smaller scale business co-operation events are organised. They often focus on a particular theme or industry sector and involve at least 3 regions of 3 Member States.

Like on *Europartenariat* events, heads of SMEs are offered a series of pre-arranged face-to-face meetings with counterparts coming from other countries. The aim of these meetings is to conclude co-operation agreements across borders and thus stimulate the transnational business activities of SMEs.

Affiliated events called *Med-Interprise* shall help intermediary bodies in Europe and the Mediterranean non-EU countries to organise business meetings based on the formula of Interprise thus encouraging commercial relations between the EU and the respective regions.

Relevance to tourism

The event is open to all sectors and an Interprise on tourism has been organised in the past. Location and priorities for future events can be ascertained through the contacts listed on the website quoted below or through the nearest **Euro Info Centre**. Page 79 explains what a Euro Info Centre is, and page 144 how to get in direct contact by phone or by Internet..

Who may apply

The selection procedure for the organiser and for the participating firms as well as the production of the catalogue with the company profiles and the subsequent promotion of the event goes more or less along the same lines as an *Europartenariat* event (see page 82).

The number of participating SMEs can be lower than in an *Europartenariat* but each of the three organising partners must recruit at least 15 companies from their respective region. That means that the identification and selection of firms is not only implemented in the host region, i.e. the region of the main organiser, but also in the regions of the partners.

Proposals should be submitted at least 9 months in advance of the actual event.

A "Vademecum" has been published which explains further details.

How to apply

The selection procedure for the organiser and for the participating firms as well as the production of the catalogue with the company profiles and the subsequent promotion of

the event goes more or less along the same lines as an *Europartenariat* event (see page 82).

Programme duration

1997-2000 (a 4th Multiannual Business and SME Programme is in draft)

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total budget of the programme is between 1.5 and 2 million euro per year.

The European Commission may subsidise an *Interprise* event with a maximum financial contribution of 60,000 euro. The contribution can never exceed 50% of the total budget for the event.

A subsidy of up to 40,000 euro can be granted for a *Med-Interprise* held in a Mediterranean non-EU country (see page 119).

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/bus_cooperation/bus_cooperation.html

INSTRUMENTS UNDER TRANSPORT POLICY

While there is no specific programme that provides funding for tourism projects, the activities of the Community in the field of transport have a substantial impact on the development of tourism.

The website of the Transport Directorate-General gives comprehensive information about relevant policies and actions, including measures directly relevant to tourism.

Websites for further Information

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg07/index.htm>

The following website informs on the Artist project (Agenda for Research on Tourism by Integration of Statistics and Strategies for Transport)

<http://www.t-ti.com/artist>

E-mail to the project co-ordinator: mva@inro.tno.nl

JOINT EUROPEAN VENTURE INITIATIVE (JEV)

Short description

The objective of joint ventures is to create new economic activities, involving investment and employment creation within the Community. The Community contribution is intended to cover some of the expenses occurred in setting up a joint venture. In January 1998, the Commission proposed to allocate a larger appropriation to JEV, thereby permitting to finance 1,500 – 2,000 projects.

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Tourism projects could include joint ventures developing and improving hotel infrastructures or the establishment of holiday villages, camping sites and joint ventures between tour operators.

Who may apply

The joint venture must be newly created by at least two SMEs from two different Member States. Transfers of existing economic activities and, similarly, purchases of existing enterprises are not eligible.

The partners must play an active part in the joint venture and assume an adequate measure of responsibility. Any joint venture in which one of the partners owns more than 75% will be ineligible. Any change in the holdings in the joint venture within three years following the signing of the contract with the Commission must be submitted to the Commission for a review of its financial participation.

Eligible expenses are those relating to the conception and setting-up of a joint venture:

- expenses incurred as part of the study (market surveys, preparation of the legal framework, environmental impact assessment, technical standards, business plans, ...),
- expenses for external experts
- expenses for internal experts (relating to travel abroad)

An investment is considered to be any purchase or production of tangible or intangible assets which are accounted for as fixed assets in the balance sheet of the joint venture and valued in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.

How to apply

http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/fos/jev/jev000_en.htm under “Contacts” and “Application forms”.

Programme duration

1997 – 2000

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

105 million euro are allocated. The maximum contribution per project shall be 100,000 euro covering:

- up to 50% of the eligible expenses, with a maximum of 50,000 euro
- up to 10% of the total amount of the investment made

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/fos/jev/jev000_en.htm

This website includes a link to the list of the financial intermediaries:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/financing/financing.html>

Direct e-mail link for information:

rudy.arnoudt@cec.eu.int

LATIN AMERICA ACADEMIC EDUCATION (ALFA)

Short description

Alfa (*Amérique Latine Formation Académique*) is a programme designed to facilitate the co-operation between institutions of higher education, the exchange of undergraduate and postgraduate researchers with a strong interest in pursuing an academic career as well as the co-operation between universities and enterprises.

Relevance to tourism

There are no explicit provisions for the tourism sector in the Alfa programme. As the programme deals with extending the level of education of highly qualified personnel, Alfa contributes to improvements in the fields of economic and social science. Higher tourism training and education institutions may benefit where they are linked to these fields.

Who may apply

Recognised institutes of higher education in the EU and Latin America. About 1,900 postgraduate and 350 graduate students benefit from the programme every year.

How to apply

Interested students should apply through participating institutes. See website <http://alfa-program.com> below under “Participating conditions”, “Additional information” and “Alfa Programme second phase site”.

Programme duration

2000-2005

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total allocation is 32 million euro.

Grants can cover up to 80% of the total costs of project. Participating institutions will have to contribute a minimum of 20% themselves.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/programmes_en.htm

<http://www.alfa-program.com/>

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Short description

The Leonardo da Vinci II programme has been adopted in April 1999 and will run from 2000 – 2006. The aim is to encourage the development of innovative policies and actions in the Member States through transnational partnership projects involving various organisations with an interest in training.

Of the range of activities for which grants will be available, the following are of greatest potential to tourism:

- Placement abroad for young people undergoing initial training and for young workers
- Transnational exchange programmes for national or regional public decision-makers designed to foster mutual understanding of how vocational training systems work
- Transnational pilot projects to foster innovation in training and to promote transfer of technological innovation
- Programmes of transnational exchanges of trainers and instructors between firms
- Transnational projects aimed at drawing up large-scale linguistic audits for firms or for socio-economic groups.

The target groups are the following:

- Apprentices and young people undertaking vocational training
- Young workers
- Students and young graduates
- Trainers, tutors or those responsible for vocational training in companies
- Language teachers
- Local, regional and national public-sector decision-makers
- Members of a trade union or an employers' federation

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all sectors and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. A network relating to continuing training in the tourism industry was already launched under the former *Force* programme. 30 projects relating to tourism were financed by Force following the 1991/1992 call, examining the impact of technological change on employment, skills and working methods.

In the period 1995 - 1999 nearly 3% of all projects under the Leonardo da Vinci programme had direct impact on tourism. With a total of 18 million euro more than 80 projects were funded.

Who may apply

Organisations and associations are considered to include all private or public vocational training players at national and Community levels. These include enterprises and their organisation, social partners at national and Community levels, training organisations, universities, public authorities and research centres and institutions.

No individual may present a project proposal for direct financial support from the programme.

How to apply

See the website below.

Programme duration

2000 – 2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The programme runs with a financial reference amount of 1,150 million euro.

There are different rules on financial support for each type of project, the basic principle being that the financial support of the Community is part of a co-financing approach.

For transnational pilot projects the Commission finances up to 75% of expenditure, the maximum funding being 200,000 euro per project per year (maximum project duration 3 years).

For transnational placement and exchange programmes the European Commission finances up to 5,000 euro per beneficiary for a placement or an exchange. The duration of placements is between three to twelve weeks, and exchanges from two to twelve weeks.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html and click on “Programmes and strategic initiatives”.

The website above also includes hyperlinks to calls for projects, for proposals and for expressions of interest.

LIFE

Short description

Life is a financial instrument for three major areas of action: environment, nature and countries outside the EU. While all three areas aim to improve the environment, each has its specific priorities. Life was running from 1996 to 1999 with a total budget of 450 million ECU respectively euro and was open to the accession candidate countries as well as to other countries.

A third phase is foreseen (Life III) but was still in the legislative process when this Internet Roadmap was finalised.

Relevance to tourism

Innovative projects designed to identify good practices included environmental labelling and logos in tourism, rural and coastal tourism, tourism in protected areas as well as tourism and mobility.

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/life/home.htm>

An overview of other funding opportunities for environmental projects can be found through the following website (choose your language):

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/>

Where possible, links are also provided to environment related funding opportunities in other services of the Commission. Given their specialised nature, actions for nuclear safety have not been included.

MARKET ACCESS DATA BASE

Short description

If you or your company are encountering an unfair barrier which is preventing you from entering a foreign market, as a first step we recommend that you register your problem in the relevant country section of the Market Access Database. The details will then be considered by our market access experts and a suitable action plan developed, with your co-operation.

Websites for further information

Contact point and registration:

<http://gats-info.eu.int/gats-info/contact.pl>

MEDIA

Short description

The Media II Programme provides a series of support measures dealing with:

- the training of professionals
- the development of production projects and companies
- the distribution of cinematographic works and audio-visual programme

It took over the reins of the Media I Programme (1991-1995) which helped the industry in taking advantage of a single market for audio-visual products and services in Europe.

Relevance to tourism

The relevance for tourism lies in the contribution of drama, documentary and animation productions to the promotion of tourist destinations.

Who may apply

Businesses that present drama, documentaries and animation (cinema and television) which are aimed at a European and world audience.

Independent producers which produce works (fiction, documentary and animation) involving the participation of at least two broadcasters from several Member States belonging particularly to different linguistic zones.

Particular support is granted to audio-visual works presenting an interest for the enhancement of European cultural diversity.

How to apply

See website below.

Programme duration

1996 – 2000 (a follow-up programme in support of the audio-visual industry called *Media Plus* will run from 2001-2005)

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The budget for Community funding for development and distribution is 265 million ECU respectively euro (additional 45 million euro for training but this is not relevant to tourism).

The Community contribution to a project shall not exceed 50 % of the total project costs. Financial support may be granted in the form of loans, repayable advances, or subsidies.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html

Comments and contact: alvaro.mason@cec.eu.int

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS, LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

Short description

Co-operation, association and other agreements

The following programmes are implemented under these agreements:

- MEDA
- ASIA-INVEST
- ASIA-URBS (see page 44)
- EU-INDIA
- AL-INVEST
- URB-AL (see page 142)

MEDA amongst many other measures finances the co-operation of Mediterranean countries with EU countries in the framework of *Interreg* (see page 64).

ASIA-INVEST, EU-INDIA and AL-INVEST specifically support **investment**.

Of the countries involved, the following are those most likely to provide opportunities for projects in the tourism sector:

- Mediterranean partners

Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the Palestinian Territories (Palestinian Authority). Libya is supposed to become a Partner in 2000.

- Asia

- West Asia: Yemen.

- South Asia: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal.

- ASEAN countries: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.

- Latin America

- Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

European Investment Bank (EIB)

In the case of the Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Cyprus, Malta) risk capital financing and conventional loans are provided under favourable conditions in order to encourage the development of private and public enterprises as well as partnerships between them and European companies. Risk capital

financing can be used to set up new companies, to finance investment in existing enterprises, to conduct feasibility studies or to carry out other research related to the establishment of new businesses. Risk capital is provided in two forms: *Global Allocations* and large *Project Loans* (see page 90).

Relevance to tourism

Mediterranean partners

On a bilateral level, national indicative programmes between the EU and Mediterranean Partners partly include tourism as a sector for funding by the MEDA Programme.

- On a regional level, two programmes offer funding for tourism:
- EUROMED Heritage (support for the conservation of Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage including promotion of cultural quality tourism)
- EUMEDIS (Euro-Mediterranean information society initiative with five main sectors of intervention; one of them being multimedia access to cultural heritage and tourism)

Applications for grants for regional co-operation should only be submitted in response to calls for proposals published in the Official Journal or on the Internet.

Latin America and Asia

In the past considerable amounts were allocated to tourism projects.

In the case of tourism, the guidelines for co-operation between the EU and Latin America and Asia focus on the development of mutually beneficial business between private sector operators on both sides. The commitment of the private sector is therefore an essential pre-requisite.

The preservation of local environments, culture and the observance of gender issues regarding the unemployment of women are essential conditions of assisted tourism programmes. Tourism projects approved in recent years included:

- review of manpower, training and future needs,
- upgrading of institutions in the industry,
- developing instructor training,
- marketing

European Investment Bank

A significant share of the loan finance and risk capital available through the EIB is used for projects in the tourism sector (see page 90).

Who may apply

Mediterranean partners

For MEDA funding, the public sector, semi-public sector and private sector - including NGOs - from the EU and all 12 Mediterranean Partners are eligible. Regional co-operation programmes require the participation of bodies or organisations of at least two EU Member States and two Mediterranean Partners.

Co-operation agreements

In the case of tourism the guidelines for co-operation between the EU and Asia and Latin America focus on the development of mutually beneficial business between private sector operators on both sides. The commitment of the private sector is therefore an essential pre-requisite.

The preservation of local environments, culture and the observance of gender issues regarding the unemployment of women are essential conditions of assisted tourism programmes. Tourism projects approved in recent years include:

- review of manpower, training and future needs,
- upgrading of institutions in the industry,
- developing instructor training,
- marketing

European Investment Bank

Private and public sector organisations from Mediterranean countries. Preference will be given to enterprises in joint ventures with EU enterprises. European partners in joint ventures with Mediterranean companies may also be eligible for risk capital assistance to a certain extent.

Interested organisations should contact the EIB financial intermediaries in the country concerned. For larger projects that may be eligible for direct loans and risk capital the EIB should be contacted directly (see page 90).

How to apply

See websites below.

Programme duration

Depending on the programme; see websites below.

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

Euro-Mediterranean programmes funded by the MEDA Programme

- Euromed Heritage (regional programme for the conservation of Euromed cultural heritage): The first phase includes 16 projects for a total of 17 million euro; the projects are selected through a call for proposals

- EUMEDIS (regional information society initiative): 45 million euro for five sectors of intervention; the projects are selected through a call for proposals.”

Co-operation agreements

For the period 1997 – 2000 a total of 42 million euro are allocated to the *Asia – Invest* programme.

European Investment Bank

About 100 million ECU respectively euro for the period 1998 – 2003 of which 80% are intended for local enterprises or local co-operative partnerships between Mediterranean and EU companies. The rest is destined for European partners (see page 90).

Websites for further information

Mediterranean partners

Information on the mentioned programmes Euromed Heritage and EUMEDIS:

<http://www.euromed.net>

http://www.ispo.cec.be/intcoop/i_med.html

Information on tenders:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/tender/index_en.htm

On the MEDA Programme:

<http://www.euromed.net>

Asia, Latin America and North - South co-operation

http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/programmes_en.htm

On the Asia-Invest programme:

<http://www.asia-invest.com>

Contact point for the Asia-Invest programme:

Asia-Invest Secretariat
Mr Luc Verschoore
Rue Archimède 17
B-1000 Brussels
fax: +32-2-282.17.60

Contact point for the AI-Invest programme:

AI-Invest Secretariat
Mr Bruno de Groot

Avenue de Tyras 75
B-1800 Brussels
tel.: +32-2-266.49.00
fax: +32-2-266.49.01

Information on contracts (Mediterranean partners, Latin America and Asia):

http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/contract_en.htm

For the website of the EIB please see page 91.

MUTUAL GUARANTEE COMPANIES

Short description

The Mutual Guarantee Company (MGC), whereby several enterprises club together in order to provide mutual guarantees for finance, is seen as a possible solution to these problems. It permits the re-appraisal of risk by companies with direct experience in the relevant sector, spreads the risk among more parties, reinforces the negotiating power of the members and favours an effective allocation of public subsidies.

In order to encourage the promotion, development and expansion of MGCs in the European Union, the Commission works closely with the European Mutual Guarantee Association (EMGA) whose main areas of activity are:

- supporting the setting-up of MGCs in countries where they do not yet exist;
- improving the weighting of risks and the qualification for guarantee offered by MGCs under European banking law;
- organising mutual guarantee orientation seminars;
- assessing existing mutual guarantee systems in the new Member States as well as extending their contacts in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The EMGA has also established contacts with the European Investment Fund which should take on several projects relating to the reinsurance of national mutual guarantee systems, and especially with the *Growth and Employment* programme (see page 92).

Relevance to tourism

Mutual guarantee companies can be founded in every sector. Through the establishment of a mutual guarantee company SMEs could obtain access to adequate finance at reasonable cost. The MGC could then provide the necessary guarantees required by banks. The European Mutual Guarantee Association (EMGA) supports the setting-up of MGCs in countries or regions where they do not yet exist.

Websites for further information

This website includes relevant contact points:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/financing/financing.html>

PHARE

Short description

The Phare Programme provides grant finance to support its partner countries. Phare provides know-how from a wide range of non-commercial, public and private organisations to its partner countries. Phare acts as a powerful catalyst by unlocking funds for important projects from other donors through studies, capital grants, guarantee schemes and credit lines. It also invests directly in infrastructure, which will account for more Phare funds as the integration process progresses.

The main priorities for Phare funding are common to all countries, and include restructuring of state enterprises including agriculture, private sector development, reform of institutions, legislation and public administration, reform of social services, employment, education and health, development of energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, and environment and nuclear safety.

Phare also finances the co-operation of accession candidate countries with EU countries in the framework of *Interreg* (see page 64) as well as in the framework of the *Tempus* programme (see page 140).

Relevance to tourism

In the Baltics, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria national Phare tourism programmes concentrated on following issues:

- Development of a national tourism strategy
- Legal and institutional development
- Training of tourism professionals
- Marketing/Promotion

In the Czech Republic and Slovenia where no national Phare programmes were implemented, tourism projects were included in the *Cross-border Co-operation Programmes* with neighbouring EU Member States (see *Interreg*, page 64).

Who may apply

Firms and institutions in EU Member States and the Phare beneficiary countries.

How to apply

Programme Management or Implementation Units (PMU / PIU) ensure implementation in the recipient states, under the supervision of the Commission. Service contracts are awarded through restricted tender procedures, except for small amounts of less than 50,000 euro that can be awarded through direct agreement. Organisations wishing to be considered for projects in the tourism field should establish their capabilities with the PIU or PMU in the recipient country and with the Commission.

Further information useful for organisations in determining their specific interests and capabilities including programme summaries, list of PMUs and country reports may be obtained from the Phare Information Office (see websites below).

Programme duration

1989-continued (currently no expiry date is foreseen).

Total allocation to the scheme

Originally allocated 4.2 billion euro for the 1990-1994 period, the Phare budget was increased to 6.693 billion euro for the 1995-1999 period. From ca. 4,177 million ECU¹ allocated between 1990-96 around 1% were for tourism programmes.

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/phare/index.htm>

Contact point:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/site/contacts/phare_tacis_info_centre.htm

Phare tender opportunities:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/work/index.htm>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/tender/index_en.htm

¹ Phare Information Unit, 26 June 1998

RISK CAPITAL FOR BUSINESS START-UPS (CREA)

Short description

CREA (*Capital Risque pour les Entreprises en phase d'Amorçage*) was launched under the 3rd Multiannual Programme for SMEs (see page 37). The action facilitates the access of small enterprises to seed capital in order to finance their creation or their transfer. A predecessor of CREA was the Seed Capital action, where the Commission invested in 23 funds. CREA will pursue the following 2 activities:

- stimulate the supply of equity finance for the creation and transfer of innovative smaller businesses (fewer than 50 employees) with growth and job creating potential by supporting seed capital funds or similar organisations;
- create a Community-wide network for seed capital funds and promote the exchange of best practices and training.

Relevance to tourism

The funds supported by CREA are open to all sectors and tourism projects may be eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Typical projects eligible for support by those funds are projects with a long development phase, often involving new technology. The funds supported by CREA also give management and financial support to SMEs in their creation phase prior to embarking on the development and innovation phases. In addition to seed capital, the funds supported by CREA provide business support services such as financial planning, advice on further sources of finance, market analysis and business strategy development.

Who may apply

Eligible participants are new or recently created seed capital funds (created after 1 October 1997). They need to have at least 4 million euro available for investments in small enterprises with fewer than 50 employees and with a maximum of 50% of the capital being of public sector origin. Applicants must be from a Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA). The services may be provided in the EEA and in the 11 countries applying to join the European Union.

How to apply

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/crea.htm>

Programme duration

1998 - 2000

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total allocation is 8 million euro.

The Commission will support the seed capital funds by helping them to cover their operating costs in their start-up phase. The Commission may cover up to 50% of the

operating costs, to a maximum of 500,000 euro over 3 years. Seed capital investments should stay in the invested company for a period of 5 years or more. If a fund should wish to withdraw from the investment sooner, the Commission should receive 10% of the capital gain for each early exit.

Websites for further information

<http://www.cordis.lu/finance/src/schemes.htm>

The following website includes a link to 23 seed capital funds in the Member States (*European Seed Capital Fund Network*):

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg23/financing/docs/seedcap.htm>

Direct e-mail link for further information:

rudu.arnoudt@cec.eu.int

SAVE

Short description

The Save programme has three main objectives:

- to meet the needs of individual and industrial users at lower cost
- to guarantee security of supply
- to ensure proper environmental protection

Of these objectives, the first will have the most impact on SMEs, since lower energy costs will directly affect their competitiveness. Given that the growth of trade and internationalisation of markets is exposing SMEs to even greater competition, containing energy costs is obviously an important factor in helping them to survive and prosper. As regards the second objective, security of supply, this means that SMEs know that they can meet their essential energy needs and helps them to plan their future development. Finally, proper environmental protection is a key aspect of sustainable, non-inflationary growth, which is in the interests of all enterprises, including SMEs.

Relevance to tourism

Energy saving is of particular importance for tourism SMEs and improves the environment of the area where they are located. Energy saving technologies are not only reducing costs e.g. for hotels but are also environmentally friendly and therefore contribute to a sustainable tourism.

How to apply

See website <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/save.htm> below under “Guidelines and Application Form”.

Programme duration

1998-2002

Grant rates for projects

Save can give up to a maximum of 50% support for a pilot action or information dissemination activity. Studies aimed at the implementation of Union measures, information activities, and monitoring of energy efficiency progress in the Community may be funded up to a maximum of 100%. Preference will be given, however, to proposals with lower funding levels (no more than 50%).

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/save.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/dg17home.htm>

Both websites include links to recent calls for project proposals.

Contact point:

Mr. Ronan Harbison
European Commission
Energy and Transport Directorate General / Save Programme
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: (32-2) 2956319
Fax: (32-2) 2966283
E-mail: ronan.harbison@cec.eu.int

Information for projects already supported by the Save programme can be found in the CORDIS database:

<http://www.cordis.lu>

SOCRATES

Short description

Socrates covers all types and all levels of teaching, from pre-school to postgraduate education. Grants will be awarded under various sub-programmes for:

Erasmus (higher education)

- Co-operation between universities
- Mobility of university students and teachers

Comenius (school education)

- Co-operation between nursery , primary and secondary schools
- Promotion of schooling of children of migrant workers and gypsies
- Updating the skills of educational staff in schools

Lingua (promotion of language learning)

- Promotion of language skills in the European Union

ODL (open & distance learning) and *Adult Education*

- Promotion of information and communication technologies and open and distance education and learning

Relevance to tourism

This programme is open to all educational institutions and tourism projects are eligible where they fulfil the related conditions. Schools and universities offering education for the tourism sector can benefit. In 1993/94, for example, the *Erasmus* programme included 1,600 students and 124 institutions in 27 programmes relating to tourism studies.

Who may apply

See foregoing paragraph.

How to apply

See website below.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

1,850 million euro. The Community contribution will not normally exceed 75% of the total cost of any specific project.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html and click on “Programmes and strategic initiatives”.

The website above includes a link to calls for projects, for proposals and for expressions of interest.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS - INTRODUCTION

Short description

In the framework of *Agenda 2000* the objectives and regulations of the Structural Funds underwent major changes. There are 3 priority objectives, two of which are regional in application and one which apply across the whole territory of the Union:

Objective 1: Promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind

Objective 2: Economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties (industrial, agricultural, fishing and urban areas)

Objective 3: Adapting and modernising systems of education, training and employment

Objective 1 - Development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind

Find a map of objective 1 regions on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/ag2000/carte_en.htm

Transitional support: the regulation establishes a transitional assistance mechanism for regions eligible under Objective 1 in 1999 but which will no longer be eligible in 2000. In these regions, a new regional programme will be supported by the Structural Funds generally until 31 December 2005.

Regions that include areas fulfilling the eligibility criteria for the new Objective 2 will continue to benefit from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support until 31 December 2006. Those areas will be determined at the same time as eligible Objective 1 regions.

Other regions shall continue to receive assistance in 2006 from the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF, Guidance section) and the Financial Instrument for Fisheries (FIFG) only.

Objective 2 - Economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties

Find the national maps of objective 2 regions on the following website:

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbnews/new_en.htm under "The Commission adopts the new lists of areas eligible for Objective 2 (18 January 2000)"

In the case of a serious crisis, this map may be amended in 2003, provided that this change does not increase the ceiling set for Objective 2 coverage in each region.

Safety net and transitional support: as for Objective 1, a degressive transitional assistance mechanism is planned for areas which are covered by Objective 2 and 5b in 1999 but which will no longer be eligible for the new Objective 2 in 2000. These areas will benefit from transitional support from the ERDF until 31 December 2005, and will also benefit, between 2000 and 2006, from ESF assistance within the framework of

Objective 3 as well as from EAGGF (Guarantee section) and FIGF assistance in the context of rural development measures and accompanying measures to the Common Fisheries Policy.

Objective 3 - Development of human resources

Objective 3 will focus primarily on the adaptation and the modernisation of national and European policies for employment, education and training. Objective 3 funding will be available in all **areas except those covered by Objective 1**. Objective 3 will also serve as a reference framework for all human resource actions in the Member States. It will take into account the Employment Title in the Amsterdam Treaty and the new European employment strategy.

The regulation takes into account the wide variety of policies, practices and needs in the different Member States based on their national action plans for employment and the ex-ante evaluation. In view of the length of the period covered, the areas in which the ESF will apply have been broadly defined. They include active labour market policies to combat unemployment, promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for men and women, strengthen employability through lifelong education and training systems, and measures to anticipate and facilitate adaptation to economic and social change.

Financial Instruments

Financial assistance through the Structural Funds is provided in the form of non-reimbursable grants, subject to co-financing from the Member States, and is channelled through three financial instruments: *Mainstream National Programmes*, *Community Initiatives*, *Innovative Measures*.

Mainstream National Programmes: funding will be channelled through *Operational Programmes* (OP) or *Single Programming Documents* (SPD) negotiated with the Member States on the basis of their national or regional strategies. Designated authorities in the Member States will implement all mainstream national programmes.

Community Initiatives: there are 4 Community Initiatives. They differ from Mainstream National Programmes in that they are initiated at the Community rather than the national level and are proposed by the Commission to the Member States. They are implemented through programmes in partnership with regional and local authorities concerned.

Innovative Measures: they are the only exception to the principle of de-centralised programming and permit the Commission, on its own initiative, to finance studies, pilot projects or networks with a view to exploring new approaches to encourage co-operation and the exchange of experience between actors in local and regional development.

A measure or operation may benefit from a contribution from a Structural Fund under only one of the objectives referred to in Article 1 at a time.

No operation may benefit simultaneously from a contribution from a Fund under Objective 1, 2 or 3 and under a Community Initiative.

No operation may benefit simultaneously from a contribution from a Fund under Objective 1, 2 or 3 and under the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

No operation may benefit simultaneously from a contribution from a Fund under a Community initiative and under the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the Structural Funds

195 billion euro.

Breakdown by Objective

- 69.7% of the total Structural Funds budget will be allocated to Objective 1 regions (a total of 135.9 billion euro), 4.3% of which will be allocated to regions in transition
- 11.5% of the total Structural Funds budget will be allocated to Objective 2 regions (a total of 22.5 billion euro), 1.4% of which will be allocated to regions in transition
- 12.3% of the total Structural Funds budget will be allocated to Objective 3 regions (a total of 24.05 billion euro)
- 0.5% of the total Structural Funds budget will be allocated to the FIG to support accompanying measures to the Common Fisheries Policy in areas not covered by Objective 1 (a total of 1.1 billion euro)

For each of the Objectives, the Commission has drawn up an indicative breakdown of funds per Member State, using objective criteria and taking account of the specificity of employment issues.

- 5.35% (i.e. 10.9 billion euro) of the total Structural Fund allocation will be allocated to the Community Initiatives and 0.65% of each Fund allocation will be used to finance Innovative Measures

Performance reserve

4% of each national allocation will be held in reserve at the beginning of the period. At the mid-term point, the Commission, in close co-operation with the Member State, will allocate the reserve to those programmes that are performing best. A series of quantifiable indicators, defined by the Member State, will be used to measure programme performance; the indicators must reflect the effectiveness, management and financial implementation of the programmes, and measure their mid-term results in relation to their specific initial targets.

The Funds

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF, see page 95)

European Social Fund (ESF, see page 97)

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF, see page 84)

Financial Instrument for Fisheries (FIFG, see page 105)

The Community Initiatives

Initiative for Trans-European Co-operation for Balanced Development (INTERREG, see page 64)

Initiative concerning economic and social regeneration in urban areas (URBAN, see page 58)

Initiative to assist rural development (LEADER+, see page 61)

Initiative for the Development of Human Resources (EQUAL, see page 55)

INTERREG and URBAN will be financed by the ERDF, LEADER+ by the EAGGF and EQUAL by the ESF.

SYNERGIE

Short description

Synergie is a programme of the European Union, which finances projects with countries outside the EU to help them define, formulate and implement their energy policy in fields of mutual interest. It also finances projects promoting industrial co-operation between the European Union and other countries in the energy sector. To be eligible projects must contribute to accomplishing the objectives of EU's energy policy: overall competitiveness, security of supply and protection of the environment.

Relevance to tourism

Since the programme focuses on international co-operation in energy policy and does not fund concrete projects on environmentally friendly energy saving techniques (*Life*, see page 115) the relevance to tourism remains limited and indirect.

How to apply

See websites below.

Programme duration

1998-2002

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

15 million euro. International co-operation projects with countries outside the EU are financed up to a maximum of 100%.

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/syn01.htm>

<http://www.cordis.lu/synergy/home.html>

Co-operation with countries outside the EU:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/thirdcou.htm>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF INDEPENDENT STATES (TACIS)

Short description

The Tacis Programme is one of the instruments developed by the EU to forge closer economic and political links with the New Independent States (NIS).

Tacis also finances the co-operation of Eastern European countries with EU countries in the framework of *Interreg* (see page 64) and the development of co-operation between EU countries and those of Eastern Europe in the field of higher education under the *Tempus* programme (see page 140).

It is operating in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and Mongolia. It provides grant finance for technical assistance and the transfer of know-how in key fields, such as training, energy and nuclear safety, transport, support for enterprises, food production and distribution.

Relevance to tourism

The tourism sector, as such, is not in the front line of priorities, but tourism firms could be involved in programmes relating to privatisation of enterprises, assistance to SMEs and training.

Who may apply

The programme is open to all firms and institutions in the EU Member States and the recipient countries outside the EU.

How to apply

Most technical assistance contracts under Tacis are awarded following restricted tender procedures. Firms with the required capability request the Commission to register them as possible contractors for the areas in which they can demonstrate their suitability. The Commission has established an indicative national programme with each of the recipient states. This provides the framework for the drawing up of action programmes that contain the individual projects to be financed. EU firms wishing to be considered for short-lists of restricted project tenders should register with the Commission, at the address below, indicating their capabilities in the chosen field. If interested in this kind of activity they should also indicate their capability in project design. It would be advisable to provide similar information to the Tacis Co-ordination Unit in the recipient state (for further information see websites below).

Programme duration

2000-2006

Total allocation to the scheme

The allocation is decided annually in the Community budget. Since its inception in 1991 Tacis has launched more than 3,000 projects worth over ECU 3,290 million.

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm>

Contact point:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/site/contacts/phare_tacis_info_centre.htm

Tender opportunities:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/work/index.htm>

TEMPUS

Short description

Tempus aims to assist the structural development of higher education in Central and Eastern Europe by funding appropriate training projects within education institutions. Funds may only be used for partnerships between EU Member States and the eligible countries.

Relevance to tourism

Tempus focuses on priority subject areas that are of particular importance to the eligible countries. These include tourism, cultural or artistic heritage and environmental protection.

Who may apply

The programme is open to universities, firms and the social partners from the following eligible countries:

Tempus *Phare*: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Tempus *Tacis*: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Tempus Phare countries are eligible for:

Joint European Projects (JEPs)

- Partnerships between a university in an EU country and at least one university from the Phare countries.
- Limited to two years in length.

Individual Mobility Grants (IMGs)

- Focus upon the training of administrators and managers and allow for study visits for teaching staff.

How to apply

The National Tempus Offices in the Member States and the European Training Foundation can be identified on the website <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/tempus/challeng.html>.

Programme duration

1990-continued (currently there is no expiry foreseen).

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

Funding for Joint European Projects (JEPs) and for Individual Mobility Grants (IMGs) will be decided annually in the Community budget.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html and click on “Programmes and strategic initiatives”.

The website above includes a link to calls for projects, for proposals and for expressions of interest.

URB - AL

Short description

The *AL* in the programme acronym stands for *Amerique Latine*. The following countries are covered by the programme: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Columbia, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

In order to achieve this objective 8 "thematic" networks of common interest are to be established which implement various common projects co-financed by the Commission. Every two years meetings of mayors and other representatives of European and Latin American cities are organised on political and professional level; in 1998 the first of these meetings dealt with urban rehabilitation.

The first two "thematic" networks are already in place:

- Urban drug problem
- Protection of the urban cultural heritage

So far, the following themes have been proposed for the other 6 networks:

- Urban democracy
- The city - motor of economic development
- Urban social policy
- Urban environment
- Management and control of urbanisation
- Solutions for urban mobility

Relevance to tourism

Tourism-related projects may be developed under the umbrella of some of the above mentioned themes.

Who may apply

Cities, regions and other territorial bodies from the European Union and the said countries in Latin America.

In the calls for proposals interested cities are asked (a) to establish a network consisting of at least two European and three Latin American (LA) partners and (b) to explain how they want to reach the final number of partners.

Then the 10 pre-selected cities responsible for co-ordination are asked to present a network that should consist of 50-150 partners:

- at least 20 EU and 30 LA partners
- at maximum 60 EU and 90 LA partners

Selection criteria are the particular eligibility for funding as well as the financial, technical and professional capabilities of the respective applicant.

How to apply

See website <http://www.urb-al.com/> below under “Programme Guide”

Programme duration

1996-2000.

Total allocation to the scheme and grant rates for projects

The total Community contribution is 14 million euro. The Commission can finance up to 50 % of the total budget of a joint project, within an upper limit of 100.000 euro per joint project. Activities can be co-funded by the Community for the duration of 3 years.

Websites for further information

http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/programmes_en.htm

<http://www.urb-al.com/>

THE EURO INFO CENTRES AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

THE EURO INFO CENTRES' NATIONAL INFORMATION NUMBERS

To find the address of your nearest Euro Info Centre please call toll-free the following numbers:

Belgium (German, French and Dutch)	00 800 0800.11.22
Denmark	00 800 0800.11.22
Germany	00 800 0800.11.22
Greece	00 800.32.12.630
Spain	900.98.32.98
France	00 800 0800.11.22
Ireland	1800.55.32.62
Italy	167.78.06.74
Luxembourg (German and French)	0800.32.77
The Netherlands	00 800 0800.11.22
Austria	0800.20.12.50
Portugal	0505.32.96.30
Finland	0800.11.32.41
Sweden	020.93.10.10
United Kingdom	0800.78.36.553
Iceland	00 800 0800.11.22
Norway	00 800 0800.11.22

You can also find these numbers on the following website:

<http://eic.cec.eu.int/EN/Network/promotion/freefones.htm#top>

WEBSITE "DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS"

<http://europa.eu.int/business/>

If you would like to do business in the European Internal Market, or need advice on how to certify your product or service, or are looking for a business partner in the EU, or want to know about bidding for public contracts or about EU funding opportunities, then, with this website, you have a source of reliable information about the European Single Market.

IT-377, Udine Ms L. Trevisan

Portugal

PT-509, Lisbon Ms M. Lopo

Spain

ES-203, Sevilla Ms M. Leon Lozano

ES-214, Madrid Mme C. Verdera

ES-217, Murcia Ms M. Cachorro

ES-219, Palma de Mallorca Mr F. Feliu de Oleza

ES-224, Valladolid Ms A. Hernandez Pastora

Sweden

SE-636, Växjö Ms U. Rolf

United Kingdom

UK-565, Norwich Ms S. Abercrombie

WEBSITE "GRANTS AND LOANS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION"

As complementary information to this Internet roadmap for the tourism sector, through this website, where you can choose all Community languages, you will find a general guide on EU funding and other schemes that the Commission has published in 1996:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/index.htm

This is the website address of the English language version of the guide:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/sg/aides/en/cover.htm>

WEBSITE "€URO – ONE CURRENCY FOR EUROPE"

<http://europa.eu.int/euro/html/entry.html>

Amongst other very useful information on the euro this website offers the conversion rates plus euro converter, covers areas such as *Citizens & Consumers, Enterprises & Finance, Public Administration, IT Issues* etc., and provides useful contact points and internet links related to the transition to the euro.

JOINT SERVICE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY AID TO NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES (SCR)

Short description

The SCR is the service of the Commission that manages all aspects - technical and operational, financial and accounting, contractual and legal - of the Community's aid to non-member countries, and is also responsible for audits and evaluations.

The SCR's remit covers the full range of co-operation programmes, both geographically based (African, Caribbean and Pacific States, South Africa, Central and East European Countries, Western Balkans, New Independent States and Mongolia, Southern Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia) and crosscutting (food aid, joint financing with non-governmental organisations, environment, rehabilitation measures, democracy, human rights, European Community Investment Partners, Common Foreign and Security Policy etc.).

Websites for further information

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr>

e-mail: info@scr.cec.be

Tender opportunities are listed under the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/scr/tender/index_en.htm

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