



The integrated Mediterranean programmes

Page 2 in the original is blank.

When the European Community was enlarged to include Spain and Portugal, the Community decided at the same time to allocate ECU 6.6 billion over seven years¹ to 'integrated Mediterranean programmes' (IMPs) with the aim of modernizing the economies of Greece and of certain French and Italian Mediterranean regions.²

This publication briefly outlines these programmes and answers some essential questions:

- What are the IMPs?
- Why were IMPs introduced?
- Which regions are the IMPs concerned with?
- How were the IMPs drawn up?
- For what sort of measures do the IMPs provide?
- What makes the IMPs innovatory and of particular interest?

What are the IMPs?

IMPs are *integrated* regional development programmes. They mobilize all available sources of finance (Community, national, regional and local) for a coherent set of measures, covering the main sectors of the economy. This approach also integrates all Community instruments and policies, improving their coordination, flexibility and finances.

Each IMP lasts from five to seven years. Schemes included in the programmes must complement each other and be adapted to the characteristics of each region so as to create a synergy between the national and Community funds allocated to them. They supplement measures for which the Community's financial instruments have already provided and must be compatible with the Community's other activities. There can be no question therefore of the IMPs cutting across Community efforts to restrain agricultural production or working contrary to European competition rules.

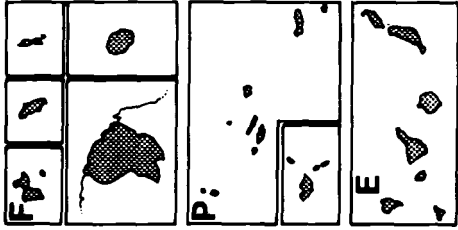
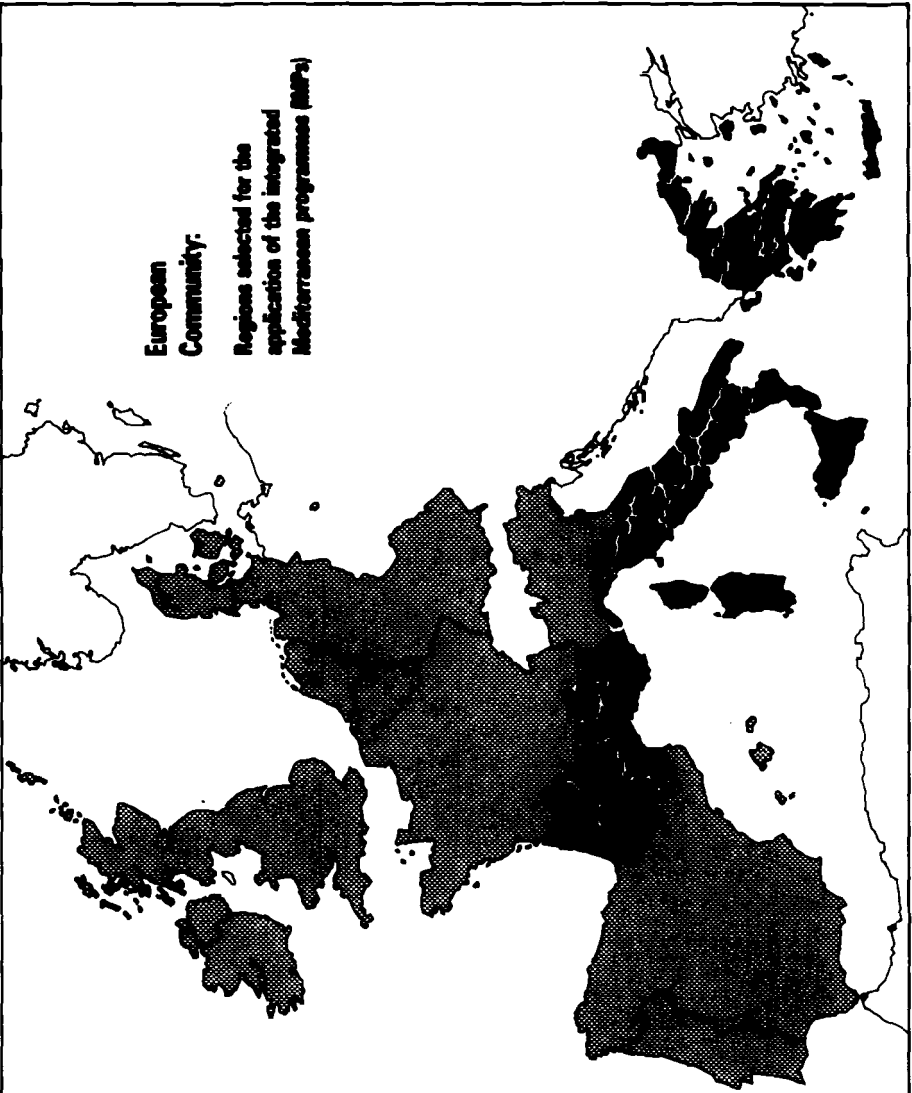
Why were IMPs introduced?

At the time of the accession of Spain and Portugal, particular attention had to be paid to the Mediterranean regions of the 10-member Community. Their economic

¹ ECU 2.5 billion of this amount is in the form of loans granted by the European Investment Bank from its own resources and from those of the New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending. ECU 1 (European currency unit) = about £ 0.65, Ir£ 0.78 or US\$ 1.1 (at exchange rates current on 3 April 1989).

² This file replaces our No 1/86.

**European
Community:**
Regions selected for the
application of the integrated
Mediterranean programmes (IMPs)



structure is similar to that of the two new member countries. They are among the poorest regions of the Community and appeared vulnerable to the effects of enlargement.

They have structural weaknesses: an economy dominated by an undeveloped agricultural sector which has to operate in difficult natural conditions, a generally high level of unemployment, a slack industrial sector in which vulnerable SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) predominate, and insufficient organization or development of the services sector, public and private.

This situation demanded an additional effort of solidarity. Thus the IMPs were conceived.¹

Which regions are the IMPs concerned with?

About 50 million Europeans live in the regions benefiting from the IMPs. In view of the objectives of the programmes, the areas chosen are those economically most dependent on Mediterranean agricultural produce (olive oil, wine, fruit and vegetables, etc.) and which are most constrained by the enlargement of the Community to restructure their farming, diversify their economy and create industrial or service jobs, especially for the young. The geographical spread of the IMPs is as follows:

- The whole of Greece.
- The French regions of Languedoc-Roussillon, Corsica, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées as well as the departments of the Drôme and the Ardèche.
- In Italy, the whole of the Mezzogiorno (including Latium), the regions of Liguria, Tuscany, Umbria and the Marches, as well as the side of the Apennines administered by Emilia-Romagna and – for aids to fish-farming only – the northern Adriatic lagoons between Comacchio and Marano Lagunara.

A number of French and Italian urban centres are excluded: Bordeaux, Toulouse, Marseilles, Genoa, Florence, Rome, Naples and Palermo.

How were the IMPs drawn up?

- Before the end of 1986, the Member States concerned presented the European Commission with their IMP plans drawn up by the authorities appropriate to the regions.

¹ Regulation No 2088/85 of the Council of Ministers of the Communities. Text published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 197, 27.7.1985.

- On the basis of discussion and collaboration between the Commission, the Member State and the regional authorities concerned, general programme orientations were submitted for the opinion of an advisory committee, presided over by the Commission and composed of representatives from each of the 12 Member States and from the European Investment Bank (EIB). The European Commission then prepared a draft programme, again with the cooperation of regional and national authorities. This draft programme was again submitted to the advisory committee which had two months in which to give its opinion.
- Once approved, the IMP served as the basis for a contract, signed by the Commission, the Member State and the relevant regional authorities. These contracts were made public and, like the programme itself, can always be amended or extended according to experience acquired in their implementation. In particular, they specify the authorities responsible for carrying out the IMP, the commitments and contributions of the different partners, control and evaluation measures, etc. The authorities who carry out the programme are assisted by a monitoring committee, set up by common accord of the Commission and the relevant Member State.

For what sort of measures do the IMPs provide?

- In the agricultural sector, the concern was two-fold: to increase agricultural incomes and to support changes in agricultural production in line with the Community's agricultural policy. Measures here are particularly concerned with:
 - The modernization and intensification of production of certain crops which are not in over-supply, and the development of new specializations, new species, forestry and environmental protection.
 - The strengthening of socio-structural measures to improve farmers' incomes, help young farmers to set themselves up and reorientate production.
 - Dissemination of agricultural information, as well as irrigation and modernization of rural infrastructure and of the structure of land-holding, marketing and processing.
- In industry and services, the IMPs are especially meant to encourage:
 - Creation and development of small and medium-sized businesses and craft industries, with particular attention to spreading innovative ideas and new technology, as well as to the agri-foodstuffs sector.
 - The setting up of small industrial estates.
 - Promotion of tourism and tourist infrastructure.
 - Support for research and for technical assistance for all sectors of the economy; the strengthening of economic infrastructure, particularly in the

Amounts allocated to the integrated Mediterranean programmes and financing
(in thousand ECU)

	Total expenditure	Contribution from national public authorities	Contribution from the Community budget	EIB loans *
Greece (1986-92)				
Central and Eastern Greece	550 126	174 000	315 540	117 390
Northern Greece	695 837	204 909	406 765	120 000
Western Greece & Peloponnese	631 325	179 290	361 343	125 000
Islands of the Aegean Sea	325 173	103 339	193 538	67 000
Information technology	134 150	45 398	88 751	—
Attica	407 880	127 466	223 143	66 400
Crete	468 900	228 400	240 500	80 000
TOTAL	3 213 391	1 062 802	1 829 581	575 790
France (1986-88) **				
Aquitaine	214 340	89 510	69 180	30 000
Ardeche	50 120	17 010	12 060	7 500
Corsica	109 150	45 990	39 950	10 000
Drôme	51 130	23 400	13 400	7 500
Languedoc-Roussillon	256 900	91 330	89 730	30 000
Midi-Pyrénées	247 220	83 260	66 200	40 000
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	303 890	169 800	70 080	55 000
TOTAL	1 232 750	520 300	360 600	180 000
Italy (1987-88/1992-93)				
Abruzzi	131 495	54 873	55 402	85 000
Aquaculture	125 707	73 084	35 577	35 000
Basilicata	156 877	67 618	66 486	35 000
Calabria	206 282	89 372	94 615	25 000
Campania	172 460	79 859	80 233	52 000
Emilia-Romagna	153 701	54 001	46 668	15 000
Latium	103 763	48 497	40 443	40 000
Liguria	177 990	55 764	52 125	20 000
The Marches	169 156	61 258	66 970	90 000
Molise	93 402	40 140	43 063	30 000
Apulia	222 883	98 246	99 964	—
Sardinia	192 053	97 405	87 323	80 000
Sicily	231 141	108 591	107 829	35 000
Tuscany	226 578	84 876	69 886	70 000
Umbria	204 547	85 567	62 972	40 000
TOTAL	2 568 035	1 099 150	1 009 556	652 000

* Indicative amounts not included in total expenditure.

** Partial amounts, covering the first part of the period 1986-92.

transport and energy sectors; the development of a sector supplying commercial services to companies. In Greece, the IMPs participate in a system of aid for investment which is one of the pillars of the subprogrammes for industry.

- In the field of human resources, the IMPs attach particular importance to:
 - Vocational training activities, especially for young people, women and junior managers.
 - Setting up integrated training services, ranging from observation and forecasting of the labour market to promotion of trainee job placements.

These activities were defined following reports on real training needs and in liaison with other measures provided for in the different IMPs.

- Certain IMPs also provide for measures in the fisheries sector.

What makes the IMPs innovatory and of particular interest?

The value of the IMPs lies not so much in the amount of money they provide – though that is not negligible – as in the innovations they bring to the Community's programming procedures and its regional policy.

The IMPs show a new approach to regional development. The concept of a uniform regional policy applied to different situations has displayed its limitations. Instead the particular development potential of each region experiencing difficulties must be exploited, taking the region's specific needs and individual capabilities as a starting point. This is the reason for the all-embracing and flexible nature of the IMPs, which allows the priorities, the methods and the form and level of financing to be adapted to the situation in each region. To translate this new approach effectively and efficiently into reality, local authorities are given an important role in the planning and implementation of the IMPs. In this way they are challenged to define their priorities, to address themselves to the process of modernization and to play a significant role in the implementation and success of the IMPs.

Some concepts essential to the IMP method illustrate this new approach.

- Concentration*

A haphazard scattering of funds is the very opposite of integrated action and financing. The aim is to concentrate available means on certain key objectives, which when combined have an effect greater than the sum of their parts.

Here and there the announcement of the IMPs has given rise to exaggerated financial expectations, which are mirrored in the projects submitted to the Commission. Difficult choices have often had to be made, after hard discussions

with the regional authorities. The need for concentration has had to be balanced against the desire to mobilize around the IMP all the socio-economic forces of the region.

Innovation

- With regard to methodology, the IMPs innovate by providing for intersectoral aid (whether for agriculture, industry, services or training); by integrating to this end the activities of different Community and national instruments; by providing for management based on partnership and by monitoring and reviewing each programme (a subject to which this file will return).
- In addition, the greatest possible effort was made to facilitate economic innovation in the regions concerned. Hence the importance given in the programmes to vocational training, applied research, and the introduction of new methods and new products in all sectors of the economy, including services.

However, it was necessary to take into account the existing state of socio-economic structures, and their real capacity to carry out the envisaged measures to good effect and absorb the funds allocated. In order to succeed, innovation must be progressive and educational.

Partnership

The concept of partnership expresses the wish of the European Commission to act not merely as a judge of the Member States' proposals (assessing their formal validity or economic interest), but rather as a catalyst in a joint enterprise for the development of each region.

This partnership is to be found in the collaboration and dialogue which exists at every stage of appraisal, in the spirit and letter of programme contracts, in the composition and role of the monitoring committee, and in the implementation procedures.

Implementation and the monitoring committee

Implementation of the programmes is what the IMPs are all about, so the programme contracts provide for the establishment of a monitoring committee on which the European Commission, the EIB, the Member State and the region (as well as, in the Committee's enlarged form, representatives of socio-economic interests) are represented. It is the forum for cooperation and plays an essential

role in the implementation of the IMP. It meets in the region concerned and, thanks to a computerized monitoring system, follows step by step the realization of each measure in every subprogramme which makes up the IMP.

□ *Monitoring*

Monitoring, checking the implementation of the IMP on the ground, is carried out in both physical and financial terms. In the monitoring committee, members with special responsibility for each subprogramme have the task, in close cooperation with the administrative services and interested private operators, of gathering and presenting data about each measure of their subprogramme. They must also keep the committee generally informed about developments.

Monitoring must enable a true evaluation to be made of the implementation of the IMP. It is not enough to compare the execution to the plans; an evaluation must also be made of its socio-economic impact and lessons must be drawn from this. This is a responsibility of the monitoring committee, which is helped in the task by an assessor, independent of every public administration, whose task it is to provide regular reports.

On the basis of this information, the monitoring committee can propose, within the limits allowed for in the programme, variations on certain measures or changes to them.

This flexibility and capacity to adapt to reality is one of the innovations introduced by the IMP and one of the guarantees of their success ■

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views of the institutions of the Community. Reproduction authorized.

Commission of the European Communities

**Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture
Rue de la Loi 200 – B-1049 Brussels**

Information offices (countries fully or partially English speaking*)

Ireland 39 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 – Tel. 71 22 44

United Kingdom 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT – Tel. 222 81 22
4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF1 9SG – Tel. 37 16 31
7 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH – Tel. 225 20 58
Windsor House, 9/15 Bedford Street,
Belfast BT2 7EG – Tel. 24 07 08

USA 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 707,
Washington DC 20037 - USA – Tel. (202) 862-9500
245 East 47th Street, 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza,
New York, NY 10017 - USA – Tel. (212) 371-3804

* Offices also exist in other countries including all Member States.



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

ISSN 0379-3133

Catalogue number: CC-AD-89-007-EN-C

EN