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**9th ANNUAL REPORT
of the STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

1997



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INTRODUCTION

A. GENERAL SUMMARY

This Report is compiled in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as amended and the detailed provisions of Article 31 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 as amended. It presents the application in 1997 of the Structural Funds regulations, particularly the implementation of their Objectives (Objectives 1 to 6). The report is structured in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, but also contains some changes. The innovation introduced in the Seventh Annual Report (1995) of dealing with a horizontal subject throughout the report has been retained, the topic chosen this year being support for small firms. An attempt has been made to reduce the length of the Report substantially to improve its readability after several years during which the amount of information presented had continued to increase. Instead of presenting exhaustive information, as in previous years, this report concentrates on the main features of the year. However, details of financial implementation are still given in full and are to be found in the annexes. In addition to the information required by the Regulations, Chapter 1 devotes some ten pages to the major events of 1997, with particular regard to preparing the future of the policy to promote economic and social cohesion.

1997

Work during this year in the field of economic and social cohesion and the Structural Funds may be summed up under four main headings:

1. The full implementation of programming

1997 saw the start of the second part of the current programming period and the third full year of activity by the Funds in that period.

Virtually all the programmes are now under way, the exceptions being the Spanish programmes for Objective 2 (1997-99) and the Italian programmes for Objective 1, which should be adopted early in 1998. In terms of new programmes adopted, the main feature of the year was the adoption of the Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99. At the same time, the closure of the Objective 2 programmes for 1994-96 resulted in the transfer of ECU 848 million in unused appropriations to the current period, 1997-99.

The last 13 Community Initiative programmes under the 1994 initial allocation were adopted. Following the allocation of the reserve during 1996, it proved possible to adopt new programmes and transnational cooperation programmes (Interreg II C) during the year. This means that in 1997, for the first time, all the Community Initiatives were actually being implemented.

By the end of the year, assistance from the Funds was being implemented through 1 026 programmes (580 for the various Objectives and 446 for the Community Initiatives).

2. Intense financial activity

One of the main features of the year was retrieving the backlog in implementing appropriations at the beginning of the period. Overall, the implementation of programmes now appears to be satisfactory.

However, the situation with regard to programmes under the Objectives (CSF and SPD) differs from that concerning the Community Initiatives.

Implementation of CSFs and SPDs speeded up considerably during the year. By 31 December 62% of total assistance for the period (1994-99) had been committed and 46% paid. Taking 1997 alone, about 99% of the commitments available had been committed and, for the first time in this period, all the payment appropriations were used. For example, the implementation of appropriations under Objective 1, which accounts for 68% of the total available to the Funds in this period, was fully in line with initial forecasts (the financial perspective adopted in Edinburgh for 1994-99). This clear improvement in the implementation of appropriations also applies to Objectives 3, 4 and 5(b) while

progress elsewhere was less spectacular. All the Funds committed all their available appropriations apart from the FIG (75%), where under-implementation was mainly the result of problems in restructuring the fishing fleet in some of the Member States which were the main beneficiaries. However, this had little impact on overall implementation since the FIG manages only 2% of total funding.

It should be noted that the Member States where rates of implementation were highest were generally the least prosperous, and also the main beneficiaries, principally under Objective 1: Spain, Portugal and Ireland. Commitments and payments in those Member States are ahead of initial programming. Greece, the fourth "cohesion country", joined the leading group in the first half of 1998. While some countries regrettably lagged behind at the end of 1997 (Italy for Objectives 1 and 5(b), France and Belgium for Objective 1), the situation improved during the year and during the first half of 1998 most of these shortcomings have been made up, particularly in the case of Italy, where the backlog was greatest.

The position with regard to the Community Initiatives is quite different. By the end of 1997, 56% of the total assistance available for the 13 Community Initiatives in 1994-99 had been committed and only 31% paid. Taking 1997 alone, only 61% of available appropriations had been committed and 90% paid.

In many cases, these delays in implementation result from the late adoption of programmes (many of which were adopted in 1996 and 1997 following the allocation of the reserve) or to particular features of the implementation of certain Initiatives, such as the partnership in Urban and Interreg II and the very special and innovative measures in the SMEs Initiative.

To speed up implementation of the Community Initiatives, the Commission discussed with the Member States how they could redistribute their financial resources, either between measures in the same programme or between the programmes under a single Initiative. These negotiations should be concluded in 1998 and could result in the reallocation of resources among Initiatives.

3. Further consideration of the priorities for finance

When it was adopting and implementing the programmes in 1997, the Commission sought to give a fresh boost to some of its measures and priorities. The absolute priority of maintaining and promoting employment was the yardstick for designing the new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99. At the same time, implementation on the spot of the 89 territorial employment pacts will extend Community action for job-creation at local level. The mid-term review of the Funds' programmes (other than Objective 2) will enable any adjustments required to speed up the completion of certain programmes experiencing difficulties in implementation to be carried out.

As part of the SEM 2000 exercise (*sound and efficient management*), during the year the Commission took three decisions to improve the management and supervisions of the use made of the Structural Funds: 22 datasheets were drawn up setting out a number of categories of expenditure eligible for part-financing from the Funds, a Regulation was adopted on the financial control standards to be observed by the Member States and internal guidelines set out the conditions under which the Commission may apply net financial corrections to the Member States.

Alongside these horizontal priorities, attention was paid to the development of certain thematic priorities: assistance from the Funds for the information society (including through pilot projects RISI-Regional Information Society Initiatives); the future of urban development, rural development, the interaction between regional policy and competition policy and the links between the competitiveness of the European economy and RTD and innovation. All these reflections clarified the issues involved and usually resulted in practical solutions which should be better taken into account in the Funds' programming in future.

4. An outline of the future

1997 was the first year of preparation for the future of the policy on economic and social cohesion. Work on preparations for the period after 2000 began with the European forum on cohesion in April and took shape in "Agenda 2000", adopted in July, which set out the financial perspective for 2000 to 2006 and laid down the priorities which Community policies were to follow. As regards the structural policies, Agenda 2000 laid down the financial package required with a view to the accession of certain central European countries while maintaining the principle of financial solidarity. It also set out the bases for greater geographical and financial concentration of the Funds and a reduction in the number of Objectives from seven to three to simplify programme implementation and so make the work of the Funds more effective.

To implement Agenda 2000, the Commission prepared proposals for regulations to govern the work of the Structural and Cohesion Funds for 2000-06. It presented these proposals in March 1998 and they will be the subject of negotiations between the Member States and the Commission in association with the other Community Institutions during 1998 (and probably part of 1999), resulting in new Regulations for the Funds to apply from 1 January 2000.

B. A REPORT FOCUSING ON ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FIRMS

The two previous annual reports concentrated on the environmental aspect of assistance (1995) and support for the technological development of the regions (1996); this Report continues the tradition by focusing on ways in which assistance from the Structural Funds helps small firms. This subject has been chosen in response to Parliament's requests for more information on measures for such firms implemented by the Structural Funds. The variety of such measures means that it will recur in a large number of chapters where it will appear in separate boxes.

There is now broad recognition within the Union of the role of small firms (SMEs) as indicators of employment, growth and competitiveness. Over 99% of the 18.5 million firms in the Union as a whole are small ones. They account for 66% of the labour force in private employment and 60% of total turnover. Hence their development is of crucial importance for increasing employment in Europe and promoting a higher level of economic and social cohesion within the Union. A study by the European observatory of small firms shows that it is there that the greatest potential for growth and the creation of new jobs is to be found.

In recent years, and in 1997 in particular, European Councils have frequently stressed the need to devote greater attention to small firms. In June 1997, the Amsterdam European Council adopted a resolution on growth and employment and asked the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund, among others, to set up a mechanism to finance high technology projects in small firms. This was done in November 1997 when a European mechanism for technologies was established. The Amsterdam European Council also asked for the tax burden on business to be reduced and set up a task force called BEST to look at how to simplify and improve the business environment. This task force reported to the Commission on 7 May 1998. The extraordinary European Council on employment, which met in Luxembourg in November, acknowledged that the entrepreneurial spirit was the basis of employment policies in the Member States. To give concrete form to this priority, the Commission adopted a communication "Fostering entrepreneurship in Europe: priorities for the future."¹ The Council also asked the Commission to present proposals for measures to provide financial assistance to support innovative and job-creating small firms. The Commission did so in January 1998² and the Council adopted the proposals in April. This political concern was also expressed by the establishment of a group on small firms and the entrepreneurial

¹ COM(98) 222 of 7 April 1998.

² COM(98) 26 of 21 January 1998: "The growth and employment initiative" (OJ L 155, 29.5.1998, p.43), including the risk capital facility, the establishment of Joint European Ventures (JEVs) and a guarantee facility.

spirit comprising the nine relevant Members of the Commission to identify what can be done at the political level, principally to provide small firms with better access to Community programmes. It began work early in 1998.

To present an overview of what the Union is doing for small firms, in 1997 the Commission adopted the fourth report on the coordination of work for small firms and craft industries,³ which covers improvements to the business environment and measures to support these firms.

Against a background of strenuous efforts to promote employment, the Structural Funds have for a number of years played a significant role in supporting the establishment and development of small firms. Through their contribution to promoting economic and social cohesion, these firms are usually regarded as a priority target for most programmes, which often include measures specifically intended to assist them.

During the current programming period 1994-99, between 15% and 20% of the total resources of the Funds will be specifically earmarked for measures to stimulate small firms and improve their productive facilities and economic environment (particularly in the regions whose development is lagging behind, areas undergoing industrial conversion, rural areas and very thinly populated areas). The total amount involved is between ECU 23 and 30 billion. In the three new Member States (Austria, Sweden and Finland), the effort devoted to small firms is even greater (30% to 40% of Community assistance). It should also be noted that most of the other measures in the programmes also help small firms even if they are not directly targeted.

Finance from the Structural Funds is provided through a wide variety of measures aimed directly at small firms. The main ones are:

- aid for capital investment through direct grants or financial engineering measures (venture capital fund or start-up capital, leasing, etc.);
- part-financing business start-up areas;
- training, including management training (e.g. under Objective 4 small firms receive aid to improve staff qualifications; the Adapt Community Initiative finances training to prepare small firms for the impact of industrial change, etc.);
- advisory and information services (to set up firms, management, marketing, exports or the transfer of technologies, direct support for the establishment of service centres such as Business Innovation Centres (BICs);
- measures to promote R&TD (*inter alia* through pilot projects under RIS - Regional Innovation Strategies - and RITTS - Regional Transfer of Technology Strategies);
- measures relating to the information society;
- assistance for internationalisation through innovative measures such as Europartenariat or Recite II which are intended to promote transnational commercial cooperation among small firms or the SMEs Community Initiative.

To enlarge still further the role of small firms in the programmes now under way, on 30 May 1997 the Commission presented "Priorities for the adjustment of Structural Funds programmes to the end of 1999"⁴ for Objectives 1 (regions whose development is lagging behind) and 6 (thinly populated areas of Sweden and Finland), which should enable the resources available in existing programmes to be

³ COM(97) 610 of 25 November 1997.

⁴ C(97) 1381 of 5 May 1997.

used to support small firms and initiatives for local development and employment. It is now up to the Member States and regions to use these resources to exploit the potential of small firms to create jobs. In the case of the programmes for 1997-99 under the new Objective 2 (areas undergoing industrial conversion), in November 1997 the Commission adopted a separate communication which describes how the new programming period has taken account of the job-creation priority.⁵ This communication stresses the key role of small firms in creating jobs.

It can be seen that Structural Funds are gradually developing a priority for small firms which is reflected in the greater financial resources provided by the most recent programming documents.

Along the same lines and in order to provide more information about the measures being part-financed and their real economic impact on small firms, in July 1997 the Commission began a thematic evaluation of the impact of Structural Funds on SMEs⁶ which covers the whole of current programming, including the Community Initiatives. This assessment should provide a response to certain comments on the Structural Funds and small firms made by the Court of Auditors in its 1997 Annual Report (on the year 1996). The results of this assessment are expected to be available by the end of 1998 and they will be sent to the budgetary authority.

⁵ COM(97) 524 final.

⁶ OJ S 133, 12.7.1997.

CHAPTER 1:

MAJOR EVENTS OF 1997

1.1. INITIAL GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION

1.1.1. THE EUROPEAN COHESION FORUM

On 28, 29 and 30 April 1997, on the initiative of Monika Wulf-Mathies, Member of the Commission in charge of regional policy and cohesion, the Commission organised a forum in Brussels following the adoption in 1996 of the First Report on economic and social cohesion (COM(96) 542 final of 6 November 1996). The lessons of that report were presented in detail in the 8th annual report on the Structural Funds, published in 1997 (narrower disparities in per capita incomes between Member States, but persistent disparities between regions, not only in terms of per capita incomes, but also, and especially, of unemployment; more widespread social exclusion and poverty).

The forum on cohesion attracted over 1 200 people with responsibility for economic and social cohesion throughout the Union, and the Presidents and senior representatives of all the European Institutions.

On the future reform of the Structural Funds, planned for the forthcoming programming period (2000-06), some speakers proposed reducing the number of Objectives so as to simplify procedures, concentrate aid and reduce the number of programmes implemented, in particular for Community Initiatives.

Discussions at the forum also confirmed the need to monitor the impact of Community aid. Objective criteria should be fixed to measure the efficiency of expenditure. Aid from the Structural Funds should be seen less as a right than as an incentive to launch effective programmes. As progress towards economic and monetary union makes for tighter budget constraints everywhere, more varied means of support need to be considered, such as combining aid with loans, subsidising interest rates, providing loan guarantees, and other innovative financing arrangements.

In their closing speeches, the Members of the Commission responsible for cohesion policy summarised the main conclusions of the forum: structural change is gaining momentum, not only in the regions where development is lagging behind, but also in industrial regions and rural and urban areas. This means that the European Union must make a sustained effort in favour of economic and social cohesion. The regions need support to diversify their economic fabric and increase their innovation capacity, for example by developing information technologies and RTD activities. It is essential for the Structural Funds to give more solid support to acquisition of knowledge and life-long learning, and for them to stimulate employment and competitiveness in all possible ways.

1.1.2. GUIDELINES SET OUT IN "AGENDA 2000"¹

The background to the "Agenda 2000" communication has three features: the accession to the European Union of the countries of central and eastern Europe, the establishment of economic and monetary union, and the reform of the main Community policies, including cohesion policy and the common agricultural policy (both of which have a rural policy component). Agenda 2000 lays down the financial perspective for the first years of the coming millennium and defines the priorities which Community policies must promote.

In the field of structural policies, Agenda 2000 was drawn up in the wake of the First Report on economic and social cohesion policy, and the cohesion forum (see above).

¹ COM(97) 2000 (volumes 1, 2 and 3) of 15 July 1997.

The proposed financial package for structural policies for the period from 2000 to 2006 was set at **ECU 286.3 billion** (1999 prices), and comprises three components:

- ECU 218.4 billion for the Structural Funds intended for the present fifteen Member States;
- ECU 21.0 billion for the Cohesion Fund for the present Member States;
- ECU 46.9 billion for the applicant countries (ECU 7.3 billion in the pre-accession period and ECU 39.6 billion for support after accession).

The basic principle of cohesion policy, i.e. financial solidarity, is of course maintained. The likely accession of new countries with very divergent levels of development makes it more necessary than ever. The Commission therefore proposes to maintain the financial effort at the level to be attained in 1999, equivalent to 0.46% of the Union's GNP.

Agenda 2000 also fixes the principles that will enhance the efficiency of cohesion policy: in particular, financing will be further concentrated in smaller regions or areas in order to ensure an adequate leverage effect. This greater concentration is necessary in view of the budget constraints (present and future) on the Member States, which will prevent them intensifying their effort as a percentage of GNP (0.46% in 1999).

Greater efficiency will also be sought through simplifying implementation, in particular a reduction in the number of Objectives from the present seven to only three.

- The new Objective 1 is identical to the present Objective 1, and the eligibility criteria for regions will be strictly applied. The most remote regions, and those at present eligible under Objective 6, will be automatically covered by the new Objective 1, which will remain as the priority Objective, with about two thirds of Structural Fund financing. Development in the regions covered will be supported by all four Structural Funds.
- The new Objective 2 will concern regions undergoing socio-economic conversion facing major unemployment (i.e. declining industrial areas, fragile rural areas, areas dependent on fisheries and urban areas in difficulties). The population covered by the new Objective 2 in the period 2000-06 should not exceed 18%, and the areas covered should broadly coincide with those in receipt of regional State aid under Article 92(3)(c) of the Treaty. Conversion in these areas will be supported by three Structural Funds (the ERDF, the ESF and the FIFG), and by the EAGGF Guarantee Section.
- The new Objective 3 (development of human resources) is intended to support the adaptation and modernisation of education, training and employment policies and systems. It will finance operations outside the regions and areas covered by Objectives 1 and 2. Only the ESF will contribute to financing under Objective 3.

Fund operations relating to agricultural structures and rural development will involve the EAGGF Guidance Section under Objective 1, with the support of the EAGGF Guarantee Section under Objective 2 and in other rural areas of the Union; they should enable farming and the countryside to continue adjusting to foreseeable change (changing markets, globalisation of the economy, etc.). Against this background, the countryside must also meet society's expectations for improved quality of the environment by harmonising economic development with the protection of natural assets. In order to contribute to the sustainable development of rural areas, agro-environmental measures will be given greater importance.

The work of the Structural Funds will also be enhanced through a new partnership approach between the Commission and the Member States: programme management will be decentralised at the level of the Member States and the regions; in return, the Commission will insist on more selectiveness and greater rigour in the definition of priorities upstream.

At the same time, monitoring, assessment and checking systems should be reinforced.

Finally, cooperation between the EIB, the EIF and the Structural Funds is needed to achieve optimum leverage.

In accordance with Agenda 2000, the Commission has prepared proposals for framework regulations for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund during the period 2000-06. The proposals include a general Structural Fund Regulation, specific Regulations for each Fund (ERDF, ESF, FIFG, EAGGF support for rural development), a revision of the Cohesion Fund, and a Regulation on a new pre-accession instrument. These proposals were presented by the Commission on 18 March 1998.²

1.2. CHANGES IN FUND FINANCING APPROACH

1.2.1. PRIORITY TO EMPLOYMENT IN NEW OBJECTIVE 2 PROGRAMMES (1997-99)

The guidelines which the Commission sent to the Member States when preparing the second Objective 2 programming period 1997-99 highlighted the absolute priority given to safeguarding and promoting employment. As stated in the Commission communication summarising the new programmes,³ the new programming documents for Objective 2 prepared in 1997 represented substantial progress in quantifying employment effects. In 55 of the 66 programming documents, detailed estimates were provided (at the level of the measures), corresponding to about 66% of total Community financing.

The figures supplied for job creation should clearly be treated with caution, in particular because the various regions did not use the common methodology proposed by the Commission to estimate employment effects. With this caveat, the estimates indicate some 880 000 jobs created, saved or reassigned following Objective 2 operations in the course of the period 1997-99. Two thirds of the new jobs are in France, Spain and the United Kingdom, the countries that are the main beneficiaries under Objective 2. According to recent assessments, this is about the same as in 1989-93. Temporary jobs represent a fairly small proportion (about 100 000 jobs for seven Member States).

In practical terms, the content of the programmes may be summarised under four areas of assistance:

- supporting the growth and competitiveness of firms, in particular small firms (48% of all planned expenditure);
- training and employment aid, including measures to familiarise workers with advanced technologies (34%);
- renovation and improvement of derelict industrial and urban areas (12%);
- promotion of tourism, clean technologies, recycling of industrial waste and water, etc. (6%).

All the measures and projects for the regions undergoing industrial conversion should be under way by 31 December 1999 at the latest, and payment should be made by 31 December 2001.

² COM(98) 130, COM(98)131 et COM(98)138.

³ COM(97) 524 final: "The new regional programmes 1997-1999 under Objective 2 of the Community's Structural policies - focusing on job-creation".

1.2.2. PRIORITIES FOR MID-TERM REVIEW OF FUND PROGRAMMES (OTHER THAN OBJECTIVE 2)

In May 1997 the Commission adopted guidelines laying down priorities for the adaptation of Structural Fund programmes until the end of 1999⁴ (except for Objective 2, which was dealt with separately: see section 1.2.1). The priorities defined all contribute to the main aim of supporting employment, reaffirmed in the Amsterdam Treaty (new Title VI A) and at the extraordinary European Council on employment in Luxembourg on 20 and 21 November 1997.

The purpose of these guidelines is to define a reference framework within which to adjust present programmes. These guidelines are based on interim assessments (see section 3.1), and form the basis for any mid-term adjustment in programmes for the period 1994-99. The adjustments should be made in the course of 1998.

Six thematic priorities were defined.

1 - Basic infrastructure. Investment in basic infrastructure, in particular in favour of trans-European networks (TENs) should make better use of the various financial instruments available, including the EIB and the EIF (see sections 5.2 and 5.3).

2 - The productive environment. The guidelines lay especial stress on improving the international competitiveness of small firms, in particular in the services sector (emergence of the information society, comprehensive quality management, etc.). They also aim at remedying under-capitalisation of businesses, in particular through financial engineering instruments in the structure of aid to small businesses.

3 - R&TD and the information society. The guidelines require special attention to be paid to aid measures for technological innovation, and in general to increasing the share of resources allocated to R&TD and to innovation (see sections 1.3.1, 1.3.5 and 6.4).

4 - Environment and sustainable development. The Commission would like more account to be taken of preventive measures and the growing importance of the ecology sector (see section 6.2).

5 - Human resources and education. Attention is drawn once again to the need to move from a passive to an active employment policy. At the same time, new structures for human resource development need to be organised, e.g. in an appropriate framework of cooperation between small firms (see section 6.1).

6 - Equal opportunities for men and women. It is proposed that measures contributing to promoting equal opportunities should be supported; they include such measures as improving social infrastructure, access to jobs and working organisation and conditions, access to services, and small business start-ups and development (see section 6.3).

Moreover, the Commission wants to encourage national and regional partners to ensure the quality and effectiveness of programmes. This horizontal priority is aimed especially at partnership (extension of participation by the two sides of industry and other interested bodies), monitoring arrangements (in particular, how they measure performance and identify shortcomings in implementation), information and publicity relating to operations financed in the framework of the Structural Funds, and the efficiency of payment procedures.

On the basis of the guidelines and the results of interim evaluations, Monitoring Committees and the competent authorities will be expected to suggest or decide adjustments to programmes in progress. The adjustments will generally be applied in 1998.

⁴ C(97) 1381 of 5 May 1997.

1.2.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF TERRITORIAL EMPLOYMENT PACTS

In June 1996 in Florence, the Heads of State and Government gave a favourable reception to the European Commission guidelines intended to reinforce the impact on employment of Community structural operations (COM(96) 109 of 10 June 1996). In particular, they recognised the need for a broader and stronger partnership to implement employment measures, as recommended in the Commission paper on "Action for employment in Europe: A confidence pact", presented in 1996.

The Dublin European Council in December 1996 reaffirmed this approach, and urged swift implementation of the pilot projects to be developed into territorial employment pacts on the basis of applications from areas or cities selected by the national authorities. The Amsterdam Council in June 1997 took note of the list of areas chosen.

Three selection criteria

To be taken into consideration, proposals for territorial pacts selected by the Member States must meet three criteria:

- a "bottom-up" approach, i.e. based on initiatives originating at local level;
- a broad partnership comprising all those involved at local level: administrations and public sector, two sides of industry, private bodies and associations with a significant role in favour of employment;
- an integrated approach based on an accurate diagnosis of the local situation and leading to innovative coordinated action (employment action plans).

What progress had been made by the end of 1997?

Eighty-nine draft pacts from areas or cities in all fifteen Member States of the Union were declared eligible for Community technical assistance. Such assistance takes the form of maximum aid of ECU 200 000 for each pact to pay for setting up an action plan for employment and publicising its content at European level. By 31 December 1997, decisions on granting technical assistance from the Funds had been taken for 84 pacts (22 under Article 6 ESF, eight under Article 8 EAGGF Guidance Section and 54 under Article 7 ERDF).

The first action plans under the 89 employment pacts will be drawn up in the course of the first half of 1998. Once they have been approved, they can be implemented, and should receive Structural Fund aid under existing programmes until the end of 1999.

The Commission will endeavour by appropriate means when the time comes to summarise the content of the employment pacts and so draw conclusions from them for job-creation.

1.2.4. THE SEM 2000 INITIATIVE: IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE FUNDS

In the framework of the SEM 2000 operation ("Sound and Efficient Management"), the Commission adopted three decisions in 1997 with a view to improving the management and control of the Structural Funds.

1 - Datasheets on eligibility of expenditure:

In April 1997, the Commission adopted a series of decisions⁵ identifying categories of expenditure eligible for Structural Fund financing, in areas which had previously appeared problematic. There are 22 datasheets laying down specific rules for the following categories of expenditure:

⁵ OJ L 146, 5.6.1997.

definition of 'final beneficiary' of assistance; period of eligibility; validity of the commitment at Member State level; details on the principle of real cost; overhead allocation; depreciation; national part-financing in kind; book-keeping of bank interest earned on Community advances; book-keeping entries of other receipts; financial, banking and legal charges; costs of bank guarantees; purchase of second-hand equipment; purchase of land; purchase of real estate; VAT and other taxes and charges; alternative financing of part-financed projects; current operations/restructuring of company balance sheets; financial engineering: guarantee funds; financial engineering: venture-capital funds; leasing; schemes involving refundable aid; costs incurred by public administration, including salaries of Member States' civil servants.

These specific rules should help operators on the ground to know what the Funds can part-finance in accordance with current programmes, and thus avoid irregularities in the management of the Funds (see section 4.2).

2 - Regulation (EC) No 2064/97, setting out the rules the Member States must observe for financial control of operations co-financed by the Structural Funds⁶

This Commission Regulation, adopted on 15 October 1997, defines the basic rules to be applied by the Member States for financial control of expenditure. It was established pursuant to Article 23 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93) on coordination of the Funds, and it determines:

- the general aims of financial control (including that of providing a sufficient audit trail),
- the minimum percentage of expenditure which controls must cover (5% of expenditure under each programme),
- controls at the level of projects,
- the statement on controls to be drawn up at the closure of forms of assistance.

The Regulation came into force in November 1997, except for Article 8 (statement on controls), which came into force on 1 January 1998.

3 - The internal Commission guidelines on the application of net financial corrections

These guidelines were adopted on 15 October 1997 in the context of Article 24 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. They specify the circumstances in which the Commission could be led to apply a net financial correction (i.e. a reduction) in its financial contribution to a programme. The basic reason for such a correction would be significant failure on the part of a Member State to comply with its obligations relating to financial controls.

1.3. DEVELOPMENT OF THEMATIC PRIORITIES FOR COHESION

Following on from the analyses developed in earlier years (such as "cohesion policy and the environment" in 1995 or "cohesion policy and culture" in 1996), the Commission has launched discussions in a number of new areas where priorities could be defined for economic and social cohesion policy. As the Structural Funds are the main instruments of this policy, they are closely concerned by these thematic approaches.

⁶ OJ L 290, 23.10.1997.

1.3.1. THE CHALLENGE OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (COM(97) 7)

On 22 January 1997, the Commission adopted a communication entitled "Cohesion and the information society" (COM(97) 7). The capacity of the regions to use the tools of the information society is an increasingly important factor determining their competitiveness on European and world markets. These tools:

- provide firms with a range of location possibilities so that they can take advantage of differential costs and/or opportunities on various local markets,
- enable firms to respond rapidly to a constantly changing economic environment, by adopting flexible forms of organisation,
- enable firms to take advantage of the economies available from networking.

In many fields there are major disparities, not only between Member States but also within the same Member State, in access to information, in the quality and availability of information, and in communications infrastructure. The disparity is even more marked in terms of the broader conditions for full use of the information society, such as the educational level required for general use of information society services, the role of the public and private sectors in promoting the information society, or awareness among the public at large.

Finally, the process of liberalisation improves the sensitivity of telecommunications operators and service providers to effective demand, and makes them more aware of the cost of supplying the service. From the point of view of cohesion, there is a risk that the areas where demand is most concentrated will benefit increasingly from new investment in telecommunications infrastructure. On the other hand, areas where demand is dispersed could become information society "deserts".

The Commission has identified a number of political guidelines which regions, Member States and the Commission itself could usefully explore.

From the point of view of regulation, the Commission recommends that the Member States follow the schedule fixed for the liberalisation of markets, for uncertainty about the rules is likely to compromise new investment in the very areas where the profitability of the investment is least certain. The Commission adds, however, that this schedule must be supplemented by other measures, especially arrangements for authorisation and rules concerning universal service.

At the level of investment, it is clear that in a competitive environment the criteria for public financing of infrastructure will become increasingly rigorous. As disparities in infrastructure are nevertheless still significant, the Commission would ask the Member States and regions concerned to study carefully the investment decisions (including those assisted by the Structural Funds) to ensure genuine additionality and targeting investment on projects that contribute most directly to cohesion in the regions where the investment would not occur under market conditions.

Finally, the Member States and regions have a major role to play in taking account of the "intangible" elements of the information society, i.e. obstacles relating to economics, management and education. The information society is a dynamic concept which will take different forms depending on institutional relations, traditions, cultural habits, and the economic structure of the country or region concerned. The Commission asks the public authorities to take the initiative in encouraging strategy formulation, the improvement of the conditions for learning, the creation of appropriate structures, developing public awareness, and promoting synergy through better use of the various sources of financing.

The Commission intends to exploit synergies better by increasing the coherence of its action relating to the information society; to integrate the cohesion dimension fully into forthcoming legislative initiatives, in particular its report on the rules for universal service (1 January 1998); and to

accompany and support measures by the Member States in the framework of the Structural Funds. The information society has been recognised as a key factor in the conversion of Objective 2 areas, and now appears as a major priority for the new guidelines for Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions. Its role in regional development policy is certainly set to increase in future.

1.3.2. TOWARDS AN URBAN AGENDA IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(97) 197)

The Commission has embarked on a dialogue on the future of urban development on the basis of a communication adopted on 6 May 1997 entitled "Towards an urban agenda in the European Union". The central question is to draw up a coordinated and coherent response to a growing number of urban problems.

The Commission would like to launch a debate within the European institutions and with the non-governmental organisations and associations whose action is mainly centred in towns and cities. This should enable urban considerations to be a more integral factor in the strategy of the Union's future policies. Community policies on the environment, transport, employment, social integration, energy, research and technological development (RTD), and, of course, economic and social cohesion, are already having an impact on the towns and cities of the Union.

Cities are the motors of economic growth, competitiveness and employment, and their relative strengths and weaknesses are reflected directly in regional disparities across Europe. At the same time, the problems experienced in Europe's cities are steadily worsening: traffic congestion, unemployment, environmental nuisance, poverty and exclusion, poor housing, crime and drug addiction.

Nevertheless, cities may afford opportunities for a better quality of life, in cultural and social as well as economic terms. Moreover, by allowing concentration of activities, they provide considerable advantages in achieving a model of sustainable development.

The Commission stresses the need for an integrated response to meet urban challenges. Integration requires better coordination of action at local, regional, national and also European level: at present, it seems that action is too dispersed. Coherent programming will enable cities to approach their problems in a more constructive way, and to take advantage of their potential.

The Structural Funds can be used for measures to respond to urban problems: for example by targeting major pockets of unemployment in inner cities and densely populated city outskirts, or by improving infrastructure and public transport systems to enhance the accessibility of the outskirts.

The communication should contribute to a wide-ranging debate on the role of towns and cities in the Union. It has already been examined at an informal meeting of the Ministers responsible for regional policy and regional development at Noordwijk in June 1997. The European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions started work on the subject in 1997 and they are expected to adopt official positions in 1998.

The Commission intends to present the results of this debate in the course of an "Urban Forum" to be organised in Vienna on 26 and 27 November 1998.

1.3.3. SYMPOSIUM ON THE "LEADER" INITIATIVE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

On 9, 10 and 11 November 1997, a conference was held in Brussels to discuss the Leader Initiative and rural development. Over 1 000 participants represented local action groups and others engaged in local development, and the Member States and applicant countries. The symposium provided an opportunity to pool experience, to investigate possibilities for cooperation between different geographical areas, and to draw conclusions for the future. The results of the symposium were

especially useful in the context of preparing Agenda 2000 (see section 1.1.2), which provides, among other things, for a new Community Initiative for rural development.

In his closing speech, the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture and rural development, Franz Fischler, stressed the need to plan for a new Community Initiative for rural development, beyond 1999, based on local partnership, encouraging private initiative and innovation, and safeguarding specific regional identity. To reinforce the impact of this initiative and facilitate transnational cooperation, it is essential to maintain a network at European level.

More simplification is also essential to reinforce transparency and enhance the implementation of this Initiative in the framework of partnership, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to take more account of the diversity of the countryside.

To ensure that all rural regions have an opportunity to establish their own development strategy, the new Initiative must be suitable for introduction throughout Community territory.

It should also contribute to improving the employment situation and the quality of life and the environment in rural regions.

1.3.4. REGIONAL POLICY AND COMPETITION POLICY

At present, for the current Structural Funds programming period, there are divergencies between the territorial coverage of national regional aid and that of the regional Objectives of the Funds: the population in areas eligible under the Funds (almost 51% of the Community population) is greater than that of areas eligible for assistance from the Member States (almost 47%); moreover, there are inconsistencies, mainly between the map of national aid and the map of Objectives 2 and 5(b). A distinction should be made between the areas in receipt of national aid but not eligible under the Structural Funds (which are not really a problem), and those eligible for Fund aid but not covered by a national regional aid scheme.

In the second category of regions, the efficiency of Fund operations is compromised because assistance to firms must comply with the conditions for granting State aid in non-assisted regions, which are much less favourable. A further disadvantage of different treatment for regions depending on whether or not they are covered by a regional aid scheme is that it adversely affects the political comprehensibility of the Union's structural action.

Consequently, when adopting the new guidelines for regional aid on 16 December 1997 (see section 6.7), the Commission examined a communication to the Member States concerning consistency between regional policy and competition policy. In this communication, which was actually adopted in March 1998,⁷ the Commission opened the way to solving the problems raised by these inconsistencies. The proposal is relevant to the need, stressed in Agenda 2000, for a stronger geographical concentration of structural operations in the next programming period, so that, overall, the map of areas eligible under the Structural Funds is within that of areas eligible for State aid, which will be subject to a ceiling of 42.7% of the population of the Union. In accordance with this principle, the following conditions must also be fulfilled when the new map is defined for the Structural Funds: the criterion for defining regions eligible for assistance under Objective 1, i.e. regions whose development is lagging behind (per capita GDP at 75% of the Community average) must be strictly applied; eligibility under the new Objective 2 must cover only areas proposed for Article 93(2)(c) as well, with other regions being included only by way of exception and area limits for the Structural Funds and for regional State aid must be defined concomitantly, so that the two maps can come into force on 1 January 2000.

⁷ C(1998) 673 final of 17 March 1998.

1.3.5. COMPETITIVENESS, R&TD AND INNOVATION

The Commission has prepared a communication on "Reinforcing cohesion and competitiveness through research, technological development and innovation"⁸.

In order to reinforce the competitive capacity of the least favoured regions, it is necessary to ensure that R&TD and innovation policies are directed to the productive fabric of the region, and integrated into it, and that these policies are supported people in the regions so as to identify and direct resources towards regional strategic priorities. The Structural Funds and the framework programme for research have roles to play in this process; for, although some aspects of technology are converging, the technological gap is still significant, in particular between regions.

Consequently, analysis has sought to identify practical solutions that would enable Community policies to adopt a systemic approach to R&TD and innovation, so as to contribute to the economic growth of the least favoured regions and to help promote economic and social cohesion.

⁸ COM(98) 275 of 27 May 1998.

CHAPTER 2:

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMING IN THE MEMBER STATES

2.1. GENERAL PRESENTATION BY OBJECTIVE

2.1.1. THE ADOPTION OF NEW PROGRAMMES IN 1997

The second part of the current programming period began in 1997, which was also the third full year of the Funds' work during this period. Virtually all programmes are now being implemented on the ground, apart from some Community Initiative programmes which were adopted late, in 1997. Some new programmes were, however, adopted during the year, mainly for Objective 2 (declining industrial areas) for the new programming period 1997-99. *(It will be recalled that programming for Objective 2 is divided into two three-year periods: 1994-96 and 1997-99, apart from the three new Member States: Sweden and Austria, which opted for a single period from 1995 to 1999; Finland which opted for 2 periods: from 1995 to 1996 and from 1997 to 1999).*

A total of 88 new operations were adopted in 1997 under the various Objectives. Most (81%) were under Objective 2: between March and December 66 SPDs and five Operational Programmes for Spain were adopted under that Objective. Three Objective 2 programmes were not adopted in 1997 but will be in 1998, they concern Madrid, the Basque Country and multiregional assistance in Spain from the ESF (see section 2.1.4 on the implementation of Objective 2). The Community will contribute a total of ECU 8 515 million.

In addition, 33 programmes under the Community Initiatives were adopted in 1997 (see 2.1.8).

As well as new programmes being adopted, a large number of amendments were made to existing programmes. Most of these concerned the annual indexation of assistance and very few had any real financial impact

2.1.2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Like 1996, 1997 was an interim year devoted to implementation on the ground and ensuring the progress of programmes. It was marked by a general speeding up of the implementation of assistance, as can be seen from the two charts below.

By the end of 1997, programming for the 1994-99 Structural Funds Objectives was being implemented through 580 forms of assistance (SPDs, OPs, global grants, major projects), of which 50% were SPDs and 44% OPs. There were also the Community Initiatives, which were being implemented through 446 programmes. In all, therefore, 1 026 programmes have been adopted under the Structural Funds since 1994.

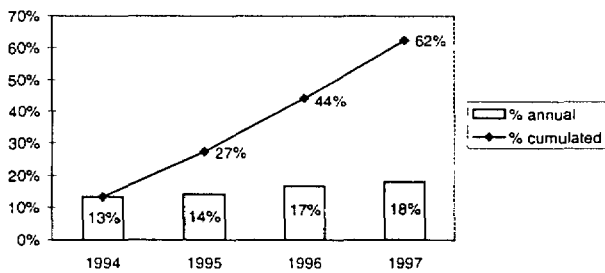
Assistance from the Structural Funds 1994-99 (CSFs and SPDs) in ECU million at 1997 prices at 31 December 1997

	Total	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG
B	1.850,11	852,43	727,23	244,81	25,64
DK	755,26	118,07	343,65	151,00	142,54
D	19.793,76	8.516,06	6.803,41	4.285,49	188,80
EL	13.902,33	9.367,05	2.585,07	1.818,41	131,80
E	30.543,85	16.860,49	8.455,94	4.089,39	1.138,03
F	13.544,61	5.362,53	4.724,80	3.229,18	228,10
IRL	5.708,42	2.603,95	2.009,10	1.047,67	47,70
I	19.561,72	10.821,80	4.982,09	3.384,54	373,30
L	85,49	15,62	26,84	41,93	1,10
NL	2.172,70	598,07	1.379,16	140,37	55,10
A	1.482,12	352,84	539,30	587,98	2,00
P	14.106,82	8.762,63	3.183,93	1.952,11	208,15
FIN	1.549,58	417,23	523,80	581,56	27,00
S	1.217,55	314,88	652,48	204,73	45,46
UK	11.355,00	5.431,30	5.215,84	583,98	123,88
TOTAL	137.629,34	70.394,95	42.152,63	22.343,15	2.738,60

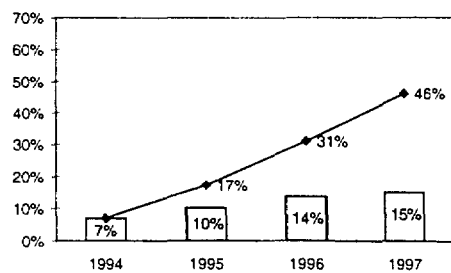
Objective	Total	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG
1	93.428,55	55.441,67	22.358,15	13.790,85	1.837,89
2	15.063,99	11.671,79	3.392,20		
3	12.895,88		12.895,88		
4	2.284,72		2.284,72		
5(a) (agric.)	5.418,11			5.418,11	
5(a) (fisheries)	892,61				892,61
5(b)	6.933,57	2.986,36	1.052,00	2.895,21	
6	711,90	295,14	169,68	238,98	8,10
TOTAL	137.629,34	70.394,95	42.152,63	22.343,15	2.738,60

CSFs and SPDs: Implementation from 1994 to 1997 (in ECU million) over all Objectives

Commitments/total assistance



Payments/total assistance



The implementation of programming in 1997 speeded up the process of compensating for the delays in using appropriations which had built up in 1994 and 1995. For Objectives 1 to 6 taken together, 99% of the available appropriations were committed by the end of 1997 and 100% paid. The appropriations committed since 1994 accounted for 62% of assistance for the period. Commitments in 1997 therefore amounted to 29% of total commitments since 1994. The situation varies widely from one Member State to another (see the annexed detailed Table). By the end of 1997, commitments in two Member States (Spain at 68% and Portugal at 70%) were far in advance of the financial perspective of 61%. In Sweden, by contrast, the rate of consumption (45%) was particularly low.

Payments too speeded up, amounting to 46% of assistance by the end of the year as compared with 31% at the end of 1996, an increase of 15 points. As in the case of commitments, implementation of

payments varied widely from one Member State to another, representing the largest percentages of assistance in Spain (52%), Ireland (55%) and Portugal (56%) and the smallest in Italy (33%), Sweden (30%) and Finland (39%). In the latter two cases, the reason for these low rates was that programming started later following their accession in 1995.

Implementation is furthest advanced in Objectives 1, 2 and 3, where over 60% of assistance was committed and between 43% and 48% paid. It was least advanced in Objectives 4, 5(b) and 6, where commitments totalled less than 50% of assistance and payments less than 35%. (For a breakdown by Objective, see the sections below).

Support for small firms under the various Objectives

The Community support frameworks (CSFs) and single programming documents (SPDs) specifically earmark 15% to 20% of the total resources of the Funds (i.e. ECU 23 to 30 billion) for measures to encourage small firms and improve their productive facilities and economic environment.

In the three new Member States (Austria, Finland and Sweden), concentration on small firms is substantially higher (30% to 40% of Community assistance).

On 30 May 1997, the Commission presented guidelines on the adjustment of Structural Funds programmes for **Objectives 1 to 6** (see section 1.2.2) which proposed making greater use of the resources available in the existing programmes to support small firms and local development and employment initiatives. The proposed priorities focus primarily on job-creation, mainly by small firms. Overall, the amounts intended for such firms under Objective 1 during this programming period are estimated at 11% to 19% (ECU 10 to 17 billion). Estimates for Objective 6 range from 9% to 27% (ECU 65 to 192 million).

The development of small firms is also a priority for **Objective 2** (see section 1.2.1) as is reflected in the SPDs submitted by the Member States and adopted by the Commission for the new programming period 1997-99. The amounts for small firms during the current period are estimated at 25% of total funding, or about ECU 3 700 million.

The sums allocated to small firms under **Objectives 3 and 4** are estimated at about 14% of total funding, or about ECU 2 100 million for the current programming period.

The amounts under **Objective 5(a) agriculture** are estimated at 59% of total funding, or ECU 3 billion. **Objective 5(a) fisheries** will devote between 80% and 100% of its total resources (ECU 700 to 880 million) to small firms.

Small firms receive support under **Objective 5(b)** both to assist in their establishment and survival and to improve their environment. Between 1994 and 1999, about 25% of appropriations (ECU 1.8 billion) will be spent on productive investment in small firms, craft businesses and services.

An information network for small firms: the Euro Info Centres

1. A broad network of assistance

The network of Euro Info Centres (EICs) has 227 members in the European Union and 21 corresponding centres in the CEECs and non-member Mediterranean countries. The EICs constitute a unique network within various structures: public, private or mixed (chambers of commerce, local development agencies or banks) and operating in close contact with small firms. They place a variety of skills at the exclusive disposal of business and provide small firms with a range of general skills on Community matters.

They offer small firms a special link with Europe and provide firms with information, launch assistance, advice and help on all matters relating to Community programmes and policies. The range of services includes information, initial advice and the transmission of information from these firms.

2. The Euro Info Centres and the Structural Funds

The EIC play an important role in keeping small firms informed about the opportunities which the regional programmes offer them. To this end, the network of EICs has held information meetings, particularly on the SMEs Community Initiative and interregional cooperation under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. The compendia of successful projects which have contributed to local development in Germany and Italy are outstanding. The specialist EICs constitute a vital channel for transmitting local information to the Commission. EICs provide technical assistance to local, regional and national authorities on the design and implementation of programmes supported by the Structural Funds and often take part in designing and promoting regional development programmes such as Interreg and Ecos-Ouverture. The EICs were involved in promoting the Directoria event on interregional cooperation held in Strasbourg on 24-26 February 1997 and about ten members of the network were present on the European Union stand.

3. A new task for the Euro Info Centres

The 1996 Council decision on a third multiannual programme for small firms made the EICs the first port of call for small firms seeking information on the Community ("First Stop Shops"). This new task should provide small firms with simpler, more straightforward and hence more effective access to the legislation, programmes and opportunities of the European Union. It took the form of a strategy for adapting the network which was favourably received by the Member States on 19 September. This strategy sets out the exact implications of the "First Stop Shop" concept, the range of services offered by the EIC and the ways of forwarding information from small firms. The strategy includes an agreement on improving cooperation at local level between the network of EIC and that of the Business Information Centres (BICs, see section 2.1.9).

A network at the service of regional development: the Business Information Centres (BICs)

In recent years, the Commission has supported the launch of a large number of services to firms, the BICs, which help establish innovative firms and modernise and develop existing small firms. There are now 140 BICs in the Union, mainly in the areas eligible under Objectives 1 and 2 but also in those eligible under Objectives 5(b) and 6. Their tasks are to identify opportunities for the establishment of firms, train future heads of firms in management and the design of a business plan, monitor the development of the planned firm by providing logistical support at local level or advice and help secure financial support for the project, mainly through contacts with local financial institutions.

2.1.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES 1 (REGIONS WHOSE DEVELOPMENT IS LAGGING BEHIND) AND 6 (THINLY POPULATED REGIONS)

During 1997 13 items of assistance were adopted under Objective 1. They comprised seven operational programmes (six in Italy and one in Portugal), two major projects (in Spain) and four global grants (one in Spain, two in Italy and one in Greece). Assistance totalled ECU 592.4 million, 0.6% of total assistance for 1994-99. No programmes for Objective 6 were adopted in 1997.

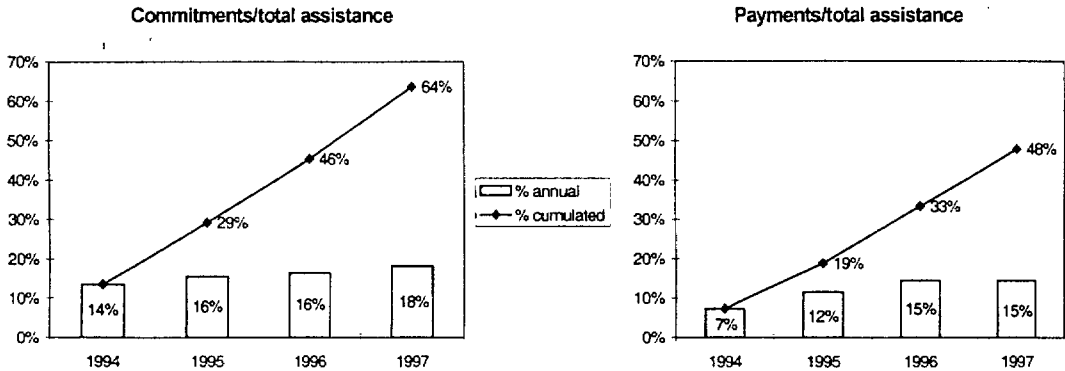
Overall, Objective 1 is being implemented through 196 forms of assistance (SPDs, OPs, global grants and major projects) and Objective 6 through two SPDs.

Most programming (110 of the 198 items of assistance, or 56%) is being implemented on a regionalised basis.

Spain alone accounts for 27.5% of total Community finance under Objective 1 and 34% of the implementing documents.

Implementation of appropriations under Objective 1

Like 1996, 1997 saw a substantial increase in the pace of programme implementation, as can be seen from the graphs below:



By the end of 1997, 64% of appropriations had been committed (as compared with 46% at the end of 1996) and 48% of payments made (33%). This meant that all appropriations, both commitment and payment, available during the year were used. This high level of implementation was particularly noticeable in two of the main beneficiaries under Objective 1, Spain and Portugal, where rates of utilisation for 1994-97 amounted to 69% and 70% of commitments and 53% and 56% of payments respectively. The Member States where delays in implementing Objective 1 were greatest are the most prosperous: Netherlands, France and Belgium were very slow in making commitments (38%, 44% and 47% respectively) while in Italy and Austria delays mainly affected payments. In the case of France, this delay was mainly the result of the failure to commit ECU 190 million in 1997 because of insufficient declarations of expenditure.

The situations with regard to the two countries eligible under Objective 6 were very different. Progress in implementing programmes in Finland, where 59% of appropriations had been committed by the end of 1997 was much greater than in Sweden (only 32%).

Small firms under Objectives 1 and 6

Because of the financial concentration of the Funds on the Objective 1 regions, much greater amounts (ECU 10 to 17 billion for the current 1994-99 programming period) have gone to develop small firms in those regions than in other eligible areas. A recent study has shown that direct assistance accounts for 11% to 19% of total Community assistance. Furthermore, small firms occupy a major place in the economic fabric of the countries most concerned (Spain, Greece, Portugal, Italy and Ireland). Support for these firms is therefore an important means of promoting the economic development of less advanced regions and helping combat unemployment there. The type of assistance varies very much from one Member State to another but there is one constant feature: in the cohesion countries (Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland) where finance in the form of physical infrastructure for small firms (business parks) is less developed than in the other Member States. Furthermore, financial engineering occupies only a limited place, if any, in the range of measures to assist small firms in these Member States (0% in Greece and Portugal), mainly because of the small number of financial institutions concerned with economic development. R&TD accounts for a major proportion of assistance in Portugal (27.3%) and Ireland (13.2%) but is merely a discussion topic in Greece (1%). Training for the management and staff of small firms is less important in the cohesion countries than in the other Objective 1 regions. In the regions eligible under Objective 6, measures for small firms concern mainly advisory services and staff training. The study also shows that the impact on employment of measures for small firms under Objectives 1 and 6 amounts to about 285 000 net jobs created between 1994 and 1999.

Priorities for the interim evaluations of Objectives 1 and 6

On 30 May 1997 the Commission notified the Member States of the guidelines for the mid-term revision of the Structural Funds programmes (see section 1.2.2) excluding Objective 2 (for which the new programmes for 1997-99 were being adopted, see 1.2.1). These guidelines were designed to supplement the interim evaluations carried out in partnership and covered a significant number of the programmes in progress (see below). The exercise revealed, for example, that measures for human resources had yielded satisfactory results, particularly those concerning the training of young people, while those for the long-term unemployed and the staff of small firms had encountered some problems.

2.1.4. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVE 2 (AREAS UNDERGOING INDUSTRIAL CONVERSION)

1997 was the first year of implementation of the new programming period for Objective 2 (1997-99). For this period, the Commission approved 66 SPDs and one CSF (for Spain, including five programmes). As the Commission's communication¹ described in detail, the new programmes stress job-creating investment and sustainable development and the development of human resources. A more targeted approach was adopted with regard to measures to promote research and technological development, the transfer of technologies and the industrial application of research results. The role of the local economy (local initiatives for development and employment) also features in the new programmes, since they can provide new jobs, for example in the social or cultural field.

For the period 1994-99, Objective 2 is being implemented by a total of 153 forms of assistance (SPDs and OPs).

At the end of the first programming period (1994-96), the funding as reduced for the 12 existing Member States had been committed. The figure for the three new Member States was 71%. In accordance with Article 9 of the Framework Regulation, the Commission decided to transfer the appropriations not used during the first programming period (1994-96) to the second (1997-99). These totalled ECU 848 million, or 11.7% of assistance for the first period bringing the total amount allocated to Objective 2 for 1997-99 to ECU 8 515 million (as compared with ECU 15 064 million for 1994-99).

Breakdown under Objective 2 (1997-99)

(ECU million)											
	B	DK	D	E*	F	I	L	NL	FIN	UK	Total
Assistance	216,15	68,23	901,13	1.485,05	2.247,29	967,74	9,84	442,12	135,29	2.675,78	9.148,61

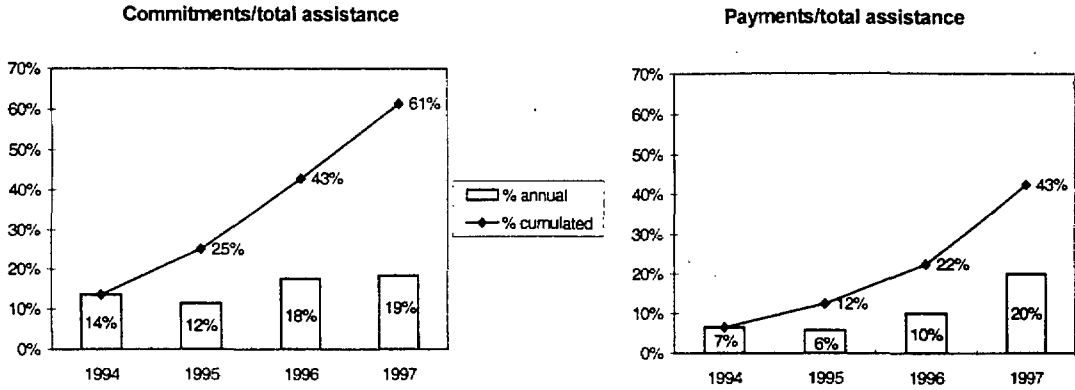
Including ECU 848 million transferred from 1994-96

* Programmed by CSF, other countries by SPD

Implementation of appropriations under Objective 2 for 1994-99

By the end of 1997, 61% of appropriations for the entire period 1994-99 and all those available for 1997 had been committed. There were some delays in the implementation of programmes for 1994-97 in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Finland while commitments in Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark and Spain were above average. The delay in implementation in the United Kingdom was mainly due to the very small number of commitments under the ERDF in 1997 because the partners had concentrated on completing strategies for the approval of future projects.

¹ COM(97) 524 final "The New Regional programmes 1997-1999 under Objective 2 of the Community's Structural Policies - focusing on job-creation". (See section 1.2.1).



All the payment appropriations available in 1997 were used so that 43% of total assistance adopted for 1994-99 had been paid by the end of 1997. This is a distinct improvement on 1996 (when only 23% of assistance had been paid). The speed up in the implementation of programmes in 1997 was even more marked in the case of Objective 2 than Objective 1.

Small firms under Objective 2

The guidelines adopted by the Commission in 1997 (COM(97) 524 final) set out the priorities for the measures to be emphasised in the new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99 (see section 1.2.1). The content of the programmes reflects these priorities. Measures to support growth and competitiveness in firms account for a total of 48% of planned expenditure. More specifically, direct assistance to small firms is put at 25% of total Community funding (about ECU 3.7 billion).

For example, in Italy the Centro Servizi PMI studied the plastic materials sector and drew up a plan to expand the opportunities for training which could be used immediately by firms in the sector and for structural assistance to set up continuous dialogue between the firm and the training system to secure a multiplier effect. The main aims of the project were to adjust the skills profiles and include in them factors concerning organisation and management with a view to adopting systems more in line with market needs.

The training measure has had very positive results:

- creating conditions where firms can compare themselves with each other and cooperate;
- preparation of a joint development model of production methodologies;
- cooperation between the small firms concerned and large firms in the sector;
- possibility of partnerships between firms on innovation and marketing policies.

This project will help improve performance and levels of employment in firms.

2.1.5. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES 3 AND 4 (HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE LABOUR MARKET)

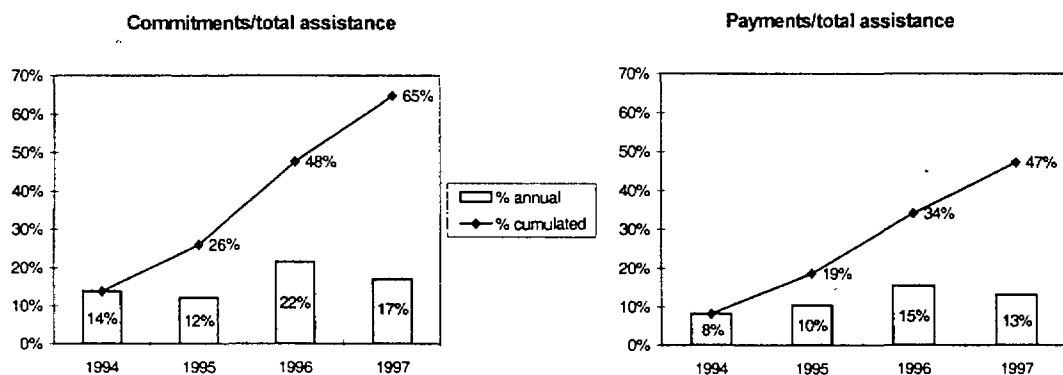
• IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVE 3 (LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED, INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INTEGRATION INTO THE LABOUR MARKET)

Objective 3 is horizontal in nature and has a number of target groups: the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed and those threatened with exclusion from the labour market.

Interim evaluations were carried out in 1997 and resulted in the following guidelines:

- the assistance for young people granted during programming was increased. The number of young people trained was greater than originally planned;
- in the case of the unemployed "threatened" with long-term unemployment and the long-term unemployed, the assessors suggested greater concentration on the very long-term unemployed in order to concentrate more on those most vulnerable. The traditional training activities for those with poor skill levels were the first to be implemented but implementation is slower than in the case of young people;
- the priority for those threatened by exclusion from the labour market covers a wide variety of groups (handicapped, ethnic minorities, former convicts, drug addicts, those on social benefits, the long-term unemployed, etc.). The problem of the "new poor" has arisen only recently and Objective 3 has not yet taken sufficient account of it. In general, monitoring systems do not identify the groups which have actually taken part in these measures. This is the priority which has the greatest variety of measures and promoters as compared with previous periods;
- analyses of equal opportunities for men and women suggest that, although they sometimes account for half those benefiting from assistance, women are under-represented in terms of the difficulties they encounter in their working lives.

The breakdown by group of the public is not always based on objective criteria of vulnerability on the labour market and may therefore result in the under-representation of those most affected.



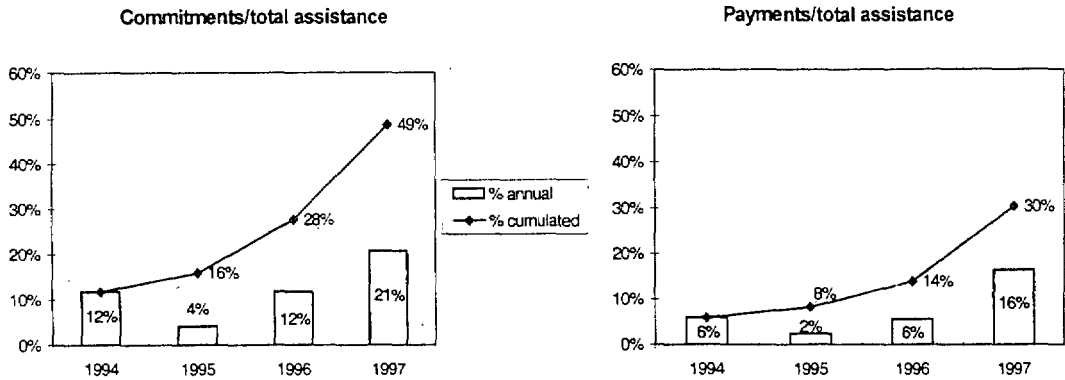
Programme implementation was, in general, satisfactory. Along with Objective 1, Objective 3 has one of the best rates of implementation taking all four years together. All the appropriations available in 1997 were both committed and paid. However, there were some substantial reprogrammings from one priority to another (usually towards the priority for young people).

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVE 4 (INDUSTRIAL CHANGE AND CHANGES IN SYSTEMS OF PRODUCTION)**

Objective 4 is a horizontal Objective which seeks to ease the adaptation of workers to industrial change. Potentially, therefore, it concerns all workers, particularly those likely to lose their jobs. Objective 4 pays particular attention to small firms. It has three main strands: anticipating labour market trends and the needs for vocational skills, vocational training and retraining and assistance to improve and develop training systems.

During 1997 the United Kingdom submitted its draft SPD for Objective 4 (1998-99) for the first time. This programme is expected to be approved in spring 1998. At the end of 1997, Objective 4 was being implemented through 15 programming documents (10 SPDs and 5 OPs).

Implementation of appropriations under Objective 4



The level of implementation of Objective 4 in 1997 was much improved over previous years with all commitment and payment appropriations available in 1997 being used. During 1997 21% of the appropriations for 1994-99 were committed, which offset some of the backlog which had built up during the first three years of implementation. However, this very good performance was not entirely sufficient, since only 49% of the total appropriations had been committed by the end of 1997 (as against 62% for all the Objectives taken together). This was also the case for payments, which amounted to 16% of the appropriations for the period in 1997 and a cumulative total of 30% of appropriations, which made up only some of the backlog accumulated since 1994. This general delay in implementing Objective 4 was due mainly to three factors: the slow start to programmes in 1994 and 1995, the fact that the United Kingdom did not submit its SPD until the end of 1997 although it was one of the main beneficiaries and the under-utilisation of certain priorities (anticipation and technical assistance) of the SPD for Italy. However, the process has begun and the implementation rate for Objective 4 should improve substantially in 1998.

After four years of implementation, Objective 4 is gradually revealing its real potential for innovation as a tool for adjusting training systems to meet the challenges of industrial change and as an effective instrument for reaching out to small firms. Its targeting of measures at such firms has proved successful, although its measures for women and poorly qualified workers have been less successful.

Small firms and Objective 4

Small firms are the businesses most exposed to industrial change. At the same time, they are major creators of new jobs. That is why Objective 4 gives priority to helping small firms with training and the management of human resources.

In Spain, for example, most training for firms with fewer than 200 workers is covered by joint sectoral or multisectoral training plans drawn up by both sides of industry. In Germany and the Scandinavian countries, virtually all persons and organisations involved in supplying on-going training to workers (employers, workers, universities, training centres, employment services, public authorities, etc.) have grouped themselves in regional and local networks. A German project is training workers in small firms in distance working using the Internet. Such activities form a natural part of the Objective 4 training priority because they concern on-going vocational training and the acquisition of new skills in the information society in Europe.

2.1.6. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVE 5(a) (STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES)

• OBJECTIVE 5(a) - AGRICULTURE

Objective 5(a) is a horizontal Objective for agriculture which supports the modernisation of agricultural structures throughout the Union and so is linked to the common agricultural policy. The measures financed under Objective 5(a) agriculture may be divided into two groups: competitiveness and employment (assistance for training, the installation of young farmers, investment in agricultural holdings, services to assist agricultural holdings, producer groups, investment in the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products) and territorial balance and employment, in particular measures to assist mountain and other less-favoured areas.

Objective 5(a) agriculture is being implemented through 49 programming documents for the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products and through national rules laying down measures under Regulation (EC) No 950/97.

Small firms under Objective 5(a)

Measures under Objective 5(a) concern agricultural holdings and firms engaged in the processing and marketing of agricultural products. The main aim of these measures is to make the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products more efficient.

The structure of agricultural holdings assisted under Regulation (EC) No 950/97 means that most such holdings can be regarded as small firms. Assistance for the improvement of agricultural structures goes mainly to investment (adaptation, diversification, reduction of production costs, living and working conditions), young farmers (installation, adaptation of structures), training and better internal organisation. The improvement and restructuring of agricultural holdings takes account of their role as factors of stability in rural areas.

Under Regulations (EC) No 951/97 and (EEC) No 867/90 on improving the conditions for the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products, assistance is granted to the individual or legal person (or groups thereof) who pay for the investment. Contrary to what is commonly believed, the agri-foodstuffs sector is fairly fragmented and has a large number of small firms employing fewer than 20 people.

For example, with regard to the share by small firms in assistance under these two Regulations, during the current programming period about 65% of projects approved by the Spanish authorities were carried out by small firms. In Finland and Sweden, half the projects approved concerned small firms.

In 1997 the Council adopted codified versions of the three Regulations which constitute the legislative basis for Objective 5(a) (Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures, as Regulation (EC) No 950/97; Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 on improving the conditions for the processing and marketing of agricultural products, as Regulation (EC) No 951/97 and Regulation (EEC) No 1360/78 on producer groups and unions thereof, as Regulation (EC) No 952/97) in order to take account of the various amendments they had undergone. This codification inserted the successive amendments made to the original texts and improved simplification and clarity, in particular by including in Regulation (EC) No 950/97 the rules for determining less-favoured areas set out in Directive 268/75/EEC.

At local level, the work of the Monitoring Committees on measures concerning the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products focused on improving information systems on the implementation of measures and the organisation of programme evaluation. The work of the Committees meant that programmes in most of the Member States were implemented more quickly than in 1996. (See implementation of appropriations below.)

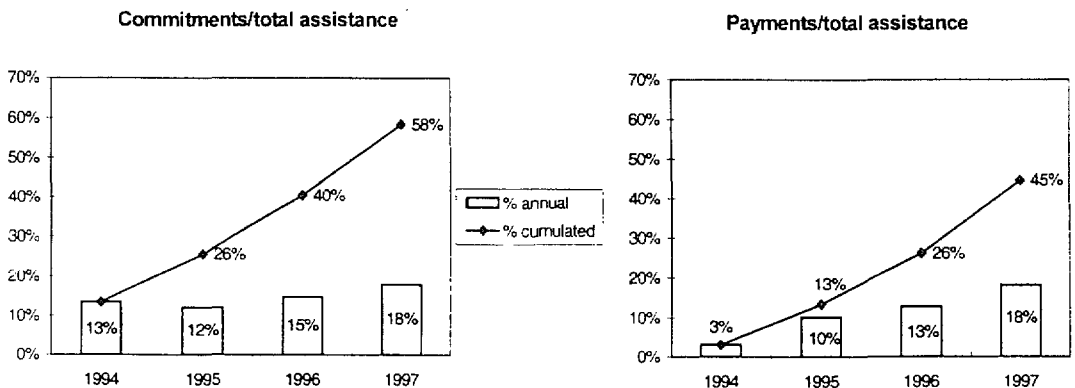
Implementation of the measures in the Italian CSF continued with approval of a multiregional operational programme to improve the conditions of processing and marketing of agricultural products. A number of SPDs from different Member States were amended. The main changes were the inclusion of new sectors for joint measures (some German Länder), increased total assistance for SPDs by transferring appropriations which had originally been allocated to measures under Regulation (EC) No 950/97 (Luxembourg, Spain) and the inclusion of new measures in a number of sectors (Belgium, Netherlands).

Following the expiry of Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97 laying down special conditions for the granting of investment aid in the new German Länder, the administrative provisions for application were brought into line with the general rules of application. Hence, the Community list of less-favoured areas was amended several times in 1997, once following a formal reclassification of certain municipalities and towns in Spain and once to extend the less-favoured areas in Austria to adjust areas already classified at accession. The less-favoured areas in Austria now amount to 27 433 ha, or 69.4% of the usable agricultural area (UAA).

On 4 September 1996, the Commission adopted a report on young farmers and the difficulties of taking over agricultural holdings in Europe which was discussed by the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and Parliament's Committee on Agriculture prior to presentation to the Council in 1998. The report looks at the economic, social, legal and tax problems encountered by those setting up in farming, examines the Community instruments which exist to encourage establishment and help young people in rural areas and describes how they are applied and the results achieved in various Member States. The report also sets out certain guidelines and recommendations for measures which could be taken at Community and national level to make measures to help young farmers throughout the Union more coherent and more effective.

A number of Member States sent memoranda to the Commission about how to improve Community policy on mountainous areas and several other initiatives on this matter were taken, including a hearing by Parliament and an own-initiative report by the Committee of the Regions.

Implementation of appropriations for Objective 5(a) agriculture



Like the other Objectives, during 1997 Objective 5(a) saw a considerable speeding up in the implementation of appropriations which made up a great deal of the accumulated backlog. All commitment and payment appropriations available in 1997 were used so that, by the end of the year, 58% of commitment appropriations for the period and 45% of the payment appropriations had been used. Rates of commitment were highest in France, Germany and the United Kingdom and lowest in Luxembourg, Spain and Austria. Delays in payments were greatest in Italy and the Netherlands.

• **OBJECTIVE 5(a) - FISHERIES**

The FIG provides assistance to fisheries and aquaculture structures for two reasons. One is to ensure a lasting balance between fish stocks and fishing activity by adjustments to the fishing effort and the other is to support and strengthen the fisheries sector as a whole.

The main measures taken in 1997 were as follows:

Adoption of multiannual guidance programmes (MGP IV) for 1997-2001

The Commission adopted the 13 multiannual guidance programmes (MGP)² for the fishing fleets for the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2001. The guidelines on the objectives of MGP IV were laid down by the Council in June 1997;³ they aim to achieve a sustainable balance between fisheries resources and their exploitation. Following this decision, the suspension of assistance to the fleet from the FIG was lifted. In accordance with these guidelines, MGP IV seeks to reduce the fishing effort by 30% for stocks threatened by exhaustion and 20% for stocks suffering from over-fishing. The objectives of MGP IV were calculated on the basis of those of MGP III (1992-96). Some Member States have still to complete what should have been done under the previous period, which will require a reduction in capacity of at least 55%. This restructuring will be accompanied by substantial structural assistance through the FIG, including assistance for the scrapping or conversion of vessels, support for productive investment in the sector and measures to help fishermen leaving the industry.

Specific measures for the conversion of the Italian fleet using drift nets ("Spadare")

Under the plan for converting this part of the fleet drawn up by the Italian authorities, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, adopted specific measures⁴ to allow aid to be granted to both the fishermen and owners concerned. In the case of the fishermen, the allowances to be paid for suspending fishing activity or taking up another trade may not exceed ECU 918.23 per person per month for up to six months and may be paid only for 1996, 1997 and 1998. They may be combined with a flat-rate payment of up to ECU 50 000 if the person ceases all economic activity and up to ECU 20 000 in the case of conversion to another fishing activity or another sector. Aid to vessel owners ranges from ECU 20 000 to ECU 156 000 where all fishing activity ceases and from ECU 10 000 to ECU 146 000 in the case of conversion to another activity, depending on power and the year of departure or conversion.

State aids

The Commission adopted guidelines for the examination of State aid to the fisheries sector (Commission communication to the Member States)⁵ which cover all measures entailing a financial advantage for one or more firms in any form whatsoever. The granting of national aid can be considered only if it complies with the aims of the common fisheries policy. The guidelines lay down criteria for the compatibility of the following categories of national aids: sea fishing, the processing and marketing of fisheries products, port facilities, the development of coastal waters, product quality and the veterinary and health fields.

Implementation of appropriations under Objective 5(a) fisheries

Unlike the other Objectives, during 1997 there was a distinct decline in commitments under Objective 5(a) with only 6% of the appropriations for the period being used as compared with 13% in 1996 and 20% in 1995. This situation is typical of how the FIG operates, frequently making single commitments for the whole of a programme, the amount of which is limited. By the end of 1997, 54% of assistance had been committed and 41% paid. Here too, the situation in different Member States varied enormously. Belgium, Austria, Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden (where the appropriations

² OJ L 39, 12.2.1998 (Commission Decisions 98/119/EC to 131/EC of 16 December 1997).

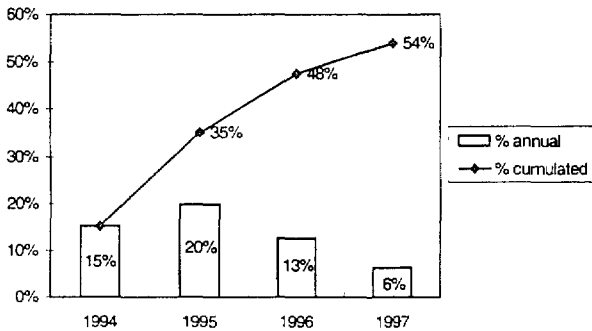
³ OJ L 175, 3.7.1997, p. 27 (Council Decision 97/413/EC of 26 June 1997).

⁴ OJ L 121, 13.5.1997, p. 20 (Council Decision 97/292/EC of 28 April 1997).

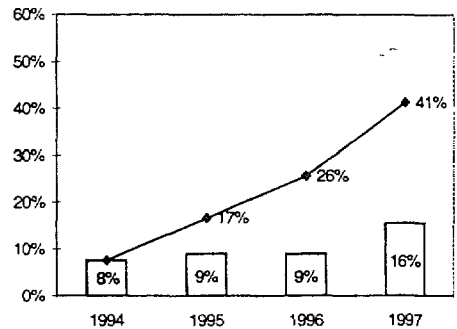
⁵ OJ C 100, 27.3.1997.

were, however, small) committed the whole amount for the period while others, including Italy and the Netherlands, had very low rates of commitment. The situation with regard to payments was the same. In Italy 1997 was a crisis year for the fishing industry and this is reflected in the low rate of implementation of appropriations in the Italian programme.

Commitments/total assistance



Payments/total assistance



Commitments in 1997 under Objective 5(a) fisheries amounted to 36% of the total available because some of the major beneficiary countries (Germany, Denmark, France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom) did not reach the threshold for commitment of the 1997 instalment.

Small firms and fisheries

Small firms make up the bulk of the industry engaged in the processing of fisheries and aquaculture products, which comprises some 2 200 firms employing about 92 000 people, an average of 42 each. Because of the size of their fishing fleets, the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain alone account for over half of Community employment in the sector.

The FIFG is part-financing measures to help small firms in the fields of aquaculture and the processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products. Since 1994 Community assistance from the FIFG for these fields has made a vital contribution to the part-financing of investment projects concerned with:

- the restructuring and modernisation of firms in difficulties while avoiding as far as possible the risk of creating surplus production capacity;
- improving the quality and hygiene of the products marketed;
- increasing value added and the exploitation of products
- promoting technological innovation and the development of new products.

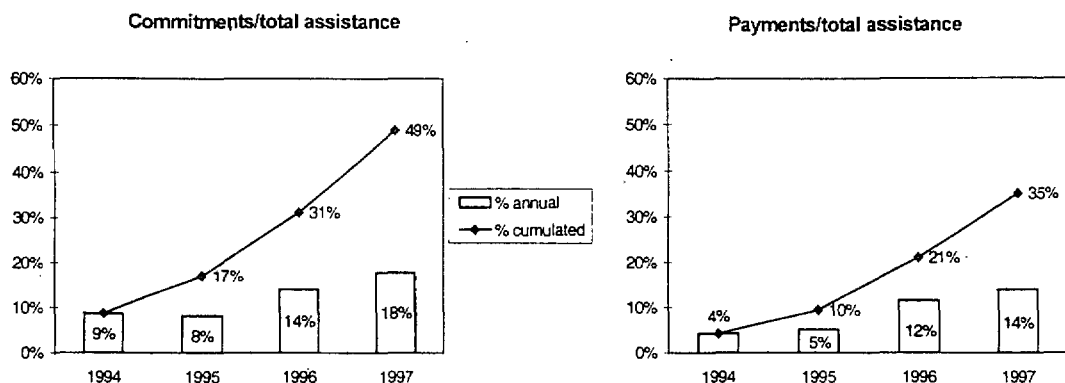
During the 1994-99 programming period, it is planned to use about one third of the total of ECU 2 700 million to assist these fields.

The FIFG also part-finances measures to adjust the fishing effort (scrapping of vessels, establishment of joint ventures) and modernise and renew the fleet. 95% of the vessels comprising the Community fleet are less than 24 metres long. Small firms are therefore the principal beneficiaries of this assistance. Most of the socio-economic structural measures in the fisheries sector concern small firms.

2.1.7. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVE 5(b) (STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT OF RURAL AREAS)

Objective 5(b) is a regionalised Objective intended to facilitate the development and structural adjustment of rural areas. At the end of 1997 it was being implemented through 84 regional SPDs.

Implementation of appropriations under Objective 5(b)



At the end of 1997, the overall level of commitments was 49% compared with 31% at the end of 1996, lower than the average across all the Objectives of 62%. This figure does not fully reflect actual progress, which may be considered acceptable even though it is inadequate in certain Member States. There was some reprogramming of financing plans to help make up the backlog but it could not be entirely effective unless work actually resumed. Locally, strenuous efforts were made better to promote and publicise programmes among potential beneficiaries, which was one of the priorities for action identified in the 1996 annual report and interim evaluations. If programmes are to be fully successful, these promotional activities will have to continue to the end of the current programming period in December 1999.

During 1997 commitments and payments accounted for all the appropriations available. The highest rates of commitment were in Spain and Germany while there were persistent backlogs in Italy, Belgium and Finland. In Italy, evaluation work on the programmes revealed certain features of Objective 5(b) specific to Italy which accounted for delays in implementation. These included the separation of procedures for implementing Objective 5(b) from ordinary regional programming, the predominance of aid schemes containing a large number of micro-projects, the complexity of national rules on the implementation of projects and, most important of all, the length and complexity of the tendering procedure. In Belgium, the bulk of the delays were in Flanders and were due to the difficulties of the Flemish Government in providing matching funds.

Solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in Italy took the form of a transfer of resources from the Objective 5(b) programmes for the Marche and Umbria to reconstruction work. Other transfers from different regions of Italy to help the earthquake areas are being considered.

Small firms and Objective 5(b)

About 25% of the appropriations for the measures part-financed under this Objective concern firms in rural areas. The measures are of various types: productive investment, aid for investment in small firms (aid schemes), infrastructure to create jobs outside agriculture, aid for business services (transfer of technology, etc.), advisory services and so on. Other measures part-financed, such as tourism and the renovation of villages, also affect the activity of small firms.

In six of the Objective 5(b) programmes in Germany, aid to small firms is regarded as a main target and an essential condition for the development of rural areas.

In France too, diversification to promote non-agricultural activity, and particularly measures for small firms, is an important aspect of development programmes. The special features of regions mean that aid varies but it concerns mainly the modernisation of the means of production, innovation, dissemination and the transfer of technology, recruitment aid, financial engineering and so on.

In the United Kingdom, 11 programmes give priority to measures to help small firms cope with certain handicaps: inadequate infrastructure, distance from their main markets and poor levels of skills. These are usually small or very small firms.

2.1.8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Following a late start in 1995 and the allocation of the reserve in 1996, the Community Initiatives may truly said to have been under way in 1997. This chapter does not look at each of the Initiatives separately but seeks to highlight the main features of 1997 as reflected in the adoption of new programmes and the implementation of appropriations. It also presents some illustrative examples of support for small firms.

The breakdown of assistance adopted under the Community Initiatives for 1994-99 (as at 31 December 1997) (ECU million – 1997 prices)

	Adapt	Employer	Leader	Pesca	SMEs	Regis	Rechar	Konver	Resider	Retex*	Urban	Interreg**	Total
B	38,63	45,79	10,31	2,51	12,40		15,68	11,45	27,71	4,40	10,45		179,33
DK	31,73	14,10	8,16	16,40	2,55			2,38			1,52		76,84
D	256,70	200,99	182,18	23,00	189,12		178,54	302,51	206,58	77,39	115,21		1.732,23
EL	33,53	70,69	148,00	31,11	83,33		3,05	12,91	4,69	87,52	45,20		520,02
E	293,16	450,13	373,48	41,50	251,74	216,93	34,21	23,76	73,64	90,39	162,60		2.011,55
F	278,44	191,20	228,54	28,30	58,49	266,08	33,54	86,16	62,30	39,54	80,52		1.353,10
IRL	27,84	88,61	69,49	7,84	28,81					11,47	20,78		254,85
I	219,69	401,39	314,72	34,17	192,53		1,89	64,79	92,35	82,99	136,02		1.540,53
L	0,30	0,30	1,01		0,35			0,36	13,25		0,51		16,08
NL	69,67	62,62	8,50	10,63	10,34			12,05	23,54	1,01	22,30		220,64
A	11,57	23,01	23,39		8,98		1,85		5,24	2,59	13,36		89,98
P	21,43	45,47	130,91	29,26	125,36	126,53	2,26	13,99	9,08	204,90	50,00		759,17
FIN	23,56	33,16	28,34	3,41	11,09						7,89		107,45
S	13,07	24,01	16,35	3,97	17,21			3,35			4,97		82,94
UK	316,81	193,77	66,20	37,42	68,67		184,75	136,91	52,15	41,76	121,43		1.219,88
EU			16,00	0,63								3.591,66	3.608,36
TOTAL	1.636,13	1.045,24	1.625,59	270,21	1.060,97	609,54	455,77	670,61	570,51	643,96	792,75	3.591,66	13.772,95

* Including 1993

** Including Peace

The main features of 1997

Adoption of the last programmes under the original allocation

In all, 13 programmes were approved in 1997: one Konver CIP and one Resider II CIP in Luxembourg, one Konver CIP in Spain, three SMEs CIPs in England, three Interreg A and B CIPs (Italy/Slovenia, Italy/Austria and Italy/Greece) and four Leader CIPs for Belgium costing a total of ECU 292.92 million. There were also technical assistance programmes for Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden. This means that all the CIPs under the original allocation have now been adopted.

On 26 November 1997 the Commission published a communication⁶ in which it requested the extension for 1998 and 1999 of the Peace programme for reconciliation and economic recovery in Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland.

⁶ COM(97) 642.

Adoption of the first additional programmes following allocation of the reserve

For the first time, it was possible to adopt in 1997 some new programmes under the allocation of the reserve decided on by the Commission in May 1996:

14 Urban CIPs were approved: two for Germany (Zwickau and Kiel), five for France (Clichy-Montfermeil, Châlons-sur-Saône, Saint-Etienne, Bastia and Mantes-la-Jolie), two for the Netherlands (Rotterdam and Utrecht), four for the United Kingdom (Coventry, Bristol, Leeds and Brighton) and one for Finland (Helsinki/Vantaa). The total amount involved was ECU 76.6 million.

Adoption of Interreg II C transnational cooperation programmes

During the first half of the year, virtually all the proposals for Interreg II C programmes were submitted to the Commission by the Member States. The bulk of these programmes were approved by the end of the year and the final decisions on the remaining programmes should be taken early in 1998.

The situation by programme is as follows: of the six CIPs approved, two (Italy and Portugal) concern combating drought and one "Irma" (Belgium / Germany / France / Luxembourg / Netherlands) flood prevention. The other three concern transnational cooperation: United Kingdom/Denmark/Sweden/Netherlands and Germany (North Sea region), Austria/Germany/Greece and Italy (Cades/Arianube), and Denmark/Germany/Finland and Sweden (Baltic Sea region). These six CIPs account for a total of ECU 218.94 million.

The other programmes submitted during 1997 concern the western Mediterranean and the Alps (E, F, I, GR), south-west Europe (P, E, F), the Atlantic (P, E, F, UK, IRL), the NWMA (North-west metropolitan area - F, L, B, D, NL, UK, IRL), anti-flood measures in France and Italy and measures to combat drought in Spain and Greece.

At the end of 1997, there were therefore 446 measures implementing all the 13 Community Initiatives.

The SMEs Community Initiative

The SMEs Community Initiative, which has a total of ECU 1.1 billion for the areas eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5(b) and 6, of which some ECU 800 million is for the Objective 1 regions, is being implemented with the last programmes, mainly for the United Kingdom, adopted during 1997. Progress in implementing the programmes varies widely from one Member State to another. In Ireland, for example, 80% of the programme is concentrated on a financial engineering measure (interest-rate subsidies) for small firms (fewer than 50 employees) and is virtually fully committed. In France, two calls for projects on cooperation between firms on modernisation and innovation and transitional partnerships are now at the project selection stage. Calls for projects have also been launched in Italy. However, in Spain and Portugal there are still problems in starting programmes. In Greece 96% of small firms have fewer than 10 employees and so are particularly vulnerable to the pressures of the single market. That is why the programme there concentrates on grouping activities to reap economies of scale and on assistance to small firms in modernising their production and organisation. The programme in Saxony (Germany) seeks to support product development and promote marketing. To encourage small firms to adopt a more international approach, this programme also helps them gain access to new markets such as eastern Europe and south-east Asia. The programmes in the new Member States include measures to promote environmental audits, advice and training in distance systems and environmental technology (in Austria), to gain access to markets through networks, better training and management, access to the single market, new information and environmental technologies as a factor for competitiveness (in Sweden) and to improve links between research and training and the application of the technical rules on the single market and the grouping of activity (Finland).

Small firms at the centre of the Community Initiatives

In addition to the SMEs Initiative itself, the Commission has laid special stress on measures for locally generated and local development to help small firms in the vast majority of the other Community Initiatives.

- The Leader Community Initiative: support for small and craft firms is one of the most important aspects of the Leader Initiative, accounting directly for about 20% of appropriations plus those allocated to training.

The following examples deserve attention: the two Leader action groups (LAGs) in Luxembourg have jointly established a one-stop shop for small firms; a working party bringing together representatives of LAGs in Sierra de Segura (Andalusia), Montaña de Navarra (Navarre), La Manchuela (Castile-La Mancha) and the inland Basque Country (Aquitaine) has been set up to transfer know-how on encouraging the setting up of firms; in Ireland the West Cork Food Enterprise Partnership is an initiative to support local small firms in the agri-foodstuffs sector and to promote the establishment of new firms and various LAGs in Portugal (Ponta Delgada and Villa do Porto, south-west Alentejo, central Alentejo, Vale do Sor, Punhal Interior Sul) have set up joint services for business. Some LAGs have helped set up firms: a craft glassworks at Psiloritis (Greece) and a clothes manufacturing firm in Modabarr (Portugal).

At European level, the Leader European Observatory stimulates the exchange of information and experience and organises seminars. For example, in February 1997 a seminar with participants from eight Member States was held at Elizondo (Navarre, Spain) to discuss ways of supporting the establishment of new activities.

- The Interreg II A Initiative has done considerable work on promoting crossborder economic development for small firms such as the exchange of information and know-how and the promotion of crossborder centres or parks for the transfer of technologies and innovative products.

- The Initiatives for industrial conversion (Konver, Rechar II, Resider II and Retex) include measures to increase the capacity of small firms to diversify their economic activities (collective research into new markets or the transfer of technologies to small firms). Furthermore, improved management and the use of new technologies for better access to intangible resources considerably boost the development of small firms (investment and advice before technological committal and technological diagnosis, the establishment of structures of services, improved product quality and the optimisation of production). There is also assistance to get firms onto the "information superhighway" (access to networks and servers, awareness of dissemination technologies). Small firms need access to good management and organisation practice and techniques (exchange of managers, recruitment of experts, introduction of computer facilities, preparation of modernisation plans). The Adapt Initiative is largely focused on small firms with a high concentration on the organisation of work and the changes brought about by the new technologies. The Now strand of the Employment Initiative (equal opportunities for men and women) includes the establishment of businesses by women.

Another important aspect is access by small firms to the financial markets and new products (venture capital or start-up funds) to provide finance on better terms. This support includes both financial participation in the creation of the funds and information for small firms on financial products and technical assistance by experts on business finance.

The final aspect of significance is the exchange of experience and networking to promote the internationalisation of firms and improve knowledge of markets (this is one of the main aims of the SMEs Initiative). Substantial support is given to the formation of networks to promote contacts within the Community in various fields (between declining employment areas, the development of the marketing of new products and the spreading of skills and innovative methods).

Adapt and Employment

During 1997 a new priority was added to the Adapt Initiative: the information society. In addition, 2 327 new projects were adopted covering still more firms, and particularly small firms. A conference was held in Athens in May to consider support for small firms under Adapt and lessons in good practice which could be generally applied. A new strand, Integra, was added to the Employment Community Initiative, mainly to provide help for immigrants. Over 3 700 new projects, whose average quality was very high, were selected. Firms are still under-represented among the partners but some progress has been made. Three conferences were held in 1997, on Youthstart (Stockholm in September), Integra (Barcelona in October) and Now (Brussels in December). The Now conference was concerned with the establishment of firms by women.

Implementation of appropriations

CI	Commitments/assistance					Payments/assistance				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994-1997	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994-1997
Adapt	0%	19%	14%	8%	40%	0%	9%	5%	9%	24%
Employment	11%	6%	14%	15%	46%	5%	3%	9%	13%	31%
Leader	0%	29%	15%	10%	54%	0%	8%	8%	6%	23%
Pesca	9%	11%	50%	8%	77%	4%	2%	8%	13%	27%
SMEs	0%	19%	17%	13%	49%	0%	6%	8%	12%	26%
Rechar	0%	38%	26%	25%	89%	0%	17%	14%	17%	47%
Regis	0%	10%	26%	15%	50%	0%	4%	22%	9%	35%
Konver	0%	36%	20%	29%	84%	0%	13%	14%	10%	37%
Resider	1%	30%	24%	18%	73%	0%	14%	14%	11%	39%
Retex*	12%	26%	24%	13%	75%	9%	13%	11%	9%	43%
Urban	0%	20%	27%	15%	62%	0%	7%	14%	10%	31%
Interreg**	0%	16%	24%	14%	54%	0%	7%	13%	12%	32%
Total	2%	19%	20%	14%	56%	1%	8%	11%	11%	31%

* Including 1993

** Including Peace

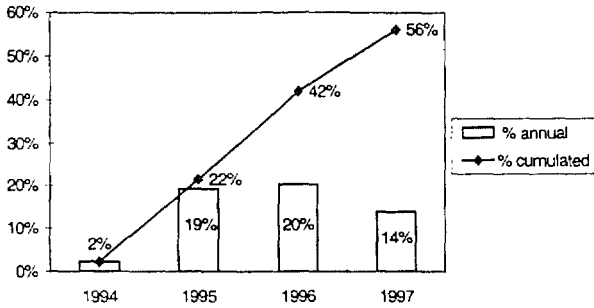
Implementation of appropriations for the Community Initiatives as a whole

Implementation of appropriations for the Community Initiatives is well below the rate for the CSFs/SPDs; the situation with regard to commitment appropriations in 1997 was less good than it had been in 1996 (61% of the appropriations available for the year were used as compared with 94% in 1996) although that for payment appropriations was slightly better (90% of the appropriations available for the year were used as compared with 80% in 1996). However, the substantial delays in adopting and starting programmes in 1994 and 1995 made it impossible to reach a satisfactory rate of implementation. After four years, total commitments for 1994-97 amount to 56% of assistance and payments for only 31%.

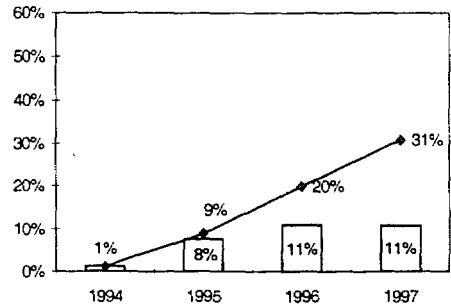
In many cases, these delays in implementation are the result either of the late approval of programmes or of specific problems in certain Community Initiatives, such as, for example, the partnership in the case of Urban and Interreg II or the very specific measures under the SMEs Community Initiative. However, some Member States believe that they will be able to use the appropriations available quickly.

The Commission also entered into discussions with the Member States on ways of reprogramming financial resources, either between measures within the same programme or between programmes within an Initiative. Any reallocations among Initiatives can be considered only in the light of these discussions.

Commitments/total assistance



Payments/total assistance



The situation also varies very considerably from one Initiative to another. The commitment rates for those dealing with the conversion of industrial areas (Rechar II, Retex, Resider II, Konver) and Pesca are fairly satisfactory, ranging from 79% to 89% of total assistance for the period 1994-99. However, this is mainly because the bulk of these Community Initiatives result in a single commitment when the programmes are approved. By contrast, at 40% to 54% of total assistance, implementation of commitments is much lower in the case of the Adapt, Employment, Leader, SMEs and Interreg Initiatives. With 31% of assistance paid at the end of 1997, the situation with regard to payments is slightly better than in 1996 (20%) but is still too low, being particularly weak in the cases of Leader (only 23%) and Adapt (24%). The rate for the industrial conversion Initiatives is, however slightly more satisfactory (between 37% and 47% of assistance for the period).

Small firms and transnational cooperation

The SMEs Community Initiative contains ECU 25 million for transnational measures across Member States. Three types of measure have been launched:

- **small firms in tourism and the Internet: the Pmetour programme**

Compared with large firms, small firms are severely handicapped in their access to and use of the information superhighway, particularly the Internet, and so need special help in this area. The Commission accordingly launched the Pmetour measure to help small firms engaged in tourism in the least favoured areas of the Union. Its aim is to establish a coordinating structure at European level to provide technical assistance to some 40 regional projects and involve small firms in the sector. Assistance will be used to help create web sites and establish systems for reservations and direct payments through the Internet. The coordination structure began work in April 1997. The selection of the regional projects took some time but, by the end of 1997, about half the projects had begun and the others should begin early in 1998.

- **International Buyers' Exhibitions (IBEX)**

These exhibitions, originally begun as part of business policy, are based on a desire to improve the sub-contracting position of small firms. The idea was then taken up as part of regional policy and the SMEs Initiative in the regions eligible. The exhibitions are organised over a period of two to three days and bring together some 40 large firms and 350 to 400 small firms. Prearranged meetings on an international level are organised between the large firms and small firms on the basis of needs identified by the large firms and the specific abilities of the small firms to meet those needs. Each IBEX concentrates on a different sector of activity. Under its business policy, in March 1997 the Commission supported the "Elmia Food" IBEX at Jönköping (Sweden) on agri-foodstuffs and in May 1998 "Vibex" at Gothenburg (Sweden) on the motor vehicle sector. During 1998, three IBEXs will be held under regional policy at Magdeburg, Germany, on energy, at León, Spain, on agri-foodstuffs and at Libramont, Belgium, on the wood industry.

- **Exchanges of experience and good practice**

The Commission intends to organise exchange projects so that examples of good practice can be circulated among small firms and the organisations which represent them. A detailed analysis of the programmes for these Initiatives has begun to identify the type of measures to be supported. The results will be used to develop a programme for the exchange of experience including seminars on cooperation and the development of an Internet site.

2.1.9. INNOVATIVE MEASURES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Each Fund may finance its own measures for studies, pilot measures or technical assistance up to the following maximum percentages of annual funding: ERDF 1.5%, EAGGF 1%, ESF 0.5%, FIFG 2%.

Innovative measures under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation:

New projects adopted in 1997:

During 1997, 49 new pilot projects or innovative measures were launched, accounting for Community finance totalling ECU 100 million. The three series of measures concerned are urban pilot projects and two territorial planning programmes: pilot measures and Terra (interregional cooperation on territorial planning in specific fields). The response to calls for proposals for the urban pilot projects and Terra was substantial and 645 projects were submitted (503 urban projects and 142 territorial planning projects).

No open call was issued in respect of pilot planning measures, which are the result of a request to the Member States to submit joint proposals.

1. Urban pilot projects

Of the 503 new urban pilot projects submitted in 1997, 26 were selected, with a total budget of ECU 63.6 million. The projects were launched in July at a seminar for project managers to ensure that good project monitoring practice was in place from the start. The pilot projects are intended to develop broad partnerships in the public and private sectors in the cities concerned and to provide an integrated and innovative approach to urban problems. The subjects of the measures include the integration of the environment, economic and social measures, the use of new technologies for dealing with urban problems, equal opportunities, better access, the development of cultural assets and the restoration of rundown areas.

Of the 33 first-phase urban pilot projects undertaken between 1989 and 1994, 20 had been completed by the end of 1997.

2. Territorial planning

Progress was made in both types of territorial planning projects:

- **Terra:** Following a call for proposals in 1996, the final selection provided finance totalling ECU 20 million for 15 pilot projects over three years (five of these projects concern river basins, four coastal areas, three endangered cultural assets, two rural areas to which access is difficult and one areas threatened by erosion). A call for proposals was also organised to provide technical assistance for the programme (implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects selected). This assistance will be implemented in 1998.
- **Pilot measures for territorial planning:** At the seminar on 3 and 4 July 1996, the Member States were invited to submit joint proposals for pilot projects under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. The deadline for these proposals, originally set at 10 March 1997, was extended at the request of the Member States. The four pilot measures to be implemented are "Northern periphery" (DK,

FIN, S, N), the Alps and eastern Alps (A, I, D). "Archi-Med" (the south-east Mediterranean - GR, I, Malta, Cyprus) and the "Mediterranean Gateway" (E, P, Morocco).

Each pilot project has funding worth ECU 5 million out of ECU 20 million earmarked for innovative measures of this type under Article 10. The Commission should adopt its assistance decisions during the first quarter of 1998.

Innovative measures in progress

In addition to the three series of measures adopted in 1997, some 200 other innovative projects financed by the ERDF were implemented in the following fields: new sources of employment, culture and the heritage (see sections 6.6 and 6.7), regional innovation strategies (RIS), the transfer of technology, the information society (RISI) and external interregional cooperation (Ecos-Ouverture).

Small firms and pilot projects

Very many pilot projects, for example in technological innovation and the information society, have a large component concerned with small firms. Two types of project concerned with *innovation* have been developed (total budget: ECU 15 million):

RIS (regional innovation strategies): 19 projects have been selected to expand capacity for innovation among regional firms by developing cooperation between the public and private sectors. For example, the steering committees for a number of RIS projects such as Belgian Limburg, Yorkshire and Humberside, Strathclyde and Shannon are chaired by businessmen, so enabling these management bodies to keep business concerns at the forefront of their activities.

RTT (multiregional technology transfer projects), of which seven were selected, are intended to reduce imbalances between regions and encourage interregional cooperation on research and development and innovation. For example, the Footwear project is intended to adapt and demonstrate an Italian technology on the design and automated production of moulds and transfer it to small firms in the footwear sector in the Objective 1 regions of Spain, Portugal and Greece. The Esteem project concerns the transfer of environmental production technologies to small firms in the United Kingdom, Greece, Germany and Finland.

Measures concerning the *information society* (RISI) have two strands:

RISI 1: encouraging partnership in preparing a regional action plan for the information society among those occupying key positions in a region, and RISI 2: multiregional pilot projects. A total of 31 projects were selected, of which 21 were financed by the ERDF and ten by the ESF. Multiregional measures, like Enterskillsnet, seek to develop a network of small firms in rural areas including Tarn and Haute-Garonne, France; Andalusia, Spain; Etelä-Savo, Finland; Dublin and Lanford, Ireland, and Scotland. The Tourist measure concerns those involved in tourism in Madeira, Portugal; Burgenland, Austria; Lappi, Finland; Valle d'Aosta, Italy; Västerbotten, Sweden, and Hampshire, United Kingdom. Most of the 22 RISI1 regional strategies address specific issues related to SME and have started regional working groups on SME which will develop inter-regional collaboration during 1998.

The vast majority of the 100 interregional projects (Recite and Ecos-Ouverture) now being negotiated pay considerable attention to small firms and at least one third of them seek to encourage innovation in such firms and an international outlook.

Partnership instruments for small firms:**Europartenariat - the partnership between firms in action**

Europartenariat, which is financed under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation and the third multiannual programme for SMEs, is intended to promote the economic development of regions eligible under the Structural Funds (Objectives 1, 2, 5(b) and 6) by stimulating transnational cooperation among small firms. It is managed jointly by the Commission departments responsible for business policy and for regional policy and cohesion and offers firms the opportunity to meet potential partners to discuss and negotiate cooperation agreements.

Two such events were held in 1997, at Piraeus in Greece and in the French Massif Central:

- Europartenariat Greece (Piraeus, 23-24 June). 400 small firms from Greece met 1 733 firms from over 60 countries, of which 758 came from within the Union, 37 from EFTA countries, 299 from the Mediterranean, 360 from the Phare countries, 200 from the Tacis countries, 64 from Asia and 12 from the United States. 11 336 meetings were organised.

- Europartenariat France (Clermont-Ferrand, 16-17 October). 418 small firms from France met 1 750 firms from over 60 countries, of which 974 came from within the Union (including 333 from France), 48 from EFTA countries, 213 from the Mediterranean, 201 from the Phare countries, 138 from the Tacis countries, 104 from Asia, 34 from Latin America, 25 from the United States and 13 from Canada. 10 300 meetings were organised. In 1998 Europartenariats will take place in Apeldoorn, Netherlands (11-12 June) and Valencia, Spain (12-13 November).

Measures financed under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation (ECU million)

	Total funding* 1995-99 (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Interregional cooperation	180,0	2,8	25,8	14%	9,1	13,8	8%
- internal interregional cooperation	110,0	2,8	9,8	9%	2,7	7,4	7%
- external interregional cooperation	70,0	0,0	16,0	23%	6,4	6,4	9%
Regional development	90,0	43,7	64,6	72%	19,4	25,9	29%
- promoting technological innovation	20,0	2,2	8,6	43%	2,4	5,0	25%
- the information society	20,0	13,2	17,0	85%	2,2	3,6	18%
- culture and economic development	15,0	14,9	14,9	99%	5,9	5,9	40%
- new sources of employment	15,0	11,3	15,2	102%	6,5	6,5	43%
- support and technical assistance	20,0	2,2	9,0	45%	2,4	4,8	24%
Territorial planning	45,0	14,3	28,3	63%	4,8	9,7	22%
Urban pilot projects	80,0	64,5	66,1	83%	22,8	22,9	29%
Total	395,0	125,3	184,8	47%	56,2	72,3	18%

* 1995 prices

Technical assistance under Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation

Under Article 7, the ERDF may spend up to 0.5% of its annual funding on studies, technical assistance and information. In 1997, a large part of the funding devoted to measures of this type was spent on technical assistance for the territorial pacts for employment (48% of total assistance for 1997). Throughout the Union, 36 million people are covered by the territorial employment pacts. Assistance to the Business Innovation Centres (BICs) for the establishment and development of small firms accounted for 43% of the total and was spent on establishing new BICs in ten Member States. Conferences and seminars (4%) included the fourth meeting of those concerned with local development in Marseilles, the conference on women in local development in Sardinia and a seminar on the exchange of experiences of the Structural Funds involving Spain, Ireland and Italy. The 3% spent on information measures financed a stand at Expo '98 in Lisbon. Studies (2%) included a comparative study on job creation in an urban environment.

Local development measures for small firms

22 new **Business Innovation Centres (BICs)** were set up in 10 Member States, so enlarging the European network, which now has 140 BICs in the areas assisted by the Union and the countries of central Europe. Through their integrated systems of services for the establishment and development of innovative firms, the Centres encourage innovation, internationalisation and the diversification of productive structures within the Structural Funds and engage in complementary activity within the RIS, Europartenariats, territorial pacts and the Community Initiatives.

Measures for small firms in the territorial pacts for employment

Many action plans stress the diversification of the local fabric of production, the establishment of small firms and the promotion of regional and local products. The pact for Molise in Italy, for example, provides for the establishment of new firms in the agri-foodstuffs and tourism sectors and the development of a quality seal for regional products. In Sicily the Alto Belice Corleonese pact is also based on an integrated development model based on the typical products of the region. A venture capital fund with ECU 2.5 million has been set up at Clabecq in Belgium for the establishment and development of small firms.

Technical assistance under Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation

	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97
Preparation and monitoring	20,1	33,6	7,5	28,2
Evaluation	4,0	5,4	2,5	11,8
Regional studies	0,3	1,8	0,5	2,7
Conferences, colloquia, seminars	0,8	3,5	0,9	3,4
Information and publicity	6,2	20,8	5,7	21,3
Technical assistance and facilities	5,1	15,3	3,3	13,8
TOTAL	36,4	80,3	20,4	81,2

Excluding decommitments for measures in previous years

Innovative measures and technical assistance under Article 6 of the ESF Regulation**New sources of employment:**

1997 was a year which saw useful exchanges of information between the promoters of new sources of employment and the Commission. The main innovation was the establishment of careful monitoring of the pilot measures which had begun in 1994 and 1995. The new information technologies were of great assistance in promoting communication between the Commission's monitoring unit and project promoters on the spot. This instrument also encouraged cooperation among promoters at an early stage will permit establishment of an electronic network. By the end of 1997, all but two of the projects launched in 1996 had begun and the survey of "innovation" projects from 1994 and 1995 was completed. The results of this survey will be available early in 1998 and will provide material for a series of seminars to promote exchanges of experience between project promoters, including those for the last projects launched in 1996.

The 1997 call for proposals resulted in 955 submissions of which 70 were selected for more detailed study. Two thirds of projects are directly concerned with job creation by developing new sources of employment or new types of firms while the rest concern the reorganisation of work or training.

The social dialogue

Measures part-financed by the ESF during 1997 enabled the main European federations (European Trade Union Confederation - ETUC, Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe - UNICE, Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation - ECPE) to continue training representatives of workers and employers or their representatives. This training provided recipients with greater

knowledge of industrial change and, in particular, the impact of change on employment, skills and vocational qualifications and on industrial relations. During the year the two-year training programme under the auspices of UNICE was completed. The annual programme submitted by ETUC comprised 30 measures, most of which were concerned with the impact of the new technologies or new forms of work organisation on employment, training, qualifications in areas such as clean technologies (the environment), new methods of production and participative management, distance working and the organisation of work, technological developments and their impact on the organisation of work in telecommunications, etc. The ECPE's multiannual programmes on managing new forms of parity and territorial excellence in Europe are intended to embrace the quality approach in the social dialogue at territorial level. There was also an innovation at the regulatory level when Article 6 was extended to applicants other than the traditional beneficiaries: Yes for Europe, the European social dialogue on line, the Irish productivity centre and Dialco-Forc. This experimental phase paves the way for a further extension of the call for applications in 1998.

Technical assistance from the ESF

Technical assistance under Article 6 of the ESF Regulation provided support for 23 territorial pacts for employment in which the ESF was the main partner (of which 22 were adopted in 1997) and for preparations for the launch of a second series of projects for the Employment and Adapt Community Initiatives, the production of five special reports, the organisation of four major European conferences and the updating of the Internet site.

(ECU million)

	Commitments					Payments				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994-97	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994-97
Innovative measures, studies	0,4	22,3	31,0	36,2	89,9	0,2	11,2	18,6	17,9	47,8
Technical assistance	61,9	33,7	32,2	21,4	149,2	69,7	45,5	34,8	26,3	176,3
Total	62,2	56,1	63,2	57,6	239,1	69,8	56,7	53,3	44,2	224,1

Including carryovers, appropriations reconstituted and decommitments

Payments do not necessarily correspond to commitments for the same period

Innovative measures and technical assistance under Article 8 of the EAGGF Guidance Section Regulation

The measures financed in 1997 under Article 8 of the EAGGF Guidance Section Regulation concerned technical assistance for implementation of eight territorial pacts employment in the Objective 5(b) areas, work on rural indicators to support a rural development policy, the preparation of summary reports on interim evaluations of Objective 5(b) and a contract for the supply of services and equipment for communications information about Community policy on rural development.

A call for proposals was issued in September 1996 for pilot and demonstration projects concerning innovative measures by women farmers and women in the countryside. It was highly successful with over 400 proposals being submitted in 1997. These include support for and the promotion of women in the countryside and comprise innovative measures taken by women and women farmers to promote and develop agricultural production and for vocational retraining or diversification, measures to create jobs and advance social and vocational integration, training and management training measures and the development of networks for the sharing of know-how and experience.

During 1997 a first examination of all the proposals was carried out to verify compliance with various conditions laid down in the call for proposals and the experts responsible for giving a decision on each proposal were selected. The amount of work generated by the large number of applications meant that this task could not be completed by the end of 1997. Project selection will take place during 1998.

Many of the projects financed have been inspected. In some cases, the irregularities detected have resulted in recovery procedures being started.

Measures financed under Article 8 of the EAGGF Regulation

	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1996-97
Evaluation, monitoring, technical assistance and studies	1.620.802	2.344.009
Pilot and demonstration projects	263.989	14.758.278
Dissemination measures	3.431.084	3.431.084
TOTAL	5.315.875	20.533.371

Excluding commitments and decommitments in respect of measures in previous years

Innovative and technical assistance measures under Article 4 of the FIG Regulation

The measures taken in 1997 under Article 4 of the FIG Regulation concerned mainly the maintenance of a fleet register, technical assistance for rescaling the fleet, a study on consultation of the industry bodies and participation in Expo '98 in Lisbon. The total cost was ECU 2.1 million.

Measures financed under Article 4 of the FIG Regulation

	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-96	Commitments 1994-97	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-96	Payments 1994-97
Studies	893.697	4.027.736	4.921.433	426.965	2.766.949	3.193.914
Publications, information and training	533.162	79.908	613.070	489.322	67.863	557.185
Technical assistance	697.174	3.449.962	4.147.136	1.709.881	1.022.906	2.732.787
TOTAL	2.124.033	7.557.606	9.681.639	2.626.168	3.857.718	6.483.886

Under Article 4 of the FIG Regulation, from 25 to 28 May the Commission organised the Casablanca Partenariat 97 on the fishing industry, an initial encounter in partnership between the fishing industry in the Union and that in Morocco. The meeting, organised on the basis of cooperation projects submitted by Moroccan firms in the sector and listed in a catalogue distributed to their European counterparts, resulted in almost 3 000 contacts between about 100 Moroccan firms and 300 European ones.

2.2. COUNTRY BY COUNTRY SURVEY

2.2.1. BELGIUM

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

In Belgium, the breakdown between federal, regional and community areas of competence means that assistance from the Structural Funds for all Objectives is spread across a large number of operational programmes or SPDs. This is particularly true of the ESF, where only four programmes out of 21 top the ECU 40 million mark.

Measures to assist small businesses in Belgium:

The Funds' contribution to the development of SMEs under the regionalised Objectives can be put overall at around ECU 766 million for the current period, of which 63% is for Objective 1, 32% for Objective 2 and 5% for Objective 5(b).

Objective 1: Three venture-capital funds were set up within specialised enterprises, Sambrinvest, Hoccinvest and Invest Borinage-Centre. Half of the capital came from Invest and half from SOWAGEP, which administers the funds provided by the Commission as part of the scheme. Assistance takes the form of participations in equity, loans and the issue of convertible bonds. To qualify, enterprises must be based in the districts covered by these "Invests" and not have the official status of "businesses in difficulty"; the assistance from each Fund may not result in the regional-aid ceiling being exceeded, especially in combination with investment premiums. A total of ECU 30 million was allocated, with the ERDF supplying 50%. The national contribution of ECU 15 million was met by the "Invests" and there was no private participation. The crucial criterion for the selection of projects is creating jobs. Innovative projects and environmental protection are further factors influencing the choice.

Objective 2: In Turnhout, a project involving sponsorship of SMEs by bigger enterprises has been in place for a decade or so, under the "Strategisch plan Kempen". The total cost of the project is ECU 900 000, with an ESF contribution of ECU 400 000. The project entails putting managers of major companies and SMEs in contact with each other at regular intervals (once a month), so they can exchange information and advice and constitute a "support network". To date, some 700 enterprises have taken part in the project and 1 670 jobs have been created.

In Limburg, a multimedia technology and innovation centre was set up. Facilities include an auditorium and training, demonstration and lecture rooms. *Inter alia* the centre conducts research work under contract with an eye to SMEs and larger companies, as well as demonstration projects. The impact on employment at the end of 1997 was 9.5 full-time equivalent jobs, which should increase in later years.

Objectives 3 and 4: Training of workers to cope with industrial and organisational change enhances the capacity of SMEs and workers to adapt. Other measures seek to bolster human resources in research centres interfacing with local SMEs.

Objective 5(b): In Flanders, measures to assist SMEs mainly involve establishing a coordination centre, providing support for enterprises as regards the environment and an environmental evaluation of enterprises. In Wallonia, specific aid for productive investments creating jobs functions satisfactorily, in view of the fact that the job creation objectives have been exceeded (177 jobs created).

OBJECTIVE 1

Only one region is eligible under Objective 1, namely Hainaut. 1997 witnessed the strengthening of the measure to help set up enterprises employing over 20 staff, and the concomitant abandonment of certain projects which cannot be carried out during the present programming period and of other projects deemed of lesser value for regional development. At the same time, the criteria for granting aid were made stricter in order to concentrate on frontier technology and high value-added sectors.

Several projects of a significant amount (in particular the Crachet science park and the Eau d'Heure project) were approved in 1997. The economic stimulation measure was reviewed in partnership with the regional authorities in order to underscore the effects for SMEs and to respond better to demand from enterprises in Hainaut.

In the human resources field, the measures are based on four priorities, i.e. training measures in existing firms or companies being set up; vocational training of unemployed and young people to facilitate their access to the labour market; social and professional integration measures ("pathways to integration"); strengthening and improving educational and teaching systems. A total of 36 500 people benefited under these measures in 1997.

Experimental agricultural measures resulted in the financing of unusual projects, such as the processing of flax, applied research into potatoes, and so on. However, in their financial management there were some delays in transmission connected with national administrative procedures, as the local authorities received no payments in 1997. Nevertheless, the EAGGF section of the Objective 1 SPD for Belgium accounts for only a small percentage (less than 7%) of the total and more than half of the appropriations go towards "horizontal" measures (Regulations (EEC) Nos 2328/91 and 866/90), plus some rural development measures.

Progress in implementation was particularly sluggish for the measure relating to fisheries (0.1% of the total). This is explained in part by the fact that the budget for the measure was tripled in mid-1996, following a transfer of Community assistance from the EAGGF to the FIG at the request of the Hainaut authorities. Projects eligible for financing using the additional funds have not been submitted to date.

The mid-term evaluation allowed certain programming options to be adjusted, with the result in particular that aid to enterprises was stepped up (in particular under the ACE measure). According to the evaluation, assistance in the human resources field was generally successful, with positive impact on the area concerned.

Overall, the measures undertaken suggest that around 8 000 jobs will have been created by the end of the programming period.

OBJECTIVE 2

Four areas are eligible under Objective 2, namely Meuse-Vesdre (Liège), Aubange, Limburg and Turnhout. 1997 saw the launching of the new SPDs for 1997-99 and the winding-up of the SPDs for 1994-96. Though the four SPDs for 1994-96 were concluded, not all appropriations had been used during the first period, so the authorities made transfers to 1997-99 in the case of the SPDs for Liège (ECU 9.6 million transferred), Limburg (ECU 13.5 million) and Turnhout (ECU 5.6 million).

In the main, the development strategies applied in the first period were continued. However, some, at times substantial, changes were made during the partnership negotiations: in the SPD for Liège, for instance, the measure to support productive investments was strengthened along the lines of Objective 1; in the SPD for Aubange, the proposed strategy seeks to integrate large, recently established enterprises more fully into the economic fabric of the area by stimulating relations between enterprises concerning subcontracting, R&TD, logistics and external services; in the SPDs for Limburg and Turnhout, a new measure has been introduced for local employment initiatives.

In the human resources field, 7 500 people have followed training under the SPD for Liège, 7 000 in the case of Limburg and 2 400 in Turnhout.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

In 1997, some 65 000 people (outside Hainaut, which is eligible under Objective 1) benefited from training, vocational guidance or reintegration measures under Objective 3. This is a remarkable number of beneficiaries, given the budgetary constraints and the fact that measures part-financed by the ESF give priority to the least-favoured groups (young people with no qualifications, elderly and long-term unemployed, etc.) and form part of the pathways to integration. Objective 3 in Belgium, for example, places the foremost importance on the concept of "pathways to integration" adapted to the beneficiary as an individual and to partnership between the various sponsors. Its application therefore calls for close cooperation between the (public or private) sponsors and the authorities.

Integration of unemployed young people in Wallonia: Under the new strategy introduced by the Walloon Ministry of Housing and drawing on aid from the ESF, various districts work together to create jobs for unemployed young people with few or no qualifications. Local communities are thus made more aware of their potential to create and supply jobs. The idea is not only to provide vocational training for young people but also to make them into responsible citizens. They are given training lasting a year, which combines general education and basic skills, in particular in building, joinery and decoration.

As in the case of Objective 3, implementation of Objective 4 fell behind schedule as a result of the large number of authorities responsible. The programmes only really got going in 1996. In 1997, some 11 000 employees of SMEs (outside Hainaut) received training, despite the difficulties encountered with the Flemish Community programme. Nevertheless, there is some hope that the programme, which has fallen behind in implementation, will also be up and running soon and that the regional authorities responsible will make the considerable effort required.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - agriculture

Implementation of the SPDs for the Flemish and Walloon Regions is progressing satisfactorily as regards aid for the processing of agricultural and forestry products. In 1997, aid focused on potatoes, fruit and vegetables, meat and forestry products in Wallonia, and meat, eggs and poultry, fruit and vegetables in Flanders. As a result of developments on the agricultural markets, the SPDs were adjusted in 1997. Most projects are innovative and environmentally friendly. As for measures to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures, the Commission approved the new Walloon Region legislation applying those measures, including compensatory allowances for natural handicaps.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - fisheries

The main feature of implementation in 1997 was a rise in investments. This tendency is particularly evident in processing and marketing, where appropriations committed were more than twice what they were in 1994-96.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

In Wallonia, efforts undertaken in 1996 to improve implementation of the Objective 5(b) SPD by the regional authorities and their partners on the ground were continued in 1997. These efforts are bearing fruit since commitment of Community appropriations has risen to 47% and the funds allocated to the Walloon Region appear to have actually been passed on to the final beneficiaries within a satisfactory time scale. In Flanders, the two programmes (Meetjesland and Westhoek) stress the integrated approach to rural development. Maintaining and increasing employment are major priorities. Tourism is viewed as a primary lever for development, but the provision of facilities for enterprises is also emphasised. The two Monitoring Committees found that, leaving aside purely agricultural projects, progress has been relatively slow. This slowness is largely due to the Flemish Government's problems

with part-financing. In Westhoek, only the 1994 budget was committed for all three Funds; in Meetjesland the 1995 budget for the EAGGF has been committed. Only the first instalment of Community contributions for 1994 has been paid. A series of proposed changes to programmes has been submitted. The Commission appreciates the need to amend the SPDs on the basis of the interim evaluation reports.

2. Community Initiatives

Belgium takes part in all the Community Initiatives with the exception of Regis. The four Leader II programmes pending were finally approved in 1997, and progress is already satisfactory for two of them (Hainaut and Wallonia). The regional authorities have endeavoured to catch up by calling for local action groups to come forward on the basis of an application drawn up and coordinated by the Wallonia Rural Foundation. In Flanders, no local action groups had yet been designated at the end of 1997.

Overall, the Community Initiatives for industrial conversion (Konver, Resider II, Retex and Rechar II) are making satisfactory progress. In 1997 the Monitoring Committee for the Rechar II programme for Flanders decided to allocate resources made available from the reserve and through indexation to the measures for physical infrastructure and for social infrastructure in mining towns. The Monitoring Committee for the Retex 1995-97 programme for Westhoek was set up only at the end of 1997, which means that the first projects under that Initiative were not approved until the end of 1997. At the end of 1997, the Monitoring Committee decided to allocate the reserve and the sum made available through indexation to the programme and requested it be extended to the end of 1999.

Innovative Community Initiatives like SME and Urban are coming up against difficulties of implementation due to the type of measures, which has induced the Walloon Region authorities to submit reprogramming proposals following the allocation of the reserve.

The situation regarding the Community human resources Initiatives is as follows: the second series of projects for Employment were selected in 1997. In Flanders, 49 projects were selected and launched in 1997. The sponsors vary considerably, while the measures mostly relate to training. In 1997, 136 projects were approved for the French- and German-speaking communities. In the case of Adapt, 43 projects relating to textiles, electrical engineering, the environment, construction, transport, and tourism were selected in Flanders. Priorities continue to be innovation and the participation of SMEs. The sponsors also vary widely. In Wallonia, 55 projects were approved for the French- and German-speaking communities. Regional priorities are improvement in qualifications, competitiveness among enterprises, the environment and job creation.

As for as the Pesca Initiative, the projects considered in 1996 were implemented in 1997. The programme is now well known to the potential beneficiaries and new projects have been submitted.

2.2.2. DENMARK

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses

The contribution of the Funds to measures for small firms under the regionalised Objectives during the current period totals about ECU 223 million, 43% for Objective 2 and 57% for Objective 5(b).

Under Objective 2, for example, a project ('Nordjysk innovation') has been set up in North Jutland bringing together the Novi science park, the University of Aalborg and two technological information centres in the region to promote innovation in local firms through closer networking of university science staff and small firms. The measures include the establishment of a secretariat to link the university and firms, the setting up of a database on the research needs of firms and a database on scientific results. The total cost of the operation is ECU 2.7 million, of which the ERDF will pay half.

OBJECTIVE 2

The two new programmes for 1997-99 (Lolland and North Jutland), for which the Funds will provide ECU 68.2 million, were adopted in 1997. The results of the mid-term evaluation guided work on the new programmes:

The programme for Lolland, to which the Funds will contribute ECU 13.8 million, aims to expand the development base of firms, to maintain and increase the number of short- and long-term jobs and to raise the total income of the region. It is expected that some 230 jobs will be created or maintained in the short-term and 600 in the long-term. Furthermore, some 740 people should take part in training measures. Not all the funds for the 1994-96 programme could be used and ECU 2.7 million (28% of the original funding) was transferred to 1997-99.

The programme for North Jutland, to which the Funds will contribute ECU 54.4 million, is intended to improve the conditions for growth for firms in the region and so maintain or increase the number of jobs. To do so, the programme will increase the ability of firms to cope with international competition through innovation, improvements in skills, better education and infrastructure. It is expected that some 2 100 jobs will be created and some 5 000 people should benefit from training measures.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Implementation of Objective 3 was satisfactory in 1997 and the mid-term review of programmes found its measures to be appropriate. It also found that the reduction in the unemployment rate among young people and national measures to combat unemployment among young people meant that the priorities of Objective 3 could be redirected towards those aged over 25. Longer-term training measures were also advocated.

Objective 4 was also subject to an evaluation, which found that implementation was satisfactory but also proposed closer integration between the priorities of each project and its innovative content. The evaluation found that most projects concerned small firms. It also concluded that two priorities, vocational training, advice and guidance and the improvement and development of vocational training systems are strongly driven by organisational and technological changes.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

Most of the ECU 103 million of Community assistance to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures in 1994-99 is going to investments, followed by installation aid and investment by young farmers. In 1997 Denmark proposed for the first time a list of areas regarded as disadvantaged. Farmers on 30 small islands whose production costs are sharply raised by distance and with low

incomes from farming will receive compensatory allowances from the EAGGF totalling ECU 250 000 per year from 1998.

Aid for the processing and marketing of agricultural products under Regulation (EC) No 951/97 was implemented successfully. By the end of 1997, 104 projects had been approved, mostly in the meat (52), milk and milk products (20) and fruit and vegetables (10) sectors. By that date, 73 of these projects had been completed and 70% of the EAGGF contribution to these projects for 1994-99 had been committed.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

A socio-economic measure on the early retirement of fishermen was included in the programme in 1997. The measure will be financed partly through the indexation mechanism. This brings the revised total of assistance from the FIGG to ECU 142.5 million. During 1997, use of funds was particularly high in areas where assistance was provided for the measures for processing and the adjustment of fishing capacity. The second advance for 1996 was committed in 1997 and the final payment for 1995 was transferred to Denmark. The Monitoring Committee for Objective 5(a) fisheries discussed the mid-term evaluation report, as a result of which the Danish authorities will propose a redistribution of amounts for assistance in the course of 1998.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

The main goals in Denmark are the creation and preservation of permanent jobs and raising income levels, while taking account of environmental factors. The mid-term evaluation showed that, in general, the progress of programmes was satisfactory in view of the late start to implementation. In line with the assessor's recommendations, the Monitoring Committee decided at its meeting in June 1997 to improve implementation of the measures which were furthest behind schedule and look at the need for changes in the structure of programmes in 1998.

2. Community Initiatives

Denmark is concerned by only one of the industrial conversion Initiatives, Konver. This programme was closed at the end of 1997.

A new decision on one of the three Interreg II A crossborder programmes with Germany was taken in September 1997. Changes in the programme increased the area covered in Germany (Kreis Plön). The Interreg II A programme with Sweden (Öresund) got off to a slow start in terms of commitments, mainly because of the establishment of a new administrative body for the two countries. Since then 140 projects have been submitted. This region is also designated as a 'model region' in one of the territorial pacts for employment. There will be a mid-term evaluation of all the Interreg II A programmes in 1998.

The SMEs Initiative, which covers the areas eligible under Objectives 2 and 5(b), was slightly adjusted in 1997 to bring it into line with a new project for national aid to businessmen. The SMEs Initiative should improve the survival rate of firms, increase skills among businessmen and improve employment through the creation of new jobs. Every year 16 000 new firms are set up, of which 10% fail. The SMEs programme should reduce this to 6%. The Objective 2 Monitoring Committee for Lolland has become the Monitoring Committee for the SMEs programme.

The two Interreg II C crossborder programmes (Baltic Sea and North Sea) were approved in December 1997. The secretariat for the Baltic Sea programme is at Rostock in Germany while that for the North Sea programme is at Viborg in Denmark.

38 Adapt projects and 29 Employment projects for human resources have been subsequently selected. Most will be concluded at the end of 1998. A second series of projects (60 under Adapt and 40 under Employment) was selected at the beginning of this year and they too will finish at the end of the year.

The priorities of these projects are the establishment of firms by women, the expansion of knowledge of information technologies for the handicapped, the creation of links between compulsory education and training, support for small firms and the changing jobs project. Project promoters are mainly private vocational training establishments. The dissemination of good practice will be implemented mainly through a specific Nordic project during 1998.

The Danish Leader II programme was adopted in June 1996 with the long-term goal of ensuring that the areas remain active, populated and viable. During 1997 the development leaders were appointed, some projects for the acquisition of skills were launched and a start made on the promotion of activities.

By the end of 1997 70% of the investment approved under Pesca had been made. The programme will be adjusted in 1998 to include the reserve, which will bring the total contribution of the Funds to ECU 20 million at 1998 prices.

2.2.3. GERMANY

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

The priorities for 1997 were the mid-term evaluation of assistance from the Funds, the adoption and implementation of the new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99 and the launch of the nine territorial employment pacts.

Measures to assist small businesses in Germany

The total contribution by the Structural Funds in 1994-99 to measures for small firms under the regionalised Objectives is about ECU 6.9 billion, 86% for Objective 1, 7% for Objective 2 and 7% for Objective 5(b).

Objective 1: The Objective 1 programmes (new Länder) include substantial assistance for small firms. In 1994-99, about 30% of the resources of the ERDF will go to measures to promote investment in such firms or to develop services for them.

For example, a small firm was established in Saxony-Anhalt to make non-woven materials for babies' nappies. An entirely new procedure was used and 22 permanent jobs were created. In Brandenburg the ERDF part-financed a technology centre and business nursery which will be used by small firms in the automation, environment, transport, computer and communications sectors. In eastern Berlin, the Funds are improving the conditions under which small firms can be established on the former industrial site at Schöneweide. The derelict industrial land on Wilhelminehofstrasse has been restored. A training centre primarily for the handicapped has been set up in Thuringia. In total, over 62 100 new jobs will be created in the Objective 1 regions in 1994-99.

Objective 2: Measures for small firms, which already occupied a substantial place in earlier programmes, have been further enhanced in the new ones. The programme for Schleswig-Holstein, for example, includes a low-cost business area for small firms which wish to set up there. In North Rhine-Westphalia, a materials testing centre (HAPEG) for small firms in the areas affected by the crisis in the steel industry has been built so that they can carry out technical checks on prototypes. In Hesse small firms received loans of up to 50% extra to take on innovation assistants. The Rohloff firm in Kassel manufactures high-technology bicycles with six full-time and four part-time staff. As a result of taking on an extra engineer, it received an extra ECU 27 000, half of which came from the ERDF. In Saarland, seven small firms received assistance worth about ECU 1.4 million under the interest-rate subsidy programme. These firms (of which three already exist and four are being set up) received help to adapt to the internal market in Europe. The programme is restricted to small firms which are being set up or beginning work.

Objective 5(b): Six of the eight regional programmes for Germany include a large component for small firms. They contain a great variety of measures to develop businessmen's skills, provide adequate infrastructure for small firms being set up, offset the distance to their main markets by supporting new telecommunications technology and combine the marketing efforts of small firms with research and development. The mid-term evaluation showed that these measures had a considerable impact on the development of small firms in rural areas. The report noted that in Bavaria measures to promote investment by firms had resulted in the creation or preservation of 7 400 jobs.

OBJECTIVE 1

The five new Länder and the eastern part of Berlin are eligible under Objective 1. The six priorities of the CSF (support for investment in infrastructure, aid for small firms, research and technological development, environmental protection, raising skills and vocational training and rural development) continued to be the goals in 1997. The amounts allocated to technical assistance provided part-finance

for evaluation of the CSF. Berlin also commissioned a study on the economic interdependence of Berlin and Brandenburg.

Since the beginning of the 1994-99 programming period, the Structural Funds have supported some 22 000 projects and 107 000 new jobs have been created and 230 000 preserved, mainly in the field of the promotion of productive investment and support for small firms. During 1997 the CSF Monitoring Committee, including the economic and social partners, met twice, in Potsdam and Leipzig. It allocated the amounts resulting from indexation (ECU 23.2 million) to the various Länder and made a substantial change to the programme for Brandenburg by transferring ECU 35 million originally allocated to rural development to the priority for research, technological development and innovation in order to set up a semi-conductors institute in Frankfurt-an-der-Oder.

During 1997 nine major projects costing ECU 50 million each were submitted to the Commission. They concern the establishment of multinational companies in Objective 1 regions including Daimler-Benz at Henning, Coca-Cola at Genshagen and the computer division of Deutsche Telekom in Magdeburg.

The two territorial employment pacts for the Objective 1 regions (Chemnitz and Zeitz) began in 1997.

Measures in agriculture, including the construction of modern, productive facilities and the marketing and treatment of agricultural produce, continued. However, because the unemployment rate is particularly high, assistance from the EAGGF Guidance Section was directed mainly to the creation of alternative work and particular attention was paid to the measures for direct marketing and agricultural tourism. The evaluation reports showed that these measures preserved or created a large number of jobs and confirmed that the programmes were progressing satisfactorily as planned.

Under the ESF roughly 325 866, mostly disadvantaged persons participated during 1997 in qualification and/or employment support measures. Thus the ESF contributed significantly to enhancing active labour market policy in the new Länder and East-Berlin. In this context the specific youth training initiative (GI-Ost) was continued too. The ESF participated also in action aimed at boosting the human potential in research and technological development (RTD).

A new RTD project which started at the Berlin-Buch campus is designed to qualify scientists and technicians in modern biomedicine and biotechnology with a view to their future employment in private industry, to a large extent SMEs. This project is likely to serve as a model for other RTD initiatives in German Objectif I regions.

OBJECTIVE 2

During 1997 nine programmes were adopted for the new programming period 1997-99. Since it had not proved possible to implement those for 1994-96 in full, a total of some ECU 40 million was transferred to the new period.

The following programme priorities were retained: promoting the development of firms, particularly small firms, promoting new technologies and innovation, developing infrastructure and environmental measures. Extra funds were provided for some priorities, such as the environment in Lower Saxony where the new priority of promoting measures to improve the environment was introduced to provide financial support so that small firms can introduce environmentally-friendly production processes.

Measures to promote human resources development to which the ESF contributes have been defined in such a way as to reinforce the above development priorities. In addition, the importance of employment aids has been reinforced in a number of programs with a view to facilitate the vocational integration of formerly unemployed persons.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

The number of those taking part in training measures during 1997 was considerably higher than expected and most came from the ranks of the long-term unemployed. While combating unemployment among young people is not a priority at federal level, it is certainly part of the regional programmes for Objective 3. The mid-term review noted that ESF assistance had plugged certain gaps in the present system in terms of both quality and quantity. Although the target groups were far removed from the labour market, ESF assistance had often produced better results as measured by those returning to work than existing measures.

A major subject of discussions between the Commission and the federal and regional authorities was reform of the 'employment plan' (*Arbeitsförderungsgesetz*) as the main vehicle for national part-finance. A large part of the reform, which came into force in April 1997, concerned training to improve the prospects for the unemployed to find work, implemented by the ESF under the 'employment plan-Plus'. These measures were subsequently incorporated into the national programme. However, this reform should entail no particular difficulties, despite the fears expressed by certain regions with regard to national part-financing for ESF measures being charged to the much more limited regional or local budgets rather than to that of the federal Ministry of Employment.

In May 1996 the SPD for Objective 4 adopted in 1994 for 1994-96 was extended to 1997-99. In November the Monitoring Committee considered a fresh balance between national public and private contributions (currently 60/40) where required by the different restrictions in the financial management of the federal and regional authorities. It was also agreed to assist those establishing new SMEs through monitoring, something which had not originally been planned. The mid-term evaluation showed that delays in starting programmes had subsequently been made up.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

About 55% of the total of ECU 872 million to improve agricultural structures is used to pay compensatory allowances to farmers in less-favoured areas, which account for 50% of the usable agricultural area. These allowances are, in general, tending to decline since Germany has decided to gradually switch its allowances to investment. Some ECU 177 million will go to assistance for the establishment of young farmers and ECU 147 million to investment in agricultural holdings.

The special conditions governing investment aid in the new Länder under Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 950/97 expired on 1 January 1997. New rules governing aid throughout the country were included in the German programme for agricultural investment (*Agrarinvestitionsförderprogramm 1997-2000*) at the end of 1996 to ensure uniform application.

By the end of 1997, 328 projects for the processing and marketing of agricultural structures had been approved and 152 closed. Finance went mainly to the fruit and vegetables, meat, milk and milk products and flowers and plants sectors. New sectors were added to some programmes during the year.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

By the end of 1997 virtually all the investment planned for the first four years (1994-97) had been completed. The projects which have not yet begun but for which the national authorities have committed matching funds suggest that implementation in 1998 and 1999 will also be in line with expectations.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

Despite the substantial budget reductions agreed on by the Länder in 1997, four out of eight of them asked for the 1998 instalment to be committed. The mid-term evaluation suggest that the successful financial implementation of the majority of the programmes is the result of the fact that the Länder eligible under Objective 5(b) have an efficient administrative system. However, progress in North

Rhine-Westphalia and, to a lesser degree, Saarland is considerably weaker. In all probability, the funds available will be committed by the end of the programming period. Minor amendments to three programmes were made in 1997 and others will be discussed in 1998.

2. Community Initiatives

A total of 86 programmes are being implemented, of which three were adopted in 1997 (SMEs-IBEX, Urban Zwickau and Urban Kiel). So too are 22 programmes under Interreg II A and II C, four of which (Rhine-Meuse, Baltic Sea, Adriatic-Danube and North Sea) were adopted in 1997.

Some 56 amendments were made to programmes during 1997. These concerned the application of indexation, the allocation of the reserve, the extension of programmes and the adjustment of measures.

The SMEs Community Initiative provides a total of about ECU 189 million for 1994-99. The main measures implemented are in the sectors of the environment, energy, quality management and advice on foreign trade. For example, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a firm with a staff of five which assembles doors and windows has received a grant to improve its internal organisation and cost management. In Saarland, some 50 small firms have been encouraged to follow advice on quality management to participate in a certification scheme. This measure was particularly aimed at craft industries.

The mid-term evaluation of the SMEs, Resider II, Rechar II, Urban, Retex and Konver Initiatives in the Objective 1 regions began in 1997 and the results will be available in mid-1998. In the case of Interreg II, the evaluation reports will be submitted on various dates depending on the programmes. The mid-term evaluation of the Adapt and Employment Initiatives show that more people received training than was planned. The installation of the transnational partnerships was considered satisfactory.

In the case of the first phase of the Employment Community Initiative (1994-97), 138 projects were closed in 1997 and 105 are continuing in 1998. Of the 1 140 proposed for the second phase (1997-99), about 362 were selected, mostly in Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and France. The main groups concerned by these measures are migrant workers, young foreign workers and the mentally handicapped.

Over 430 projects were selected under Adapt for 1997-99. About 80% of the firms concerned have fewer than 250 workers. The mid-term evaluation suggests that Adapt should reach a total of 10 000 to 11 000 small firms.

After some initial difficulties, Leader II was successfully implemented during 1997. Experience has shown that it is primarily innovative projects in rural areas linked with acquisition of specialist knowledge which have the greatest impact.

After a difficult start, the implementation of Pesca has speeded up. By the end of 1997, programmes were progressing satisfactorily in Lower Saxony, Bremen and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania while there were still delays in Schleswig-Holstein.

2.2.4. GREECE

1. The main achievements of the Funds by Objective

OBJECTIVE 1

The whole of Greece is eligible under Objective 1.

Measures to assist small businesses in Greece

The Structural Funds are making a considerable contribution to the development of small firms under Objective 1. Their contribution is expected to amount to about ECU 3.24 billion over the current period.

The national programme for the modernisation of industry includes a specific measure for the development of small firms, particularly through financial engineering and assistance to improve competitiveness. Under the programme, for example, a global grant was made in 1997 to industrialists in Northern Greece. It is managed by a body which receives, assesses and examines applications from firms, particularly in the Thessaloniki area, concerning new development measures in northern Greece or relating to the opening of the Greek market to the countries of central Europe, particularly the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria.

In Crete the ERDF contributed ECU 1.7 million to support a science and technology park (STEP-C) costing ECU 2.2 million which was set up in 1993 by members of one of the best-known Greek research institutes (FORTH). The purpose of this new science park is to make the know-how accumulated by universities and others widely available in order to establish a third area of development for the island alongside the traditional activities of agriculture and tourism. The park is managed by a small team of experts in a variety of scientific and commercial fields. STEP-C is now cooperating with a large number of public and private organisations and providing services to some twenty member firms and many other associate members. The main activities represented are information technologies, micro-electronics with laser applications, prototypes of medical equipment, information and remote networks and regional industrial activities such as ceramics and plastics. Its success has led to plans for a 15 ha extension.

Most rural development measures to help small firms concern the agri-food sector. From 1994 up to the first half of 1997, small firms submitted 421 projects for the processing and marketing of agricultural products representing a total investment of ECU 384.5 million (of which the EAGGF Guidance Section contributed ECU 148 million).

The last mechanisms for implementing assistance were completed in 1997. ELKE (the agency for attracting investment to Greece) and the agency for improving the management of regions and ministries began work. During the year the regions achieved better preparation through the use of technical specifications for each project.

The agencies set up to implement the major projects continued their work, Egnatia S.A. for the east-west road route, Attiko Metro for the extension of the Athens underground and Ktimatologio S.A. for the establishment of the Greek land registry. Furthermore, Ergose S.A. took over all the documentation hitherto managed by the OSE state body on the modernisation and extension of the rail network in Greece. During 1997 the Greek authorities invited private investors to participate in the completion of projects concerning the motorway network and a call for tenders for a private consultant to prepare the system of private concessions was published. Similar steps were taken with regard to the natural gas distribution system. A call for tenders issued by the Greek authorities should result in the appointment of private concession holders for natural gas distribution in four major cities, including Athens and Thessaloniki, in 1998.

In general, programmes made satisfactory progress in 1997. Only one programme, the national programme for the modernisation of the postal services, which had been adopted in 1995, failed to get started since it required the conditions for such modernisation to be met first. In 1997 the Greek authorities took all the decisions required and the programme will begin in 1998. The rate of implementation of the sectoral programmes for energy and agriculture were particularly high, as were the regional programmes for Attiki and Epirus.

It was not possible to allocate the deflator for 1997 (the indexation mechanism) during the year but it will be approved during the first half of 1998. However, in October 1997 the Monitoring Committee for the CSF took important decisions increasing or reducing the ERDF contribution to certain programmes. The programme for the development of road routes received an extra ECU 234.9 million in public expenditure, of which ECU 141 million will come from the ERDF, the rail programme received an extra ECU 66.7 million in public expenditure, of which ECU 40 million will come from the ERDF, the industry programme received an extra ECU 229.7 million in public expenditure, of which ECU 136 million will come from the ERDF and public expenditure on the tourism and culture programme was reduced by ECU 120 million, of which the ERDF's share is ECU 30 million.

Assistance from the ESF for the human resources programmes, particularly that for education and basic training, had to take account of the reform of the education system approved by the Greek Government in 1997. The reform improves upper secondary education by introducing a single type of grammar school, increasing the number of training places for students, recruiting new teachers through competitions and so on. 1997 was a transitional year for the continuing training and promotion of employment programme, which saw the preparation of reprogramming and the introduction of new measures in line with political priorities at national and Community level. A national certification centre was also established to take responsibility for all certification work in training centres. The programme to combat exclusion encountered a number of difficulties in its early stages as a result of its innovative approach but there was a substantial improvement in 1997. A transitional action programme costing ECU 33 million was approved and implemented by some agencies. As a result of the mid-term review, a number of steps were taken such as activation of the 'infrastructure and joint services' sub-programme for the excluded. Under the health and social security programme, ESF training complements material investment supported by the ERDF. The first training measures began in autumn 1997. Despite this late start, the initial goals will probably be achieved by the end of the programming period.

The national programme for agricultural development is being implemented at a very satisfactory rate (76% of assistance committed and 64% paid at the end of 1997) and the regional strand is around the average for the Greek OPs. Funds for the national programme were again increased in 1997 by allocation of part of the deflator to meet new urgent needs.

Reprogramming of the fisheries OP meant that all the 1996 instalment and 80% of that for 1997 could be paid. Implementation was best in the case of measures relating to adjustment of the fishing effort.

2. Community Initiatives

As in the case of the CSF, progress in implementing the Community Initiatives varied considerably. While the industrial conversion programmes (Resider II, Rechar II, Konver and particularly Retex) are proceeding well, Urban is well behind schedule because of specific features of the measures to be implemented, particularly in terms of the partnership. The Interreg II A external frontiers programme concerning Bulgaria is now proceeding well while the crossborder programme with Italy, which was adopted late, in 1997, should be fully operational in 1998. The Interreg II B Regen programme on completing energy networks is almost fully implemented. At the end of 1997, two new Interreg-II C programmes, for drought and floods, still awaited adoption.

The final phase of the first series of projects under the two human resources Initiatives Employment and Adapt began in 1997. Commitments for the first phase total about 90% of the amounts available and the remaining 10% has been transferred to the second series, under which 177 projects were

selected for Employment and 115 for Adapt. The projects selected are spread equally across the territory. Small firms are participating in Adapt to a greater extent. The total contribution of the private sector to the two Initiatives is about 10% of the total budget. Implementation of the Employment and Adapt programmes has made a large number of employers aware of the need for training within the target groups, particularly within small firms.

As regards rural development (Leader II CIP), 1997 saw the most effective Leader action groups begin work. For the remainder, the year was spent examining the applications of the various beneficiaries and the appeals procedure for those applications which had originally been rejected. By definition, investment in innovative areas under Leader is particularly directed at rural small firms.

Implementation of the Pesca Community Initiative was satisfactory with 98% of assistance committed. The first advances from the single instalment (42% of assistance) were also paid.

2.2.5. SPAIN

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Spain is concerned by all the Objectives except, of course, Objective 6. It is the main recipient of assistance from the Structural Funds in 1994-99. The regions eligible under the various Objectives include 82% of its population.

Measures to assist small businesses in Spain

During 1994-99 the Funds will contribute under the regionalised Objectives a total of some ECU 2.3 billion for the development of small firms: 43% under Objective 1, about 28% in the Objective 2 areas and 29% under Objective 5(b). This total represents about 7.6% of the total allocation for that period to Spain under the Structural Funds.

Objective 1: In Málaga in Andalusia the ERDF has been helping since 1992 to finance a technology park which is now home to over 40 firms (Community contribution of ECU 27.2 million to a total cost of about ECU 45.9 million). Newly established small firms are located in a business nursery which provides shared services. Scientific bodies located in the park include the Andalusian institute for advanced automation and robotics, the Andalusian centre for documentation on standards and manufacturing, the Andalusian image processing institute and the regional institute for millimetric waves. The medium-term aim of the park is to integrate itself into the productive fabric of Andalusia and further afield, principally through the transfer of technology. Hence it participates in several Community programmes and European networks including the Sprint, Leonardo and Adapt programmes and the Atlantic Arc network. Furthermore, the Málaga technology park hosts the head office of the International Association of Science Parks (IASP), which covers some 200 parks, 4 000 firms and 800 research centres throughout the world. The park in Málaga also provides an experimental base for technological exchanges between Europe and North Africa.

The programme for the region of Murcia includes a project to improve the quality of training and planning of human resources in small firms engaged in making furniture and wood-working by providing assistance to an association of firms in the sector. The initial goal is develop a computer system to define training plans and set up assessment systems. The project is aimed at small firms with 20 to 40 workers. Those concerned have a full range of skills backgrounds and special attention is being paid to those with weak skills affected by the introduction of new technologies, those aged over 45 and women with poor vocational skills.

Most of the assistance from the EAGGF Guidance section to small firms in agriculture forms part of the programme on the agri-foodstuffs industry and structural measures in agriculture. This is a multiregional programme for the modernisation of agriculture (structural assistance for production) and the agri-foodstuffs sector (support for the processing and marketing of agricultural products). It has substantial funding (ECU 1.23 billion from the EAGGF Guidance section).

Objective 2: Near Tarragona in Catalonia the ERDF is part-financing a testing and certification centre for the motor vehicle industry (IDIADA). The Community is providing ECU 43.4 million towards the total cost of ECU 86.7 million. The centre is for use by vehicle builders and small firms which act as sub-contractors in this sector. It recently acquired a new complex including test tracks and laboratories. In 1995, of the 245 firms which are clients of IDIADA, 48% were located in Catalonia, 37% in the rest of Spain and 15% from elsewhere. The staff employed rose from 23 in 1990 to 120 in 1996.

In **Madrid** the plan on assistance and education for infants is designed to update the knowledge and skills of those employed in the first stage of infant education (0-6 years) in the light of the reform of the Spanish education system. The beneficiary is the Union of cooperatives of associated work in Madrid (UCETAM). The training plan covers 20 small firms with a total staff of 345 (an average of 16 per firm).

Objectives 3 and 4: Assistance to small firms from the ESF is provided mainly through Objective 4. However, the mid-term evaluation found that the original aim of concentrating 80% of measures on small firms had not yet been achieved. However, participation by small firms is increasing and is now up to 50%.

OBJECTIVE 1

Three items of assistance were adopted in 1997: a global grant to Castile-León to stimulate small firms in the area (ECU 56.2 million from the ERDF), the general collector in Santander Bay major project (ECU 17.7 million from the ERDF) and the major project to construct an oil pipeline from Cartagena to Puertollona (ECU 62.9 million from the ERDF).

Excluding these three items, over 1997 as a whole some 85% of assistance under the CSF was committed. The most active Autonomous Communities in terms of commitments were the Canary Islands (1st programme), Ceuta, Castile-La Mancha (1st and 2nd programmes) and Valencia. The highest implementation rates for payments were achieved by Ceuta, Cantabria (1st programme) and the Canary Islands (1st programme).

The meeting of the CSF Monitoring Committee held on 4 December 1997 considered the results of the mid-term assessment. In general terms, this recommended continuation of the present strategy, which it considered in line with the needs of the regions. However, the Commission representatives asked for further study of the environment, human resources and R&TD.

The meeting also decided to introduce a new sub-priority on the information society, to be open to all the Funds. A proposal to amend the financing plan for the CSF to take account of the comments of the mid-term evaluation and the Commission guidelines was accordingly presented. This amendment increases the priority on the development of the economic fabric while reducing the resources allocated to the priorities for improving access and tourism.

With regard to human resources, the mid-term evaluation proposed stepping up preventive measures, i.e. stronger measures for those threatened by long-term unemployment or at greatest risk of exclusion from the labour market, the development of pathways to integration by making the measures part-financed more widely applicable and improving instruments for planning, management, monitoring and evaluation by giving special attention to better coordination between assistance from the various authorities.

The various reprogrammings concerning agriculture in 1997 meant that appropriations could be transferred among certain programmes, mainly to that for the agri-foodstuffs industry and structural measures in agriculture which received an extra ECU 37 million. Implementation of appropriations from the EAGGF Guidance Section is about average for the Objective 1 programmes in Spain;

OBJECTIVE 2

As they had done for the programmes for 1994-96, the national authorities in Spain again followed a three-stage administrative procedure (plan, CSF, OP) for the programmes for 1997-99. The partnership procedure for these programmes was virtually completed in 1997. On 12 June, the Commission adopted the CSF, with a total of ECU 851.9 million plus about ECU 145.5 million transferred from 1994-96.

The priorities in the programmes adopted for 1997-99 differed substantially from those for the previous period: support for employment in firms became the main priority (almost 45% of assistance from the Funds) and support for research, technology and innovation also emerged as a separate priority (over 17% of assistance). The share allocated to the protection of the environment also grew substantially, rising from 4% in 1994-96 to 12%. The new programmes also introduced improvements, particularly the better integration of assistance from the two Funds concerned, the ERDF and the ESF, in the areas concerned and the better use of the opportunities offered by the ESF in terms of the quality of the measures part-financed and the opening up of assistance from Fund to measures to improve the environment.

The programmes were adopted during 1997, with the exceptions of the OPs for Madrid and the Basque Country and the multiregional ESF programme, which were adopted during the first half of 1998.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

The main feature of the work of the ESF with regard to Objective 3 in 1997 was the mid-term evaluation of the OPs and the CSF.

There are 11 OPs for Objective 3, of which four (71% of the total amount) are managed by national bodies while the remaining seven (29% of the total amount) are managed by the Autonomous Communities (regions).

The main emphasis is on the integration into working life of young people in search of a job (48% of the total amount). In general, the CSF concentrates resources on better access and improving the quality of training and on improving integrated forms (sandwich courses, traineeships, placement services). In view of labour market developments, stress is laid on vocational training in technology.

Two meetings concerned with monitoring were held in 1997 and the partnership and the strategic role of the Monitoring Committee were strengthened, so improving the monitoring and evaluation procedures. In view of the results of the mid-term evaluation, the Monitoring Committee approved amendments to programming in the light of the goals to be achieved, priorities and the Commission guidelines on the adjustment of programmes.

The results of the mid-term evaluation demonstrated that better teaching and training systems through the introduction of new provisions constituted a substantial improvement. The evaluation report proposed increasing concentration on the most disadvantaged groups and improving the links between the measures and provisions for monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation of appropriations is around the Community average although the situation varies considerably from one OP to another. Although the situations in Navarre, the Basque Country and Catalonia are satisfactory, this is not true elsewhere.

In the case of Objective 4, entry into force of the agreements on on-going training (1 January 1997) resulted in amendments to certain aspects of the SPD, the main ones being the change in the name of the programme and the opening up of the agreements to collectives of independent workers and the agricultural sector. These new collective beneficiaries will now be regarded as priority groups for Objective 4.

The mid-term evaluation resulted in some reorientations: a redefinition of the quantitative goals of programming, revision of the list of jobs most likely to be affected by industrial change, the direction of ESF assistance to the priority groups in the programmes, particularly small firms, unqualified workers and women, improving the instruments for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the measures receiving part-finance and establishing coordination between the bodies responsible for managing funds allocated to on-going training.

The original aim of the programme, that 80% of measures should be concentrated on small firms, has not been achieved. However, participation in these measures by such firms is growing steadily and has now reached 50%. The target of 80% could be reached by the following means: an increase in anticipatory measures by these firms to help them measure the impact of industrial change on their training needs, encouraging the introduction of support structures, increasing cooperation between small firms and the establishment of cooperation networks between small firms and large ones to make best use of the results of training.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - agriculture

The rate of implementation of the SPD on aid for the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products in terms of commitments in 1995 and 1996 demonstrated that this measure needed further appropriations from the EAGGF Guidance Section. The ECU 50 million (at 1994 prices) so allocated corresponded to a reduction of the same amount in the funds for the measure to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures. Following this transfer, the EAGGF's contribution to the SPD for 1994-99 is ECU 175 million. In 1997 the Spanish authorities approved 309 investments entailing Community assistance of ECU 49 million. Over 65% of investment concerns the meat and fruit and vegetables sectors. With regard to the structures of production, priority was given to assistance for investments on holdings, followed by aid to the most disadvantaged regions and aid for the establishment of young farmers.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - fisheries

Implementation of the SPD continued to be satisfactory. By the end of 1997 about 54% of total appropriations had been paid, of which 80% came from the 1997 instalment. About 40% of these payments had reached the final beneficiaries.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

The steady achievement of the physical and financial goals of the SPDs continued in 1997; by the end of the year about 63% of assistance had been committed and 49% paid, well above the Community average for this Objective.

To obtain an overall picture of achievements in 1994-96, the Monitoring Committees looked at the mid-term evaluation reports and proposed amendments to certain programmes to improve achievement of the development aims sought.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that the Objective 5(b) programmes are progressing satisfactorily and in accordance with the goals laid down. There are no grounds for looking again at programming; what is required is structuring, awareness-raising and support, which will require in particular better monitoring.

The decisions of the Committees (that of the Basque Country was held over to 1998) covered the programming of the deflator for 1997 (ECU 3.73 million for all the regions, a number of transfers between Funds (resulting in a net reduction of ECU 130 000 for the EAGGF and an increase of ECU 3.86 million for the ERDF) and transfers among priorities leading to transfers to the 'infrastructure' and 'renovation of villages' priorities from those for 'economic diversification' and 'the protection of the environment.' The evaluation studies demonstrated that these transfers were justified by assistance from other instruments (aid schemes under Leader II and Rechar II and environmental measures under the Cohesion Fund) whose impact could not be foreseen at the time of programming.

2. Community Initiatives

Each of the Initiatives is implemented through one or more operational programmes at national level with the exception of leader II which is implemented through 17 regional global grants.

By the end of 1997 all the items of assistance had been adopted apart from those for the transnational Community Initiative Interreg II C (the national OP for drought and the three small multiregional items on cooperation) and the second Urban programme. No reprogramming was approved in 1997.

The only new programme adopted in 1997 was the Konver II Community Initiative, with planned expenditure of ECU 49.5 million, of which ECU 23.8 million will come from the ERDF. The initial programming made provision for some ten projects including a system for detecting forest fires and a maritime surveillance system (at San Fernando near Cádiz), the manufacture of wind power plants (at El Ferrol) and assistance for new small firms in the castings sector (at Trubia).

In terms of human resources, some 1 319 projects under the Employment Initiative were selected from the second and final call for projects. Projects in the Youthstart strand concentrate on pathways to integration for young people, particularly those in run-down urban areas. Some 492 projects under the Adapt Community Initiative were selected from the second and final call for projects. There are many training activities, the most widely selected topics being adjustment to the information society, particularly in small firms, and improved training systems.

The 105 local action groups (LAGs) under Leader II in the Objective 1 regions are implementing their rural innovation projects, which should improve programme implementation which was still weak at the end of 1997.

The Regis Initiative concerns the Canary Islands, one of the most remote regions. Implementation is satisfactory.

Implementation of the Pesca Initiative for fisheries is still weak but should improve following recent reprogramming.

Financial implementation of the Community Initiatives

The overall rate of implementation of the Community Initiatives is still too low, as it is in most other Member States. The backlogs are greatest in the Urban, Interreg II A Spain-Portugal and SMEs Community Initiatives.

- Urban: some municipalities have experienced start-up difficulties but the projects are clearly defined. The main problems arise from accounting rules which prevent the municipalities from issuing calls for tenders if the funds are not available. The Spanish authorities consider that these backlogs may be made up in the coming months so that payments will reach a rate of 50% (27% at the end of 1997).
- Interreg II A: the reprogramming exercise to approve new crossborder measures was approved late. This should improve the commitment rate.
- SMEs: approved in 1996, this CIP was delayed by administrative changes in Spain. The Spanish authorities expect commitments to reach at least 66% by the end of 1998.

2.2.6. FRANCE

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in France:

The contribution of the Structural Funds to the development of small businesses under the regionalised Objectives is estimated at ECU 1.3 billion altogether, comprising 13% under Objective 1, about 55% under Objective 2 and 32% under Objective 5(b).

Objective 1: In the region of Nord/Pas-de-Calais, for example, the ERDF has financed an EBIC (European Business and Innovation Centre) at the University of Valenciennes, to encourage contacts between universities and the small business sector, which often seem to be worlds apart. The centre, which is managed and run by a team of young women, provides a forum for meeting and sharing between business bosses, managers and university research workers in the tertiary sector scientific disciplines (industrial economics, tax and social security law, finance, human resource management, etc.). The centre organises numerous activities such as talks, visits to firms, in-service traineeships, training courses and international events, and for most of its services it can tap the resources of a regional, national and international network of universities, laboratories, business corporations, occupational federations, employers' organisations, technology transfer centres etc. The estimated cost of the operation from 1995 to 1999 is about ECU 400 000, with the ERDF contributing ECU 215 000.

Objective 2: As the avowed main aim of all the SPDs is creating and safeguarding jobs in the relevant areas, they all include measures in favour of SMEs. For example, the "Pharma Parc" in the department of Eure in Upper Normandy, has been set up to remedy the region's deficiency in the pharmaceuticals packaging sector. This is a small (15 ha) business park, responding to demand from industrial entrepreneurs seeking premises on a modest scale with shared services. The facilities made available in the first stage were let within less than a year to five firms, and works are now getting under way on facilities for the installation projects being studied for the second stage. Jobs created so far total 120, with a further 130 expected over five years. The ERDF is contributing ECU 920 000 to this project, which will have a total volume of ECU 4.15 million.

With the help of a project supported by the ERDF in Languedoc-Roussillon, a small firm in Alès, Richard Ducros, has transformed some 150 to 200 temporary jobs into permanent jobs. The firm carries out subcontracting work for the IBM factory in Montpellier, and specialises in sheet metalwork and steel engineering structures. When IBM transferred most of its production to the United States, Richard Ducros was forced to redefine its subcontracting policy. The project in question involved developing and introducing an EDI (electronic data interchange) system between Richard Ducros, IBM (its main client), and its own regional subcontractors in Alès and the Béziers area. The whole system, from the terminals in the workshop to the Internet transfer of plans and orders, was up and running in record time — about eight months — and the firm's operations are now almost wholly dependent on it. Thanks to this system, Richard Ducros is IBM's No 1 supplier worldwide for the goods in its product range. The EDI project is the result of exemplary cooperation between companies and regional technological resources. The total volume of the project is about ECU 540 000, including ECU 140 000 financed by the ERDF.

Alongside the classic training schemes for workers from industries undergoing conversion, which continued to be set up during 1997, the ESF is pursuing its effort in the field of research. The measure to reinforce human potential for research, science and technology under the SPD for Poitou-Charentes, on which ECU 265 000 was spent in 1997, was used to establish contact between the University of La Rochelle and businesses in a range of sectors (leading to over 110 person-to-person links).

One example of a human-resources project is the scheme for craft trades in the Languedoc-Roussillon SPD. Its aim is to help craftspeople and their spouses to get to grips with all aspects of business through personalised training in marketing, technology and management.

Objectives 3 and 4: The importance given to small businesses is highlighted by both of these Objectives, especially in the SPD for Objective 4, where 73% of the projects involve firms with fewer than 250 employees. The measures include back-up for the preparation of applications; assistance with human resource analysis and auditing, and with developing appropriate strategies; consultancy on the engineering of training; employee training, including management training; development of cooperation between small businesses through partnership projects involving several firms. By way of example, there is a project under Objective 4 providing basic training for the 50 000 least-skilled workers in the food industry, established to respond to growing demand for better qualifications to cope with changes in technology (automation), economics (pressure of large supermarkets) and culture (new products, quality assurance). A multimedia distance-learning scheme has been set up, with alternate periods of self-training and group learning with a trainer. The purpose of the scheme is to enable trainees to acquire basic general knowledge, and to develop their analytical, logical-reasoning and problem-solving skills. These are essential prerequisites for any course leading to a higher qualification, and for career development.

Objective 5(b): Assistance for non-agricultural activities, and in particular for small firms, is a significant aspect of Objective 5(b) programmes. Awarding authorities for these projects are usually local authorities, syndicates of municipalities or chambers of commerce and industry. The measures owe much of their success not only to the favourable economic climate, which was a significant factor, but also to the quality of organisation by elected representatives in association with local government officers and socio-economic networks. Unfortunately, the areas eligible under Objective 5(b) are not coterminous with those qualifying for the PAT (*prime à l'aménagement du territoire* - regional development grant), which may hamper activities by limiting the amount of aid granted. Some successful projects have been situated well away from any industrial environment. For example, in Burgundy, the Objective 5(b) programme supported the transformation of a plastic components plant from a two-man firm in 1991 to an industrial enterprise employing fifteen people, and producing a wide variety of parts including precision parts for the car industry and the electronic sector. Worth mentioning in Aquitaine are measures to assist technology transfer in the areas of carpentry and electromagnetic shielding, and collective measures to boost the export function of SMEs in Lot-et-Garonne or to suggest improvements on the basis of industrial competitiveness audits in Pyrénées Atlantiques. In the department of Aveyron in Midi-Pyrénées, the Objective 5(b) programme supported investment in equipment by an SME specialised in the manufacture of furniture units, with a good job-creation record and well integrated into the local economy, supplying three major corporate clients in the department, and using the services of numerous local transport operators.

OBJECTIVE 1

The four overseas regions (Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Réunion), Corsica and the districts of Douai, Valenciennes and Avesnes (French Hainaut) are eligible under Objective 1.

Mid-term reviews of the programmes available in 1996, and in particular those relating to the SPDs for Corsica, French Guiana and Hainaut, discussed by the Monitoring Committees, led to proposals for changes to the programmes adopted by formal Commission decision in mid-1997.

The SPD for Réunion was substantially reprogrammed to take account of completion dates for a major project, postponing the final date for payment by two years (to 31 December 2003). This project will improve the water supply (drinking water and irrigation) in the western part of the island. The Commission decision on reprogramming was taken in December.

The initial results of the mid-term reviews of the SPDs for French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Hainaut were discussed by the Monitoring Committees in the course of 1997. Proposals for major reprogramming reached the Commission at the end of the year for the Guiana and Martinique SPDs,

and in January 1998 for Hainaut; they take account of the Commission departments' remarks on delays in implementing the programmes. The Commission is expected to adopt a decision in the first half of 1998.

In 1997, the Commission was unable to commit appropriations in the Community budget for that year's contribution to Objective 1 SPDs for Corsica, Martinique, Réunion and Hainaut, amounting to about ECU 190 million altogether, because the required statements of expenditure were not forthcoming.

On the agricultural side, it was hoped that programmes in Martinique and French Guiana would gain momentum in 1997 after reprogramming at the end of 1996, but management problems arose, partly owing to red tape, but especially because it was not easy for project sponsors to find sources of financing to match the Community contribution. However, implementation is progressing satisfactorily in Guadeloupe and Réunion, and especially in Corsica, where the Objective 1 SPD includes a raft of socio-structural measures, which enables the programme to progress more automatically and thus more rapidly.

Aid to the fishing industry for shipbuilding has been blocked because France is yet to meet its targets in the framework of the MGP (multi-annual guidance programme). This has seriously affected the progress of programmes. In the overseas departments, only the tranches for 1994 have been committed. For Corsica, the most recent statement of expenditure dates back to 1995, which means that the take-up rate for payments is below 10%.

OBJECTIVE 2

In 1997 the Commission approved the new programmes for the nineteen regions eligible under Objective 2 for the period 1997-99, and a technical assistance programme. These programmes represent Community assistance of about ECU 2.2 billion altogether. The only programme which the Commission did not approve was the one relating to restructuring in the defence industry, since some of the measures proposed by the French authorities raised problems of eligibility.

As it was not possible to complete all the programmes for the period 1994-96, the sum of ECU 208.6 million was transferred to 1997-99; this corresponds to 13% of total financing for the first period.

After a slow start, implementation of Objective 2 in France is now in line with the Community average in terms of both commitments and payments.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

In 1997, Objective 3 was reprogrammed in accordance with the new priorities of the French authorities. The importance of priority 3, the integration of people threatened with exclusion from the labour market, was considerably reinforced (an increase of 36%), to reflect the emphasis placed by the French authorities on combating exclusion. On the other hand, there was a 30% cut in the share of priority 1 (reintegration of jobseekers threatened with long-term unemployment). Some schemes were removed from the programme, either because they had not proved effective or because it was not feasible under the French system to comply with Community sound management rules (e.g. agreements on training leave). It is planned in 1998 to adopt new changes to the SPD, in the context of the programme for preventing and combating social exclusion. In terms of budget implementation, France is below the Community average for Objective 3 (about 45% of total assistance had been paid by the end of 1997).

1997 saw a marked improvement in the budget implementation of Objective 4. Payments in the course of the year amounted to ECU 87.9 million, more than for the whole of the period 1994-96. However, the accumulated rate of budget implementation was still low by the end of 1997, at 28% of the financing available for the whole period 1994-99. The Monitoring Committee meeting of 20 November took measures to boost the rate of implementation, to make up the ground lost when the

programme got off to a slow start in 1994 and 1995. They involved introducing a new configuration for technical assistance, to reinforce local support structures, support work by small firms on setting up projects, and generally stimulate the programme. It was also decided to support the new provisions on the organisation and reduction of working hours with new schemes on business consultancy and training.

Measures still concentrate largely on the "training" priority. However, there has been some increase in the number of "anticipated needs" projects and "training systems" projects. After the strong concentration of projects in the industrial sector in the early years, there has now been more diversification towards the services sector.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

The three main measures to improve the efficiency of production structures in France are aid for the modernisation of farms, start-up aid for new entrants and allowances to compensate for natural handicaps. In 1996, 8 300 farms qualified for investment aid for modernisation (number of approvals), down 10% on the year before, mainly owing to the crisis in the beef sector. The number of start-up dossiers for young farmers approved in 1996 was 9 030, a 7% increase on 1995. This increase confirms the surge in start-up aid observed in 1995, and reflects the importance given to this priority by the French authorities. Lastly, compensatory allowances were granted, as in the previous year, to some 130 000 holdings.

The satisfactory rate achieved in 1996 for implementation of SPDs to assist the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products was maintained in 1997. By the end of 1997, the French authorities had committed ECU 172 million, in terms of approved projects, out of Community assistance for these measures totalling ECU 259 million for 1994-99.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

The 1996 tranche of the programme had been committed by the end of 1997. The 1994 tranche, however, had not yet been used up. Execution of payments stood at about 35% at the end of 1997 (compared with a Community average of 41%). Although expenditure on measures for the fishing fleet contributes to reducing the fishing effort to achieve the aims of the MGP, there is still a reserve available that has not yet been spent. Expenditure on port facilities and aquaculture is still weak.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

State of progress with programmes varies from one region to another, with more serious management problems occurring in areas that were not previously eligible, where there is no experience of the management of Community financing. The introduction of the national technical assistance programme at the beginning of 1997 should help to remedy this inequality between regions, encourage greater standardisation in programme management and make the managers' job easier through measures to provide training and the exchange and transfer of information and experience, and through the choice of efficient, compatible computer tools to enable the technical and financial aspects of the various SPDs to be monitored at national level.

It is often difficult, with projects financed by the EAGGF, to establish operations of an economic nature, in particular in the food industry, because of the lack of project sponsors in the countryside. Some regions, however, in particular Burgundy, Limousin and Franche-Comté, have successfully introduced projects to exploit local woodland resources, both at the level of traditional initial processing and at that of alternative uses of timber, e.g. as an energy source.

2. Community Initiatives

In 1997 the Commission took a number of decisions on the use of the reserve. In the framework of the Urban Initiative, the Commission approved five programmes for operations in depressed urban areas (Châlons-sur-Saône, Bastia, Clichy-Montfermeil, Mantes-la-Jolie and Saint-Etienne), accounting for total Community financing of ECU 24.7 million. Community assistance now involves thirteen depressed urban areas in France. Financing from the reserve was also granted to finance changes to the Konver and Retex CIPs. The reserve relating to the Rechar II and Resider II CIPs will be allocated in the course of 1998. As for Regis, there were still problems in getting it under way in 1997, and the programmes for the four overseas regions are to be amended in 1998.

New human-resources projects selected under the Employment Initiative numbered 650. Over 50% of these projects include measures other than training, and aim at developing a multisectoral approach; about 80% of the projects concentrate on pathways into work. The second call for projects under the Adapt Initiative resulted in the selection of 430 projects. Small firms took an active part (on average over 100 small businesses for each project), which was one of the aims. The other feature of the projects was the importance of technological development, in particular related to the information society. Many projects were launched in this area, especially in Limousin, Ile de France and Corsica.

In the area of rural development, partnership problems between the representatives of the LAG (local action group) and local government interfered with the smooth running of the programme in Corsica. However, projects are being completed, and experiences are being exchanged (seminar on edible chestnuts, and contact with a Finnish group). The Objective 5(b) regions have completed a preliminary selection of LAGs, with some reserving the right to issue a second call for projects. Programming has been rather slow so far, with unsatisfactory implementation. The slowness is partly due to the rather restrictive management arrangements introduced by the national and regional authorities, in particular for making Community finance available. It is worth mentioning in particular the serious delay in implementing the ESF strand of the programmes, since the operators concerned systematically prefer the use of Objective 5(b) SPDs for this type of operation. Steps have now been taken to simplify procedures and improve programming, to prevent local actors becoming understandably discouraged, after two years' hard work on preparing their projects.

In the fisheries sector, the first advance payment on the single tranche has been paid, but no certificate of expenditure has yet been received by the Commission. A reprogramming exercise concentrating more on ERDF projects is under way.

2.2.7. IRELAND

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in Ireland

The Funds' total contribution to the development of small firms under Objective 1 is estimated at ECU 975 million for the current 1994-99 period.

Almost all Irish enterprises are SMEs. A large number of them are participating in both the various projects that make up the operational programmes under the Objective 1 CSF and in some Community Initiatives.

For example, venture-capital and seed-capital funds, which were not available to SMEs on the private market, have been established under the Industry programme. The investments made by these funds allow SMEs to develop more quickly, while consolidating their balance sheets. The Industry programme has also introduced a new project on research, technology and innovation within an enterprise. It will enable SMEs to avail themselves of loans at subsidised rates of interest.

Loans at reduced rates of interest are also available to small firms under the SMEs and Peace Community Initiatives. This facility has been a great success, and the reduced interest scheme continued in 1997 under the Peace programme.

By way of example, the SME Initiative includes a measure specifically designed to facilitate access by such firms to public invitations to tender. The total cost of the operation is ECU 2.9 million, ECU 2.1 million of which is funded by the ERDF. The operations involved include the establishment of a database of public sector clients, the recruitment of several specialists in public sector tendering and assistance for participating enterprises. Figures for the end of 1997 show that 227 enterprises were helped under the measure to participate in 62 invitations to tender. The trade flows generated amount to about ECU 3.8 million.

OBJECTIVE 1

All of Ireland is eligible for Objective 1. The CSF and the individual programmes underwent a mid-term evaluation in 1997. As a result, the CSF Monitoring Committee decided to transfer a total of ECU 163 million between the programmes. Transfers were made in particular from the Industry OP to the Human Resources and Economic infrastructure (roads) OPs. The Monitoring Committee also suggested qualitative changes, such as opening up the near-monopoly enjoyed by government agencies to other bodies, the introduction of a more market-led approach and the launch of a study on the cost of road infrastructure.

As well as better targeting of the Irish aid measures, the Monitoring Committee also stressed the need for better consistency with the Commission's priorities: additional amounts were allocated to R&TD; more account of the environment was taken by transferring to two particular measures (the control of farmyard pollution and the milk hygiene scheme) ECU 28.5 million from other measures under the same programme and other programmes. A further boost was given to equal opportunities through the provision for the first time of funding for child-care facilities.

Some projects may lose Community funding in 1998 if significant progress is not made to ensure they are completed in time. Such projects include the National Conference Centre, the peat-fired power station, the 'waste to energy' project in Blanchardstown and the National Gallery. These projects account for ECU 211 million in Community funding, i.e. more than 9% of the remaining budget for the last two years of the programme (1998 and 1999).

Human resources operations continued in 1997 by improving the capacity of the educational and training systems to respond to changes in the labour market. The number of long-term unemployed fell continually during 1997. The mid-term evaluation carried out in 1997 concluded that the CSF has been a great success so far. The evaluation also concluded that the current balance between the Funds in the CSF is the best way of achieving the stated aims. One of the priorities highlighted by the evaluation, which will need additional assistance from the ESF, concerns early school leavers. A further ECU 20 million has been allocated to this target group. More generally, the mid-term evaluation identified the operations that need to be strengthened. The ESF must accordingly target programmes better towards the long-term unemployed (this topic must be discussed by the human resources coordinating committee in 1998); it must improve the way in which programmes for the most deprived are carried out and it must adopt a more market-led approach towards the supply of training and teaching. The Monitoring Committees will discuss all these topics at their meetings in 1998. The ESF contribution to the Urban and local development OP (training measures) may be reduced, given the slackness of expenditure in the programme's first three years (due mainly to the delay in establishing the partnership at local level). A decision will be taken at the first meeting of the CSF Monitoring Committee in 1998.

On the agricultural side, the mid-term evaluation has had repercussions for certain EAGGF-funded measures in two programmes. Proposals have been made to amend the compensatory allowances. ECU 28 million in unspent appropriations under the Food Industry Programme has been transferred to other measures (see above). Lastly, the evaluation recommended the introduction of a "rural resettlement pilot project".

The fisheries programme is progressing satisfactorily. The 1996 instalment was paid in full, as well as 80% of the 1997 instalment. The measures on reducing the fishing effort and on aquaculture are still behind schedule.

2. Community Initiatives

Like the Objective 1 CSF, the Community Initiatives underwent a mid-term evaluation. While significant reallocations of funding have not resulted from it, the evaluation has helped to improve programme targeting. The Interreg II A programme between Ireland and Northern Ireland is especially interesting in this regard: the Monitoring Committee has adopted an action plan to improve management of the programme, to strengthen crossborder operations and to enhance publicity relating to the programme. No certificate of expenditure statement has as yet been received for fishery-related measures.

1997 was the last year in which commitments were made for operations under the Retex Initiative. However, the Retex Monitoring Committee decided to extend the programme for one year, because of the difficulties encountered in committing all the ESF funding.

As a result of the second call for projects under the Employment Community Initiative 126 human resources projects were selected. By way of example, the Now projects aim in particular to increase the participation rate of women in certain sectors, to integrate marginalised women in society and to reconcile working and family life. The Youthstart projects bring together the various administrative services and non-profit organisations to encourage the social integration of unqualified teenagers for whom social exclusion is otherwise a possibility. In the case of the Adapt Initiative, 35 projects were selected covering areas such as skills improvements in crafts industries, the development of information systems, products and quality systems in SMEs. Other projects include improvements to training schemes, job creation in small and micro-enterprises and the development of practical systems to transfer technology from research institutes to SMEs. This second series of Adapt projects will focus especially on the information society.

The mid-term evaluation of the Leader II programme resulted in a number of minor changes. The local action groups received additional funding from the distribution of the reserve (ECU 15.5 million for Ireland).

Operations continued under the Peace Initiative, but at a slower pace than expected. An extra ECU 100 million was allocated to the programme for 1998. The mid-term evaluation did not recommend any significant changes to the programme, but it did ask the competent authorities and those carrying out the operations to justify their applications for additional funding for 1998 and 1999.

2.2.8. ITALY

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in Italy:

The Funds' contribution to the development of SMEs under the regionalised Objectives is estimated at around ECU 4.7 billion for the current period. Of that amount, 88% is intended for Objective 1 regions, around 7.5% for Objective 2 and 4.5% for Objective 5(b) areas.

Objective 1: The Objective 1 CSF allocates 21% of total funds to part-finance an Italian aid scheme for the Mezzogiorno under Law 488/92. The scheme gives priority to the financing of four sectors of activity: industry, the environment, R&TD and transport. Assistance to industry and R&TD in particular has been highly successful among small firms in southern Italy.

Other operations targeting SMEs more specifically are also worth mentioning. In Caserta in Campania, for example, the ERDF is part-financing a joint infrastructure project comprising a multipurpose centre for the jewellery industry ("Tari": Community contribution of ECU 14 million towards a total cost of ECU 28 million). Launched in 1990 on the initiative of small and medium-sized jewellers and goldsmiths in Naples, the centre provides premises close to Naples to rehouse the whole jewellery trade, located for centuries in the city centre, which is now too cramped. Unique in Italy, the Tari project brings together workshops, permanent showrooms of for member firms and rooms for temporary exhibitions, with facilities for exhibitors from elsewhere. There are also wholesale marketing distribution facilities and workshops for occupational training and research work utilising the latest technology. Tari is thus becoming one of the most up-to-date centres in the Community and is a focal point for the Italian jewellery industry, a leader on the world market. The centre is among the largest private-sector investment projects in the Mezzogiorno in recent years. In terms of jobs created, the sector employed 1 447 workers in 1996 compared to 497 in 1982.

In Sicily's agricultural sector, 33 small and medium-sized agri-food enterprises producing various products like citrus fruit, honey, milk, olive oil (particularly organic) and table olives have been selected and financed. Work has been completed in 10 enterprises. Once all the investments have been completed, at least 400 jobs will have been made stable and 90 new posts created.

Objective 2: On the banks of Lake Maggiore in Piedmont, the ERDF has part-financed the Piedmont technology park (ECU 11.6 million from the ERDF out of a total cost of ECU 35.9 million). The "Tecnoparco" is the first of its kind in northern Italy, providing research and experimentation laboratories (metrological trials, new materials, new industrial processes, etc.) in addition to common services for the 15 or so enterprises established there. SMEs wishing to set up must propose an innovative project with strong development potential. Once accepted, they conclude partnership contracts with the host body for a minimum of five years. Under such contracts, they benefit in particular from transfers of technology with enterprises on the spot and outside, for example, by helping them to participate in Community programmes. Currently, the emphasis is on two areas, components for home systems and automation in general, and biotechnology applications in horticulture and ecology. Thus the firm Thermostelect Engineering is developing new processes for the incineration of solid urban waste and is about to market components for scrubbing synthetic gas produced by gasification of waste. The gas will be used for energy and heat production. Tecnoparco's success has led to plans for a second phase of building to double the area available for SMEs. To date, Tecnoparco has led to the creation of around 1 800 jobs in the region, of which 190 were created within the park itself.

OBJECTIVE 1

Around 30 operations funded under the period 1989-93 were concluded in 1997. In addition, six new OPs and two global grants were approved.

As regards implementation of the CSF, 1997 saw the application of closer monitoring and the preparation of the mid-term evaluation, with the findings coming out in early 1998.

Monitoring work focused in particular on progress in procedures and the defining of estimates for commitments and payments per measure for each form of assistance adopted. The monitoring placed a heavy workload on the joint working groups (Commission/national authorities), which met frequently in the course of the year. The monitoring arrangements proved exceptionally difficult to implement.

From the financial viewpoint, at the end of 1997 decisions were still pending on Community resources of around ECU 734 million (ECU 680 million from the ERDF and ECU 54 million from the EAGGF). Despite these difficulties, implementation of the CSF gathered momentum in 1997, in particular in the last quarter. By the end of 1997, expenditure actually incurred amounted to 38%, which was the target agreed in the course of the year by the Italian Government and the Commission. This overall level of implementation disguises wide disparities from one Fund and form of assistance to another.

The findings of the mid-term assessment led to a major reallocation of financing between programmes early in 1998, with a CSF Monitoring Committee decision to reprogramme about ECU 698 million away from the regions and programmes that had not used their financing efficiently, towards other regions and programmes where appropriations had been implemented more satisfactorily.

In the field of human resources, implementation was satisfactory. Measures covered the training of young people and training through further education. Good results were also achieved in strategic sectors (industry, the environment and tourism).

In agriculture, the Commission approved a new multiregional programme providing support for the establishment of fruit and vegetable producer organisations and their activities (ECU 4.1 million from the EAGGF towards a total of ECU 8.2 million).

Under the programme of services for the commercial upgrading of agricultural products from southern Italy, which seeks to bring supply more closely into line with market requirements, the Ministry selected 14 organisations out of those putting forward the 30 proposals received. The actual work is to begin sometime in 1998.

At regional level, a major effort was made in the selection and financing of investments projects relating to the processing and marketing of agricultural products. In Abruzzi, 22 projects were financed at a total cost of around ECU 28 million. In Campania, 15 projects were funded at a total cost of around ECU 23 million. In Sardinia, to strengthen the sheep and goat industry, 34 small-scale cheese dairies were granted funds to bring them into line with the health rules laid down in Directive 92/46/EEC. Good progress was recorded in Campania on the implementation of assistance for farm tourism and investments in agricultural holdings. All the regions concerned have committed the EAGGF assistance for 1997, and in five of these (Sicily, Apulia, Molise, Basilicata and Calabria), progress made enabled the first advance to be paid too.

In the fisheries sector, 1997 was a year of crisis in Italy (falling catches, rising costs and imports), and this is reflected in the poor rate of implementation of the programme. Reprogramming allowed the 1996 tranche to be paid out in full; the 1997 tranche was committed and the first advance paid. Nevertheless, unless there is considerable acceleration in implementation, some of the programme's funds could be withdrawn. A measure to compensate fishermen who voluntarily abandon the use of drift nets was introduced.

OBJECTIVE 2

In 1997, 11 new programmes were adopted for the period 1997-99 with a total Community contribution of ECU 798 million, on top of the ECU 170 million transferred from the previous period. There is no change in the eligible areas, with the exception of small extensions to those in Emilia-Romagna and Lombardy, or in the strategies or objectives laid down in the SPDs. In line with the Commission's guidelines for Objective 2, however, special stress was laid on certain activities, like:

- aid to SMEs as regards access to new technologies;
- local development, by developing the territorial pacts and other "integrated projects" based on extended local partnership in industry and tourism;
- the environment, with special emphasis on monitoring systems, environmental infrastructures and investments in clean technology;
- human resources, with priority for equal treatment of men and women.

Almost everywhere, implementation of the new programmes started immediately after they were adopted. However, seven programmes were adopted in July and two (Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Lazio) in December, which delayed the launch phase.

There was no change in the guidelines concerning human resources either. Closer attention was paid to the development of human resources and skills. The strategic objectives, however, were defined more precisely. Special attention was paid, in accordance with the Commission's guidelines, to integrated approaches creating new jobs. Most SPDs made provision for aid for employment.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Under Objective 3, there was some diversification in measures, target groups and procedures. Nevertheless, there is still room for improved coordination between the bodies responsible for education and those in charge of training. Participation by SMEs and non-profit bodies increased. Local development was made a priority in 1997, with the aim of achieving closer consistency between national and EU policies. The mid-term review was carried out and completed in 1997. In order to comply fully with national priorities (a new law on employment was adopted in June 1997), resources were transferred to measures to assist young people, equal treatment for men and women and socially excluded groups.

After a slow start, 1997 saw a distinct acceleration in implementation for Objective 4 (33% of the assistance was paid out by 31 December 1997 compared with just 12% at the end of 1996). Nevertheless, this improvement is still not sufficient to make up for the time lost. As far as the mobilisation of private funding is concerned, the contribution laid down in the SPDs was largely forthcoming though there was a wide discrepancy in implementation of the various priorities. Utilisation of the "anticipation" and "technical assistance" priorities, for instance, fell behind schedule significantly. Action is being taken to restore the balance.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - agriculture

The main aid measures for production structures went to less-favoured areas (42%), aid for investments in agricultural holdings (31%) and assistance to help young farmers to set up. All the regional programmes covering the processing and marketing of agricultural products were adopted in 1996. In the course of 1997, a multiregional programme was adopted. Progress in implementation varies widely from one programme to another, but overall payments for agriculture under Objective 5(a) are still low (31%). Nonetheless, the improvement over 1996 is substantial (12% of payments actually made).

OBJECTIVE 5(a) - fisheries

At the end of 1997, only 19% of payments had actually been made, for the reasons spelled out above in respect of Objective 1. Reprogramming enabled the 1996 instalment to be paid out entirely and the first advance to be paid for 1997.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

The mid-term evaluation largely confirmed the validity of the strategies followed. However, the findings did reveal some special features of Objective 5(b) in Italy which explain the slow pace of implementation of the programmes, i.e.:

- the fact that the procedures for the implementation of the Objective 5(b) programmes were separate from the standard regional programming;
- the predominance of aid schemes comprising a large number of very small-scale projects;
- the complicated national rules to be followed for projects and in particular the lengthy duration and complexity of the invitations.

Increasing attention has been paid to measures to support employment. The Tuscany Region programme, for example, incorporated new measures to foster employment (aid for recruitment, for setting up businesses, etc.). Around 3% of funds for measures relating to human resources are spent on employment aid, the remainder going on basic tertiary-level training and continuing education.

An earthquake struck the rural areas of the Marche and Umbria regions in 1997. The Objective 5(b) programmes were adjusted to help those regions cope with the emergency, and the change went into effect at the end of 1997.

2. Community Initiatives

In 1997, the Commission approved four new Community Initiative programmes:

- **Interreg II Italy-Greece:** crossborder cooperation between Epirus, the Ionian Islands and Western Greece and the two provinces of the Apulia Region. The total cost of the programme is ECU 304.8 million, including ECU 169.2 million from the Structural Funds. The priority assistance areas cover improvements to transport infrastructure (ports) and telecommunications, the promotion of economic activities, the environment (network for management of maritime waters and measures to combat water pollution) and tourism (restoration of the cultural and historical heritage and cooperation between tourist enterprises).
- **Interreg II Italy-Austria:** certain areas in the Italian Regions of Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Bolzano and the Austrian Länder of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol are eligible. The total cost of the programme is ECU 27.4 million, including ECU 11.8 million from the Structural Funds. The programme includes measures to enhance the historical and cultural heritage, protect the environment and develop tourist resources, and assistance for SMEs and training.
- **Interreg II Italy-Slovenia.** The provinces of Udine, Gorizia, Trieste and Venice are covered by this programme, the total cost of which is ECU 31.3 million (ECU 15.6 million from the Structural Funds). Work concerns the protection of the environment, institutional and cultural cooperation, improved communications and cooperation between SMEs. The programme forms the complement to the Phare-CBC programme for Slovenia.
- **Interreg II C on combating drought.** This programme covers all Objective 1 regions. The total cost is ECU 30.4 million, including ECU 15.2 million from the ERDF. The areas of intervention cover

the improvement of the network for managing the water balance for the Objective 1 regions and reducing water shortages in certain areas of Sardinia and Sicily.

On top of these new programmes, in 1997 the Commission decided to extend the scope of Urban, a programme approved in 1996, to three new cities, Trieste, Lecce and Catanzaro. As a result, the programme now covers 16 municipalities, i.e. Rome, Genoa, Venice and Trieste (non-Objective 1), Naples, Salerno, Palermo, Catania, Syracuse, Reggio Calabria, Cosenza, Bari, Foggia, Lecce, Catanzaro and Cagliari (Objective 1). The total cost of the revised programme is ECU 337.5 million, with the Community contribution rising to ECU 136 million, of which ECU 118 million comes from the ERDF and ECU 18 million from the ESF. Under that programme, each city administers its own subprogramme.

In 1997 the Commission also decided on the allocation of the reserve and of the resources made available through indexation for the Rechar II (Sardinia and Tuscany), Retex - Objective 1, Resider II, Konver and SME programmes. Changes were also made to the content of the programmes and financing plans for Interreg IIA Italy-Albania and Italy-France (Alps) in order to bring the programming details more closely into line with work achieved on the ground and with the estimates for resources needed.

As regards human resources, in response to the second call for projects for 1997-99, 833 projects were selected for the Employment Initiative. Generally, the emphasis was laid on training, with special attention being paid to the development of adapted training systems, vocational guidance and employment. The economic sectors most concerned are local labour markets, culture and tourism, the environment and new information technologies. Under the Adapt Initiative, 401 projects were selected for the period 1997-99. Stress was laid on anticipatory measures, promotion, and the networking of new employment opportunities. The sectors most concerned are graphic arts, publishing, the socio-economic sector and tourism. Projects also involve the food industry, banking, commerce and transport. The Adapt-BIS theme (Building the Information Society) is present throughout the various sectors. Following the last selection, all regions doubled or tripled the number of projects financed under this Community Initiative.

Under the Leader II Initiative, almost all regions completed their selection of local action groups. Most of them have already received their first advance, so they can start the activities programmed. Having completed this first phase more quickly, the regions of Sardinia and Calabria have had their financing plans bolstered by the allocation of the funds made available through the indexation for 1997 and of the reserve. In the 13 Objective 5(b) areas of Italy, local people worked hard to set up local partnerships. The selection of the 65 local action groups proved a complex task, much effort being made to achieve a satisfactory territorial concentration. In the Lazio Region, the procedure had not been completed at the end of 1997.

In the fisheries sector, no certificate of expenditure has been received to date for the Pesca Initiative. Only the first advance on the 1995 instalment has been paid. The switchover to a system involving a single instalment is under way; it should allow bigger sums to be paid immediately.

2.2.9. LUXEMBOURG

1. The main achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in Luxembourg:

The Funds are contributing an estimated ECU 6.5 million to the development of small firms under the regionally based Objectives in the period 1994-99. 85% of this contribution relates to Objective 2 and the remaining 15% to Objective 5(b).

Objective 2: by way of example, a former slag pit has been turned into a serviced industrial zone (PAFEWE) that seeks to attract activities not directly linked to the steel industry (which the Objective 2 area used to depend on), such as raw materials processing, recycling, manufacturing or craft enterprises.

The ZARE project aims to broaden the supply of equipped sites to enterprises other than those directly targeted by the Ministry for the Economy under the Economic Diversification Act. Measures are being taken to develop and revitalise industrial, crafts-based or commercial enterprises that wish to set up or develop in the region.

The mid-term evaluation notes that the site was very quickly occupied and also that the fitting out of the PAFEWE and ZARE sites created around 370 new jobs (gross).

OBJECTIVE 2

The operations decided upon before the closure of the 1994-96 programme period are progressing satisfactorily. ECU 1.77 million has been transferred to the new period 1997-99. The mid-term evaluation highlighted the success achieved by developing new activity areas (the ZARE and PAFEWE sites).

The new programming period 1997-99 will continue the efforts made towards industrial diversification. While the operations are a logical follow-on from what was done in the past, measures to promote the quality of the environment will receive special attention.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

ESF assistance accounts for less than 2% of the public expenditure in 1997 on labour market policies. About 50% of Objective 3 funding is directed towards integrating the socially excluded, in particular the handicapped. The ESF has enabled a jobseeker placement service to be established that brings together the tasks of jobsearching, needs analysis, additional training, work- placement itself and the follow-up within a firm of those newly placed. The ESF also support the efforts of several organisations training workers, in particular the *Chambre des métiers*, which allows it to have an overview of all vocational training.

The labour market in Luxembourg is a special case, which explains why the ESF does not concentrate primarily on reducing the macroeconomic level of unemployment (3.7%). The labour market is very open and the employment catchment area extends well beyond the borders of the State. Nearly 30% of employees are from across the border, which means that companies' training needs are being exported as is, at times of economic crisis, unemployment. This does not prevent the ESF from stimulating new approaches to the encouragement of jobseekers, to vocational training or to guidance for young people as they prepare for working life.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

The main structural aids for farm holdings concern the least-favoured areas (51%), farm investment aid (24%) and the installation of young farmers (24%). When the SPD to improve the processing and marketing of agricultural products was approved in 1994, Luxembourg asked that it should cover only one sector: wine and alcohol. In 1996 the national authorities sought the inclusion of two new sectors: fruit and vegetables and potatoes. The additional funding required was got by transferring appropriations from the measure to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures.

The Community contributed ECU 200 000 to four investments approved in 1997.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

The only programme beneficiary was unable to overcome the technical difficulties that have beset him for the last 18 months or so. Investment has remained very cautious as a result and mainly relates to maintaining the existing rearing unit.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

Following the delayed start to the programme, the holding of a second Committee meeting in mid-1997 did indicate a real desire to start the monitoring exercise in earnest. Some EAGGF measures relating to the planning of the future Our national park, environmental protection, the preservation of the countryside and the creation of on-farm holiday homes have not been taken up by those who actually carry the projects out.

The mid-term evaluation carried out in 1997 advocates abandoning certain measures that cannot be implemented in the reference period (the Alsdorf telecentre, the Martelange slate works) and increasing funding for the rural heritage measures. A reprogramming of the financial plan was decided by the Monitoring Committee and a carryover of the unused appropriations for the 1997, 1998 and 1999 instalments was approved by the Commission on 10 November 1997.

2. The Community Initiatives

1997 saw the approval of the Resider II and Konver Community Initiatives for the areas undergoing conversion. The Urban Initiative slowed down because of administrative difficulties in getting authorisation to renovate blighted areas. The Interreg II programme is progressing satisfactorily.

As regards human resources, the Employment and Adapt Community Initiatives progressed well in 1997. They fund three and two projects respectively. One of the Adapt projects involves training and advice for enterprises, the other is setting up a database containing information on the continuing training options available to workers. As part of the Integra strand of the Employment Initiative, the Commission has approved a pilot project under Article 6 of the ESF Regulation.

The Leader II programme, approved in 1995, is based on a strategy of innovation and transferability. Despite some institutional and administrative difficulties, the programme is advancing well. Those involved have formed two local action groups (Clervaux-Vianden and Redange-Wiltz). The Monitoring Committee has approved changes to two measures "innovative SME investments" and "promoting teleworking in rural areas" to highlight the fact that they are pilot projects.

2.2.10. NETHERLANDS

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in the Netherlands

The total contribution of the Funds to the development of small firms under the regionalised Objectives in 1994-99 amounts to some ECU 418.6 million, 9% for Objective 1, about 80% for Objective 2 and 11% for Objective 5(b).

Objective 1: The KIM project is intended to help small firms take on young graduates or highly qualified workers who will facilitate their adoption of new technologies. The aid, which may amount to up to ECU 15 000 per firm, lasts for one year. Of the 30 new recruitments aimed at, nine have so far taken place. The projects proposed by the small firms must be clear and approved in advance in order to avoid firms simply making use of cheap labour. The project is coordinated by the Flevoland BIC.

Objective 2: In Arnhem-Nijmegen the ERDF and the ESF are providing half the total cost of ECU 1 million of a project to promote the logistics of transport and distribution firms (*Stimuleren logistiek verladerssector*). This project, managed by two private bodies, has the twin aims of persuading firms of the importance of training as a means of ensuring growth and enabling the unemployed to find work in the industry. Hence the firm DEPA Disposables was advised on ways of increasing useful working time, reducing stocks and increasing profits. Merely using a new type of palette saved time spent on loading and unloading. At the same time, training was provided in new techniques in the sector. So far some 280 workers in 20 firms have received specialist training and the project has created 94 jobs.

The plan to help small firms in the Twente area is a good example of a project responding to demand from firms. It formed part of the SPD for 1994-96 and has been continued. Its aim is to promote innovation in small firms which are "trailing behind" (not having reached the point of being able to innovate). There are three types of measure: finance for the use of outside experts or advice (up to ECU 11 400 per firm), loans (up to ECU 114 000 per year) and support for investment in innovation (up to ECU 45 600 per year).

Objective 5(b): In Friesland 60% of investment under the programme goes to encouraging small firms through projects such as the large industrial park at Drachten and Heereveen, industrial land linked to water sports and so on.

OBJECTIVE 1

Flevoland is eligible under Objective 1. On 24 July the Commission approved the first amendments to the financing plan for the SPD. A second meeting of the Monitoring Committee, on 17 December, approved the reorientation of the programme proposed in the conclusions of the mid-term evaluation and the changes made to the financing plan. This second amendment should be approved by the Commission in 1998.

The reorientations concern the job employment scheme which received a further ECU 6.9 million and the industrial and commercial areas measure whose main project (the industrial area in the port of Almere) cannot be completed on schedule and so will have its total budget cut by ECU 100.5 million. Other minor changes include integration of the environmental innovation in small firms measure into the R&TD measure to provide a broader approach to integration within small firms.

The main alteration affecting the ESF is the establishment of a budget of ECU 5 million for the employment measure. Another amendment reduced the minimum number of participants in ESF measures to raise the rate of participation by small firms.

In the EAGGF Guidance Section, the grouping of measures, the reallocation of finance and a change in the rate of part-financing were proposed to speed up implementation of certain measures.

In the areas dependent on fisheries, assistance from the other funds was provided to support diversification.

OBJECTIVE 2

All the SPDs adopted for 1997-99 retained the priorities of the previous programming period (1994-96) although some rebalancing was carried out to provide extra resources for certain priorities. Special attention was paid to the local employment initiatives, infrastructure for R&TD, the transfer of technologies to small firms and measures concerning transport.

In Twente, a project based on the Flevoland job employment scheme was proposed; 45% of its cost will be met by the ERDF. This project would cover the four main towns in the region (Enschede, Almelo, Hengelo and Oldenzaal) and provide financial aid for each job created in these towns by firms from outside the region. It should create 980 new jobs.

Progress of the projects for 1994-96 did not enable them all to be closed and a total of ECU 80.1 million was transferred to the new period. In Groningen-Drenthe a project was halted because of lack of demand (training institute), completion of a second (science park) is uncertain and four others have not yet spent any money.

Overall implementation of the appropriations for Objective 2 in the Netherlands is well below the Community average.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

The programme for Objective 3 was implemented as planned in 1997 and about 85% of its budget spent. The remaining resources will have to be transferred to future years for which a proposal for discussion at the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee must be prepared. During the year, a new approach to checking ESF projects was implemented for Objective 3. Under it, all checks are centralised and monitored by the audit unit of the central agency for employment.

In 1997 the Objective 4 programme became fully operational. The Commission approved the amendment to the SPD under which a large part of the budget for 1994 and the funds remaining from 1995 were transferred to 1997 and 1998. All the available appropriations for 1997, including the transfer, were committed. Overall, implementation of appropriations for Objective 4 in the Netherlands is higher than the Community average.

While there was considerable under-implementation in 1994, 1995 and 1996, applications for payment in 1997 exceeded the resources available. Most of the projects in the Netherlands concern groups of firms in a particular sector and applications for finance for projects under Objective 4 involve increasingly large amounts. This makes it important to refine the project-selection procedure to ensure that those financed are of good quality.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

During the year, estimated expenditure on measures to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures was revised downwards, mainly because of the wait-and-see attitude of Dutch farmers caused by the movement of farm incomes. A further reason is that the Dutch consider their projects to be ineligible under the measures. In 1997 new projects were introduced to increase ability to compete and sell and in the horticultural sector. The rate of implementation of the SPD on improving the conditions for the processing and marketing of agricultural products was better than in 1996. The SPD was amended during the year: the rates of assistance of the EAGGF and national finance were increased and a new forestry sector was added.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

Implementation of the programme continued to be slow. The measures for port facilities for fisheries and processing and marketing were behind schedule. The mid-term review began in 1997 and its results will be available during 1998.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

Implementation of the Objective 5(b) programmes in the Netherlands was satisfactory although slightly below the Community average in terms of commitments and payments.

Four provinces (Friesland, Groningen-Drenthe, Overijssel and Limburg) concentrated on the establishment of new firms, tourism and the development of the countryside while Zeeland paid more attention to agricultural diversification.

The results of the mid-term evaluation carried out during the year suggested some amendments concerning transfers between priorities or measures, the carryover of unused appropriations and the allocation of the additional resources made available through indexation. Two amending decisions (for Limburg and Zeeland) were adopted during 1997.

The environmental aspect is an important component of measures in the Netherlands. For example, Groningen-Drenthe devotes 12% of its funds to the protection of the environment, forests and the countryside as part of projects to improve water quality, lay out a nature park and relocate some agricultural holdings.

2. Community Initiatives

The Netherlands is concerned by all the Community Initiatives apart from Rechar II and Regis II.

In general, implementation of the industrial conversion Initiatives (Retex, Resider II and Konver) is proceeding as planned. During the year 16 new projects under Retex were approved and began to operate at the beginning of 1998. In December the Commission approved extension of the Resider II programme until the end of 1999. This programme will improve cooperation among the public, semi-public and private partners in the region concerned. Some 43 new projects under Konver were approved in 1997. Implementation is continuing as planned, with the exception of training measures. To resolve this problem, the eligibility of the SMEs taking part was extended to cover firms outside the defence sector.

Two programmes under Urban were adopted in 1997: Utrecht, where the ERDF will contribute ECU 6.5 million towards a total cost of ECU 26 million, and Rotterdam, where the ERDF will again contribute ECU 6.5 million, this time towards a total cost of ECU 23.5 million. The priorities in Rotterdam focus on support for local small firms and the attractiveness of the area. In 1997, two projects were approved under Urban in Amsterdam, which had been adopted in 1995, one for the ESF and the other for the ERDF. In 1998 there will be an interim evaluation to consider how the general implementation of Urban can be improved.

Two programmes under the Interreg II C Initiative (combating flooding) were adopted in 1997, one for the Rhine-Meuse (IRMA) and one for the North Sea. The ERDF is contributing ECU 137.1 million to the first and ECU 14.5 million to the second. The Rhine-Meuse programme was established jointly by six countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland) as a result of the serious flooding in 1995. The programme is managed by a joint secretariat based in the Netherlands, a financial body based in Germany, a Monitoring Committee and a steering committee. There are also national advisory groups to ensure that regional and local authorities are involved. The three priorities for the IRMA programme are measures concerning the catchment areas of the two rivers, measures concerning the main course of each river and improved transnational cooperation.

The financial implementation of Leader II for rural development is proceeding as planned. As a result of the mid-term evaluation, improvements will be made to the management and monitoring of the programme and the selection of projects by the LAGs. The Commission officially approved the Dutch national network for Leader II on 2 April 1997. The network, which is headed by Friesland, should promote the exchange of experiences, mutual cooperation, the organisation of visits and thematic studies.

Under the Employment Initiative 92 projects for human resources were selected, including two for Objective 1 (Flevoland). 132 projects under Adapt were selected, in most of which the use of information and communication technologies is a major component. However, the projects selected did not absorb all the funds available, which was why the transfer of ECU 2 million to Employment was proposed.

2.2.11. AUSTRIA

1. The major achievements of the Fund by Objective

Following the accession of Austria in 1995 and the adoption of the programmes in that year, 1997 was the second full year of the implementation of assistance there.

Measures to assist small businesses in Austria

The total contribution of the Funds to the development of small firms is about ECU 89.3 million, 58% for Objective 2 and 42% for Objective 5(b) (the figure for Objective 1 is not available).

Objectives 2 and 5(b): In Lower Austria, the Wiener Neustadt regional innovation centre manages a network of services for new local firms, offering direct assistance and advice and contacts with universities, institutes of technology and potential partners in the other Member States. The network has links with the Commission's BC-Net and all the Euro-info Centres.

Objective 2: A network of business parks ("thrust centres") has been established in Styria comprising five parks located near industrial areas. They provide the technical infrastructure required and facilities designed for new firms. They are connected through the Internet to the coordinating association which manages communications with the economic centres of Vienna and Graz.

In Vorarlberg, a public-private partnership is the basis for the Ökoprofit scheme to encourage better use of resources and reduce the pollution created by new investments. The project both cuts pollution and helps small firms reduce their costs.

OBJECTIVE 1

Only Burgenland is eligible under Objective 1. In general, the pace of implementation of measures in 1997 was satisfactory. Most investment projects for industry, infrastructure for firms and tourism were carried out. The development of know-how and training measures should speed up in 1998 and 1999. Some 1 100 new jobs had been created by the end of 1997, well below the target of 7 300. It was therefore decided to lower the target to a more realistic level.

To improve infrastructure in rural areas and extend the network of country roads, the EAGGF Guidance Section part-financed the construction of heating centres burning organic substances (biomass), which helps reduce CO₂ and improve protection of the environment.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed the strategy followed in the programme but a working party to improve support for the establishment of firms in central and southern Burgenland was set up. On the basis of the existing measures in the SPD, it will propose integrated measures under the ERDF, the EAGGF and the ESF for small firms, those establishing firms and the unemployed.

OBJECTIVE 2

Implementation of the four programmes was satisfactory. Austria opted for programming in a single period, 1995-99. About 2 070 jobs were created in the Objective 2 areas as compared with a forecast of 3 940.

As a result of the mid-term evaluation, the Monitoring Committees decided to make some amendments, including transfers between measures. The programme strategy remained the same but the quantified goals should be more ambitious. The evaluation also recommended simplifying the national part-financing procedures for measures for firms and improved monitoring. Differences in implementation between the measures should also be rectified: measures for productive investment and direct aid to firms are progressing better than those for tourism and R&TD.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Some 88 500 people (measures relating to skills and employment aid: 36 300; advisory structures and monitoring: 52 200) benefited from training measures under the Objective 3 SPD. The main priority (50% of beneficiaries) was to promote the integration of the long-term unemployed. Most of those concerned were aged between 25 and 45; they accounted for 46% of all assistance. In general, over half the beneficiaries were women.

The SPD was amended in 1997, partly because the Monitoring Committee was committed to increasing help for young people. The mid-term evaluation report showed that 80% of the resources used had gone to skills projects, 10% to employment aids and the rest to structures for advice and monitoring. Six months after the end of their training period, some 50% of those attending had found a job.

During the second half of 1997, the national regulation on implementation of the Objective 4 programme was revised so that assistance could be more closely targeted on employees of small firms facing industrial change. Strict conditions were laid down governing participation by large firms: additionality, innovation, cooperation with small firms, job rotation, the promotion of equal opportunities and the advancement of less-qualified staff.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

For the purposes of the measures to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures, the areas regarded as disadvantaged were extended by 27 433 ha and now cover 69.4% of the UAA (utilised agricultural area) in Austria. The extension was designed to improve the boundaries of the disadvantaged areas by including coherent areas with specific handicaps. Over 99 000 farmers are now receiving compensatory allowances.

Some 303 projects providing aid for the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products had been approved by the end of 1997. They concentrate on the meat, milk and milk products and fruit and vegetables sectors. The programme was amended in 1997 to include the forestry products sector.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

After two years of slow progress, mainly because of administrative preparations at national level, implementation of the programme in 1997 was fairly satisfactory and Austria made up some of the backlog. As a result of the interim evaluation report, the programme was amended slightly in December.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

Seven areas are eligible under this Objective, which covers 60% of the area of Austria and includes 30% of its population.

A feature of Austria's Objective 5(b) programmes is that they are largely directed to sectors, in line with Austria's regional policy. They seek to speed up adjustments in agriculture, production and tourism and to preserve or create jobs.

The mid-term evaluation showed that no overall assessment of the impact of structural policy on regional development in Austria is yet possible, mainly because the programmes have not been running for long enough (since 1995 and, in practice, 1996).

2. Community Initiatives

The Cadses Interreg II C (Centre, Danube, Adriatic and South-East) and Interreg II A Austria-Italy programmes were adopted in 1997 and implementation is already proceeding at a very satisfactory pace.

The Cadses programme is designed to apply the initial guidelines of the ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective) by developing transnational projects in order to set up a network of towns, promote environmentally-friendly transport networks, improve access to knowledge and information through cooperation and manage natural and cultural assets by agreement.

The Monitoring Committees for the Interreg II A programmes concerning cooperation across external frontiers with Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary met the Phare programming and Monitoring Committees. Further joint meetings will be held in 1998. Joint measures have been devised, including improving coordination of implementation schedules.

The mid-term evaluation in 1997 found that the projects financed through Interreg were of a good quality. However, appropriations should be used more quickly, particularly by the programmes concerning the Union's external frontiers.

As regards the industrial conversion Initiatives, seven projects under Rechar II were adopted in 1997 and 14 under Resider II.

Although a number of pilot projects concerning information technologies and the environment were begun under the SMEs Initiative, progress is still slow.

The Urban programmes for Vienna and Graz are progressing satisfactorily.

The Ministry of Labour asked the labour market agency to manage the two human resources Initiatives Employment and Adapt, which facilitates implementation of the programmes. In spring 1997 these two Initiatives were the subject of a mid-term evaluation which showed that the decentralised selection process had worked well but there still scope for improvement in the administrative procedures. In 1997 some 52 projects were adopted under Employment and 27 under Adapt.

Despite the delays in beginning programmes under the Leader II Initiative, the level of implementation is satisfactory. The programmes were implemented in conjunction with those under Objective 5(b).

2.2.12. PORTUGAL

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

OBJECTIVE 1

The whole of Portugal is eligible under Objective 1.

Measures to assist small businesses in Portugal

The total contribution of the Funds to the development of small businesses in Portugal under Objective 1 during the current programming period (1994-99) is estimated at ECU 2.7 billion.

An example is the FACAP project (Fábrica de Calçado PEDIP) (PEDIP shoe factory) to develop 56 new machines and systems covering all the activities of small firms in the footwear sector. New technologies have been introduced, including water-jet cutting, CAD systems and robots. The project entails an investment of ECU 11 million and is being implemented by a consortium of 11 small firms in the footwear sector, two in the capital goods sector, a management consultant and two engaged in technological infrastructure.

As part of the PEDIP programme for industry, a factory producing technical glass (Normax) introduced a quality assurance scheme and secured an ISO 9002 certificate at the end of 1995. Normax is a small firm with about 100 workers and exports around 40% of its production. Its product range includes 1 200 items, most intended for use in health and education. Because requirements in these sectors are very stringent, establishment of a quality assurance scheme and its recognition by the certification agency are essential to the future of the firm.

The PEDIP II programme is also financing a demonstration project providing support for industrial productivity. Using the slogan "quick answers and flexible production", Pizarro & Cardoso submitted an innovative project offering dyeing and bleaching for knitwear and cloth. It employs 63 workers and has a turnover of ECU 3 million. The cost of the project, which concerns automated production, particularly in the dyeing laboratory and the bleaching machines, is about ECU 1.1 million. The project also includes establishment of a computerised system to manage all the firm's activities which increased productivity by 10% and improved the overall quality of the finished product.

During 1997 the evaluation reports for the various programmes were completed. The mid-term review was also concluded and this led to a number of amendments to the CSF for Portugal although it showed that there was no need for alterations to the strategy adopted. Four main guidelines were identified: job-creation, the environment, new technologies and basic transport infrastructure.

The main changes made to the CSF were as follows:

- additional funding for the education programme of ECU 10.2 million from the ERDF and ECU 13.4 million from the ESF. One result of this extra funding will be the construction of 1 200 new classrooms in schools;
- extra funding of ECU 13.4 million from the ESF for the programme on bases for knowledge and innovation to finance new programmes for education and training and meet the demand for vocational education, adult education and vocational guidance;
- a further ECU 35.7 million from the ESF for the vocational training and employment programme, of which ECU 5.1 million will be spent on training in the tourism sector;
- a further ECU 35.8 million from the ERDF and ECU 10.2 million from the ESF to give extra help to small firms under the industry sub-programme;

- an increase of ECU 133 million to regional programmes under the ERDF of which 44% will go to the environment (water treatment and treatment of urban and industrial waste);
- a transfer to the telecommunications sub-programme of ECU 9.4 million, of which ECU 7.1 million was for a new measure concerning the information society. This measure will encourage links between schools and the Internet network, the development of electronic shopping and pilot projects to stimulate electronic information on public services in certain urban areas;
- a further ECU 34 million for the north/south rail link and the extension of the Lisbon underground;
- an extra ECU 17.8 million from the ESF to boost the support system for micro firms and relaunch local employment initiatives under the regional development programme;
- a transfer of ECU 13 million to the agriculture sub-programme in the economic modernisation OP.

In addition, a further ECU 16.7 million (ECU 9.2 million from the EAGGF and ECU 7.5 million from the ESF) was allocated to the Azores and ECU 15.5 million from the ESF to Madeira.

These transfers were financed by reductions of allocations to some programmes, mainly energy (ECU 13.8 million), training in agriculture (ECU 30.5 million), commerce (ECU 50 million) and the local development of agriculture (ECU 15 million).

The mid-term review also demonstrated that Portugal is one of the Member States which makes the best use of the Funds: 70% of assistance was committed and 56% paid by the end of 1997, well above the Community average.

The key indicators also show that implementation at the mid-term point was often ahead of the original estimates. By the end of 1996, construction of motorways and main roads had reached 74% of the target set for 1999. In the telecommunications sector, the goal set for 1999 of reaching the average rate of telephone provision in the Union (42 lines per 100 people) was reached by the end of 1996.

The progress of programmes continued in 1997 as it had in 1996, at a good level in both physical and financial terms in almost all cases. Even the programme to promote regional development potential and that to foster social integration, which had encountered start-up difficulties from 1994 to 1996, finally achieved an excellent rate of implementation. The programme on vocational training and employment slowed down slightly in 1997 as the result of changes in the legislation implementing the ESF in Portugal intended to improve the quality of the system.

The integrated development project for the Alqueva area of the Alentejo (PEDIZA) was also approved in 1997. The Structural Funds are contributing ECU 203.1 million towards a total public investment of ECU 376.7 million. This programme is one of the largest integrated regional development projects so far financed by the Structural Funds. It is based on the construction of a dam on the river Guadiana and should provide a strategic water reserve of 4 150 cu. hm., regulate the flow of the river and irrigate 110 000 ha. The programme includes a series of environmental provisions to guarantee water quality and preserve natural areas. There is also a Commission decision on the part-financing of the hydro-electric power station by the Cohesion Fund (ECU 64.5 million).

One of the main challenges to be met by Community assistance for human resources is that 75% of the population of Portugal has received only the six years of compulsory education. The ESF has to make an extra effort to deal with this situation. This means that initial training and apprenticeship and further training for young people who have dropped out of education must be a priority for the vocational training and employment programme. At the same time, the other human resources

programmes must improve access to training for workers in small firms, who constitute the bulk of the labour force in Portugal but do not generally participate in training and skill-raising measures.

There was some delay in implementing aquaculture measures in the fisheries sub-programme of the economic modernisation OP.

2. Community Initiatives

Most programmes progressed satisfactorily in 1997. Those which encountered most difficulties in this respect were Urban and SMEs.

The reprogramming of Interreg II A Portugal-Spain meant that funds not implemented in 1994, 1995 and 1996 could be redistributed to later years and the resources provided by indexation could be allocated.

Under Interreg II B, natural gas networks, the introduction of natural gas started in 1997. This is the first time this source of energy is being used in Portugal.

Under Interreg II C a new programme to combat drought was approved by the Commission in September. The Community will contribute ECU 6.2 million to help improve the monitoring of water resources and make the best use of water intended for agriculture. It includes financing studies on the impact of drought, a pilot irrigation project and measures to promote cooperation among the various levels of the Portuguese administration and with the authorities of other countries concerned by this type of problem.

As regards human resources, 113 projects were selected for the Employment Initiative under the second call for projects. All four strands of the Initiative stress training, systems development, job-creation and publicity and public awareness. Under the Adapt Initiative 70 projects were selected. Training is well represented and the priorities selected by the projects are support for small firms, anticipatory measures and new forms of work organisation.

All 47 local action groups under Leader II have now been chosen and the projects are being implemented. The 1997 annual instalment was committed and the first and second advances were paid during that year.

After a slow start, the single instalment for Pesca was committed by the three Funds involved (FIG, ERDF, ESF). A Community contribution of ECU 3.6 million to 175 projects was approved in 1997.

2.2.13. FINLAND

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in Finland:

The Funds' contribution to the development of SMEs under Objectives 2 and 6 amounts to about ECU 93 million in the current period, 33% of which is under Objective 2 and 67% under Objective 6. Most of the aid relates to advice for SMEs, their networking and the promotion of an international outlook.

Objective 2: In the Päijät-Häme region (Lahti), the ESF granted a furniture technology and design project ECU 400 000 in part-funding (towards a total cost of ECU 2.2 million). This private sector project is helping furniture enterprises to improve their competitiveness with a view to creating jobs in the sector. To this end, the manufacturers, raw materials producers and training organisations have been invited to cooperate through a network. The network allows the enterprises to make their specific training needs known; the resulting training sessions are thus perfectly tailored to the needs of each participating SME and this is the project's key asset. For example, in February 1998 Sotka Finland Oy won the Ministry of Labour's prize for "Best Employer of the Year", in recognition of its advanced training policy. The company, owned by its 268 workers, has 36 furniture shops in Finland, Moscow and St Petersburg and plans to set up in Estonia. The entire "furniture technology" project has so far resulted in the organisation of training in 55 enterprises, the creation of some 160 jobs and the preservation of a further 840.

In a project funded in the region of Kymenlaakso in South-East Finland, 36 small and medium-sized logistics enterprises have regrouped their services to cater to foreign enterprises wishing to use South-East Finland as a base for trade with Russia.

Objective 5(b): the projects offer aid to SMEs in the form of studies prior to their establishment, start-up aid, advice, aid for investment or product development and aid for the use of new technologies. About 1 200 new enterprises have been created as a result, including 350 farm holdings.

Objective 6: in the North Karelia region the programme funds training and research into moulding and tool manufacture for enterprises involved in plastics or metal production and which have a strong presence in the region. The aim is to develop a "hub of excellence" in this field, linked to foreign companies and research and training centres. Near Oulu, in the North Ostrobothnia region, the Objective 6 programme helps SMEs in the micro-electronics industry to set up in the Micropolis centre. Loans to create micro-enterprises that include a special budget line for businesswomen are to be included in the programmes in 1998.

OBJECTIVE 2

The final text of the programme for the new period was approved in April. With the experience gained in the first programming period and the simplifications made to the structure of the new programme, the regions were able to start work quickly and by the end of the year 44% of the budget for the new programme had been committed. The clearance of accounts for the 1995-96 phase saw the transfer of some ECU 16.15 million to 1997-99 and highlighted the shortcomings in the monitoring arrangements. Remedial measures were taken. About 5 000 new jobs were created by the end of 1996. The new programme aims to create more than 10 000 new jobs.

The funds committed by the end of 1997 for the entire 1995-99 period amounted to about 58% of the Community contribution, which points to full implementation by the end of the period.

In terms of human resources, the mid-term evaluation carried out in 1997 indicates that the ESF assistance is too often based on supply whereas it should instead reflect more closely the real needs of the SMEs in the areas concerned.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Since the start of the programming period in 1995, 490 Objective 3 projects have been launched. Training scheme participants number 68 000, 75% of the target for 1995-99.

In the case of Objective 4, some 380 projects have been launched and more than 20 000 SMEs have participated. Participants in training and advisory schemes number 69 000, equivalent to 85% of expectations for the entire programming period. However, the length of training per participant has been shorter than planned.

No transfers between priorities, no fusion of measures or amendments thereto were made as a result of the interim assessment. The only change made was a transfer of ECU 9 million out of the ESF within the "Youth" priority. The amounts resulting from the indexation for 1996 and 1997 were allocated to the best performing measures and to technical assistance with a view to promoting the territorial employment pacts.

Objective 4's flexibility has been enhanced by merging two small measures with the measure entitled "development of staff working skills".

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

Expenditure under the measures to improve the efficiency of agricultural structures went as a priority to compensatory allowances for less-favoured regions (90% of the expenditure). The remaining funds are being used for investment projects and installation aid for young farmers. Some 1 200 farmers were assisted in 1997 and 180 farmers received investment aid.

Aid measures for the processing and marketing of agricultural products were adopted in 1995. They focus mainly on the meat sector (45% of the aid) and milk and milk products (40%). By the end of 1997, the Finnish authorities had approved 133 projects costing a total of ECU 158 million.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

Implementation speeded up significantly in 1997 with the approval of some 700 projects. By the end of the year, all the appropriations for the period had been committed and 80% had been paid out. Aquaculture continues to be somewhat behind schedule because the market has been heavily affected by large quantities of Norwegian salmon. The mid-term evaluation report was delivered at the end of 1997 and resulted in the first amendment to the financing plan.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

The areas eligible under Objective 5(b) have a population of 1.1 million, i.e. one fifth of the Finnish population, and cover one quarter of the country's surface area. These regions are very sparsely populated (11.5 inhabitants/km² on average) and are highly dependent on agriculture.

The Objective 5(b) programmes concentrate on SME diversification and improvement, the establishment of rural services and the attractiveness of rural areas. Another major objective is to adapt rural areas to the CAP. The structure of Finnish agriculture should improve through the development of new, quality products and greater cooperation between farmers and other rural enterprises. The programme for the Åland Islands places the main emphasis on tourism and SMEs and on sustainable development projects. Environmental protection is taken into account horizontally in all Finnish regions through the involvement of the environmental authorities in the decision-making process at regional level. Furthermore, since the start of the programme, 15 000 individuals have gone on training schemes part-funded by the ESF.

The programmes' overall objectives are to close the gap between the economic productivity of the Objective 5(b) regions and the other regions, to create and preserve jobs, to reduce unemployment, to slow down the decrease in the number of farm holdings, to encourage diversification in farm activities and to improve skills.

The mid-term evaluation delivered in the autumn noted that the partnership had improved. The report stresses the need to improve the programmes' administrative structures. Lastly, regional disparities are increasing, notably between the rural regions, where the population continues to decrease, and the others.

OBJECTIVE 6

The mid-term evaluation was completed in December and resulted in a number of changes to the programmes. Some measures in particular were merged, funding was transferred from poorly performing measures to those which had exhausted their funding, in particular the measures on the economic environment, training and unemployment prevention. Since 1995, 21 000 individuals have been trained on schemes part-financed by the ESF. The ESF's "information society" measure has also had its funding increased. The amounts resulting from the indexation for 1996 and 1997 were allocated at the same time. In addition, measures were introduced to grant loans to micro-enterprises.

The measures on the effectiveness of agricultural structures and rural development made up for the time lost because of their late start. On the other hand, the measures on the processing and marketing of agricultural products and the establishment of producer groups for agricultural and horticultural products are still somewhat behind schedule.

2. Community Initiatives

The funding for all the Interreg II A programmes has been fully committed. Payments, on the other hand, are behind schedule for all the programmes because of administrative bottlenecks. The first evaluation reports recommended a more meticulous selection of the projects to be funded and proposed a number of criteria to this end. The procedural and budgetary differences between Interreg II A and Tacis have made it difficult to fund genuine cross-border projects with Russia.

In 1997 the Commission approved the Interreg II C programme for the Baltic and North Sea regions. The Finnish component is fully committed already, and 50% has been paid out.

A second programme, the Helsinki/Vantaa Urban programme, was approved in April and funded out of the reserve. The Joensuu Urban programme is progressing most satisfactorily since all the funding was committed by year-end and 50% has been paid out.

Implementation of the SME programme has also speeded up after a slow start; all the funds were committed by the end of the year.

On the human resources side, 128 projects under the Employment and Adapt Initiatives were chosen from the two calls for projects in 1996 and 1997. The projects involve 509 transnational partnerships, mostly with the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany.

Half of the programme promoters are non-governmental organisations or municipalities, the other half are public authorities, in particular institutes of higher education. The planned number of participants is around 6 000 for the Employment Initiative and 4 000 for Adapt. About 5 000 individuals have so far participated in the projects under these two Initiatives.

In the case of Leader II, 10 local action groups were chosen in the Objective 6 regions and began work in the spring. Implementation was somewhat delayed because of the late decision on the allocation of funding to the various groups and because of delays in implementing the ESF measures. Nevertheless, 238 projects had been approved and 30% of the available funding paid out by the end of 1997. In the Objective 5(b) areas, 12 local action groups were selected and about 350 projects had started by the end of 1997. The national Leader II network was set up in 1997.

2.2.14. SWEDEN

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in Sweden

The contribution of the Funds to the development of small firms under the regionalised Objectives for the period 1995-99 totalled some ECU 400 million, 34% under Objective 2, about 21% under Objective 5(b) and 45% under Objective 6. All the Swedish programmes are heavily biased towards small firms.

Objective 2: The main aim of the five Objective 2 programmes for Sweden is to improve the business climate, to support local small businesses and to develop the tourism sector. The following general activities have been undertaken for upgrading skills in response to local needs: the improvement of vocational training to meet the needs of local firms, training existing and new entrepreneurs, managers and employees in small firms, training in the use of new technologies, placement of graduates in small firms, business and management courses for women, the creation of links between firms and knowledge centres, coordination between training, education and research institutes at regional level and the further development of distance learning.

Objective 5(b): ESF measures concentrate on raising skill levels in small firms, encouraging use of R&TD in firms and creating links for cooperation between universities and firms.

Objective 6: Under the development of skills measure, small firms are encouraged to work in close cooperation with research centres to secure better access to R&TD. There is support for internal training measures and the establishment of firms by the Sami (Lapps).

Two projects under the **SMEs Initiative** illustrate how the Community is helping small firms in Sweden:

- The 'integrated production via Internet' network aims to provide a practical demonstration of the advantages of information technologies and to link firms with other partners in a coherent but flexible environment. There are also opportunities for cooperation at a distance. Some 30 small firms in four sectors of activity were selected to try out this new system.
- The innovation and enterprise 1997-99 project seeks to develop a spirit of innovation among small firms with good development potential. 15 small firms from the Värmland region are taking part.

OBJECTIVE 2

The five Objective 2 SPDs contain measures to improve the economic environment, support local small firms and expand tourism. Ambitious targets for job-creation were set (21 000) and actual achievements are in line with, or even ahead of, forecasts.

Following the mid-term evaluation, the Monitoring Committees decided to make some changes to the programmes. These entailed the allocation of resources from indexation, financial transfers between measures, an increase in the rate of Community part-financing for some measures, the introduction of a new measure "*regionalt utvecklingsstöd*" and the merger of some measures.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

Since the Objective 3 SPD was adopted late, in December 1995, measures did not really begin until autumn 1996. Since then the number of projects and participants has increased considerably, reaching about 1 190 projects and 90 000 participants by the end of 1997. About 20% of those who finished

their training in August 1997 have found a job. Training in computer skills for young people was unexpectedly successful. Overall, more women (53%) than men have taken part in these measures, except amongst immigrants (44% women).

The diversification of the partnership increased during 1997; although local authorities are the main project promoters, their share fell considerably as that of other parties in the social economy grew. The participation of private firms as project promoters grew considerably over the two-year period to 28% in 1997.

The Objective 4 SPD was also adopted late (in February 1996). 77% of its resources are allocated to a system to alter the organisation of work and individual training for target groups in small firms. The mid-term evaluation recommended some improvements and some transfers among measures. The study showed that the programme had been very beneficial in terms of both employment and the internal development of small firms.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

The system of compensatory allowances introduced in 1995 accounts for the bulk of the funds allocated to the improvement of agricultural structures: 24 000 farmers received compensatory allowances in 1997. A measure to assist the installation of young farmers began in 1996 and benefited about 155 young farmers in 1997, raising total beneficiaries to 800. This figure is, however, below estimates and is falling from one year to the next. At the end of 1996, a system of investment aid for agricultural holdings was approved but it was not implemented until 1997 and only 87 farmers have benefited so far. The projects concern environmental protection, the protection of animals and diversification of activity.

Aid for the production and marketing of agricultural products was adopted in March 1996. The main sectors concerned are meat and milk and milk products. Most projects in the meat sector are concerned with improving hygiene.

In addition ECU 56 million was transferred from unused Objective 5(a) measures to programmes under Objectives 6 (ECU 43.3 million) and 5(b) (ECU 7.7 million) and an innovative measures until Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

Investment plays an important role in the fish processing, modernisation and fleet renovation sectors. Following the mid-term evaluation, the Monitoring Committee decided to allocate the amounts derived from indexation.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

After a slow start in autumn 1996, with the exception of some measures, implementation of the five SPDs speeded up considerably during 1997. Initial administrative problems had an impact on the state of payments but there was a considerable improvement because of the generally high level of commitments. As a result of the mid-term evaluation, the Monitoring Committees for Västerbotten-Gävle-Dala, Gotland and Skårgården proposed amendments to speed implementation involving transfer of finance among measures and a higher rate of Community part-financing. In 1997 Sweden also proposed transferring the ECU 7.7 million not used under Objective 5(a) to Objective 5(b) to provide loans to young businessmen under the five SPDs and for measures on Gotland to offset closure of a sugar plant on the island.

OBJECTIVE 6

The Objective 6 SPD seeks to create 9 500 new jobs and 900 firms. The mid-term evaluation found that those figures would be reached as planned. At its November meeting the Monitoring Committee decided on certain amendments: part of the product of indexation for 1996 and 1997 was allocated

and the transfer of ECU 43.3 million from Objective 5(a) was noted. The number of measures was reduced from 30 to 25 and the rate of Community part-finance was increased from 50% to 75% for the measures concerning local and rural development and the raising of reindeer by the Sami. A new project was introduced, the "*regionalt utvecklingsstöd*", to part-finance project to promote small firms.

2. Community Initiatives

During 1997 implementation of the eight Interreg II A programmes in which Sweden is participating speeded up considerably and all the assistance had been committed by the end of the year and 30% paid. The level of payments to final beneficiaries, however, is still low. During the year, two programmes (Nordic green belt and North Cape) were amended to bring geographical coverage into line with the structure of the decision on measures concerning the Sami.

The Interreg II C programmes for the Baltic Sea and North Sea were both approved in December 1997. Nevertheless, payments for the Baltic Sea programme already amount to 50%.

The Urban Initiative for Malmö (Sweden's third city) was not approved until December 1996 but all the appropriations had been committed by the end of 1997.

The SMEs Initiative, for regions eligible under Objectives 2, 5(b) and 6, was approved in July 1996. By the end of 1997 all the appropriations had been committed and 30% paid. One of the aims of the programme is to link 1 000 small firms with other firms or organisations in Sweden through a network.

Konver, the only industrial conversion Initiative in which Sweden participates, concerns the cities of Karlskoga and Karlsborg. The programme was approved in 1996 and by the end of 1997 about 34% of the appropriations had been paid to the Member State although no payment to the final beneficiaries were made during the year.

Although the Leader II national network was not adopted until 1997, implementation of appropriations is very good with 100% committed and 40% paid.

The first call for human resources projects resulted in 47 being adopted under Employment and 24 under Adapt. 158 and 100 transnational partnerships respectively were entered into, mostly with partners in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and Spain. A Nordic cooperation project on the dissemination of good practice was established in 1997. The second call for projects resulted in 71 being selected under Employment and 32 under Adapt.

The Pesca Community Initiative concerns 16 municipalities dependent on fisheries, mostly on the west coast. An information campaign will begin in 1998 to improve use of the funds. In addition national funds, as well as those from regions and counties, will be available.

2.2.15. UNITED KINGDOM

1. The major achievements of the Funds by Objective

Measures to assist small businesses in the United Kingdom

The contribution of the Funds to the development of small businesses under the regionalised Objectives is estimated at ECU 2.4 billion, comprising 25% for Objective 1, about 56% for Objective 2 and 19% for Objective 5(b). The Community Initiatives provide an additional sum of about ECU 120 million for these firms.

Objective 1: In Merseyside the business university project managed by the University of Liverpool is intended to help local firms and assist graduates of the university to find jobs in them. Under this measure, local firms receive grants to take on young graduates in areas such as the development of information technology systems and the creation of marketing activities. The young graduates receive intensive training in business techniques and are taken on by firms for six months, after which they may be recruited. So far, 1 200 projects have been set up in small firms on Merseyside, 550 new jobs have been created and some 2 000 unemployed graduates have found work. After recruitment, about 70% of them have remained in firms in the area. The business university expects to reach 5 000 small firms in the areas and, more specifically, 75% of those designated in the Merseyside economic programme as having a high growth potential.

An advisory service on information and communications technologies has been established in the Highlands & Islands region of Scotland. It was first set up under the Leader I Initiative but has now become a three-year project under Objective 1. The ERDF originally provided ECU 131 500 but the success of the project has resulted in a second phase, with a contribution of ECU 360 000. The project seeks to stimulate investment by small firms in the information technologies by offering an advisory service and, in particular, identifying new opportunities for investment and adapting measures to the specific needs of each small firm and the skills of its workforce. It also helps small firms to overcome the computer problems posed by the turn of the century. It has resulted in the creation of more than 50 full-time distance-working jobs in the Western Isles, especially those which are most remote. The advisory service project is linked to other European projects such as ITSCAN, an initiative taken by the Scottish Office which supports projects in partnership with bodies in Scandinavia under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation.

Objective 2: Each of the 13 SPDs approved in 1997 includes a more detailed analysis of the role of small firms in each regional economy and a commitment to monitor measures better and concentrate more on small firms. The SPDs now include a specific priority for small firms, which enables measures to be targeted more accurately on small businesses than was possible with the more general measures to support economic activity and promote infrastructure in previous programmes. Each new programme includes a better definition of the range of measures to be financed at all stages of the life of the small firm, from creation to the financing of expansion including access to venture-capital funds at regional level.

In North-East England, the New Enterprise Strategy for small firms was set up by the Teesside Training and Enterprise Council in 1995 to stimulate growth in new firms and create jobs in the region. The ERDF and the ESF are providing part-finance of ECU 1.3 million towards a total cost of ECU 14.8 million. The project comprises a support network of local partners to provide advice to those setting up firms, who are also offered access to a capital grant fund provided they undertake to create one new job. This gives them start-up capital of up to about ECU 4 600. So far, this project has supported over 1 800 regional small firms, of which 560 were set up by women. Furthermore, 77% of these small firms are still operating 18 months after they were established, which is a very satisfactory survival rate. Of the 3 200 jobs which this project has created in the region, 200 have been filled by the long-term unemployed and 600 by young people aged under 25.

Objective 5(b): Because of the large number of regions which have a large number of small and micro firms, the SPDs include a range of measures to develop their growth potential. In South-West England, for example, most of the funds under Objective 5(b) go to the small firms and economic development priority. These measures include targeted training, commercial advice and support for infrastructure finance. Some 40% of the Community contribution goes to this priority, 25% to diversification and the development of the non-agricultural sector while about 15% is spent on measures to develop human resources.

OBJECTIVE 1

Three regions of the United Kingdom are eligible under Objective 1: Merseyside, Highlands & Islands and Northern Ireland.

Implementation of the programmes in 1997 focused on the mid-term evaluation and its consequences.

This resulted in changes to the programme for Merseyside in July, mainly by reducing finance for infrastructure (including transport) to benefit economic development measures in the most deprived areas. A new measure to develop information and communications technologies was added.

In the Highlands & Islands, the mid-term evaluation recommended some adjustments but without affecting the basic strategy of improving the targeting of ESF measures on those genuinely excluded from society. Implementation of the programme for the fisheries sector was speeded up and projects approved account for 53% of total investment.

In Northern Ireland, some of the funds made available through indexation of earlier years were allocated. No finance was transferred among priorities and the bulk of changes concerned the transport sector, which received a further ECU 28 million to improve public transport. Other changes, although minor in terms of the financing plan, were important in terms of priorities: greater attention was devoted to the most disadvantaged groups, all Monitoring Committees included representatives of the social partners and, following the success in local development achieved by the SPD and the Peace Initiative, a group was set up to look at how local development measures could be rationalised. Measures for investment in agriculture were placed in suspense, mainly because of inadequate matching funds from national public and private sources. As elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the BSE crisis delayed all planned agricultural investment. Implementation of the fisheries programme speeded up and an extra ECU 1.5 million was allocated to the FIGG.

In general, the mid-term evaluation for the three regions concerned concentrated on improving the monitoring of programmes and the objectives to be achieved in terms of impact (particularly job-creation and meeting the needs of the long-term unemployed).

OBJECTIVE 2

The 13 SPDs for Objective 2 covering 1997 to 1999 were approved between April and July. The social partners formed part of the Monitoring Committees for the first time in the United Kingdom and local elected representatives now participate regularly. The social partners are normally represented by the regional offices of the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry. The main innovation as regards the management of the programmes is the adoption of strategies to guide the implementation of priorities under the SPDs and to help select projects and measures.

Many Monitoring Committees make use of expert groups when implementing programmes. An example is the programme for North-East England, where the Monitoring Committee set up a working party on equal opportunities to monitor progress in this field and exchange good practice between projects. Some regions also set up a group on the environment.

Greater attention was paid to job-creation through support for the establishment and growth of small firms and more focused support for investment. Most of the SPDs made it a specific priority to encourage community economic development projects, especially those of urban communities, in the most disadvantaged areas of Objective 2. Each Objective 2 SPD included a requirement for a comprehensive review of baseline information and of activity, output and impact targets within six months of the first Monitoring Committee meeting. This will reinforce the monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

By the end of 1997 virtually all ESF assistance had been committed. Few commitments under the ERDF were made during the year because the Monitoring Committees concentrated primarily on defining and approving action plans and integrated sets of projects ready for forthcoming financing. Commitment of ERDF assistance under individual projects was fairly limited.

Because programmes from the first period (1994-96) were not completed, some ECU 155 million was transferred to 1997-99.

OBJECTIVES 3 and 4

A new SPD for Objective 3 to cover the period 1997-99 was adopted in December 1996. A new implementing structure was introduced to identify the needs of each region clearly. In future the regional committees will manage the allocation of funds at local level. These committees are chaired by government appointees and also include representatives of each economic sector and of the social partners. Each region draws up a plan for its development setting out, in the framework of the SPD, its strategy and priorities, backed up by quantified data. This new regionalised system of implementation has allowed the Monitoring Committee to demonstrate how measures implemented under Objective 3 complement those under Objectives 2 and 5(b) and the Community Initiatives.

On 18 November 1997, the United Kingdom authorities submitted their programme under Objective 4 to the Commission. Negotiations on the SPD for 1998-99 began immediately and the Commission adopted it on 13 March 1998. The ESF will contribute ECU 247.4 million towards a total cost of ECU 549.6 million.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture

Of the ECU 138 million earmarked for the improvement of agricultural structures, about 95% is spent on compensatory allowances. In 1997 these concerned some 58 000 holdings. The remaining 5% was used to finance investment projects.

The United Kingdom is authorised to restrict aid for the production and marketing of agricultural products in England to projects received by the end of March 1996. In Scotland and Wales these measures will continue to apply until the end of 1999. As a result, the EAGGF contribution has shrunk from its original ECU 227 million to ECU 51 million.

Some 187 projects had been approved by the end of 1997, mostly in the fruit and vegetables, meat, potatoes and milk sectors.

OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries

Over 33% of investment had been approved by the end of 1997. These measures included adjustment of the fishing effort (decommissioning), modernising the safety of vessels, production and marketing and port facilities. Progress is expected, particularly in Wales. There was very little investment in aquaculture because of the lack of public aid.

The fleet decommissioning project, costing a total of ECU 21 million, began in August 1997. Under it, 108 additional vessels were to be decommissioned, so bringing the United Kingdom closer to the targets to be achieved under the Multiannual Guidance Programme (MGP III). Some 700 vessels have been decommissioned over the last five years. A report evaluating the decommissioning system in the United Kingdom has confirmed the success of the scheme.

After lengthy discussions and negotiations, the new MGP IV for 1997-2001 was approved in December. The fishing effort will be cut through reductions in the number of vessels and in fishing activity. Objectives have been set for each sector of the industry.

OBJECTIVE 5(b)

All 11 programmes followed an integrated approach. The development of small firms and agriculture are linked wherever possible in order to maximise the impact of the programmes.

The interim evaluation of the 11 programmes is practically complete. Provisional results confirm the validity of the original strategies and financial allocations, to which few amendments are proposed. Despite some reservations, the job-creation targets in the programmes will probably be exceeded.

As in the case of Objective 5(a), the social partners and local elected representatives may now sit on the Monitoring Committees.

2. Community Initiatives

The last Community Initiative programmes were approved at the end of 1997: three under SMEs (England Objective 2, England Objective 5(b) and Merseyside) and four under Urban (Brighton, Bristol, Coventry and Leeds) plus the Interreg II C transitional programme for the North Sea in which the United Kingdom is participating.

The SMEs programmes in England include three areas for action: direct aid to small firms to help them develop their own strategies in cooperation with international partners, international networking and the development of human resources. These three programmes are expected to result in the creation of 3 500 jobs over the next three years.

As a result of the allocation of the reserve, the programmes under the four industrial conversion programmes (Konver, Retex, Resider II and Rechar II) were extended to the end of 1999 and given extra funding.

The allocation of the reserve also meant that four new programmes were adopted under Urban; in addition, the Merseyside programme was extended to include Leasowe. In Northern Ireland, Urban includes measures for cooperation between communities to supplement the classic measures for the renovation of run-down areas of Belfast and Londonderry.

Most of the delays in implementing payments under Peace may be explained by the system of managing funds, which go through intermediary financial bodies and district partnerships. Parliament approved an additional ECU 100 million for Peace in the autumn and a decision on a further ECU 100 million could be taken in 1998.

In the area of human resources, 339 new projects under Employment were selected as a result of the second call for projects. Of these, 48 concern regions eligible under Objective 1 (including 27 in Northern Ireland). At the end of 1997, the United Kingdom authorities proposed transferring ECU 16 million from Adapt to Employment but this has not yet been done.

The second call for projects under Adapt resulted in the selection of 178, of which 14 were in the Objective 1 regions (9 in Northern Ireland). However, the projects adopted absorbed less funding than anticipated, which led to the request to make a transfer. Even after this transfer, however, a large part of the assistance allocated to Adapt will remain unused. Accordingly, the United Kingdom authorities,

in agreement with the Commission, proposed a third, limited, call for projects in connection with the British government's University for industry in 1998.

The lack of a national network part-financed by the European Union causes problems for Leader II and the failure to reach unanimous agreement on the national source of part-financing threatens the implementation of measures. Despite the progress recorded following establishment of the Leader action groups (LAGs) in the Objective 5(b) areas, programme implementation in England has not absorbed all the funds available. One of the main difficulties encountered by the LAGs in the Objective 5(b) areas is finding regional and local funding to match Community finance, which impedes the progress of operations. Some LAGs have begun to develop transnational contacts. In Northern Ireland the 24 Leader groups selected have implemented the programme diligently.

A number of working parties were set up under the Pesca Community Initiative to ensure that the projects meet real needs on the ground. Although the industry was initially suspicious of Pesca, it has welcomed many measures enthusiastically. Progress should improve in 1998.

CHAPTER 3:

EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

Evaluation work carried out in 1997 had two objectives:

- to promote the efficient use of the Funds;
- to prepare future programming of structural assistance.

The first action programme concerned the continuation of interim evaluations and analysis of the effectiveness of assistance. These evaluations also provide initial input for the next programming period, particularly with regard to the preparation of development plans and the introduction of appropriate methods of management.

The second area of work comprised thematic evaluations at Community level on a limited number of subjects (small firms, R&D and innovation, the environment) and one horizontal subject (the partnership). These thematic evaluation differ from interim evaluations in that they look at cross-sections - they seek to identify strategic themes and assist in the closer study of some priorities.

Evaluations as a whole try to look at the subject of employment as a horizontal priority; estimates of the impact of assistance on employment need to be reliable and comparable across programmes. The consolidation of the methods and instruments of evaluation, training, and publicity to users are also of considerable importance.

3.1. INTERIM EVALUATIONS

Interim evaluations of all the Objectives were carried out during 1997 and resulted in adjustments within programmes.

Overview of the CSFs and SPDs for Objectives 1 and 6

During the year about 100 interim evaluations of Objectives 1 and 6 were carried out in the various Member States to check on the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance and the quality of management systems. Where appropriate, they could propose any changes to the nature of assistance which appeared necessary.

The coverage of these evaluations among the Member States, and indeed between programmes within a Member State, varied considerably. In Italy, for example, it was agreed first to carry out an "internal" evaluation at the level of the CSF since it had not proved possible to select the independent assessors during 1997.

For Objective 1 programmes, whose financial volume of Structural Funds can be identified at national level, estimates on the macroeconomic impact have also been part of the evaluations. The predominant methodology of macro-models simulating the demand and supply side effects of Structural Funds interventions is well established now, although further methodological progress is needed in some cases. In spite of the differences in methods and results, all evaluations confirmed the positive growth and employment effects of major Objective 1 programmes.

An overview of the content and use made of these evaluations will be set out in a separate report by the Commission to be prepared in mid-1998. This report will also describe the extent to which the guidelines laid down by the Commission were taken into account when assistance was adjusted at the mid-term point.

Most CSFs and SPDs have been or will be adjusted in this way. With the exceptions of Merseyside, Ireland and Northern Ireland, these are being made during the first half of 1998. The main features available for Objective 1 are set out below.

External evaluations of the operational programmes in the new German Länder were carried out and the results submitted to the Monitoring Committees and various sub-committees. An overall evaluation at the level of the CSF involving a summary of the evaluations was also carried out. The regional authorities played a full part in the evaluation work but their impact on the implementation of assistance remains slight because of the large number of financial adjustments made during the programmes.

In Burgenland (Austria), each stage of the evaluation report was discussed in the partnership, which resulted in a number of recommendations. These stressed the need for a rationalisation of financial assistance to firms and greater support for the establishment of firms and tourist projects in southern Burgenland to expand job opportunities there. The interim evaluation also pointed to the need for better monitoring (with particular regard to the collection of data) and closer horizontal coordination among the various administrations. The financial adjustments were slight and did not affect the priorities for assistance.

An interim evaluation of the SPD for Hainaut (Belgium) was carried out in April 1997 and extensively discussed in the Monitoring Committee. On the basis of the recommendations in the evaluation report, it was decided to redirect certain programming choices. The measure for the restoration of run-down industrial sites was abandoned and the resources devoted to aid to firms. The medium and long-term impact expected from this shift should make structural assistance more effective.

Evaluations for the Spanish Objective 1 regions confirm that programmes are progressing satisfactorily in accordance with the goals laid down. The main conclusion which emerges at the level of the CSF is that there is no need for substantial changes to the assistance being implemented but changes in the monitoring system are required. The main changes in the original CSF concern greater aid for the productive sector, the inclusion of a new sub-priority in the "information society" priority and the financing of the territorial pacts for employment.

Interim evaluations were carried out in the French Objective 1 regions. The report for Réunion had not been completed by the end of 1997. A number of reprogrammings were made for Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Martinique to speed up the implementation of assistance. Evaluations in those three regions showed that the adjustments made had been correct and, in the case of Martinique for example, drew attention to weaknesses in the monitoring system which sometimes impeded reprogramming.

The evaluation report for Corsica was completed in June 1997 but had no operational implications for implementation.

The interim evaluation for Nord/Pas-de-Calais was based on the monitoring system established by the regional authorities. Its recommendations included the need for better integration of the work of the ERDF with that of the ESF and stricter application of the selection criteria in allocating assistance to small firms in order to promote employment and innovation. On the basis of this evaluation, the Monitoring Committee took a series of decisions to amend the programme, in particular by redirecting assistance to those measures which created most jobs, involving the private sector more closely in tourist investment and transferring appropriations to environmental measures.

Thirteen evaluation reports were completed on the programmes in the Greek regions where assessors were selected for sectoral programmes and the CSFs as a whole. However, management weaknesses in the national and regional administrations impeded progress on evaluation. A seminar to exchange experiences was organised at the Commission's initiative.

Adjustments to regional programmes were carried out in the first quarter of 1997 with no transfers between programmes and no changes to priorities. During the second half of the year, the national and regional authorities made more extensive adjustments to the sectoral programmes. This process should result in an adjustment to the CSF which will be completed in the first half of 1998.

The main feature of the mid-term evaluation in Ireland was efficient incorporation of the evaluations into the decision-making process. The mid-term evaluation of the CSF was examined in detail by the national authorities and Commission staff working in partnership. An interim evaluation had already been carried out on the operational programmes and these had been approved and discussed in the appropriate Monitoring Committees.

The mid-term evaluation of the CSF suggests a need for some strategic reorientations because of changes in the economic context. It is proposed, for example, to increase support for non-urban infrastructure and assistance for groups at risk of exclusion and reduce aid to firms, particularly in highly demand-related activities or where public assistance is not fully justified. The report also contains a number of recommendations on the management and implementation of assistance, particularly the lack of competition in some public services partly grant-aided by the Structural Funds and the poor quality of some monitoring and evaluation indicators.

The guidelines for the mid-term evaluation adopted by the Monitoring Committee in July 1997 are largely based on the proposals made by the assessors and the need to reinforce certain measures in the light of Community priorities (e.g. the territorial pacts for employment). Although the financial adjustments did not substantially alter the content of the CSF's strategic priorities (ECU 160 million from the Structural Funds reallocated), they nevertheless helped bring about structural changes whose impact will be visible only over the medium and long-term.

The interim evaluation in southern Italy carried out by the national administration revealed shortcomings in programming, particularly in the quantified objectives (including those relating to employment). It also suggested rationalisation of the system of assistance to firms, imposing measures for on-going training and innovation and simplification of the project selection procedure, particularly in the case of the EAGGF Guidance Section. Most operational programmes were adjusted to increase absorption of appropriations while amendments during the CSF will be made in the light of the need to allocate unprogrammed appropriations to more effective items of assistance which meet priority criteria such as employment (particularly the territorial pacts for employment).

In Portugal, the mid-term evaluation generally confirmed the priorities of the CSF and the finance allocated to them. The adjustments suggested for the mid-term examination concern four main guidelines: greater support for job-creation, more assistance for the environment, helping small firms and the introduction of new technologies, particularly those relating to the information society and small firms, and the completion of certain basic infrastructure.

The interim evaluation report on Flevoland (Netherlands) drawn up in December 1997 stressed the need for the Funds to be better integrated in order to increase synergies between the various types of structural assistance. This recommendation was not adopted by the Monitoring Committee and the changes made to the programme are relatively minor. However, it should be noted that in December 1996 adjustments were made, mainly to ESF measures, to increase assistance for employment.

The evaluation carried out in 1997 in the three Objective 1 regions of the United Kingdom had a major impact on the reprogramming of assistance. The assessor put forward a range of possible options for Northern Ireland, including the zero option of no change which was the one adopted by the Monitoring Committee. Changes to the Merseyside SPD were based on the conclusions of the evaluation and the Commission's ideas on implementation of Structural Fund programmes up to the end of 1999. The results of the evaluation for Highlands and Islands will serve as a basis for the readjustments to be decided in 1998.

The mid-term evaluations for Objective 6 provided useful information for programme adjustments.

In Finland the report was discussed by the Monitoring Committee on 1 and 2 December 1997 and published in February 1998. It suggested transferring appropriations among measures to improve implementation. The mid-term examination has been completed, apart from the decision to include loans with interest subsidies in the programme.

The evaluation report for Sweden was completed in October 1997 so that it could be used for reprogramming. The recommendations dealt mainly with the need to reduce the number of measures and simplify the administrative machinery for managing the Structural Funds.

Evaluations confirmed that the programmes to develop human resources for Objective 1 were in line with the needs of the labour market. The results support the classic measures of training and aid for employment and considerable stress on young people and the short-term unemployed. The achievements of the programmes tend to confirm the results of the *ex post* evaluations of the previous period. Placement rates, the quality of integration into the labour market and progress in education and training were stressed. However, measures for human resources in the Objective 1 regions are most relevant at the level of systems.

The interim evaluation of Objective 2

Prior appraisal of the Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99 was described in the 8th Annual Report on the Structural Funds (1996), to which reference should be made. An evaluation of the Funds' impact on employment may be found at section 3.3 of this Report. With regard to *ex post* evaluation of the period 1994-96, programmes are being completed and an overall evaluation is now being prepared. The existing reports have not so far provided an overview of the situation.

The interim evaluation of Objective 3

The impact of Objective 3 is largely dependent on social and labour market policies in the various Member States. Objective 3 has not only permitted a reorientation of national or regional policies towards those threatened by unemployment but has also made innovations in the preparation of those measures. Training has predominated but there is a strong movement towards diversification and an integrated approach. Those threatened by long-term unemployment have benefited from the programmes to a satisfactory extent but greater concentration on the most vulnerable sections of the public and the longest term measures (as part of the pathway to integration) should be sought. Assessors noted over-implementation as far as young people are concerned and under-implementation for those excluded from the labour market but this may reflect the complex mechanisms for implementing assistance.

The interim evaluation of Objective 4

Objective 4, which has limited financial resources, has established a new concept. After a slow start in the first two years, ideas have emerged at national level. Innovative practices with regard to on-going training have emerged ranging from on-going training entirely managed by the social partners in Spain to the introduction of on-going training in the smallest firms in Sweden. After three years, Objective 4 has demonstrated not only its potential for innovation as an instrument for adjusting training systems in response to industrial change but also its ability to reach out to small firms, which have not traditionally been involved in training.

The interim evaluation of Objective 5(a) - agriculture

The evaluation of measures under Objective 5(a) - agriculture in the Objective 1 regions is included in the evaluation of that Objective. Elsewhere, the SPDs and CSFs concerning Regulation (EC) No 951/97 are being assessed by independent bodies. The results for some Member States have been submitted to the Monitoring Committees and discussed there while in other countries the work has not yet been completed. The recommendations made in some reports have resulted in fresh guidelines for the programmes concerned. Approaches to establish a systematic framework to evaluate measures under Objective 5(a) defined by Regulation (EC) No 950/97 will not begin until 1998.

The interim evaluation of Objective 5(a) - fisheries

At the end of 1997, evaluations had been completed for six of the 12 FIGG programmes for Objective 5(a) - fisheries, four others (Finland, France, Greece and the Netherlands) are in progress and two (Italy and Luxembourg) have not yet begun.

An analysis and overall qualitative summary for all the programmes will be carried out in 1998 at the levels of the Community policies, programmes and measures or projects.

The interim evaluation of Objective 5(b)

Interim evaluations for most regions have been completed thanks to strenuous efforts by the partners during the first half of 1997. These confirm that the strategies in the programmes are still appropriate and the amounts allocated to the various measures adequate. Progress in 1997 was encouraging thanks to a speeding up of implementation in the Member States. This making up for lost time in implementation should continue thanks to amendments to programmes suggested by the interim evaluations, which revealed problems in monitoring systems and enabled regions to validate the results expected from the programmes.

The Community Initiatives

Since most of the Community Initiative were approved late, very few interim evaluations have so far been carried out. The examples of Leader, Employment and Adapt are set out below:

- **LEADER II**

The interim evaluation of the Leader II Community Initiative has begun and, in the case of some Objective 1 regions, the first reports completed. They cover 102 programmes, some at national and others at regional level, in the areas eligible under Objectives 1, 5(b) and 6. Reports are to be submitted by mid-1998.

- **EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPT**

The reports received so far are mainly qualitative and still contain few quantified studies. However, they include the following topics: with regard to implementation, Community and national managing authorities have had to cope with the difficult preparatory phase of projects, the development and monitoring of transnational partnerships and the definition of the respective roles of the parties concerned. In most Member States, one of the aims of the interim evaluation, the production of practical recommendations for the second stage, has largely been achieved. However, it is still too early to make any real assessment of the impact of the Community Initiatives.

3.2. THEMATIC AND HORIZONTAL EVALUATIONS

The Commission began thematic evaluations in 1997 to obtain data for a critical assessment of three areas concerned by the Structural Funds. Furthermore, a specific evaluation of the partnership will provide a more accurate overview of whether this principle is being implemented effectively and permit comparisons of the experiences of different Member States or even regions.

The main aims and content of each of these evaluations are set out below. The Member States and Parliament will be kept regularly informed about the main stages of progress in the work. The first results should be available towards mid-1998 while the Commission should have the final reports by the end of that year.

Small and medium-sized firms (SMEs)

This evaluation is of strategic importance because of the growing number of measures for small firms under the Structural Funds. It seeks to provide a detailed and systematic analysis of the contribution of the Structural Funds to small firms in the various Member States and in particular to evaluate, in the light of experience, the relevance of the strategies and the variety of instruments used (aid schemes, business services, global grants, etc.), the effectiveness of the procedures for management and implementation and the relative impact of the various types of measures involved.

In view of the extent of the study, stress will be laid on a representative sample of programmes to be studied in depth on the basis of cases in all the Member States. This phase of field work will be supplemented by a survey of beneficiary small firms compared with a group of such firms receiving structural assistance but no aid (check sample).

Research and technological development (R&TD)

The aim of this thematic evaluation is to compare R&TD measures supported by the Structural Funds as a factor in the competitiveness of regions and, more broadly, from the viewpoint of regional development. Some of the themes have already been selected in order to make the evaluation useful: the relative effectiveness of R&TD measures, the nature of and links between research institutes and firms, particularly small firms, improving human capital, the performance and economic impact of R&TD measures, the impact of national policies, including from the viewpoints of finance and the spatial distribution of activities and links or synergies with other Community initiatives or policies (particularly framework research programmes).

In view of the differences in the areas receiving structural assistance, it was thought better to distinguish two separate groups, regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6 and areas eligible under Objective 2. From the viewpoint of the relevance of the strategic choices for R&TD, this is justified by the fact that the problems posed are different.

In the regions whose development is lagging behind, the stress is laid on technological disparities and the need to catch up by increasing locally-generated research capacity in order to affect long-term growth. Objective 6 is a special case because it is not identical to Objective 1 but contains elements of good practice for the exploitation of R&TD activities which could be transferable to other regions.

By contrast, the declining industrial areas have greater need of innovation (rather than research capacity) and stronger links with the industrial system to revitalise their local economies. The conclusion of the studies will therefore be sharply different for the two types of area.

This thematic evaluation will then be reinforced by more specific complementary evaluations in the area of the Business Innovation Centres (BICs) or under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation (evaluation of regional technological plans and interim evaluation of the RIS).

Environment

If this evaluation (financed from budget heading B2-1600) is to be carried out, it will need appropriate tools in order to assess better, and in quantified fashion, the general and specific impact on the environment of structural assistance. This should clearly distinguish between assistance which has a direct (or intentional) impact on the environment (e.g. a treatment station) and that which has an indirect or secondary effect (e.g. the construction of a road). These impacts could be identified through the sectoral categories adopted in the Fifth Programme on the Environment. The lessons learned from a study of a representative sample of programmes will enable the evaluation to make a specific contribution to better ways of including environmental concerns in future programming and seeing where specific action is required.

The evaluation of the partnership

This evaluation is intended to examine systematically the difficulties and conditions attendant on the implementation of a partnership which is effective and complies with the principle of subsidiarity and to make recommendations on a better division of responsibilities between the parties concerned. The study should take account of a number of specific features such as the nature of the forms of assistance and the variety of institutional systems. It will be organised in two stages: a survey of the administrative and institutional context and then the arrangements for programming and the management of structural assistance in each Member State. An evaluation of the implementation of practical partnerships and their effectiveness will permit verification of one of the principles underlying the operation of the Structural Funds.

Ex post evaluation of Leader I

The interim report, submitted in November 1997, includes the results of a survey of 217 local action groups (Lags), describing their composition, management methods and the activities they have developed in the various countries. This survey permitted a typology of the groups to be drawn up. Subsequently, 52 groups were selected for closer study, which concentrated on the impact of Leader at local level. Initial results show that, after a difficult start-up period, the groups were able to carry out the measures in their action plans which, although very local in scope, gave a substantial boost to the areas concerned. The report also covers the role of the regional, national and Community authorities in implementing and managing the Initiative and also includes a study of the Leader network, underlining its beneficial effects. The final report, expected early in 1998, should cast fresh light on the impact of the work of the local actions groups and expand the results of the information collected from the 52 groups selected.

3.3. EVALUATING THE IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

As a result of the extraordinary Luxembourg European Council on employment, evaluating the effects of structural assistance on employment is now a work priority. A number of estimates of the impact on employment have been made in recent years for various purposes.

The example of Objective 2

Available estimates show that, in the case of Objective 2 for example, there is a great variety in employment measures (expected or achieved) and the associated indicators of efficiency, depending on whether estimates are made in advance or retrospectively.

Ex post estimates for 1989-93 suggest that some 450 000 net additional jobs were created, overall just over half the 850 000 or so gross jobs recorded. On average, every million ecus invested by the Structural Funds generated almost 140 gross jobs or 73 net jobs. The average cost per job created or maintained was, according to those estimates, about ECU 22 000 (ECU 41 700 per net job).

The programmes for the whole of the current programming period (1994-99) contain prior estimates by the Member States. The volume of jobs created rose from 650 000 in 1994-96 to 880 000 in 1997-99 while efficiency indicators, particularly the average cost per job, remained virtually unchanged. However, it should be noted that estimates concerning current programmes relate only to measures whose impact on employment was quantified. These account for about two thirds of the cost of assistance.

The discrepancies noted may be due to the growth of the Structural Funds between the two periods, partly because of the transfer of appropriations between programmes and some reorientation of assistance towards the productive sector to promote employment. However, these data should be treated with caution since there is no uniform breakdown of measures by category or comparable

basis of calculation. Because of these objective limitations, estimates do not permit final conclusions about the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance in terms of job creation.

Estimated impact on employment of assistance under Objective 2 (1994-99)

	1994-96* prior	1997-99** prior
No of gross jobs created or maintained ('000)	650	880
No of jobs per ECU million invested (Structural Funds)	93,1	96,2
Average cost per job created or maintained (ECU)	10.730	10.400

* Overall estimates based on data in the SPDs (CSF/OPs in the case of Spain), including Sweden and Austria for 1994-99

** Estimates provided by the Member States in the SPDs (CSFs/OPs in the case of Spain) only on the basis of measures whose impact on types of jobs has been estimated

In order to produce more reliable estimates of the impact on employment - particularly in areas where it is difficult to make macro-economic estimates - a methodological approach was proposed and published as Means paper No 5 "Measuring job creation." A more accurate evaluation and comparison of the real impact on employment requires an estimate of the net impact on employment based on the gross impact (overall impact declared by beneficiaries), with due regard to the windfall effects (benefits which would have been secured in any case) and displacement effects (effects on employment which result in job losses even within the target area) and indirect effects. In order to make these estimates more rigorous, a distinction should also be made, wherever possible, between jobs maintained or altered (those which would have been lost without assistance) and new or additional jobs arising from assistance.

Example of the application of the method (actual case)

	Measure	Support for small firms
Total expenditure	ECU 180 million	Or about 15% of total expenditure under the programme
ERDF	ECU 70 million	Or over 35% of total expenditure on the measure
Result	12 000 small firms assisted	In the previous programme, ECU 75 million was allocated to this measure and monitoring data have confirmed that 15 000 small firms were assisted
Gross effect on employment	9.000	Monitoring data show that on average 75% of small firms assisted stated that they had created or maintained one full-time equivalent job
Windfall effect	-1.800	Evaluation data confirmed that 20% of assistance to small firms had no effect, that is that one firm assisted in five would have acted in the same way without ERDF support
Displacement effect	-2.700	Evaluation data show that 30% of the impact of this type of assistance on employment simply moves jobs from other parts of the area covered by the programme.
Net effect on employment	4.500	

This method seeks to create a common system of evaluating the impact on employment while seeking to improve quantification of the employment objectives expected from the programme.

European assistance for employment

In June 1997 the Commission launched a European competition for employment intended to identify projects part-financed by the Structural Funds which had most effectively contributed to creating lasting jobs in the Objective 2 areas. This competition was open to all measures supported by the ERDF or the ESF since 1989. 85 applications to participate were received, of which 82 related to an average of 5 000 jobs created. In all, these measures related to investment totalling some ECU 180 million and resulting in the creation of 38 000 jobs. Allocations to these projects from the Structural Funds ranged from ECU 32 000 to ECU 43 million. The Commission carried out a preliminary

evaluation of the measures which were sent for a group of independent experts to examine. The ten best measures were selected in February 1998 using the following criteria: net job creation, quality and durability of jobs, degree of difficulty experienced by the target groups in generating or finding jobs, degree of involvement of the local authorities and the originality and transferability of the measures carried out.

The "winning" measures were announced at a conference which was held in Brussels in April 1998. The lessons drawn from this experience were presented to an audience of local authorities and experts. Those responsible for the best measures were invited to share their approach and the results obtained in the other Objective 2 areas.

3.4. THE METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EVALUATION

A main priority for evaluation is the consolidation of the methods and instruments developed so far to provide better support for this work at Community level. Here the stress has lain on the preparation of methodological guides, particularly under the Means programme, and some measures for information and technical assistance.

The Means programme

The work of the Means (Méthode d'évaluation des actions à nature structurelle - method of evaluating structural measures) programme in 1997 concentrated on three main areas. The first sought to complement sectoral and thematic applications and resulted in three documents on the impact of structural assistance on employment, the environment and equal opportunities. The second covers the completion of a complete compendium of methodological guides by collecting in a coherent series the main areas of evaluation in the field of structural assistance and the third looks at methods for sharing know-how and work on training officials in evaluation. Mention should also be made of the extended distribution of the Means bulletin to assessors involved in the interim evaluations carried out by the Member States.

Technical assistance measures

Two main measures were launched to refine the specific instruments adapted to the evaluation of major investment projects. A new version of the costs/benefits guide was published to take account of the differences in kind between types of project and sectors of assistance. As a complement to this, another guide on the key factors in the costs of major infrastructure projects is being prepared. This work is of particular interest for programme managers in that they will be able to judge the efficiency of a project using objective and comparable criteria.

A data base on interim evaluations has been established to facilitate the management of evaluation work. There is also a broader base of evaluation reports which is updated regularly.

The institutional framework

The dialogue with the Member States continued at two meetings in 1997 of the technical group on evaluation. The subjects covered there included the completion of interim evaluations and the beginning of thematic evaluations. In general, the representatives of the Member States supported the Commission's initiatives while wishing to be kept regularly informed about the progress of work.

CHAPTER 4:

**BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION, FINANCIAL CHECKS AND VERIFICATION OF
ADDITIONALITY**

4.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDS IN 1997 - ALL PROGRAMMING PERIODS

The aim of this section is to look at budget implementation in 1997 as a whole and in terms of both the current programming period (1994-97) and previous periods.

In the table below, the sources of the appropriations implemented in 1997 are divided into those newly entered in the budget and those carried over from 1996.

Source and implementation of commitment appropriations in 1997 (ECU million)

	CSF ERDF	CSF ESF	CSF EAGGF	CSF RFG	Community Initiatives	Transitional measures	Anti-fraud measures	Imple- mentation	former GDR	TOTAL
Initial budget	12 989,70	7 639,10	4 026,10	490,65	3 273,40	297,30	0,75	3,00	-	28 720,00
Transfer of appropriations	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-	-100,00
Amending and supplementary budget	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-	0,00
Total appropriations 1997	12 989,70	7 639,10	4 026,10	490,65	3 173,40	297,30	0,75	3,00	-	28 620,00
Appropriations reconstituted	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-	0,00
Appropriations carried over	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	4,65	0,00	0,00	-	4,65
Appropriations available	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-	0,00
appropriations disponibles*	12 989,70	7 639,10	4 026,10	490,65	3 173,40	301,95	0,75	3,00	-	28 624,65
Implementation	12 983,14	7 639,10	4 026,10	368,97	1 949,12	262,05	0,75	1,57	-	27 230,79
Implementation rate	100%	100%	100%	75%	61%	87%	100%	52%	-	95%
Appropriations not implemented	6,56	0,00	0,00	121,68	1 224,28	39,90	0,00	1,43	-	1 393,85
Appropriations carried over to 1998	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	-	0,00
Decommitments excluding appropriations reconstituted	90,18	372,81	77,23	56,62	83,49	29,53	0,03	0,00	7,56	717,45
Appropriations entered in budgets for future years	9,27	0,00	19,09	122,41	1 229,90	50,89	0,03	1,43	0,00	1 432,82
Decommitments	90,18	478,22	77,23	56,62	97,00	29,53	0,03	0,00	7,56	836,37

*Excluding ECU 3 225 million available for reuse from budget heading B2-1200, ECU 1 825 available for reuse from budget heading B2-1810, ECU 10 775 available for reuse from budget heading B2-1830, ECU 2 041 carried over and available for reuse (Chapter B2-18) B2-1810

By contrast with the situation in previous years, only a small quantity of appropriations (ECU 4.65 million) was carried over from 1996 to 1997 and no appropriations were reconstituted. Commitments excluding carryovers and appropriations reconstituted were therefore practically identical to total commitments: ECU 27 226 million and ECU 27 231 million respectively. The overall implementation rate for commitments from all Funds in 1997 was 95% (98% in 1996). This fall is mainly due to the Community Initiatives, where implementation of commitments over the year was weak (61%). Although the rate for some Community Initiatives (Konver, the Integra and Horizon strands of Employment) approached or reached 100%, the rate for others was poor (Peace: 33%, Pesca: 30%, Adapt: 38%, the Now strand of Employment: 32%).

In all, ECU 1 393.85 million in commitments (5% of the appropriations available) and ECU 306 million in payments (1.3%) were not implemented. Of the ECU 1 393.85 in commitments not implemented, ECU 1 224 million (88%) concerned the Community Initiatives. If they are excluded, the implementation rate for commitments is 99.3%.

The ECU 100 million in commitment appropriations transferred from the Community Initiatives are the result of a negative reserve established early in 1997 to provide an extra ECU 50 million each for Rechar and Retex, as desired by Parliament. This negative reserve was eliminated during the year by contributions from certain Community Initiatives: ECU 40 million from Interreg II, ECU 20 million from Adapt and ECU 40 million from Leader II.

Commitments in 1997 (excluding decommitments and carryovers - ECU million)

	TOTAL	%	CSF						Total CSF	Community Initiatives	Transitional measures	
			Obj. 1	Obj. 2	Obj. 3	Obj. 4	Obj. 5(a)	Obj. 5(b)				Obj. 6
Total available	28.616,25	-	17.038,83	2.901,88	2.202,91	476,92	1.138,67	1.248,40	137,95	25.145,55	3.173,40	297,30
Total implemented	27.223,83	100%	17.015,65	2.901,88	2.202,91	476,92	1.033,74	1.248,40	137,82	25.017,31	1.949,12	257,40
%	95,13%	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	91%	100%	100%	99%	61%	87%
ERDF	14.385,65	53%	10.069,90	2.198,54	-	-	-	658,57	56,13	12.983,14	1.231,88	170,63
ESF	8.311,07	31%	4.058,77	703,33	2.202,91	476,92	-	168,35	28,82	7.639,10	611,58	60,39
EAGGF	4.132,42	15%	2.578,66	-	-	-	974,67	421,48	51,30	4.026,10	100,60	5,72
FIFG	394,69	1%	308,33	-	-	-	59,08	-	1,57	368,97	5,05	20,66
Other	0,00	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00	-	-
%	100%	-	63%	11%	8%	2%	4%	5%	1%	92%	7%	1%

The rate of implementation of commitments under the CSFs was 100% for all Objectives except Objective 5(a) (91%). This figure is the result of the fact that Objective 5(a) fisheries could commit only 36% because some Member States (Germany, France, Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom) did not reach the threshold to permit commitment of the 1997 instalment. However, this had little effect on the overall level of implementation of the Funds (99%). It should be noted that the implementation of commitments for innovative measures and technical assistance was considerably higher at 87% as compared with 54% in 1996.

Payments in 1997 (excluding carryovers - ECU million)

	TOTAL	%	CSF						Total CSF	Community Initiatives	Transitional measures	Former GDR	
			Obj. 1	Obj. 2	Obj. 3	Obj. 4	Obj. 5(a)	Obj. 5(b)					Obj. 6
Total available	23.914,93	-	14.103,24	3.177,63	1.784,01	375,23	1.153,25	1.029,89	109,66	21.732,90	1.858,64	265,30	58,09
Total implemented	23.611,51	100%	14.102,62	3.177,19	1.784,01	375,23	1.153,25	1.029,77	109,65	21.731,73	1.677,32	172,10	30,36
%	98,73%	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	65%	52%
ERDF	12.722,33	54%	8.295,70	2.683,56	-	-	-	488,38	53,78	11.521,44	1.064,06	107,33	29,50
ESF	6.717,37	28%	3.335,01	493,63	1.784,01	375,23	-	135,01	20,52	6.143,40	529,78	44,18	-
EAGGF	3.669,24	16%	2.131,91	-	-	-	1.007,35	405,38	34,36	3.580,00	81,75	7,49	-
FIFG	502,58	2%	340,00	-	-	-	145,89	-	1,00	486,89	1,73	13,10	0,86
Other	0,00	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,00	-	-	-
%	100%	-	60%	13%	8%	2%	5%	4%	0%	92%	7%	1%	0%

All the Objectives implemented payments under the CSFs in full, a much better result than that achieved in 1996 when only two objectives were implemented in full. By contrast with commitments, payments under the Community Initiatives increased from 80% in 1996 to 90% of available appropriations.

This clear improvement in payments in 1997 reflects some speeding up in implementation on the ground.

Payments in 1997 for assistance preceding the current programming period (including carryovers - ECU million)

	Objective 1					Objective 2			Obj. 3	Objective 5(a)				
	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	Fisheries	Total	ERDF	ESF	Total	ESF	EAGGF	Fisheries	Total		
< 1994	419,30	120,19	34,01	27,80	576,12	117,30	7,41	124,71	91,68	11,32	3,66	14,98		
1989-93	394,12	120,19	34,01	27,80	576,12	117,30	7,41	124,71	91,68	11,32	3,66	14,98		
B	-	-	-	0,12	0,12	-	-	4,37	-	-	1,89	-	1,89	
DK	-	-	-	0,03	0,03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
D	36,39 (1)	3,93 (1)	-	1,28 (1)	41,60 (1)	8,45	-	8,45	37,97	0,77	-	-	0,77	
EL	127,56	-	2,80	3,22	133,58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E	58,07	4,46	1,91	3,34	67,78	25,33	-	25,33	-	-	-	-	-	
F	-	-	-	2,15	2,15	15,43	-	15,43	7,46	-	3,66	-	3,66	
IRL	10,89	-	1,44	0,44	12,77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
I	151,39	111,27	25,54	10,97	299,17	35,52	7,41	42,93	46,26	8,66	-	-	8,66	
L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NL	-	-	-	0,27	0,27	4,73	-	4,73	-	-	-	-	-	
P	0,35	0,52	2,33	5,60	8,81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
UK	9,28	-	-	0,38	9,66	23,47	-	23,47	-	-	-	-	-	
Comm.	0,19	-	-	-	0,19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

	Objective 5(b)				Community Initiatives				TOTAL (2)				
	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	Total	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	Total	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	Fisheries	
< 1994	21,07	3,16	38,76	63,00	164,53	12,84	10,22	187,59	722,21	235,28	94,31	31,46	1.083,26
1989-93	21,07	3,16	38,76	63,00	164,53	12,84	10,22	187,59	697,03	235,28	94,31	31,46	1.058,09
B	-	-	0,82	0,82	3,17	0,02	0,18	3,37	7,54	0,02	2,89	0,12	10,57
DK	-	-	-	-	0,87	-	-	0,87	0,87	-	-	-	0,03
D	-	0,15	1,44	1,59	12,01	0,28	-	12,29	56,86	42,32	2,21	1,28	102,67
EL	-	-	-	-	40,05	4,15	7,73	51,92	167,61	4,15	10,52	3,22	185,50
E	5,97	-	-	5,97	11,89	-	0,94	12,83	101,26	4,46	2,84	3,34	111,91
F	10,62	2,00	0,06	12,69	20,90	6,27	-	27,17	46,95	15,73	0,06	5,82	68,56
IRL	-	-	-	-	0,40	-	1,35	1,74	11,29	-	2,78	0,44	14,51
I	-	1,01	35,68	36,69	36,09	1,39	-	37,48	223,01	167,34	69,88	10,97	471,20
L	-	-	0,76	0,76	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,76	-	0,76
NL	-	-	-	-	0,43	0,58	-	1,02	5,16	0,58	-	0,27	6,01
P	-	-	-	-	5,58	0,15	0,03	5,76	5,93	0,67	2,37	5,60	14,57
UK	4,48	-	-	4,48	5,42	-	-	5,42	42,65	-	-	0,38	43,03
Comm.	-	-	-	-	27,71	-	-	27,71	27,91	-	-	-	27,91

(1) Including former GDR (budget heading B2-1900).

(2) No payments were made under Objective 4.

A considerable volume of payments in 1997 concerned assistance decided on before 1994. The total amount was ECU 1 083 million (5% of total payments made in 1997), of which 98% related to commitments made in 1989-93. It should be noted that 40% of these payments concerned Italy, and in particular Objective 1, where programmes had been subject to serious delays. These payments reflect the closure of programmes for the first programming period.

The outstanding appropriations relating to the first programming period (1989-93) account for 12% of all outstanding appropriations at the end of 1997 (19% at the end of 1996). This reduction is the result of the closure of a very large number of programmes in 1997 leading to the settlement of related commitments and the decommitment of ECU 680 million for programmes for that period.

The share of each Fund in the appropriations outstanding at the end of 1997, which is the same as in the previous year, was as follows: ERDF: 55.4%, ESF: 27.9%, EAGGF Guidance Section: 15.1%, FIFG: 1.6%.

Outstanding appropriations at 31 December 1997 (ECU million)

		Obj. 1	Obj. 2	Obj. 3	Obj. 4	Obj. 5(a)	Obj. 5(b)	Obj. 6	Total CSF	CI	Transitional measures	Former GDR	TOTAL end 1997	%
Total outstanding end 1997 (A+B+C)		16,739,01	3,248,07	2,348,77	419,06	930,46	1,154,10	128,64	24,968,11	3,941,38	425,76	82,85	29,418,09	100%
	ERDF	10,589,68	2,639,66	-	-	-	544,54	48,26	13,822,11					
	ESF	3,415,30	608,41	2,348,77	419,06	-	150,39	30,27	6,972,20					
	EAGGF	2,452,59	-	-	-	813,56	459,17	48,83	3,774,15					
	FIFG	281,48	-	-	-	116,90	-	1,29	399,65					
1997 appropriations outstanding (A)		10,957,07	1,648,00	1,609,72	305,78	646,32	719,46	107,70	15,994,05	1,156,45	176,43	0,00	17,326,93	59%
	ERDF	6,552,90	1,262,50	-	-	-	361,04	37,79	8,214,22					
	ESF	2,311,44	385,51	1,609,72	305,78	-	89,37	24,58	4,726,39					
	EAGGF	1,941,72	-	-	-	613,66	269,05	44,34	2,868,77					
	FIFG	151,01	-	-	-	32,66	-	0,99	184,67					
1994-96 appropriations outstanding (B)		3,767,29	1,177,06	650,58	113,28	210,30	232,38	20,94	6,171,83	2,331,63	128,35	0,00	8,631,81	29%
	ERDF	2,765,81	972,32	-	-	-	83,42	10,47	3,832,03					
	ESF	614,36	204,74	650,58	113,28	-	38,28	5,70	1,626,94					
	EAGGF	324,46	-	-	-	127,04	110,68	4,48	566,65					
	FIFG	62,56	-	-	-	83,28	-	0,29	146,21					
pre-1994 appropriations outstanding (C)		2,014,66	423,01	88,46	0,00	73,84	202,26	0,00	2,802,23	453,30	120,98	82,85	3,459,36	12%
	ERDF	1,270,95	404,84	-	-	-	100,06	-	1,775,87					
	ESF	489,51	18,17	88,46	0,00	-	22,73	-	618,87					
	EAGGF	186,41	-	-	-	72,87	79,45	-	338,73					
	FIFG	67,79	-	-	-	0,98	-	-	68,77					

Outstanding appropriations at 31 December 1997 amounted to ECU 29 418 million as compared with ECU 26 654 million in 1996. Although the amount outstanding grew by 10.3% from 1993 to 1997, the annual rate of increase declined between 1994 and 1997 despite a substantial increase in commitment appropriations over that period.

Changes in outstanding appropriations (ECU million)

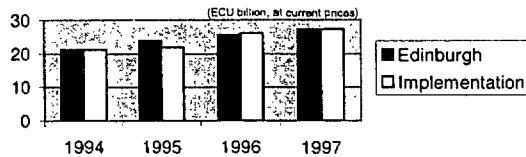
(Current prices)	TOTAL end 1997	%	TOTAL end 1996	%	TOTAL end 1995	%	TOTAL end 1994	%
Total outstanding (A+B+C)	29,418,09	100%	26,640,43	100%	23,529,46	100%	19,324,88	100%
<i>Annual change</i>		+10%		+13%		+22%		-
Appropriations for the year outstanding (A)	17,326,93	59%	14,997,37	56%	12,030,77	51%	9,009,96	47%
<i>Annual change</i>		+16%		+25%		+34%		-
Appropriations for 1994-year* outstanding (B)*	8,631,81	29%	6,503,17	24%	3,880,02	16%	-	0%
<i>Annual change</i>		+33%		+68%		-		-
Pre-1994 appropriations outstanding (C)	3,459,36	12%	5,139,90	19%	7,618,68	32%	10,315,10	53%
<i>Annual change</i>		-33%		-33%		-26%		-

* Appropriations from 1994 to year preceding that of the report

Implementation of the Funds and financial perspective ("Edinburgh" programming)

A very marked improvement year on year is bringing budget implementation more closely into line with the financial perspective set by the Edinburgh European Council in 1992 under which 39% of total commitment appropriations for 1994-99 were to be implemented in the last two years, i.e. 1998 and 1999. Actual implementation at 31 December 1997 showed that 41% of commitment appropriations for the period would be to implement in the last two years. This means that the difference from estimates is only two percentage points, which may be regarded as satisfactory.

Comparison between "Edinburgh" programming and outturn



For the first time in this period, payment appropriations (with the exception of the Community Initiatives) were fully implemented. In this sense, 1997 is an important turning point in the development of the budget as compared with previous years because the increase in outstanding appropriations is no longer simply a result of programme management but also partly a consequence of a deliberate decision to restrict payments.

4.2. ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS CARRIED OUT BY THE FUNDS, FINANCIAL CONTROL AND THE ANTI-FRAUD UNIT

The checks carried out by the Commission form part of its SEM 2000 (Sound and Efficient Management) initiative. The new measures taken under the Structural Funds in 1997 specify the nature of these checks, particularly on eligible expenditure, the standards to be met by the Member States and the application of net financial corrections (see section 1.2.4).

• THE ERDF

In 1997 43 on-the-spot checks were carried out to establish the existence and effectiveness of systems for the monitoring and checking of programmes and the reliability of information sent to the Commission (particularly certificates of expenditure). These checks also sought to establish the correct use of ERDF funds.

The checks detected certain irregularities, some specific and others, which affect the reliability of the certificates of expenditure on which the Commission bases the advances paid to Member States, systematic, and so indicative of the weakness of certain internal audit procedures in the Member States. Certificates of expenditure sometimes include items not eligible under the ERDF (for example, the salaries or expenses of officials in ministries or other public bodies) and expenditure stated to have been incurred sometimes includes estimates of future expenditure. Certificates of expenditure are sometimes sent to the Commission without adequate internal checks, which may result in formal irregularities. Furthermore, in certain regions, Community rules on public procurement are not always respected and the progress of programming is not always monitored with sufficient care.

Following these checks, the Commission takes the steps required to monitor and correct the irregularities detected. Correction usually involves deduction of the amount considered ineligible from the statement of expenditure by the Member State for the programme concerned. In 1997 this procedure provided particularly difficult to manage and demanding on staff.

• THE ESF

In 1997 the Commission carried out 86 missions to check on the use of assistance from the ESF. They were based on the annual programme agreed in partnership with the Member States in 1996. In addition to the missions planned in the annual programme, other checks were carried out in the context of joint missions with Financial Control and the anti-fraud unit. They were based on checks on systems for the management of funds and compliance checks. The main results of the checks in 1997 reveal that there are still some failures in publicity and that the systems introduced by the Member States to manage finance from the ESF are often inadequate to meet the needs of the

Commission (delays in payment by national administrations, method used for the declaration of costs, retrospective acceptance of training courses, etc.). Furthermore, national administrations do not always give beneficiaries clear guidelines on the application of Commission rules on part-financing and public procurement. The problems with regard to the eligibility of expenditure concern principally, sub-contracting, general costs and equipment (through writing-off). Although the Member States have made an effort to introduce checking systems, they require more resources and more on-the-spot checks should be made. These checks resulted in application of Article 24 of the Coordination Regulation (reduction, suspension or cancellation of assistance) with one of two outcomes. Either the Member States agreed to correct the certificate of expenditure themselves, so reducing the financial contribution, or the Commission took a decision. Most decisions concerned the suspension of funding (a judicial enquiry in the case of the CSF for 1989-93), the remainder a reduction in the ESF contribution.

These programmes are discussed beforehand with the national inspections authorities in co-ordination meetings. This co-ordination (Member State, DG V and DG XX) is aimed to increase efficiency at the control level.

• EAGGF GUIDANCE SECTION

During 1997 28 inspection visits were made to check the use made of EAGGF Guidance Section appropriations managed by the Member States. Most were organised by the departments responsible for the EAGGF, others by the Commission's Financial Control or the anti-fraud unit. Their main aims were to assess the management and audit systems used, check the conformity of the financial and accounting reports and actual implementation with Community rules, the decisions to grant assistance and the expenditure declared to the EAGGF Guidance Section.

Some types of irregularity were detected in many Member States and many measures. These included non-compliance with Community rules on public procurement, the granting of aid for expenditure which, by virtue of its nature or date of payment, was ineligible, substantial delays in making payments to beneficiaries, the lack of publicity and information on part-financing by the EAGGF Guidance Section, inadequate checks, incorrect use of conversion rates, overlapping of funds from different Community sources for the same items of assistance and some commitments entered into before the end of the prescribed period.

In one case, the Commission had to undertake a partial recovery of assistance from the EAGGF Guidance Section for 1988-92. Particular attention was paid to appropriations managed under the Commission's initiative (Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88) and a comparatively large number of inspections was carried out.

• THE FIGG

The departments responsible for the FIGG undertook three inspections, in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Although the findings were generally satisfactory, the number of missions carried out cannot be considered adequate. Programming for 1998 includes at least one inspection mission to most countries receiving assistance from the FIGG.

In Italy problems were found with one firm, which appealed to the European Court of Justice even before the Commission had taken its official decision.

Inspections by the Commission's Financial Control

During 1997 the Commission's Financial Control undertook 62 missions on-the-spot jointly with the Funds concerned. The programmes concerned were ESF: 31, ERDF: 20, EAGGF Guidance Section: 10 and FIGG: 1. These missions concerned all the Objectives and some Community Initiatives (Pesca, Leader II, Urban) and innovative measures. The Financial Control missions included the audit of the management and inspection systems established by the Member States as well as the financial

position of the programmes themselves. On-the-spot inspections were undertaken in all the Member States and ranged from two in Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Austria to nine in Greece.

The missions carried out were selected using risk analysis and carried out in accordance with the protocols signed by the Commission's Financial Control and its national counterparts and coordination meetings with the national audit authorities. At these meetings, action to be taken as a result of inspections by the Commission, national authorities or the Court of Auditors was discussed.

Virtually all the inspections revealed shortcomings in the EAGGF and the FIG. These included weaknesses in the management and audit systems, the financing of ineligible expenditure (e.g. the salaries of permanent officials), unauthorised deductions and administrative errors resulting in the over-estimation of expenditure declared to the Commission. It also appeared that operational programmes were often being implemented slowly or inadequately.

The following problems were detected with the ESF: failure to comply with the three-month period for making appropriations available, applications for the balance based on payment of advances rather than on actual costs, failure to respect the annual nature of the budget, the lack of clear guidelines on selection procedures and criteria, the existence of flat-rate payments and failure to comply with the separation of management and audit functions by the designated authority.

On-the-spot inspections of the ERDF detected some irregularities and weaknesses in the management and inspection systems of the Member States. Reconstruction of the audit trail and the identification of expenditure declared to the Commission sometimes encountered some difficulties.

Community rules (public procurement, publicity, conversion of expenditure into ecus) were not always respected. Final beneficiaries did not always receive the whole of their grants because of deductions by intermediary bodies. In some cases, the expenditure declared by final beneficiaries included forecasts of expenditure. It was also found that the checks carried out by the responsible authorities had not always been as effective as required.

Enquiries by the anti-fraud unit

In 1997 the Commission's anti-fraud unit launched 58 new enquiries into fraud or suspected fraud relating to structural measures and undertook 52 inspections concerning such measures, either alone or in association with the departments concerned. Of these inspections, 17 concerned the ERDF, 20 the ESF, 13 the EAGGF Guidance Section and two concerned an enquiry already in progress into the FIG.

A large number of these enquiries (22) concerned pilot and demonstration projects financed under Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 covering finance for individual projects under the EAGGF Guidance Section (section 2.1.9).

In 17 cases relating to the EAGGF Guidance Section, the Commission notified the judicial authorities of three Member States so that they could continue and extend the enquiries. So far, investigations have revealed weaknesses in the selection and the management and audit of these projects. However, in 1997 new measures to improve the management and audit of the Funds should reduce these shortcomings: clear rules on expenditure eligible under the Structural Funds, adoption of a Regulation¹ laying down the rules which the Member States must observe in this area and guidelines on the application of net financial corrections (see section 1.2.4).

Furthermore, in 1997 the Member States notified to the Commission under Regulation (EC) No 1681/94² of 307 cases of irregularity or fraud (EAGGF Guidance Section: 100, ESF: 123, ERDF: 79,

¹ Regulation (EC) No 2064/97 of 15 October 1997.

² OJ L 178, 12.7.1994.

FIFG: 5) involving ECU 55.9 million (EAGGF Guidance Section: ECU 5.6, ESF: ECU 21.2 million, ERDF: ECU 28.5 million, FIFG: ECU 600 000).³

These figures show that the number of irregularities detected and the amounts involved are increasing, thanks to better checks by the Member States. However, national authorities find it difficult to comply with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1681/94, under which they are required to notify the Commission in each case of the action taken following detection of these irregularities (corrections, recovery, proceedings, no further action, etc.). There is therefore a risk that the cases notified may include some cases already closed about which the Commission has not been told.

4.3. THE VERIFICATION OF ADDITIONALITY

Work has continued both to resolve the outstanding problems mentioned in the 1996 Annual report and to monitor the ongoing respect of the principle of additionality. References below to methodological or presentational problems should not be taken to mean automatically that the principle of additionality is not being respected.

For Objective 1, which accounts for almost 70% of total EU structural aid, updated tables have been received in respect of nine of the eleven eligible regions or Member States (Spain, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, UK and Austria). In two cases, Italy and Germany, the updates suggest that the public spending targets set in the programming documents were too optimistic in the assumptions on economic growth and the authorities of these two countries have provided arguments to support their situation. A further problem in the Italian case is that no data are available beyond 1996. Methodological problems have still to be resolved for Greece, in particular incompatibility between methodologies used for the previous and the present programming period. The Commission has requested supplementary information from Spain on the additionality tables which has not yet been supplied. In the case of Austria there are problems of presentation which need to be resolved.

In the case of Objective 2, the ex-ante assessments for 1997/1999 which were still underway in 1996 have been completed and are satisfactory in all but two cases. For France there are methodological problems which will need to be resolved before further payments can be made while for Luxembourg the methodological problems have now been resolved and it is expected that the Luxembourg authorities will soon supply figures enabling the Commission to resume payments. Payments to these two countries remain blocked because of the "suspensive clauses" inserted in the Objective 2 programming documents in cases where inadequate information was supplied for the ex-ante assessment. Other Member States were also subject to these clauses but have since supplied the required information.

In the context of the on-going monitoring of additionality under Objective 2, the majority of the twelve eligible Member States have provided updated figures. In addition to France and Luxembourg no update has been received from Denmark. There are still unresolved problems in the updates for Austria and Spain (see Objective 1 above).

For Objective 5b the ongoing monitoring is still patchy. The main reason for the delays in providing updates is that gathering figures for these, often very small, areas runs into serious methodological difficulties. Of the twelve Member States concerned seven (Germany, Spain, Netherlands, UK, Austria, Sweden and Finland) have supplied updated figures while Italy is still in the process of finalising the methodology and has only provided unofficial figures. Here again there are problems with Austria and Spain (see Objective 1 above).

In respect of Objective 6 only Sweden has supplied updated figures.

³ Figures relate to the first, second and third quarters of 1997.

CHAPTER 5:

COORDINATION WITH OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council Regulation coordinating the Structural Funds (EEC) No 2083/93 stipulates that the Commission must ensure coordination and consistency between the Funds and assistance from the other financial instruments such as the Cohesion Fund, the European Investment Bank, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and other operations with a structural purpose. Coordination is to be achieved without compromising the aims of the other instruments.

5.1. COHESION FUND

The Cohesion Fund obviously serves the goal of economic and social cohesion, providing assistance in tandem with the Structural Funds. The Cohesion Fund Regulation stipulates that it may contribute to financing project stages that are financially and technically independent. The Regulation also stipulates that no expenditure can simultaneously qualify for aid from the Cohesion and Structural Funds, the reason being that the Cohesion Fund must be able to fund one or more stages of an overall project alongside the ERDF, since combining the available financial instruments helps to maximise their funding impact and speeds up the completion of trans-European transport and energy networks in particular. This option of staging projects requires close cooperation between the financial instruments. Thorough physical and financial monitoring of the projects is a necessary precondition for achieving this.

To avoid any overlap between Community assistance from different sources, stages that can be identified separately are defined using physical indicators. Those responsible for managing the Cohesion Fund regularly organise inter-departmental meetings with the other financial instruments, the ERDF in particular, to ensure the best coordination possible. It goes without saying that the administrative burden in managing projects divided into stages is more complicated than for separate, whole projects.

5.2. THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

In 1997 EIB lending increased by 12.6% over 1996 (as against a rate of increase of 8.4% in 1996, 7.5% in 1995 and 1.6% in 1994). The volume of loans contracted in 1997 in the Community reached ECU 23 billion as against ECU 21 billion in 1996 (up 9.6%). Loans were granted for projects in all the Member States, including Austria, Sweden and Finland, where lending operations have got off to a strong start. Assistance increased strongly for trans-European networks, industry and services, mobile phone systems. Performance differed quite markedly from one Member State to another when compared with the previous year: there was a strong upswing in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

The EIB and small businesses

The EIB has supported small firms for many years now through global grants. In 1997 ECU 2 486 million was granted for productive investment in 13 000 small businesses, two thirds of which were located in regional development zones.

Under the Amsterdam Special Action Programme (ASAP), the EIB has introduced a variety of financial instruments to help innovative small firms and those with strong growth potential to gain access to bank finance. The first concrete manifestation of this, the "European technology facility", was established by the EIB and the European Investment Fund to support investment on the part of innovative small-businesses by taking shares in intermediary structures such as venture capital funds.

The concentration of funding in favour of investment in regional development (Objectives 1, 2, 5(b), 6), which had increased from 1995 to 1996, slowed down again with activity in 1997 returning to the 1992 level. In the regions where development is lagging behind (Objective 1) EIB loans reached ECU 5.2 billion, i.e. 36% of the total for regional development (49% in 1996, 46% in 1995, 48% in 1994). There has thus been strong downswing in activity in these regions compared to 1996. Funding in the four Cohesion countries (Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal) amounted to ECU 4 billion, lower than

in previous years. Despite these falls, it cannot be denied that the EIB remains a powerful financial instrument for regional development.

EIB – Funding for regional development (in ECU million)

	1997	1996	1995	1994
Total activity in the Union(1)	21.521	19.810	17.782	16.624
Regional development	67%	70%	68%	72%
(of which, Objective 1)	36%	49%	46%	48%
Countries eligible under the Cohesion Fund	28%	32%	38%	39%

(1) Amount of finance granted, i.e. individual loans signed and appropriations allocated for current global loans

By sector, assistance for infrastructure has continued to increase (+35%) due to an appreciable upswing in loans for telecommunications (mobile telephony in particular), the modernisation of the railways in the United Kingdom and assistance for the Belgian high-speed train. Assistance for environmental projects, including urban infrastructure, has also increased strongly after a period of stabilisation. Projects approved in the energy sector also fell significantly after the exceptionally high level reached in 1996. The Commission encourages the EIB to pay special attention to its activities in the cohesion countries.

5.3. THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND

The European Investment Fund specialises in the grant of guarantees and in capital transactions (equity financing). It is intended to support medium and long-term investment in two essential sectors for the Union: trans-European networks, where it strives to facilitate partnership between the public and private sectors, and small firms, where its role is to facilitate their access to funding at a reasonable cost. It is thus an instrument serving the Union's general economic development, with no particular focus on cohesion. Nevertheless, because its effects are felt throughout the Community, it also benefits regions undergoing restructuring or whose development is lagging behind.

In 1997, the loan volume guaranteed amounted to ECU 769 million. Of this, ECU 335 million went on trans-European networks (mainly telecommunications) and ECU 434 million on small firms, mostly on projects relating to growth and the environment (in this sector the Commission and the EIF collaborate to help small firms gain access to bank loans for environmental investment). In terms of capital transactions, the EIF provided about ECU 26 million in equity funding. The EIF is involved in a new development in this sector, the "European Technology Mechanism" (ETM), which was established as a result of the Amsterdam European Council. The EIF manages ECU 125 million for the EIB in respect of this new mechanism, with a view to venture capital investment in small firms using or developing advanced technology. ECU 7.5 million was invested in 1997 under the ETM.

As a result of the special European Council on employment in Luxembourg, the EIF and the Commission are preparing proposals for new financial instruments to support innovative, job-creating SMEs through:

- a venture-capital arm, which will act as a "fund's fund" managed by the EIF on behalf of the Commission for investing in the most exposed venture-capital funds not covered by the ETM or by the EIF's own venture-capital activities;
- a "small-business guarantee" arm geared towards SMEs with high growth potential that will concentrate on small firms having at least 100 employees. The aim is to improve access to loans covered by the guarantee systems operating in the Member States in the public and private sectors. The EIF will manage this resource while the European Union budget will cover the cost of any calls on guarantees granted by the EIF.

5.4. THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

In preparation for the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002, the ECSC loan instrument offering interest-rate subsidies for conversion investments that create jobs was definitively wound up on 30 June 1997. The instrument was separately coordinated by the regional monitoring committees for the Structural Funds.

In its final six months to June, a last global conversion grant of ECU 8.9 million to create about 670 jobs was given Council assent. ECU 2 million was committed under the ECSC budget for 1997 for interest-rate subsidies on current loans. During 1997, the Commission paid 50 conversion loan instalments to financial intermediaries amounting to ECU 206.8 million.

5.5. THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

The Agreement on the European Economic Area provides for a financial mechanism to promote economic and social cohesion in the Area to be funded by the EFTA countries and managed by the EIB. Its scope is defined in Protocol 38 to the Agreement: grants totalling ECU 500 million between 1994 and 1998 and 10-year interest-rate subsidies of 2% a year on a total loan volume of ECU 1 500 million. The beneficiaries of the Financial Mechanism are Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Portugal and the Objective 1 regions of Spain (1989-93). The nature of this instrument makes it clearly one promoting economic and social cohesion.

As a result of the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, their contributions to the Mechanism have been taken over by the Community budget (heading B2-401, ECU 108 million a year). The Commission, as the body responsible for executing the Community budget, is thus jointly responsible for the Mechanism and is represented on the Financial Mechanism Committee that approves projects.

A report on the implementation of the Mechanism between 1 January 1996 and 30 June 1997 has been drawn up¹.

In 1997 the interest-rate subsidies concerned ECU 426.7 million in loans for one project in Greece (transport: ECU 100.4 million), two in Portugal (environment: ECU 92.4 million) and 8 in Spain (transport: ECU 125.3 million, environment: ECU 162 million, education: ECU 39 million). The Committee approved ECU 74.3 million in grants. These were in the three eligible sectors: transport, environment, and education and training.

5.6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

As the Union's main financial instrument for developing human resources, the ESF invests massively in education and training systems. Strong links and coordination therefore exist between this assistance and the Union's other education and training activities.

Activity in 1997 took two forms: (1) continuing coordination between the ESF operations, in particular the Employment and Adapt Community initiatives, and the two main education and training programmes: Socrates and Leonardo; (2) specific initiatives to encourage debate throughout the union on key policy issues related to education and training.

The arrangements for coordinating programmes currently under way with the Socrates and Leonardo programmes remained in place, mostly to ensure a consistent approach to choosing projects for the second and last calls for proposals under Emploi and Adapt, and for the call for proposals made at the end of 1997 under Article 6 (innovative schemes and technical assistance; see 2.1.9).

¹ COM(97) 567 final of 27 November 1997

As regard complementary Community policy initiatives in education and training, the Commission took up ideas originating in the Structural Funds for some of its initiatives:

1. The Commission working group on education and multimedia software appraised, negotiated and concluded contracts in 1997 for a first series of projects launched at the beginning of 1998, following an open call for proposals in December 1996.
2. The Commission communication "Towards a Europe of knowledge"², setting out guidelines for future Community action in teaching, training and youth affairs for the period 2000-06.
3. The proposal for a Council Decision on the promotion of European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship, which is a logical follow-on from the communication of June 1997 "Promoting apprenticeship training in Europe"³.
4. The Commission proposal for a comparative assessment of progress as regards access to continuing vocational training, based on the report on access to continuing training in the European Union presented in response to the Council of Ministers recommendation in 1993 in this regard.
5. The Commission call for proposals in September 1997 on "IT for learning and training in industry", as part of the specific programme on information technologies (Esprit).
6. The interim report on the implementation of the Leonardo programme⁴.

5.7. COMMUNITY FUNDING ON TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Community financial instrument for trans-European networks funding (Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 of 18 September 1995) provides part-funding for projects of common interest in the field of trans-European transport, telecommunications and energy networks, under Article 129c of the Treaty.

In addition to this TENs funding, the ERDF, along with the Cohesion Fund, remains one of the largest providers of grant-funding for TENs.

Considerable progress was made on various projects in 1997 and on the following in particular:

- the rail link between Dublin and Belfast was officially opened on 21 October;
- most of the work on the transport of gas, the introduction of natural gas in Greece, Spain and Portugal and on the Algeria-European Union gas pipeline has been completed;
- work is progressing on various sections of the Pathe motorway in Greece;
- the high-speed railway link from the French border to Brussels as part of the PBKAL became operational on 14 December;
- most of the 28 Euro-ISDN projects (integrated services digital network) funded in 1995 and 1996 are proceeding satisfactorily and 10 of these projects were completed by the end of 1997.

² COM(97) 563 final

³ COM(97) 300

⁴ COM(97) 399 final

ERDF funding for TENs - 1997 commitment appropriations (in ECU million):

(Because of the ERDF's system of multiannual programming, this is not a complete listing)

Sector		Commitments	Notes
TRANSPORT	Roads	369,9	Can include in certain cases commitments made at the end of 1996
	Railways	136,9	
	Airports	5,0	
	Ports	14,9	
	Total	526,7	
ENERGY	Natural gas	274,4	
	Electricity	2,9	
	Total	277,3	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	-	-	(figure not available)

CHAPTER 6:

**COMPATIBILITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITY
POLICIES**

Article 7 of the Framework Regulation governing the Structural Funds (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93) requires the measures financed by the Structural Funds, the EIB or another financial instrument to be in conformity with the Treaties, with particular regard to the competition rules and the award of public contracts. Such measures must also be compatible with the Union's other major policies.

6.1. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

The Amsterdam European Council in June 1997 marked a turning point for employment policies in the Union. Adoption of the Title on employment meant that the Heads of State and Government considered employment a matter of common concern. The new Treaty improved coordination of national policies on employment and paved the way for joint guidelines which may lead to recommendations to the Member States.

Following inclusion of the Title on employment, the extraordinary European Council on employment on 20 and 21 November 1997 adopted guidelines for 1998 and began a process which enabled the Member States, depending on the employment situation, to adopt national programmes for employment compatible with the guidelines and using a global approach; this also involves appropriate macroeconomic policies.

The Luxembourg European Council in December reached agreement on an overall strategy entailing coordination of the employment policies of the Member States in order to achieve convergence on verifiable and regularly updated targets to be included in the national programmes for employment drawn up by the Member States. This coordination of employment policies by the Member States will begin when the Council adopts the guidelines.

The guidelines constitute a four-pronged approach: improving employability, developing business spirit, encouraging firms and staff to be more adaptable so that the labour market can react to economic change and promoting equal opportunities.

Implementation of this strategy relies on the combined efforts of all concerned: Member States, regions, social partners and Community institutions to achieve a significant increase in the rate of employment in Europe. The preventive approach of the new strategy is of vital importance because the early identification of needs will check rising unemployment among young people and long-term unemployment. The custom-designed answers give priority to active measures over passive measures concentrating on benefits. In addition, joint indicators based on comparable statistics are fixed for the effective monitoring and assessment of policies and to identify good practice.

The national programmes will set deadlines for achieving the desired result in the light, principally, of the administrative and financial resources deployed. Each year the Member States will submit their national programmes to the Council and the Commission for consideration prior to the European Council. The Council is pledged to carry out in the second half of the year an examination of how the Member States have integrated the guidelines into their national policies and will make a report, prepared jointly with the Commission, on the employment situation in the Community and the measures taken by the Member States to implement their employment policy in the light of the guidelines, which are to be sent to the European Council by the end of the year.

Following Agenda 2000, the new regulations governing the Funds were adopted by the Commission in March 1998 and then discussed by the Council and Parliament. The starting point for the role of the ESF in the revised Structural Funds will be the new Title of the Treaty and the new employment strategy to develop annual national programmes.

6.2. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Implementation of the communication "Cohesion policy and the environment"¹ continued. In addition, Parliament stepped up its "greening of the budget" by establishing in the 1997 budget a new heading dedicated to the environmental aspects of cohesion policy (B2-1600). This heading has been used for a variety of measures such as seminars to increase the awareness of those managing funds and studies on the impact on the environment of the operations of the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds. However, not all the appropriations available could be committed because many of the measures eligible under this new heading were already being financed and because of the time required to establish new measures.

In line with the greening of the budget, the Commission provided Parliament with information on the environmental aspects of ERDF and Cohesion Fund projects costing more than ECU 50 million. Information on the 1996 projects was sent to Parliament on 31 July 1997. The list of projects was published in the Official Journal.²

The environmental aspects of the new Structural Funds programmes

In accordance with the guidelines sent to the Member States and the environmental profiles sent to them in 1993 and reiterated in 1996, the new Objective 2 programmes approved in 1997 stressed preventive measures for the environment, such as environmentally-friendly products and research on the environment.

While the nature of the environmental dimension still varies substantially from one programme to another, a feature of the new Objective 2 programmes is the better integration of environmental considerations into the various non-environmental measures. Although this was desired, it will in future create a paradoxical situation with regard to the environmental quality of the Structural Funds: the better environmental measures are integrated into other measures, the less visible they will be.

Accordingly, in November 1997 the Commission adopted a communication on environment and employment³ which sets out a clear strategy for complementary policies on the environment and employment. The Commission invites exploitation of the opportunities offered by technology and innovation to promote the establishment and growth of firms and to support methods of production and consumption patterns which will be sustainable in environmental terms.

The Interreg II C Community Initiative (transnational cooperation), half of whose programmes were approved in 1997, deals explicitly with questions of sustainable development such as cooperation on planning, the prevention of drought through the rational use of water resources, flood prevention and the management of water basins and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Monitoring and assessment of Structural Fund programmes

To identify preventive measures and good practice, the Commission launched a study on the sustainable environment and the Structural Funds in the Objective 2 areas which was published in June 1997. A guide to good practice will help those responsible for promoting measures for environmentally-friendly development.

Because the environment is a complex concept and the possible impact of the Structural Funds on it varies very considerably, in August 1997 the Commission published a major call for tenders inviting consultants to develop a methodology to assess the quantitative impact on the environment based on studies of actual impacts. The project is financed from budget heading B2-1600.

¹ COM(95) 509 final of 22 November 1995.

² OJ C 301, 2.10.1997.

³ COM(97) 592 final.

All programmes under Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5(b) and 6 lasting more than three years were subject to interim assessment in 1997 (see section 3.1).

Environmental awareness in the Commission and among national managers of the Structural Funds

A series of training courses for Commission staff on the integration of the environment into the other policies began in autumn 1997.

The Commission also organised training seminars on the environment for Fund managers in the Member States. Two seminars on the environmental dimension of environmental projects were organised in Ireland (September 1997) and the United Kingdom (October 1997). Others will be held during 1998 in Portugal, Greece, France and Germany (budget heading B2-1600).

Exchanges with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the environmental field

The participation of NGOs at national and regional level is the responsibility of the Member States. At Community level discussions of opinions and experiences with NGOs have increased. In November 1997 the Commission organised an exchange of its staff and representatives of NGOs from six Member States. This led to discussions at European level on how the environment should be taken into account in the practical implementation of programmes.

6.3. CONTRIBUTION OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS TO PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

The adjustment of programmes for the development or conversion of regions

In the guidelines which it sent to the Member States concerning the adjustment of Structural Funds programmes up to the end of 1999,⁴ the Commission expressed the hope that measures to promote equal opportunities would be improved, either through general measures in the programmes ("mainstreaming") or through specific measures. The positive measures proposed in those guidelines included improved social infrastructure, access to employment, access to services and facilities, the fostering of the business spirit among women and the combination of family and working life.

Most Member States took this Community priority into account in the adjustments they made (see section 1.2.2). Examples include new provisions or aid schemes for women in business (Italy, Finland, Germany, Spain), training (Greece, Netherlands, Spain) or finance for nurseries and children's centres (United Kingdom, Italy). The Commission's communication on new programmes in areas undergoing industrial conversion in 1997-99⁵ (see section 1.2.1) sets out the position on equality with particular reference to improving employment prospects for women.

Equal opportunities in the ESF programmes

The Member States chose to adopt a double approach in implementing the equal opportunities priority under Objective 3. Most adopted specific programmes for equal opportunities while a small minority adopted the approach of integration. However, the measures are quite similar: encouraging women to participate to a greater extent in the areas where they are under-represented, the training of instructors, basic training and vocational training for women and those returning to their own country without jobs, apprenticeships, employment aid and recruitment grants, promotion of the business culture among women, on-going training in small firms, guidance, advisory and placement services and, in some countries, measures to protect children and special assistance to help men and women combine family and work responsibilities. As regards the ESF Community Initiatives, Now is still the

⁴ C(97) 1381.

⁵ COM(97) 524.

main equal opportunities programme. In the context of Adapt, a working party led by Sweden began work on this subject in 1997.

The Community Initiatives

A specific horizontal clause was inserted into the Community Initiative programmes when they were revised. Now is the main specific programme concerning equal opportunities for men and women and the exploitation for distribution purposes of what has been achieved began in 1997. In the case of Adapt, a working party on equal opportunities led by Sweden has been established. Initiatives such as Urban, Interreg and Leader also contain a variety of provisions which encourage the launch of and support for projects concerning women.

Studies, assessment and pilot projects

The studies begun in 1996 (Finland, Spain) to identify the types of assistance from the Structural Funds, and specifically the ERDF, with heavy stress on equal opportunities for men and women, were completed in 1997 (Ireland, Portugal and Greece). Furthermore, to help programme managers and the assessment teams, the Commission wished to draw up a methodological note setting out the methods of evaluation appropriate to the special nature of the questions concerning equal opportunities which arise in the Structural Funds policies. This work was carried out with the assistance of experts under the Means⁶ programme and is expected to have been completed early in 1998.

Around ten Recite II (internal interregional cooperation 1998-99) pilot projects concerning the networking of resource centres to encourage women to take part in economic life were selected. A seminar was held to discuss the aims and working methods of the networks for the projects selected. In April the call for proposals for the Ecos-Ouverture (external interregional cooperation projects) was issued. One of its themes is the promotion of equal opportunities.

Preparation of the new regulations

During preparation of the new regulations, thought was given to fostering the principle of equal opportunities and giving it specific form in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

6.4. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (RTD)

RTD and innovation continue to play an increasing role in assistance from the Structural Funds. This was, in fact, the horizontal subject covered in the eighth Annual Report (1996), where particular attention was paid to this element of assistance in each country and many examples given. In addition, the Commission decided to prepare a communication on "Reinforcing cohesion and competitiveness through research, technological development and innovation" (see section 1.3.5) to highlight the importance of R&TD and innovation in the modernisation and diversification of regional economic structures.

At about ECU 2 500 million (16.8% of the total budget for Objective 2), assistance for R&TD measures in those areas is considerably higher than in the preceding period. Growth from the 1994-96 sub-period to 1997-99 is particularly striking with resources devoted to R&TD and innovation rising from 14.2% of the total budget to 18.4%. Because of their longer industrial tradition, some Objective 2 areas have made greater use of R&TD and innovation for economic development on the basis of key factors such as the public/private/voluntary sector partnership, exchanges between local universities and large firms, the existence of firms with special know-how in R&TD and innovation, an industrial

⁶ For Means, see Chapter 3 - Assessment.

culture and economic environment directed towards production, services adapted to the needs of local industry and business parks near large towns.

Alongside assistance from the Funds, the Commission has launched a number of pilot projects to overcome certain difficulties encountered by the regions in developing and sustaining their innovation programmes. Under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation and in cooperation with the innovation programme, regional innovation strategies (RIS) and regional innovation and transfer of technology strategies (RTT - innovation programme) have been devised to extend cooperation between the public and private sectors and between firms in the region and the supply of services and infrastructure for R&TD and innovation (see section 2.1.9).

6.5. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND THE TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS (TENs)

During 1997 each of the three sectors of the TENs (transport, telecommunications and energy) made progress. The greatest advances in legal terms were the amendment of Article 129c by the Treaty of Amsterdam (to facilitate the financing of projects by the private sector), the adoption of guidelines on the telecommunications TEN,⁷ the amendment of the guidelines for the energy TEN⁸ to update the list of projects of common interest and the proposal to revise the guidelines for the transport TEN to include ports and intermodal terminals.⁹

With regard to the financing of the TENs, in June 1997 the high-level group chaired by Mr Kinnock and comprising representatives of the ministers of transport and the private sector published its recommendations on how public/private partnerships could be developed in transport projects. Two communications resulted, one on the Commission's responses and proposals concerning the recommendations from a European viewpoint and one clarifying the competition rules to apply to the new transport projects. The Commission's Agenda 2000 also proposed a new financial perspective to give greater priority to the TENs.

To improve coordination between the various Commission departments and the other financial institutions (such as the EIB and the EIF) involved in financing TENs projects, the Commission took steps to buttress the strategic priorities, encourage vigorous cooperation on the various projects and improve the exchange of information. These include establishment of group of directors to meet at least twice a year and the preparation of a multiannual plan.

6.6. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND TOURISM

A number of specific measures for tourism completed or launched in 1997 are of considerable importance for local or regional development. These include projects relating to visitor management and transport, the project for networking tourism and the environment now being carried out and studies on the integrated management of the quality of urban, rural and coastal tourist destinations.

Consideration of tourism under programming is intended to review the strategy, implementation and results of operational programmes and measures concerned with tourism.

Specific evaluation measures will be undertaken particularly for those countries which have substantial tourist potential and where the Structural Funds play a significant role.

With regard to the quantitative analysis and qualitative evaluation of the impact of tourism under the structural policies, the Advisory Committee on tourism decided on 21 October 1997 to set up a

⁷ Decision 1336/97/EC of 17 June 1997, OJ L 183, 11.7.1997.

⁸ Decision 1047/97/EC of 29 May 1997, OJ L 152, 11.6.1997.

⁹ COM(97) 681 of 10 December 1997.

working party on urban tourism in Europe with the aim of stimulating the exchange of experience and good practice and drawing operational conclusions. This should lead to the production in 1998 of a summary report as input for the European discussion on urban matters.

The Luxembourg conference on 4 and 5 November 1997 on guidelines for action in employment and tourism¹⁰ and the related conclusions of the Council of 26 November opened the way to a more general consideration of the contribution of tourism to economic, social and territorial cohesion. A high-level group on tourism and employment was set up to consider how tourism could make a greater contribution to growth and improving employment in Europe. This group will report to the Commission in October 1998.

6.7. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND CULTURE

The Commission's 1996 communication "Cohesion policy and culture: a contribution to employment"¹¹ noted that, although culture is playing an increasingly important role in regional development and cohesion policy, its potential is not being fully used in the operation of the Structural Funds.

The Member States and the regions decide themselves whether and how to give priority to including culture in their programmes. The new Objective 2 programmes (1997-99) follow the Commission's guidelines,¹² where it describes culture as a source of employment which enables local and regional development potential to be better exploited, to differing degrees.

During 1997 the Commission approved under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation 32 pilot projects for interregional cooperation on culture. The integrated approach to development will promote the establishment of cooperation projects whose economic goals have a cultural component, the preservation and promotion of the region's cultural assets, job-creation, the integration of the unemployed and young people into working life and the exchange of know-how and experience. These projects are being supported by the ERDF to the tune of ECU 15 million between January 1997 and December 1998.

6.8. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND COMPETITION POLICY

Under Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty, the Commission constantly considers schemes of State aids to firms where they are likely to distort competition and affect trade between the Member States. It must, in particular, take account of the impact on competition and trade of any cumulation of State aid and Community finance. Hence in 1997 the Commission completed consideration of the compatibility with the Treaty of measures in the SPDs concerning assistance from the Funds to the Objective 2 areas in 1997-99.

In accordance with the principle of concentration of aid to the less-favoured regions, the Commission continued its efforts to codify the rules and ensure equal treatment for all Member States. On 16 December it adopted new guidelines on regional aid which brought together the criteria used for assessing State aids for regional purposes and replaced all the current provisions by a single text. One of the new features introduced, the reduction of aid intensities admissible for large firms, reflects the desire to reduce the distortions of competition brought about by aids while having regard to the need for cohesion. In addition to reducing intensities in general, the Commission introduced rules permitting the modulation of the maximum intensities of aid in the light of the seriousness and extent of regional problems.

¹⁰ In the course of publication.

¹¹ COM(96) 512 final of 20 November 1996.

¹² C(96) 952 final.

The guidelines increase the coherence of the Structural Funds by making eligibility under the Funds a further criterion for eligibility for national aid. When adopting the guidelines, the Commission fixed the ceiling for the coverage of regional aid at 42.7% of the population of the Union for 2000-06 as against 46.7% in 1994-99 (see section 1.3.4, the communication "Regional policy and competition policy" prepared in 1997).

The quest for coherence also applied to the map of the regions eligible for aid for regional purposes. New maps were adopted for Italy (for the regions eligible under Article 92(3)(c) of the Treaty), Denmark and Finland for 1997-99. In each case, the percentage of the population covered by regional aids was set so as to maximise their economic effectiveness, limit their impact on competition and make better use of budgetary resources.

In 1997 the Commission also adopted a multisectoral framework for regional aids for major investment projects designed to limit the often excessive amounts of regional aid going to major projects. It is part of the broader objective of eventually replacing the various sectoral rules governing State aids by a single approach to important aids cases irrespective of the sector of activity, with the exception of coal and steel, which will remain subject to the ECSC Treaty until July 2002.

To make the monitoring of State aids more effective, the Commission is considering simplifying procedures for certain categories. It has therefore sent the Council a proposal for an enabling regulation based on Article 94 of the Treaty. In its draft, the Commission asks the Council for powers to adopt regulations exempting certain categories of aid from the prior notification requirement provided that certain criteria are met. These are mainly aids with which the Commission is fully conversant and for which it has already defined precise criteria for assessing their compatibility with the common market through frameworks or guidelines (small firms, R&D, the environment, employment and training and regional aids). The Council has already given its approval in principle and the proposal should be adopted in 1998.

6.9. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

In previous reports, the Commission insisted on the need to bring those taking decisions on projects geographically closer together to improve the preparation and monitoring of files, speed of implementation and comprehension of Community texts. Since information on public procurement is to be found at national, regional or local level, checks should also cover assistance to those taking decisions and so should be included at the appropriate level.

The Commission set out its views on public procurement in a Green Paper¹³ which it adopted in November 1996. This was followed in 1997 by the evaluation and analysis of the contributions of those involved in economic life and preparation of the first reflections on the future of the sector.

The discussion on structural policies centred mainly on some proposals made in the Green Paper which would strengthen the partnership with the Member States. The ideas put forward by the Commission include the establishment at national level of independent bodies to monitor public procurement which could guarantee the correct application of the provisions in force, greater use of the attestation procedure under which an independent person certifies compliance with Community rules on public procurement (for which provision already exists in the Remedies for Utilities directive) and increasing the sense of responsibility of those taking decisions on public procurement who have to commit themselves personally to respecting the rules. However, it should be noted that these ideas do not in any way imply that the Commission is abandoning its prerogatives. It will continue to monitor public contracts as required by the Treaty and the directives.

¹³ COM(96) 583 final of 27 November 1996.

The Commission issued a communication on the conclusions of this discussion and the measures it intends to take early in 1998.

6.10. THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS, THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) AND THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The general background to the compatibility of the Structural Funds with the CAP was set out in detail on the eighth Annual Report on the implementation of the Structural Funds (1996) to which reference should be made.

Measures of two types illustrate particularly vividly the way the CAP is compatible with the structural policies: analysis of the State aid schemes and monitoring the sectors excluded from aids.

In general, whenever a State aid scheme is proposed, it is always examined for compatibility with the existing rules governing the CAP and those on State aids. The measures selected as priorities included the application of new technologies, energy saving and quality promotion. As regards irrigation, for example, priority was given to measures to improve existing structures to avoid water losses (evaporation, leaks, etc.) without affecting the area under irrigation. Where new areas were concerned, the Commission imposed very strict limits on extensions and asked to be notified of the crops planned.

In the case of investment aids, limits are imposed on certain sectors to avoid the production of surpluses (pigs, eggs and poultrymeat, beef/veal, milk). Priority for processing and marketing is given to certain types of investment, for example those relating to the protection of the environment, technological innovation and improving quality and health conditions and the Commission has laid down selection criteria in accordance with the guidelines set out in Community policies and in particular the CAP. In some sectors (tobacco and fodder crops), investment aid is prohibited and in others restrictions have been imposed, sometimes accompanied by obligations to reduce capacity (slaughtering, the grouping of firms in the wine and alcohol sectors).

Looking to the future, in its Agenda 2000 communication of 15 July 1997, the Commission proposed continuing the thorough reform of the CAP begun in 1992. This proposal seeks to provide aid mainly in the form of direct payments and has five goals:

- to improve competitiveness to consolidate the Union's position as a major world exporter;
- to ensure the safety and quality of foodstuffs for consumers, the major priority of the CAP;
- to ensure a fair living for those employed in agriculture by stabilising their incomes;
- to integrate environmental objectives into the CAP more effectively, mainly through better management of natural resources and protecting the countryside;
- diversifying activities in the countryside in order to provide jobs and supplementary or alternative sources of income both in agriculture and elsewhere.

Since 1994 the integration of the structural aspect of fisheries in the Structural Funds has sought the structural adjustments required to achieve the aims of the common fisheries policy by making assistance in the sector subject to compliance with the goals of achieving a balance between fisheries stocks and their exploitation. The measures for the fishing fleet financed by the FIGF must comply with the aims of multiannual guidance programmes (MGPs), which restrict the fishing effort of each Member State. In particular, aid for the construction of new fishing vessels is authorised only if the intermediate annual goals of the MGP, and subsequently, the final goals are respected.

CHAPTER 7:

INTERINSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE, DIALOGUE WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

7.1. INTERINSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

Implementation of the Community policies calls for constant dialogue between the various institutions of the Union. The structural policies are naturally no exception to this principle. Exchanges may take many forms, i.e. formal (e.g. meetings of Parliament or its committees, or ministerial meetings), informal (seminars or joint working parties), at political or technical level (interdepartmental or within the Structural Funds committees). Following on several Commission communications and documents, the main subjects tackled in 1997 related to the First Report on economic and social cohesion in the Union, the adoption of new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99, improvements to the administration and monitoring of the Funds under SEM 2000 and, naturally, the future of the Structural Funds in connection with the communication on "Agenda 2000". The role of the Funds in the promotion of the information society also received close attention, as did action in support of urban areas and spatial development planning at Community level.

7.1.1. DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Two new Commission communications on "Cohesion and the information society" and "Towards an urban agenda in the European Union" were presented, though the core of relations with Parliament concerned the future of the Structural Funds. The President and many MEPs took part in a forum on economic and social cohesion in April, the conclusions of which provided the inspiration for the chapter on cohesion in "Agenda 2000" (see section 1.1.2). That document, which describes the outlook for the European Union at the dawn of the next century, was made public by Mr Santer at Parliament's plenary session in July. The Members of the Commission concerned subsequently made statements before the relevant parliamentary committees on the sections concerning cohesion and structural development. A seminar was organised to enable MEPs to discuss priorities for the preparation of the new Structural Fund regulations with Commission representatives. A public hearing on cohesion and enlargement gave Mrs Wulf-Mathies the opportunity to introduce the new Pre-Accession Structural Instrument (PASI) and to stress the need to help the local, regional and national authorities in the applicant countries to prepare actively for accession.

Parliament's participation in the debate on the future of the Structural Funds was marked by the adoption of a resolution on the First Report on cohesion, adopted by the Commission in late 1996. The resolution expressed Parliament's support for stepping up the Union's efforts to achieve cohesion, reducing the number of Objectives, maintaining preferential treatment for Objective 1 areas, improving the coordination of the Community instruments and establishing a specific financial instrument for structural adjustment in the applicant countries.

Other resolutions were adopted on current assistance operations. Parliament noted the underutilisation of budget appropriations in some Member States (Italy and Belgium *inter alia*) and requested the Commission to propose a review of certain goals. Despite initial problems in Austria, Finland and Sweden, Parliament noted that the structural policy can be considered a success in those countries; it is in favour of operations in the more prosperous Member States, though citing specific problems that need to be solved. Own-initiative reports were adopted in the field of crossborder and interregional cooperation with a view to future accessions. One resolution supported incorporating provisions in favour of the most remote regions in the Treaty of Amsterdam.

With regard to the labour market and human resources, the Commission followed the work of Parliament's Committee on Social Affairs closely. The Committee prepared a resolution on the future of the ESF, which was adopted on 21 November 1997. In this connection, the Commission's representatives met the MEPs on several occasions to study the Commission's reports on the implementation of the ESF, the reports on economic and social cohesion and the Agenda 2000 proposals. Cooperation within the ESF/Parliament *ad hoc* working group continued to bear fruit in 1997. The working group looked into the utilisation of ESF resources and innovative operations and exchanged views on the reform of the Structural Funds.

In the field of agricultural structures and rural development, Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development exchanged views with the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture and rural development on three occasions in 1997, in January, on the conclusions of the Cork Conference on rural development in Europe (held in November 1996); in June, on the common agricultural policy, including rural development and its links with the cohesion policy; and lastly in September, on the Agenda 2000 proposals and more particularly the further reform of the CAP started in 1992 and the need for a comprehensive rural policy.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development also considered various reports concerning new entrants to farming and problems of succession in Community agriculture and improving the efficiency of agricultural structures. In addition, it issued opinions on the First Report on economic and social cohesion, the 7th Annual Report on the Structural Funds and the use of Structural Fund resources; the opinion recognises that the level of utilisation of EAGGF Guidance Section funds may be regarded as satisfactory.

With regard to fisheries, Parliament's Committee on Fisheries issued an opinion on three topics, the use of FIFG resources, the Union's new financial framework and the 7th Annual Report on the Structural Funds. In its opinion on the first topic, based on the 1995 annual report of the Court of Auditors and concerning the underutilisation of Structural Fund appropriations, the Committee concluded that failures in this area were obviously due to the fact that funding was not in line with requirements rather than on inappropriate use or underutilisation of resources.

7.1.2. OPINIONS OF THE STRUCTURAL FUND COMMITTEES

The Advisory Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions met five times in 1997. It was consulted on the new Objective 2 SPDs for 1997-99, on which it issued unanimously favourable opinions. The 7th Annual Report on the Structural Funds (1995) and the First Report on economic and social cohesion were presented. The Committee was also informed of the Commission's communication "Towards an urban agenda in the European Union" (see section 1.3.2). A significant proportion of the Committee's meetings in 1997 focused on consideration of draft Commission legislation presented under SEM 2000 (see sections 1.2.4 and 4.2). The Committee was accordingly consulted on the draft Commission Decision on the eligibility of expenditure under the Structural Funds, on which it issued a favourable opinion in February. The draft Regulation establishing detailed arrangements as regards the financial control by Member States of operations part-financed by the Structural Funds and the draft Internal Commission Guidelines on the application of net financial corrections in certain cases of irregularities were discussed on three successive occasions, in the wake in particular of requests for clarification from the Committee (on time limits for application, clarification of terminology and organisational adjustments in national and regional authorities). The Committee issued a favourable opinion on the draft Regulation at its last meeting of the year (29 September 1997).

The ESF Committee met four times in 1997. As provided for in the Coordination Regulation, the Committee issued opinions on the draft Commission Decisions on standard clauses for Objective 2 and on the Objective 2 SPDs for 1997-99. At those meetings, the Committee also considered recurrent topics like the implementation of measures under Article 6 of the ESF Regulation, various aspects of the information society, the financial situation of the ESF, the territorial pacts for employment, the Community Initiatives, the information and communication strategy and progress with evaluation. The Committee also considered the final report of the working group set up in 1996 on new sources of employment; this provided a worthwhile contribution to the debate on the future of the ESF.

A meeting on the future of the ESF also took place in Luxembourg in December 1997; it was devoted to a large extent to the implementation of Objective 4 and the presentation of specimen Objective 4 projects and the Community Adapt Initiative in the presence of the promoters; a debate took place on the link between the ESF and cohesion.

One important discussion on SEM 2000 focused on the eligibility of expenditure under the Structural Funds and the procedures for financial control and net financial corrections (see sections 1.2.4 and 4.2). The Commission kept the ESF Committee informed regularly of progress in discussions on the reform of the ESF.

The Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development (STAR Committee) met 11 times in 1997 and issued 150 favourable opinions; on three counts, consultation yielded no opinion. The opinions mainly related to the rules for financial controls to be conducted by the Member States (see sections 1.2.4 and 4.2), measures under Regulation (EC) No 950/97 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures, Regulation (EEC) No 2078/92 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside and Regulation (EC) No 951/97 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products. The Committee also exchanged views on various subjects, like additionality in the context of Objective 5(a), evaluation, Agenda 2000 and the classification of agri-environmental payments in agricultural accounts. Lastly, on 1 October it met jointly with the Advisory Committee on Questions of Agricultural Structure Policy to learn of the results of the pilot scheme for sustainable development plans in France.

The Standing Management Committee for Fisheries Structures met four times during the year and all structural measures relating to the sector were referred to it. It issued a unanimously favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision on the eligibility of expenditure under the Structural Funds and a favourable opinion on the Commission Regulation establishing detailed arrangements as regards financial control by Member States (see sections 1.2.4 and 4.2).

The Management Committee for Community Initiatives did not meet in 1997 as the opinion on the allocation of the reserve had been issued in 1996.

7.1.3. DIALOGUE WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Commission kept up contacts and dialogue with the Economic and Social Committee at all levels; all the opinions issued by the Committee were given careful consideration.

The Commission consulted the ESC on two annual reports, the Cohesion Fund report and the 7th Annual Report on the Structural Funds, as well as the First Report from the Commission on economic and social cohesion¹. On all occasions, the Committee stressed the importance it attached to the concentration of aid, additionality, the simplification and rationalisation of programming procedures, monitoring, controls and assessment of projects and in particular the participation of the economic and social partners in the establishment of priorities for implementing and monitoring projects. The importance the Committee attaches to the last point is shown by its own-initiative opinion on the role of the economic and social partners in the Interreg and Eures programmes.

The ESC also welcomed the Commission communication on "Cohesion and the Information Society"; in its remarks and recommendations, it stressed the need to bring the Union's measures into line with the technological, economic and social requirements of the various regions.

In response to a request from Mr Santer, the ESC adopted a report on the territorial pacts for employment. Its findings stress how important it is for the pacts to be incorporated into an overall strategy for employment by applying macroeconomic and employment policies on the one hand, and by harnessing the labour market and developing employment at regional and/or local level on the other.

The ESC also considered urban development policy and in particular sustainable development in building and housing in Europe. This sector forms an integral part of the modern administration of

¹ COM(96) 542 final of 6 November 1996.

cities and space. The Committee welcomed the Community measures relating to tourism, which it considers important from the economic viewpoint as well as in social and cultural terms.

At its plenary session of 20 November 1997, the ESC adopted an opinion on the agricultural aspects of Agenda 2000 (the report also deals with aspects of the Structural Funds and rural development policy).

7.1.4. DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

A relatively large number of opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions in 1997 relate directly or indirectly to structural development and more broadly to economic and social cohesion. The CoR organised its work under four major headings, economic and social cohesion, employment, spatial planning and Agenda 2000. Other work of the Committee covered the implementation of regional policies in Austria, Finland and Sweden, the Interreg II Initiative and the potential role of regional and local authorities, and two Commission communications on the contribution of culture and the information society to cohesion.

In its opinion of the First Report on economic and social cohesion, the CoR favoured consolidating the Structural Funds as an instrument of economic development and advocated greater concentration of budget resources under the priority Objectives. In the field of employment, the Committee shared the Commission's view of the importance of the Funds' structuring role in job creation and the safeguarding of lasting employment and welcomed the idea that active policies should be given priority over passive policies involving the payment of unemployment benefit. It asserted its intention to contribute fully to the launching of the territorial employment pacts and stressed the role of local and regional authorities in their implementation and the importance it attached to a genuine public/private partnership.

As the Member of the Commission responsible, Monika Wulf-Mathies had a thoroughgoing exchange of views with the CoR on the subject of spatial planning and urban policy in June 1997. She emphasised the importance of the draft European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), an approach that should make it possible, while abiding by the principle of subsidiarity, to make the regions more competitive and to strengthen economic and social cohesion. The Committee affirmed the regional authorities' determination to utilise interregional cooperation for harmonious regional development planning and implementation in Europe and requested to be involved in this work.

In November 1997 Mr Santer outlined the cardinal points of Agenda 2000 at a plenary meeting of the Committee. The other Members of the Commission described their own proposals in the field of regional and agricultural policy. The Committee's opinions supported those structural policy proposals which are capable of ensuring that enlargement will not be to the detriment of the less-favoured regions of the Union as currently constituted.

In the field of rural development, the CoR adopted several opinions. One, on "New economic activities and new services in rural areas", recommends developing and improving the quality of services, with special attention to the conditions of access to services and telecommunications networks in isolated areas. Another opinion on "Young farmers and the problem of succession in European agriculture" calls for more forceful proposals on the prospects for agricultural holdings, the possibilities of diversification, the introduction of an information policy (in particular on opportunities for setting up in farming) and training. A third Committee opinion on a policy for farming in mountain areas recommends that the agricultural, structural, regional, forestry, environment and other policies take account of the special features and natural handicaps of mountain areas so they can be preserved for the benefit of the population as a whole.

In addition, at the time of drafting of the various opinions, in particular on the First Report on economic and social cohesion and "Agenda 2000" and the policies proposed for 1999 onwards, the

Committee of the Regions was also asked to express its views on the proposals relating to the reform of the CAP and rural policy.

At its meeting of 16 January, the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture and rural development briefed the CoR on the conclusions of the Conference on rural development held in Cork in November 1996.

The Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion on "The common fisheries policy: safeguarding of fisheries-dependent regions", the aim being to clarify the main points in the first opinion issued in 1996 on the regional consequences of the CFP and to stress once more the need to develop a genuine partnership between the fishing industry, the Member States and the Commission.

7.2. DIALOGUE WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

Partnership in the implementation of the Structural Funds

Following on from activities in 1996 and the findings of the First Report on economic and social cohesion, the Commission's activities in the field of partnership followed three avenues, giving further consideration to improving and extending partnership, promoting new forms of partnership and stepping up certain partners' capacity to participate.

Alongside its consideration of and proposals for future regulations on the Structural Funds, in 1997 the Commission commenced a thematic evaluation of partnership (see section 3.2). Experience had revealed the variety of forms and organisation of partnership in the Member States, so the objective of the evaluation was to analyse the problems determining the effectiveness of partnership and developments therein. The evaluation will survey the repercussions of the administrative and organisational structure on regional development, analyse the types and structures of partnership and the way it works in the Member States, gauge its impact on the implementation of schemes and list good practices.

The promotion of new forms of partnership took shape in 1997 with the launching of the territorial pacts for employment (see section 1.2.3) and the implementation of a pilot project for the long-term unemployed.

Started by Parliament in 1995, the experimental scheme involving pilot measures for the benefit of the long-term unemployed (budget heading B2-605) was wound up in December 1997. With funding of ECU 15 million not stemming from the Structural Funds budget proper, the scheme sought to "evaluate the impact of measures for the exploitation of opportunities provided by new sources of employment for the long-term unemployed" (OJ C 199, 3.8.1995, p. 28). It constitutes the Commission's first attempt to investigate new sources of employment. In total 16 pilot measures were implemented in all the Member States except Luxembourg. The scheme's "experimental" nature called for a major effort in terms of innovation on the part of the public authorities and the private actors in charge of the pilot measures.

The results have been very positive: leaving aside the results in terms of activities and jobs created, which were slight when set against the original conditions laid down (innovative objectives, less-favoured regions and groups), the lessons drawn have been very tangible:

1. New service activities have worthwhile potential in terms of creating jobs. The cases of Hérault (F), Merseyside (UK), West Ireland and Cádiz (E) show that jobs can be created at a competitive cost where the authorities rely on a network of well-established actors at local level, in particular in the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sector.
2. Strategies directed towards self-employment have often been given priority; this calls for sustainable structures to provide back-up for project sponsors.

3. By targeting a public who is particularly distant from the "conventional" labour market, the jobs created tend to be devalued by the priority accorded to integration into work over the creation of new activities.

This pilot scheme will be the subject of a separate report to the budget authority.

Dialogue with the economic and social partners at Community level

The social partners are consulted each year at Community level in accordance with Article 31(2) of the Coordination Regulation. This enables the economic partners to be consulted on the implementation of the Funds and means the Commission can present the main developments in the past year. The January 1998 consultation relating to activities in 1997 mainly concerned the 8th Annual Report on the Structural Funds (1996), the implementation of the territorial pacts for employment, the new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99 and the future of the Structural Funds in the context of Agenda 2000.

The partners' remarks on the 8th Annual Report (1996) highlighted the time limits for payment to final beneficiaries in the Member States and the difficulties certain Member States and regions experienced in mobilising the national contribution to funding, red tape and the importance of evaluation for the economic and social partners, since it gave them the opportunity to comment with full knowledge of the facts.

As regards the new Objective 2 programmes, opinions were divided concerning the priority to be given to employment: some partners felt that assistance should be concentrated on aid which is adapted to enterprises; others stressed that the measures should focus on jobs in order to achieve quantifiable results. But all the partners emphasised the importance of creating sustainable, innovative, quality jobs.

The launching of the territorial pacts for employment aroused keen interest on the part of the economic and social partners. In the face of these expectations, the latter reported a great variety of experiments involving new forms of partnership. As regards employment, the partners emphasised that however positive such experiments were, they did not provide an alternative to the economic policies of the Community and the Member States.

The Commission's presentation of the future of the Structural Funds in the context of Agenda 2000 received a generally favourable reaction.

The Commission's objective in simplifying and clarifying the system for implementing the Structural Funds and increasing their effectiveness was also appreciated by the partners. Likewise, they encouraged the Commission to continue, according to its stated intention, to strengthen the principle of partnership by making it more binding, ensuring the economic and social partners took part when decisions were made on programmes and helping the partners by providing technical assistance and access to evaluation. For their part, the partners expressed differing opinions on the priorities for measures, with some advocating giving a higher profile to the priority for employment, in particular by stepping up measures in favour of human resources, and others taking the view that priority should be given to developing competitiveness as a prerequisite for developing employment, while the majority emphasised the need to invest in research and development and innovation.

As regards enhancing the capacity of the various partners to participate, the technical assistance granted to the European Trade Union Confederation under Article 7 of the ERDF started to be implemented in 1996. Action to strengthen the trade unions' technical capacity to take part in the monitoring of structural measures involved organising a series of seminars in regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 2 and another series on particular topics and establishing a network of regional development experts.

In the rural development field, the Advisory Committee on Questions of Agricultural Structure Policy met on three occasions, in April, July and October 1997. The Committee was briefed on the results of the Conference on rural development held in Cork (Ireland) in November 1996 and on the Commission's Agenda 2000 proposals regarding the Structural Funds and the CAP. The Committee also discussed the First Report on economic and social cohesion adopted in November 1996, the application of the socio-structural measures, employment in agriculture and multiple activities.

The Advisory Committee met jointly with the Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development (STAR Committee) on 1 October for the presentation of a pilot project, financed under Article 8 of the EAGGF Guidance Section Regulation, concerning the plan for sustainable development, an innovative experiment to develop a dynamic, environment-friendly agricultural sector which also takes social concerns on board.

The Committee's Working Group on Women met for the first time on 3 April to tackle the problems of female farmers, with stress on the precarious status of women working in the rural environment, the 4th programme for equal opportunities (1996-2000), the role of the Structural Funds and the application of the principle of equal opportunity in Community schemes, and possibilities of access to means of communication for women.

In the fisheries sector, the Advisory Committee on Fisheries is the official body responsible for dialogue with the industry. In 1997, it received information and explanations concerning Agenda 2000, the negotiation procedures for the multiannual guidance programme (MGP IV) and the link with the targets of MGP III.

7.3. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

Information and communication activities concerning the ERDF fall into several categories:

- Activities of the Member States: The Commission continued gathering information on information and publicity measures carried out by the Member States². This inventory should be completed in 1998, followed by a seminar involving an exchange of experience, at which the information activities for 2000-06 will be presented;
- Activities of the Commission: The Commission brought out a large number of publications, organised a major conference on economic and social cohesion, and part-financed participation in many events, the organisation of seminars and other one-off measures.

The provision of information was also developed through new technologies. The establishment of a new Internet site (infoeregio.org) represents an important innovation in the field of information on the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

Lastly, following the First Report on economic and social cohesion published by the Commission at the end of 1996, a forum was organised on cohesion in Brussels in April 1997 (see section 1.1.1).

Implementation of the policy for information and communication on the ESF continued in 1997. New publications were:

- "Employment and industrial change", a booklet setting out examples of projects in the Member States under Objective 4; in 1998, four publications of the same sort will come out on Objective 3;

² As specified in Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 4253/88 and the corresponding decision taken by the Commission on 31 May 1994.

- “Territorial employment pacts: Examples of good practice”, a booklet giving examples of employment pacts part-financed by the Structural Funds;
- three issues of the information magazine “ESF InfoReview”.

Events included the preparation of a portable display explaining pilot projects on the information society (RISI) and participation in or organisation of several events under the ESF on the integration of young people into working life (Stockholm, S), the vocational integration of the handicapped (Luxembourg), pathways to integration (Brugge, B), the Employment-Integra Community Initiative (Barcelona, E) and women starting their own businesses (Brussels, B). In addition, a large part of 1997 was devoted to the organisation of the first Community convention on the European Social Fund, which was held on 26, 27 and 28 May 1998.

In the second half of the year, the stress was put on awareness measures targeting the media and involving a list of “ESF media” (print media, radio and television stations) and one-off measures connected with events.

As regards the exchange of know-how between Member States, two meetings of those responsible at national level for information on the ESF took place in May and November 1997. Those attending stressed how valuable such meetings were as a venue for direct contact between the Member States and the Commission and exchanges of experience on successful information measures. The network thus created was kept up to date regularly through a bulletin of “information on information”, which came out three times in 1997. Two meetings of this informal network are scheduled for 1998.

The Commission stepped up its work **in the field of rural development policy** by devising a strategy to publicise its operations. To that end, it called on a service company, which is to start work in 1998. Hitherto, vital information has been circulated through the European rural development network. The Commission gave the task of organising the latter to the European Association for Information on Local Development. Publications are an important part of its tasks. The Association publishes “Info Leader” (a bulletin of the network coming out ten times a year in seven languages), “Leader Magazine” (three issues in 1997, publicising the results of Leader and covering the main debates on rural development in Europe); and “Innovative Directories” (methodology guides and other technical dossiers). In 1997, titles published were “The collective organisation of a sector for the local valorisation of agricultural resources: the example of cheese processing”; “Organising local partnerships”; “Innovation and rural development”, “Transnational cooperation”, plus a map of Leader areas for the European Leader seminar organised by the Association in conjunction with the Commission on 9, 10 and 11 November 1997. Most of the information is also available on the Commission’s Internet site, linked to the site “Rural Europe”, which is in six languages and permits exchanges between rural actors and participation in forums.

In the fisheries sector, several schemes targeted the industry and the general public. These included the following:

- With FIGG technical assistance, a major information campaign on fish, targeting consumers in all countries of the Union. The campaign sought in particular to promote inexpensive species which are not overfished and have a high nutritional value. The campaign included special measures aimed at young people, who are not large consumers of fish.
- An (annual) conference on a particular topic, this time covering the processing of fishery and aquaculture products. The conference was attended by approximately 350 people from the trade; the first lessons drawn from this extensive survey of the sector concerned the preservation of an environment favourable to the development of processing of fishery and aquaculture products and competitiveness in an international context in constant flux.

- In connection with the transnational measures under the Pesca Community Initiative:
 - a monthly information bulletin entitled "Pesca Info" distributed to 5 000 subscribers; to date 12 issues have been published in all the Community languages;
 - three interregional meetings - one in Spain (Palma de Mallorca) on disseminating and exploiting the results of fisheries research in the Mediterranean, one in France (Lorient) on the processing of fish, and one in Italy (Sciaccia) on the restructuring of fishing fleets in the Mediterranean.
- Lastly, the commitment in 1997 of ECU 400 000 as the FIGG contribution to the European Union's pavilion at Expo '98 in Lisbon on the theme "The oceans, a heritage for the future". This is an international exhibition for the general public. Around one million people are expected to visit the pavilion.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective
- Annex 2: Financial implementation 1994-97 of the Community Initiatives
- Annex 3: Financial implementation 1994-97 of transitional and innovative measures
- Annex 4: Pilot projects and innovative actions under the ERDF, ESF and EAGGF
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- Annex 7: Programme implementation by Member State (Objectives and Community Initiatives) for 1997 under the 1994-99 programme

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 1 - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	81,68	38,30	-	-	119,99
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	223,86	103,45	22,00	0,37	349,68
	Payments 1997	54,01	42,02	-	-	96,03
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	167,76	90,05	9,58	0,19	267,57
	% (2)/(1)	75%	87%	44%	50%	77%
D	Commitments 1997	1.417,07	638,65	457,46	1,09	2.514,27
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	4.159,39	2.414,63	1.825,71	47,59	8.447,32
	Payments 1997	967,13	796,88	413,43	12,73	2.190,17
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	3.207,59	2.108,07	1.399,51	39,47	6.754,64
	% (2)/(1)	77%	87%	77%	83%	80%
EL	Commitments 1997	1.707,07	291,96	339,05	29,72	2.367,79
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	6.015,63	1.093,40	1.354,17	66,82	8.530,02
	Payments 1997	1.091,15	261,40	307,79	31,74	1.692,08
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	4.182,03	793,36	1.098,81	55,63	6.129,82
	% (2)/(1)	70%	73%	81%	83%	72%
E	Commitments 1997	2.703,90	1.037,97	777,41	183,06	4.702,34
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	10.827,81	3.864,39	2.296,55	645,84	17.634,60
	Payments 1997	2.670,00	845,26	484,59	193,69	4.193,54
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	8.051,87	3.242,37	1.733,64	532,38	13.560,26
	% (2)/(1)	74%	84%	75%	82%	77%
F	Commitments 1997	97,18	31,33	41,45	3,35	173,31
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	466,69	299,60	191,98	9,66	967,92
	Payments 1997	157,62	53,85	70,20	1,69	283,36
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	378,94	262,44	167,69	5,15	814,22
	% (2)/(1)	81%	88%	87%	53%	84%
IRL	Commitments 1997	110,59	326,74	272,42	11,84	721,59
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	1.451,05	1.267,25	865,05	29,25	3.612,59
	Payments 1997	396,76	338,70	144,21	12,78	892,44
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1.301,30	1.184,47	679,90	26,71	3.192,37
	% (2)/(1)	90%	93%	79%	91%	88%
I	Commitments 1997	1.974,28	1.141,36	396,27	31,41	3.543,32
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	5.632,63	1.775,18	1.101,06	97,95	8.606,82
	Payments 1997	823,93	414,75	330,85	21,75	1.591,29
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	3.555,64	737,36	722,91	56,97	5.072,88
	% (2)/(1)	63%	42%	66%	58%	59%
NL	Commitments 1997	10,40	0,47	4,72	0,08	15,68
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	34,70	8,67	11,42	2,88	57,68
	Payments 1997	11,09	3,61	4,12	0,85	19,68
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	30,53	8,67	9,51	2,43	51,15
	% (2)/(1)	88%	100%	83%	84%	89%
A	Commitments 1997	39,42	5,23	5,35	-	50,00
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	59,38	10,27	14,11	-	83,76
	Payments 1997	18,87	4,82	5,04	-	28,73
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	34,84	8,85	12,05	-	55,74
	% (2)/(1)	59%	86%	85%	-	67%
P	Commitments 1997	1.622,21	408,05	283,11	39,84	2.353,21
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	6.380,86	1.941,44	1.436,28	112,00	9.870,57
	Payments 1997	1.547,16	364,71	313,18	28,77	2.253,82
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	5.277,54	1.539,61	1.048,30	86,99	7.952,44
	% (2)/(1)	83%	79%	73%	78%	81%
UK	Commitments 1997	306,10	138,69	-	7,82	452,62
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	854,55	460,27	151,15	24,86	1.490,82
	Payments 1997	175,07	92,75	24,48	9,05	301,36
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	621,95	351,59	125,81	17,87	1.117,22
	% (2)/(1)	73%	76%	83%	72%	75%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	10.069,90	4.058,77	2.577,23	308,22	17.014,11
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	36.106,55	13.238,55	9.269,47	1.037,21	59.651,78
	Payments 1997	7.912,80	3.218,75	2.097,90	313,06	13.542,51
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	26.809,99	10.326,83	7.007,70	823,80	44.968,31
	% (2)/(1)	74%	78%	76%	79%	75%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget headings B2-1000, B2-1100, B2-1200, B2-1300, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*

OBJECTIVE 2 - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	74,01	11,42	-	-	85,42
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	184,63	41,40	-	-	226,03
	Payments 1997	88,17	14,19	-	-	102,37
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	122,59	29,79	-	-	152,37
	% (2)/(1)	66%	72%	-	-	67%
DK	Commitments 1997	23,23	9,85	-	-	33,08
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	67,77	18,38	-	-	86,15
	Payments 1997	30,81	8,94	-	-	39,75
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	50,68	12,73	-	-	63,41
	% (2)/(1)	75%	69%	-	-	74%
D	Commitments 1997	250,66	140,29	-	-	390,95
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	733,55	323,32	-	-	1.056,87
	Payments 1997	275,18	105,31	-	-	380,49
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	506,01	214,16	-	-	720,17
	% (2)/(1)	69%	66%	-	-	68%
E	Commitments 1997	254,15	-27,04	-	-	227,12
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	1.044,57	218,93	-	-	1.263,51
	Payments 1997	231,96	2,78	-	-	234,74
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	674,20	167,75	-	-	841,95
	% (2)/(1)	85%	77%	-	-	67%
F	Commitments 1997	621,36	138,79	-	-	760,15
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	1.960,81	359,50	-	-	2.320,31
	Payments 1997	748,14	101,69	-	-	849,83
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1.419,95	265,34	-	-	1.685,29
	% (2)/(1)	72%	74%	-	-	73%
I	Commitments 1997	332,42	89,87	-	-	422,28
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	748,83	187,42	-	-	936,26
	Payments 1997	247,66	32,03	-	-	279,70
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	436,64	88,11	-	-	524,75
	% (2)/(1)	58%	47%	-	-	56%
L	Commitments 1997	8,01	1,63	-	-	9,64
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	12,57	3,09	-	-	15,66
	Payments 1997	4,00	0,91	-	-	4,92
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	7,02	2,18	-	-	9,20
	% (2)/(1)	56%	70%	-	-	59%
NL	Commitments 1997	94,03	63,45	-	-	157,48
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	238,00	123,64	-	-	361,63
	Payments 1997	103,84	42,35	-	-	146,19
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	158,32	79,67	-	-	237,99
	% (2)/(1)	67%	64%	-	-	66%
A	Commitments 1997	7,76	3,84	-	-	11,61
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	54,30	22,86	-	-	77,15
	Payments 1997	17,44	6,73	-	-	24,17
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	38,71	18,47	-	-	57,19
	% (2)/(1)	71%	81%	-	-	74%
FIN	Commitments 1997	40,77	16,09	-	-	56,87
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	86,89	22,39	-	-	109,28
	Payments 1997	32,60	10,87	-	-	43,47
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	59,23	14,02	-	-	73,25
	% (2)/(1)	68%	63%	-	-	67%
S	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	83,22	22,56	-	-	105,78
	Payments 1997	25,50	-	-	-	25,50
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	52,28	11,28	-	-	63,56
	% (2)/(1)	63%	50%	-	-	60%
UK	Commitments 1997	490,70	153,06	-	-	643,76
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	2.016,25	688,18	-	-	2.704,43
	Payments 1997	760,96	160,40	-	-	921,36
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1.471,99	539,71	-	-	2.011,70
	% (2)/(1)	73%	78%	-	-	74%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	2.197,10	601,26	-	-	2.798,35
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	7.231,40	2.031,66	-	-	9.263,06
	Payments 1997	2.566,26	486,22	-	-	3.052,48
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	4.997,62	1.443,21	-	-	6.440,83
	% (2)/(1)	69%	71%	-	-	70%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget headings B2-1201, B2-1301, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 3 - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	-	69,96	-	-	69,96
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	262,52	-	-	262,52
	Payments 1997	-	61,61	-	-	61,61
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	218,04	-	-	218,04
	% (2)/(1)	-	83%	-	-	83%
DK	Commitments 1997	-	42,22	-	-	42,22
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	169,22	-	-	169,22
	Payments 1997	-	39,60	-	-	39,60
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	154,79	-	-	154,79
	% (2)/(1)	-	91%	-	-	91%
D	Commitments 1997	-	128,68	-	-	128,68
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	949,08	-	-	949,08
	Payments 1997	-	295,79	-	-	295,79
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	817,56	-	-	817,56
	% (2)/(1)	-	86%	-	-	86%
E	Commitments 1997	-	251,42	-	-	251,42
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	917,93	-	-	917,93
	Payments 1997	-	208,35	-	-	208,35
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	725,01	-	-	725,01
	% (2)/(1)	-	79%	-	-	79%
F	Commitments 1997	-	221,02	-	-	221,02
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	1.421,01	-	-	1.421,01
	Payments 1997	-	274,77	-	-	274,77
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	1.181,33	-	-	1.181,33
	% (2)/(1)	-	83%	-	-	83%
I	Commitments 1997	-	472,23	-	-	472,23
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	822,57	-	-	822,57
	Payments 1997	-	160,96	-	-	160,96
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	363,64	-	-	363,64
	% (2)/(1)	-	44%	-	-	44%
L	Commitments 1997	-	3,31	-	-	3,31
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	13,17	-	-	13,17
	Payments 1997	-	3,73	-	-	3,73
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	12,68	-	-	12,68
	% (2)/(1)	-	96%	-	-	96%
NL	Commitments 1997	-	159,41	-	-	159,41
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	593,91	-	-	593,91
	Payments 1997	-	141,99	-	-	141,99
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	519,92	-	-	519,92
	% (2)/(1)	-	88%	-	-	88%
A	Commitments 1997	-	135,60	-	-	135,60
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	265,35	-	-	265,35
	Payments 1997	-	95,39	-	-	95,39
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	199,19	-	-	199,19
	% (2)/(1)	-	75%	-	-	75%
FIN	Commitments 1997	-	71,90	-	-	71,90
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	167,22	-	-	167,22
	Payments 1997	-	53,03	-	-	53,03
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	104,29	-	-	104,29
	% (2)/(1)	-	62%	-	-	62%
S	Commitments 1997	-	92,58	-	-	92,58
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	165,58	-	-	165,58
	Payments 1997	-	68,55	-	-	68,55
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	105,05	-	-	105,05
	% (2)/(1)	-	63%	-	-	63%
UK	Commitments 1997	-	551,23	-	-	551,23
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	2.603,03	-	-	2.603,03
	Payments 1997	-	288,56	-	-	288,56
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	1.688,82	-	-	1.688,82
	% (2)/(1)	-	65%	-	-	65%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	-	2.199,57	-	-	2.199,57
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	8.350,60	-	-	8.350,60
	Payments 1997	-	1.692,32	-	-	1.692,32
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	6.090,30	-	-	6.090,30
	% (2)/(1)	-	73%	-	-	73%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget heading B2-1302, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 4 - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIGG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	-	18,94	-	-	18,94
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	35,32	-	-	35,32
	Payments 1997	-	9,43	-	-	9,43
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	17,66	-	-	17,66
	% (2)/(1)	-	50%	-	-	50%
DK	Commitments 1997	-	7,43	-	-	7,43
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	20,43	-	-	20,43
	Payments 1997	-	4,99	-	-	4,99
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	15,66	-	-	15,66
	% (2)/(1)	-	77%	-	-	77%
D	Commitments 1997	-	33,56	-	-	33,56
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	89,78	-	-	89,78
	Payments 1997	-	33,09	-	-	33,09
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	56,59	-	-	56,59
	% (2)/(1)	-	63%	-	-	63%
E	Commitments 1997	-	47,04	-	-	47,04
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	214,69	-	-	214,69
	Payments 1997	-	81,26	-	-	81,26
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	157,11	-	-	157,11
	% (2)/(1)	-	73%	-	-	73%
F	Commitments 1997	-	98,02	-	-	98,02
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	285,09	-	-	285,09
	Payments 1997	-	83,14	-	-	83,14
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	180,45	-	-	180,45
	% (2)/(1)	-	63%	-	-	63%
I	Commitments 1997	-	164,37	-	-	164,37
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	263,27	-	-	263,27
	Payments 1997	-	85,67	-	-	85,67
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	135,12	-	-	135,12
	% (2)/(1)	-	51%	-	-	51%
L	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	0,90	-	-	0,90
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	0,59	-	-	0,59
	% (2)/(1)	-	66%	-	-	66%
NL	Commitments 1997	-	64,72	-	-	64,72
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	86,95	-	-	86,95
	Payments 1997	-	52,07	-	-	52,07
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	63,19	-	-	63,19
	% (2)/(1)	-	73%	-	-	73%
A	Commitments 1997	-	20,91	-	-	20,91
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	32,61	-	-	32,61
	Payments 1997	-	10,49	-	-	10,49
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	19,85	-	-	19,85
	% (2)/(1)	-	61%	-	-	61%
FIN	Commitments 1997	-	21,92	-	-	21,92
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	45,52	-	-	45,52
	Payments 1997	-	15,09	-	-	15,09
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	28,00	-	-	28,00
	% (2)/(1)	-	62%	-	-	62%
S	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	37,50	-	-	37,50
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	18,75	-	-	18,75
	% (2)/(1)	-	50%	-	-	50%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	-	476,92	-	-	476,92
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	1.112,05	-	-	1.112,05
	Payments 1997	-	375,23	-	-	375,23
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	692,99	-	-	692,99
	% (2)/(1)	-	62%	-	-	62%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget heading B2-1303, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 5(a) agriculture - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	-	-	25,60	-	25,60
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	105,43	-	105,43
	Payments 1997	-	-	20,89	-	20,89
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	79,99	-	79,99
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	76%	-	76%
DK	Commitments 1997	-	-	17,02	-	17,02
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	77,77	-	77,77
	Payments 1997	-	-	20,58	-	20,58
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	61,84	-	61,84
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	80%	-	80%
D	Commitments 1997	-	-	168,23	-	168,23
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	682,79	-	682,79
	Payments 1997	-	-	146,05	-	146,05
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	533,21	-	533,21
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	78%	-	78%
E	Commitments 1997	-	-	72,53	-	72,53
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	174,94	-	174,94
	Payments 1997	-	-	67,79	-	67,79
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	152,34	-	152,34
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	87%	-	87%
F	Commitments 1997	-	-	385,02	-	385,02
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	1.124,41	-	1.124,41
	Payments 1997	-	-	368,11	-	368,11
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	817,97	-	817,97
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	73%	-	73%
I	Commitments 1997	-	-	122,95	-	122,95
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	372,11	-	372,11
	Payments 1997	-	-	139,66	-	139,66
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	239,46	-	239,46
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	64%	-	64%
L	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	16,53	-	16,53
	Payments 1997	-	-	4,60	-	4,60
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	15,18	-	15,18
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	92%	-	92%
NL	Commitments 1997	-	-	5,02	-	5,02
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	39,34	-	39,34
	Payments 1997	-	-	2,35	-	2,35
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	20,98	-	20,98
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	53%	-	53%
A	Commitments 1997	-	-	70,10	-	70,10
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	207,55	-	207,55
	Payments 1997	-	-	81,23	-	81,23
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	189,11	-	189,11
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	91%	-	91%
FIN	Commitments 1997	-	-	67,14	-	67,14
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	181,88	-	181,88
	Payments 1997	-	-	109,35	-	109,35
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	166,65	-	166,65
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	92%	-	92%
S	Commitments 1997	-	-	13,82	-	13,82
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	54,04	-	54,04
	Payments 1997	-	-	14,00	-	14,00
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	48,73	-	48,73
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	90%	-	90%
UK	Commitments 1997	-	-	26,16	-	26,16
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	126,56	-	126,56
	Payments 1997	-	-	21,44	-	21,44
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	97,18	-	97,18
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	77%	-	77%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	-	-	973,59	-	973,59
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	3.163,35	-	3.163,35
	Payments 1997	-	-	996,04	-	996,04
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	2.422,64	-	2.422,64
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	77%	-	77%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget headings B2-1001, B2-1002, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 5(a) fisheries - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	24,50	24,50
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	19,83	19,83
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	81%	81%
DK	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	69,87	69,87
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	27,94	27,94
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	58,23	58,23
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	83%	83%
D	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	0,12	0,12
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	37,76	37,76
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	8,85	8,85
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	28,87	28,87
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	76%	76%
E	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	22,28	22,28
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	82,00	82,00
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	23,16	23,16
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	65,86	65,86
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	80%	80%
F	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	31,61	31,61
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	94,88	94,88
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	25,29	25,29
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	66,42	66,42
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	70%	70%
I	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	2,75	2,75
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	47,52	47,52
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	2,47	2,47
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	25,60	25,60
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	54%	54%
L	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	1,10	1,10
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	0,11	0,11
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	10%	10%
NL	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	15,52	15,52
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	12,66	12,66
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	82%	82%
A	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	2,00	2,00
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	1,00	1,00
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	50%	50%
FIN	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	23,00	23,00
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	11,50	11,50
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	18,40	18,40
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	80%	80%
S	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	0,21	0,21
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	40,21	40,21
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	20,00	20,00
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	32,00	32,00
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	80%	80%
UK	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	-	-
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	44,33	44,33
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	20,39	20,39
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	40,49	40,49
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	91%	91%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	-	-	-	56,97	56,97
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	-	-	482,69	482,69
	Payments 1997	-	-	-	139,60	139,60
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	-	-	369,47	369,47
	% (2)/(1)	-	-	-	77%	77%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget heading B2-1101 except for measures under Article 4 of the FIFG Regulation, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
Objectif 5(b) - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIGG	Total
B	Commitments 1997	6,84	1,48	0,54	-	8,87
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	11,67	5,74	7,49	-	24,90
	Payments 1997	4,28	0,90	1,54	-	6,72
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	6,69	3,74	4,34	-	14,77
	% (2)/(1)	57%	65%	58%	-	59%
DK	Commitments 1997	9,25	1,42	-	-	10,67
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	15,18	2,70	6,30	-	24,18
	Payments 1997	9,75	0,95	4,00	-	14,71
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	13,49	1,73	5,29	-	20,51
	% (2)/(1)	89%	64%	84%	-	85%
D	Commitments 1997	113,30	64,70	91,80	-	269,81
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	284,99	107,55	326,72	-	719,26
	Payments 1997	51,25	50,56	82,52	-	184,32
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	190,77	77,46	262,86	-	531,10
	% (2)/(1)	67%	72%	80%	-	74%
E	Commitments 1997	24,96	12,81	53,54	-	91,31
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	106,94	35,38	283,38	-	425,70
	Payments 1997	26,22	9,48	52,61	-	88,31
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	95,43	22,93	212,80	-	331,15
	% (2)/(1)	89%	65%	75%	-	78%
F	Commitments 1997	234,59	38,00	188,48	-	461,06
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	518,86	131,12	520,17	-	1.170,15
	Payments 1997	179,70	36,39	146,00	-	362,10
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	381,15	109,09	380,00	-	870,24
	% (2)/(1)	73%	83%	73%	-	74%
I	Commitments 1997	62,89	21,63	37,53	-	122,04
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	106,75	36,40	119,48	-	262,63
	Payments 1997	34,24	9,62	29,21	-	73,08
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	56,17	17,07	63,19	-	136,43
	% (2)/(1)	53%	47%	53%	-	52%
L	Commitments 1997	0,55	0,13	1,03	-	1,70
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	0,98	0,24	1,33	-	2,55
	Payments 1997	0,47	0,18	0,85	-	1,50
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	0,69	0,24	1,00	-	1,92
	% (2)/(1)	70%	100%	75%	-	76%
NL	Commitments 1997	16,86	0,45	3,82	-	21,12
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	32,97	2,91	26,40	-	62,28
	Payments 1997	9,38	0,64	9,26	-	19,28
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	21,81	2,13	20,59	-	44,54
	% (2)/(1)	66%	73%	78%	-	72%
A	Commitments 1997	34,43	7,10	8,16	-	49,70
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	76,10	34,63	68,92	-	179,65
	Payments 1997	32,31	4,80	21,55	-	58,66
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	60,15	24,61	52,40	-	137,16
	% (2)/(1)	79%	71%	76%	-	76%
FIN	Commitments 1997	18,96	7,26	10,64	-	36,86
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	50,15	13,56	22,24	-	85,94
	Payments 1997	15,10	4,46	11,18	-	30,74
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	27,35	7,13	19,87	-	54,35
	% (2)/(1)	55%	53%	89%	-	63%
S	Commitments 1997	4,61	-	-	-	4,61
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	38,70	12,83	17,99	-	69,52
	Payments 1997	17,37	-	-	-	17,37
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	29,08	4,59	6,34	-	40,01
	% (2)/(1)	75%	36%	35%	-	58%
UK	Commitments 1997	131,33	13,37	9,65	-	154,34
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	261,86	67,80	28,51	-	357,97
	Payments 1997	87,24	13,86	8,88	-	109,98
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	178,07	52,28	20,52	-	250,87
	% (2)/(1)	68%	77%	72%	-	70%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	658,57	188,35	405,19	-	1.232,11
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	1.505,15	450,66	1.428,93	-	3.384,74
	Payments 1997	467,31	131,85	367,62	-	966,78
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1.060,86	323,00	1.049,20	-	2.433,06
	% (2)/(1)	70%	72%	73%	-	72%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget headings B2-1003, B2-1202, B2-1304, programming period 1994-99

Annex 1: Financial implementation 1994-97 by Objective*
OBJECTIVE 6 - CSF

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
FIN	Commitments 1997	33,20	28,82	51,30	0,80	114,12
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	86,10	63,40	121,30	1,50	272,30
	Payments 1997	28,88	20,52	30,92	0,78	81,09
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	46,80	38,83	76,96	1,13	163,71
	% (2)/(1)	54%	61%	63%	75%	60%
S	Commitments 1997	22,93	-	-	0,77	23,70
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	44,79	11,39	22,41	1,50	80,09
	Payments 1997	24,90	-	3,44	0,22	28,56
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	35,83	5,70	17,93	0,58	60,04
	% (2)/(1)	80%	50%	80%	39%	75%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	56,13	28,82	51,30	1,57	137,82
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	130,89	74,79	143,71	3,00	352,39
	Payments 1997	53,78	20,52	34,36	1,00	109,65
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	82,63	44,52	94,88	1,72	223,75
	% (2)/(1)	63%	60%	66%	57%	63%

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Budget headings B2-1004, B2-1102, B2-1203, B2-1305, programming period 1994-99

Annex 2: Financial implementation 1994-97* of the Community Initiatives**

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
Adapt	Commitments 1997	-	125,43	-	-	125,43
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	10,04	645,48	-	-	655,52
	Payments 1997	-	147,93	-	-	147,93
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	5,02	382,50	-	-	387,52
	% (2)/(1)	50%	59%	-	-	59%
Employment	Commitments 1997	0,04	281,23	-	-	281,27
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	9,63	843,65	-	-	853,28
	Payments 1997	0,51	246,14	-	-	246,65
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	5,10	566,13	-	-	571,23
	% (2)/(1)	53%	67%	-	-	67%
Leader	Commitments 1997	81,92	10,51	65,42	-	157,85
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	408,67	84,91	384,68	-	878,27
	Payments 1997	56,62	3,62	43,87	-	104,11
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	170,28	31,86	168,28	-	370,43
	% (2)/(1)	42%	38%	44%	-	42%
Pesca	Commitments 1997	3,28	13,65	-	3,63	20,56
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	88,88	23,55	-	96,10	208,52
	Payments 1997	28,60	4,15	-	1,16	33,91
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	33,10	7,48	-	31,12	71,71
	% (2)/(1)	37%	32%	-	32%	34%
SMEs	Commitments 1997	122,89	10,45	-	-	133,34
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	479,86	38,92	-	-	518,78
	Payments 1997	120,15	3,49	-	-	123,65
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	264,29	15,78	-	-	280,07
	% (2)/(1)	55%	41%	-	-	54%
Rechar	Commitments 1997	89,07	24,26	-	-	113,33
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	342,35	63,43	-	-	405,78
	Payments 1997	55,32	20,13	-	-	75,44
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	172,96	39,71	-	-	212,67
	% (2)/(1)	51%	63%	-	-	52%
Regis	Commitments 1997	77,37	8,69	4,60	-	90,65
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	264,46	20,57	21,60	0,80	307,43
	Payments 1997	47,87	6,81	1,11	-	55,79
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	193,02	11,91	8,13	0,30	213,37
	% (2)/(1)	73%	58%	38%	38%	69%
Konver	Commitments 1997	175,10	16,33	-	-	191,43
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	493,57	69,08	-	-	562,65
	Payments 1997	58,73	9,96	-	-	68,69
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	214,76	36,34	-	-	251,10
	% (2)/(1)	44%	53%	-	-	45%
Resider	Commitments 1997	94,98	10,12	-	-	105,10
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	376,04	40,53	-	-	416,57
	Payments 1997	52,67	9,43	-	-	62,11
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	196,04	23,96	-	-	220,00
	% (2)/(1)	52%	59%	-	-	53%
Retex	Commitments 1997	84,03	1,74	-	-	85,78
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	389,62	15,71	-	-	405,33
	Payments 1997	55,73	1,06	-	-	56,79
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	192,06	8,05	-	-	200,11
	% (2)/(1)	49%	51%	-	-	49%
Urban	Commitments 1997	88,89	29,21	-	-	118,10
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	409,96	80,51	-	-	490,47
	Payments 1997	61,70	13,94	-	-	75,64
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	205,00	36,89	-	-	241,88
	% (2)/(1)	50%	46%	-	-	49%
Interreg/Peace	Commitments 1997	409,58	66,45	30,59	0,53	507,15
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	1.699,90	155,00	84,03	1,12	1.940,05
	Payments 1997	361,62	50,28	26,55	0,26	438,71
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1.005,64	89,36	49,77	0,56	1.145,32
	% (2)/(1)	59%	58%	59%	50%	59%
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	1.227,15	598,08	100,60	4,16	1.929,98
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	4.972,99	2.081,34	490,32	98,02	7.642,66
	Payments 1997	899,53	516,95	71,53	1,42	1.489,42
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	2.657,28	1.249,95	226,18	31,99	4.165,40
	% (2)/(1)	53%	60%	46%	33%	55%

Including decommissions, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Programming period 1994-99

** Budget headings B2-1400, B2-1410, B2-1412, B2-1420, B2-1421, B2-1422, B2-1423, B2-1424, B2-1430, B2-1431, B2-1432, B2-1433, B2-1440, B2-1450, B2-1460, B2-1470

Annex 3: Financial implementation 1994-97* of transitional and innovative measures**

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIGF	Total
B	Commitments 1997	2,79	17,35	3,43	0,31	23,88
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	2,79	89,86	7,11	1,16	100,93
	Payments 1997	1,65	19,90	1,06	0,25	22,86
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	8,30	90,32	3,20	0,73	102,55
DK	Commitments 1997	2,66	3,05	0,20	1,66	7,57
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	2,86	9,35	0,20	6,08	18,49
	Payments 1997	1,16	1,66	-	1,20	4,02
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	4,46	5,77	0,21	2,75	13,19
D	Commitments 1997	9,63	3,01	0,01	0,96	13,61
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	12,22	14,51	2,13	2,70	31,55
	Payments 1997	7,19	2,40	0,20	0,40	10,19
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	37,33	10,66	1,70	1,18	50,87
EL	Commitments 1997	7,38	0,80	-	2,07	10,25
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	9,49	30,94	0,56	5,71	46,70
	Payments 1997	3,41	0,81	-	0,72	4,94
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	11,00	19,58	6,48	3,42	40,49
E	Commitments 1997	13,13	4,47	-0,46	3,91	21,05
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	70,37	10,85	7,63	14,66	103,51
	Payments 1997	5,16	1,81	3,31	3,17	13,45
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	55,61	14,16	12,74	9,04	91,55
F	Commitments 1997	11,46	11,05	0,41	1,55	24,46
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	11,51	17,15	10,39	5,77	44,82
	Payments 1997	4,91	6,14	1,55	1,09	13,68
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	37,70	17,90	25,13	4,33	85,07
IRL	Commitments 1997	5,18	4,09	-	3,43	12,70
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	26,56	11,64	1,65	4,30	44,15
	Payments 1997	3,42	3,12	-	0,12	6,66
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	25,95	11,14	5,23	0,89	43,21
I	Commitments 1997	10,04	4,01	0,28	2,81	17,13
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	11,24	19,13	30,10	6,15	66,62
	Payments 1997	10,52	2,72	0,86	1,19	15,29
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	43,66	23,83	61,07	5,08	133,64
L	Commitments 1997	-	0,62	-	-	0,62
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	-	2,25	-	-	2,25
	Payments 1997	-	0,26	-	-	0,26
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	-	1,41	0,00	-	1,41
NL	Commitments 1997	3,95	0,48	-	0,51	4,94
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	3,95	4,18	0,27	4,20	12,60
	Payments 1997	1,71	0,62	0,11	0,89	3,33
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	12,35	3,05	0,55	2,88	18,82
A	Commitments 1997	2,24	0,54	0,20	-	2,98
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	2,49	1,55	0,33	-	4,37
	Payments 1997	0,96	0,29	-	-	1,25
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	0,96	0,87	0,06	-	1,89
P	Commitments 1997	3,31	0,68	-1,33	0,57	3,23
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	62,07	9,92	6,45	5,88	84,11
	Payments 1997	2,39	0,43	0,04	0,93	3,79
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	64,55	7,02	7,62	3,65	82,84
FIN	Commitments 1997	3,10	1,30	0,20	-	4,60
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	3,35	2,58	0,81	0,59	7,33
	Payments 1997	1,34	0,55	0,24	0,24	2,38
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1,34	1,16	0,25	0,24	2,99
S	Commitments 1997	2,38	2,77	0,57	0,34	6,06
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	2,63	5,19	0,58	1,51	9,90
	Payments 1997	1,15	1,30	-	0,21	2,66
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	1,15	2,42	0,02	0,35	3,93
UK	Commitments 1997	6,44	3,13	0,01	1,86	11,45
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	9,95	9,55	0,71	12,13	32,33
	Payments 1997	5,57	1,27	0,12	2,70	9,66
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	12,10	10,89	3,00	6,88	32,87

Including decommitments, carryovers and appropriations made available again

* Payments do not necessarily refer to commitments in the same period

** Budget headings B2-1800, B2-1810, B2-1820, B2-1830

		ECU million				
		ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total
COMMUNITY	Commitments 1997	85,52	0,25	0,26	0,69	86,72
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	191,19	0,42	0,45	0,84	192,91
	Payments 1997	56,80	0,91	-	-	57,70
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	164,49	3,88	-	0,00	168,37
TOTAL	Commitments 1997	169,21	57,61	3,79	20,66	251,26
	Commitments 1994-97 (1)	422,67	239,07	69,35	71,47	802,56
	Payments 1997	107,33	44,18	7,49	13,10	172,10
	Payments 1994-97 (2)	480,95	224,06	127,27	41,43	873,70

**Annex 4: Pilot projects and innovative actions under the ERDF, ESF
and EAGGF**

**European Community Business and Innovation Centres and
territorial pacts for employment adopted in 1997 under Article 7 of
the ERDF Regulation**

		ECU million	
		Total cost	ERDF contrib.
European Community Business and Innovation Centres			
DK	North Julland	1,329	0,532
D	Schmalkalden	1,017	0,421
E	Bahía de Cádiz	0,632	0,316
	Ciudad Real	0,793	0,397
F	Auch	0,623	0,249
	Caen	1,152	0,445
	Pau	0,826	0,314
	Cornouaille	0,811	0,316
I	Busto Arsizio	0,791	0,317
	Catanzaro	0,773	0,387
	Salerno	0,773	0,387
	Trento	0,734	0,294
	Aosta	0,636	0,254
	Legnano	0,753	0,301
A	Eisenstadt	1,144	0,572
FIN	North Karelia	1,009	0,504
	South Karelia	1,198	0,482
	Vaasa	0,930	0,372
S	Umea	1,326	0,614
UK	Kent	0,579	0,231
	Nottingham	1,209	0,417
EU	Ariège/Berga (France/Spain)	1,164	0,582
Territorial pacts for employment			
B	Hainaut industrial basin	0,250	0,200
	Western Brabant Wallon	0,203	0,162
D	Drehscheibe Chemnitz	0,250	0,200
	North-Rhine Westphalia	0,250	0,200
	Zeitz	0,250	0,200
EL	Achaïa	0,172	0,138
	Athens-West Piraeus	0,295	0,200
	Drama	0,165	0,132
	Imathia	0,165	0,132
	Kozani-Florina	0,251	0,200
	Magnesia	0,184	0,147
	Viotia	0,165	0,132
E	Bahía de Cádiz	0,247	0,198
	Ceula	0,121	0,097
	Cuenca Minera de Asturias	0,235	0,188
	Cuencas Mineras de Palencia y León	0,250	0,200
	Melilla	0,100	0,080
	Vallés Occidental (Catalonia)	0,250	0,200
F	Hérault	0,320	0,200
	Les Hauts de la Réunion	0,259	0,200
	Pays de la Pointe des Ardennes (Champagne-Ardenne)	0,250	0,200
	Roubaix - Tourcoing - Vallée de la Lys (Nord-Pas-de-Calais)	0,275	0,200
	Saint Herblain, Couëron et Indre (Pays de la Loire)	0,243	0,194
IRL	Drogheda/Dundalk	0,250	0,200
	Dublin	0,250	0,200
	Limerick	0,250	0,200
	Westmeath	0,250	0,200
I	Agro Nocerino Samese	0,250	0,200
	Alto Belice Corleonese	0,250	0,200
	Appennino Centrale	0,250	0,200
	Area Nord-Est della provincia di Napoli	0,250	0,200
	Catalino-Sud Sirneto	0,250	0,200
	Catania	0,250	0,200
	Matese	0,250	0,200
	Nord Bares	0,250	0,200
	Oristano	0,250	0,200
	Sangro-Aventino (Abruzzo)	0,250	0,200

ECU million

		Total cost	ERDF contrib.
L	Dudelange	0,250	0,200
NL	Flevoland	0,275	0,200
	Limburg	0,300	0,200
	Noord-Brabant	0,300	0,200
P	Alentejo	0,250	0,200
	Marinha Grande	0,250	0,200
	Vale do Sousa	0,250	0,200
FIN	Kemi	0,250	0,200
	Lahti	0,250	0,200
	Northeast Lapland	0,199	0,159
S	Jamtland	0,250	0,200
UK	Birmingham - Solihull - Black Country	0,250	0,200
	East Midlands - 3 cities: Derby, Nottingham and Leicester	0,270	0,200
	Haringey	0,321	0,200
	Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley	0,251	0,200
	South Tyneside	0,279	0,200
	St Helens	0,250	0,200

**Annex 4: Pilot projects and innovative actions under the ERDF, ESF and
Pilot projects adopted in 1997 under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation**

		ECU million	
		Total cost	ERDF contrib.
National interregional cooperation			
	Europarteneriat France - Massif Central 1997	3,297	1,000
	Europarteneriat The Netherlands '98	3,188	0,971
	Directoria V (Strasbourg)	1,305	0,850
Technology transfer - RIS			
EL	Stereia Ellada	0,500	0,250
	Thessaly	0,400	0,200
E	Castilla-La Mancha	0,471	0,236
	Pais Vasco	0,389	0,195
I	Puglia	0,500	0,250
FIN	Northern Ostrobothnia	0,500	0,250
UK	Strathclyde	0,497	0,249
	West Midlands	0,502	0,250
Technology transfer - (RTT)			
EL	"Interact"	0,099	0,074
	"Progress"	0,100	0,075
E	"Footwear"	0,137	0,075
	"Recycle"	0,100	0,075
I	"IFT"	0,100	0,075
UK	"Adagio"	0,100	0,075
	"Esteem"	0,100	0,075
Information society - strategy (RISI)			
B	FASIL	0,500	0,250
EL	"Rise"	0,500	0,250
E	INFODEX	0,500	0,250
F	"ACTI Limousin"	0,499	0,250
	Serise	0,500	0,250
I	Arianna	0,500	0,250
UK	"Compris"	0,500	0,250
Information society - (RISI 2)			
D	"Idan"	3,120	1,560
EL	"Temelen"	4,670	2,335
E	"Ouea"	2,092	1,046
F	"Enterskillnet"	3,932	1,586
IRL	"Crism"	2,222	1,111
A	"RMP"	4,251	2,126
P	"Tourist"	3,490	1,745
Culture			
B	"Promise"	1,165	0,600
DK	Development centre for cultural tourism in the County of Storstrøm	0,200	0,100
D	"Amphora"	0,990	0,450
	"European Tower Network"	0,601	0,300
	"IMKA"	0,831	0,498
EL	"CIED"	0,610	0,400
	"Multi-Cultural Tourism"	0,142	0,099
	"Sarverai"	0,667	0,500
	"Trapowa"	0,610	0,450
	"Witranel"	0,831	0,500
E	"Atlas"	0,600	0,450
	"Emporion"	0,814	0,500
	"La cultura del agua"	0,904	0,500
	"Lucano"	0,754	0,440
	"Progress"	0,439	0,302
	"Stratcult"	0,875	0,560
F	"Ciste"	0,642	0,400
	"Missions"	0,200	0,100
	"Reppis"	0,849	0,500
	"Raveil"	0,900	0,450
	"Simine"	0,480	0,300
	"Tosca"	0,835	0,500
IRL	"Bradán"	0,631	0,409
	"Econcraft"	1,020	0,498
I	"Casa Europa"	0,687	0,400
	"Cultura materiale"	0,847	0,450
	"Reva"	0,857	0,500
NL	"Eurotex+B97"	0,760	0,500
A	"Pro Vita Alpina"	0,780	0,350
P	"Arqueotex"	0,941	0,599
	"Coeact"	0,729	0,500
S	"Pleiades"	0,720	0,450
UK	"Coast heritage"	0,896	0,485
	"Echo"	0,645	0,325
	"Our city/Notre ville"	0,739	0,500

		ECU million	
		Total cost	ERDF contrib.
New sources of employment			
B	C.E.A.Q.V.	0,623	0,263
	Etrave	0,753	0,450
DK	Dansk Kur Turism	0,564	0,300
D	Akkureg	0,516	0,340
	BAMB	0,900	0,450
	Berlin-Services	0,543	0,375
EL	Estia	0,497	0,373
	Job Spring	0,666	0,500
	Synergia	0,667	0,500
E	Esparru 17	0,800	0,400
	Gimut	0,425	0,263
	Nye Elcipe	0,641	0,424
	Tradesa	1,035	0,450
	Tufear	0,267	0,200
F	Défi Haute-Saône	0,480	0,230
	Delgres	0,692	0,500
	EED	0,402	0,249
	Emploi 3I	0,800	0,395
	Marseille Méditerranée	1,000	0,450
	Mode	0,561	0,200
IRL	Clean	0,679	0,500
	RCCN	0,553	0,350
	WINN-S.J.	0,545	0,300
I	A.F.L.	0,583	0,291
	IES 2000	0,340	0,205
	Informalavoro	0,560	0,330
	Loisir	0,800	0,400
P	CACEP	0,438	0,300
FIN	JHC	1,000	0,400
S	Fokis	1,176	0,500
UK	New Jobs for Glasgow	0,951	0,400
Spatial planning			
	ALBA-TER, P.A.TER	1,623	0,709
	Coastlink: The European Network for Sustainable Coasts	3,331	1,631
	Concercoast (PT/FR)	2,092	1,064
	Duero-Douro (E/PT)	1,813	0,985
	Euroglise	3,913	1,854
	Geoplantour (D/GR)	1,947	1,071
	Grootstad Métropole Lilleuse (F/B)	2,500	1,042
	Posidonla (I, E, EL)	5,197	2,834
	SRUNA: The Sustainable Recreational Use of Natural Assels	2,164	1,190
	Sustainable Development through Planning	1,797	0,764
	Terra incognita (I/E)	2,706	1,163
Urban Projects			
B	*Recyclart (Brussels)*	5,951	1,785
DK	*Underværket (The Wonder) (Randers)*	7,732	2,247
D	*Multifunctional Service Centre Bremerhaven (Bremen)*	4,140	2,070
	*Strategien für Friedrichshain (Berlin)	4,839	2,192
	System of 'Careful Urban Renewal' in Leipzig	3,919	2,939
	Umweltinitiative Schamhorst (Dortmund)	2,836	1,388
EL	*International Networking City - ALEX - POLI NET (Alexandroupolis)*	3,382	2,537
	SWANS (West Athens)	4,641	3,016
E	*Building León (A development proposal for the Old City)*	7,568	3,000
	Economic Revitalisation of the Historic Centre of 'El Albayzin' (Granada)	6,051	2,954
	Obxarkoaga (Bilbao)	4,963	2,481
	Proyecto Guiniguada - (Gran Canaria)	7,008	2,705
F	*Bordeaux les deux rives*	13,068	3,000
	Chorus (Besançon)	14,272	3,168
IRL	*Maintaining the Historic Heart of Dublin*	2,640	1,880
I	*Protagonist (Brindisi)*	2,750	2,063
	Rete di piazze telematiche per la Città di Napoli	4,007	2,967
	Services and time for elderly people and families (Milan)	3,357	1,007
	The Gate: living not leaving (Turin)	5,069	2,530
NL	*Utrecht Museum Quarter*	12,586	2,981
A	*Ein Leben mit allen Sinnen (Graz)*	7,148	2,150
P	*Voyage à la Rose des Vents (Vila do Conde)*	5,066	2,989
FIN	*Lasipalatsi film and media centre (Helsinki)*	9,000	2,700
S	region (Falun, Borlänge)*	3,750	1,875
UK	*Blueprint for Sustainable Development (Leicester)*	6,479	1,940
	Huddersfield - the Creative Town Initiative (Kirklees)	10,300	2,927
Innovative actions - others (laboratory)			
VILLAGES D'EUROPE - PHASE II B		2,152	0,981

Annex 4: Pilot projects and innovative actions under the ERDF, ESF and EAGGF
Pilot projects and technical assistance adopted in 1997, Article 6 of the ESF
Regulation

		ECU million	
		Total cost	ESF contrib.
Technical assistance			
B	Non-ESF B27CIP, technical assistance	0,100	0,100
	Technical assistance seminar Objective 3	0,317	0,253
	Territorial employment pact Brussels	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Halle-Vilvoorde	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Tongeren	0,250	0,200
DK	Territorial employment pact Arhus, Randers (Kronjylland)	0,265	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Oresund	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Sonderjylland	0,252	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Viborg	0,464	0,200
D	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,203	0,203
	Territorial employment pact Amberg-Sulzbach	0,255	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Hamburg	0,249	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Modellregion Land Bremen	0,251	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Neukolin (Berlin)	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Peine	0,336	0,200
EL	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,055	0,055
E	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,073	0,073
	Seminar "Young people and employment: ESF assistance"	0,364	0,364
	Technical assistance seminar Objective 3	0,351	0,158
F	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,216	0,216
	Territorial employment pact Albertville	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Molsheim/Schirmeck	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Pays de Valois	0,400	0,200
I	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,100	0,100
L	Technical assistance seminar Objective 3	0,307	0,276
A	Territorial employment pact Salzburg	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Vienna	0,240	0,192
	Territorial employment pact Vorarlberg	0,250	0,200
P	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,050	0,050
FIN	Non-ESF CIP, technical assistance	0,061	0,061
	Territorial employment pact Lohja	0,255	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Tampere	0,768	0,200
	Territorial employment pact Turku	0,250	0,200
S	Territorial employment pact Stockholm	0,437	0,200
Innovative actions - Information society - RISI 2 project			
EL	Athinai (Athens)	0,500	0,250
Innovative actions - new sources of employment			
B	Advice agency for the employment of disabled people	0,790	0,440
	Igloo (New forms of partnerships in areas related to housing)	2,145	1,000
	Lehmas (Social economy enterprises in the areas of environment, housing, services and restoration of patrimony)	0,210	0,157
	OLA (Training in "logistic assistant" for hospitals)	0,875	0,377
DK	Den blandende landhandel (Programme for immigrant families)	0,360	0,273
	Green Future (New sources of jobs in environmental activities)	1,719	1,000
	Incubator Guided By Seniors (Business development centre)	0,865	0,586
D	Local network to develop innovative methods of job creation	0,804	0,643
	TELA-START (Regional telematic network centres)	3,112	1,000
	Transferbetrieb -TB (Social insertion enterprise in the recycling sector)	0,241	0,193
EL	Women's Micro-Entreprise Birth and Adoption (Intermediate agency for women apprenticeships)	0,751	0,500
E	Autoocupación juvenil (Assistance for the creation of Micro enterprises)	0,327	0,163
	EVTV - FS (Feasibility study for the creation of health services)	0,080	0,064
	Prometeo (Treatment of agricultural waste by marginalised youth)	0,178	0,153
	Restaura-Natura (Local office to promote new jobs in the hotel trade)	1,320	0,750
	Sarelan (Network for protected employment for the disabled)	0,874	0,500
	Sarelan (Platform to solve problems of jobs offer and demand)	1,200	0,720
	Serdom (Domestic services by marginalised people)	1,534	0,720
	Teletrabajo en Euskadi (New jobs through teleworking and management training)	0,334	0,267

		ECU million	
		Total cost	ESF contrib.
F	Experiments in enterprises to reduce working time	1,582	0,355
	Animiel (Platform to network competing SMEs)	0,415	0,220
	City Services (Development of "services de proximité")	5,358	1,000
	Insertion-Jeunes (Training in the construction trade of disadvantaged youth)	0,304	0,173
	Itinéraires pour l'emploi (Interenterprises platforms in European regions)	1,588	0,760
	Le Transport dans son environnement social ("Mediation" agents in the area of public transport)	2,785	0,788
	Mercator (Teleworking training centre for disabled people)	0,600	0,192
	Pevere (Training of youth in environment related professions)	0,505	0,326
	Point Accueil Services Cadours Grenade (Job creation in the area of "services de proximité")	0,350	0,265
	Prasence (Job creation for disadvantaged youth in the area of "services de proximité")	2,216	0,325
	RATP-BN92 (Partnership to develop quality transport)	3,584	1,000
	Trois expérimentations Igloo France (Training of disadvantaged groups in construction related trades)	0,406	0,162
IRL	Pathways to Work (Job creation in the areas of childcare, care for the elderly , ...)	0,365	0,276
	RCCN (Training actions in the community/child/health care sectors)	0,334	0,235
I	Creazione d'impiego dell'impresa sociale nelle aree urbane (Training and creation of employment in social enterprises)	1,508	1,000
	European Network of Agency for temporary work (Network of interim work employment agencies)	1,069	0,643
	Mare Verde (Creation of a Sea Agency in the harbours)	0,300	0,200
	Programmazione Concertata dello sviluppo locale (Local initiatives for the creation of jobs)	0,760	0,608
	Teleworking with good privacy (Multimedia technology in SMEs)	3,144	1,000
	Transfer - COOP (Transfer of management skills between cooperatives)	0,363	0,259
P	Les 3 E du Développement intégré: Emploi, Environnement, Economie (Local multidisciplinary agency in the area of environment)	0,882	0,554
	Place (Network of local partners)	0,135	0,118
FIN	Kuopio Dance Festival (Job creation for young people in the area of culture)	0,066	0,052
	Rain (Network of rural small enterprises and farms using IT)	0,699	0,086
	YOPORE (NUOTTA) (Network to promote environment-related employment)	0,483	0,277
S	Creation of local work centres (co-ops with monitor) (Local work centres (co-ops with monitor) for the unemployed)	1,841	1,000
	Transnational Training Project (Training for self-employment)	1,204	0,641
UK	Growth Rural Employment Bureau (Employment service bureau for micro-businesses and individuals)	0,308	0,149
	Mobility for food wholesale workers (Three country network)	0,703	0,300
	SME Base Expansion Through Social Enterprises (Local consortium to support SMEs)	0,821	0,857
Pilot projects and innovative actions			
B	Social Dialogue - ESDO Online	0,200	0,180
	Social Dialogue Yes for Europe	2,022	0,987
	Social Dialogue: A.F.E.T.T.	3,936	3,543
F	Centres Teletravail - Teleworking centres	4,516	2,258
	Forco : Social dialogue in commerce	1,635	1,384
IRL	New work organisation : Social dialogue	0,252	0,189
L	Pilot project	0,600	0,300
NL	"Merit" pilot project	0,319	0,319
A	Technical assistance	0,050	0,050
UK	EOEG's Offender Reintegration Programme	0,312	0,148
	Istar	2,024	1,012
	Concordia pilot project	0,153	0,115

**Annex 4: Pilot projects and innovative actions under the ERDF, ESF and EAGGF
Innovative actions and technical assistance adopted 1994-97 under Article 8 of the EAGGF
Regulation**

		ECU million		
		Year of adoption	Total cost	EAGGF contrib.
Evaluation, monitoring, technical assistance and studies				
DK	Territorial employment pact "Bornholm"	1997	0,250	0,200
D	Summary of mid-term evaluations, Obj. 5(b) SPD	1997	0,011	0,011
EL	Prior appraisal LEADER II	1995	0,020	0,020
E	Summary of mid-term evaluations, Obj. 5(b) SPD	1997	0,012	0,012
F	Territorial employment pact "Ussel - Limousin"	1997	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact "Périgord noir - Aquitaine"	1997	0,250	0,200
	Summary of mid-term evaluations, Obj. 5(b) SPD	1997	0,010	0,010
IRL	Prior appraisal LEADER II	1995	0,010	0,010
I	Summary of mid-term evaluations, Obj. 5(b) SPD	1997	0,008	0,008
	Technical assistance	1996	0,192	0,125
A	Territorial employment pact "Tyrol, Oberland and Ausserfern"	1997	0,250	0,200
	Prior appraisal of Obj. 5(b) SPD	1995	0,015	0,015
P	Technical assistance for agriculture	1994	2,527	1,895
FIN	Territorial employment pact "Iisalmi"	1997	0,250	0,200
	Prior appraisal of Obj. 5(b) SPD	1995	0,015	0,015
S	Territorial employment pact "Kalmar County"	1997	0,363	0,200
	Territorial employment pact "Varmland"	1997	0,250	0,200
	Territorial employment pact "Strömstad"	1997	0,209	0,167
	Prior appraisal of Obj. 5(b) SPD	1995	0,015	0,015
UK	Summary of mid-term evaluations, Obj. 5(b) SPD	1997	0,014	0,014
EU	Evaluation of pilot and demonstration projects, call for proposals 96/C 284/10	1997	0,264	0,264
	Seminar on ecological benefits	1996	0,087	0,020
	Action on rural indicators	1996	0,122	0,040
	Prior appraisal study	1996	0,123	0,123
	Ex post LEADER I evaluation	1996	0,398	0,398
	Evaluation of pilot and demonstration projects (Call No 94/6/303)	1995	0,213	0,213
	Management contract for the financial and administrative monitoring of Objective 1, 5(a) and 5(b) measures	1994	3,134	3,134
	Technical assistance contract relating to the management and computer-assistance application "Feorient"	1994	0,061	0,061
Pilot and demonstration projects				
B	Technical preparation, conversion and support for the marketing of organic products	1996	0,217	0,089
D	Introduction of organic products in school and works canteens	1996	1,023	0,512
	Rural development in the Eichfeld region	1996	0,370	0,277
EL	Regeneration of forests affected by fire in Greece	1996	0,711	0,533
E	Growing of aloe-vera	1996	1,199	0,899
	Demonstration project to set up a centre to market organic products and provide training in techniques and production systems compatible with the environment	1996	0,272	0,136
	Production, processing and marketing of products from wild animal species with a view to the creation of an ecological label	1996	0,468	0,351
	On-farm castor-bean processing to extract the bean's essences	1996	1,263	0,947
	Demonstration project on the technical feasibility of new cultivation techniques that make optimal use of irrigation while respecting the environment	1996	0,429	0,214
F	Creation of a tropical fruits and spices nursery, thereby ensuring a steady supply to the local processing industry	1996	0,978	0,733
	Agri-tourism: promotion of areas of outstanding gastronomic importance	1996	0,840	0,456
	European programme to install farm workers in depressed areas	1996	2,565	0,998
	Experimental installation of young farmers in holdings underwritten by the social partners and based on cooperative principles	1996	0,390	0,194
	Demonstration project establishing a network to promote/market typical agro-industrial and food products	1996	1,066	0,800
	Upgrading of cultivated terraces in the Mediterranean area (PRO TERRA)	1996	1,191	0,763
	Demonstration project "eat organic in the school canteen"	1996	0,220	0,077
	Reintroduction of fine lavender cultivation in its traditional region of production	1996	1,003	0,501
IRL	Intensive cultivation of "Myrtus Communis"	1996	1,079	0,809
	Development of structures to promote alternative farming enterprises in western Ireland	1996	0,423	0,271

ECU million

		Year of adoption	Total cost	EAGGF contrib.
I	Introduction of animals prized by the textile industry on marginal rural land in Umbria	1996	0,714	0,357
	Upgrading, maintenance, development and conservation of farmed and forested lands in blighted areas	1996	0,302	0,151
	Socio-economic promotion of the Apulia Region's local culinary resources and traditions	1996	0,218	0,164
	Revitalisation, processing and commercial promotion of the Abbruzzi Region's eco-organic products	1996	0,304	0,228
	Installation of young farmers through sponsorship programmes	1996	0,856	0,642
	Economic promotion of liquorice cultivation	1996	0,198	0,149
	The cultivation in two Italian regions (Piedmont and Friuli-Venezia-Giulia) of two non-food grasses used in the production of boards	1996	0,655	0,328
	On-line market for typical agricultural products	1996	0,362	0,181
NL	Introduction of an ore-compatibility system with the UK and France	1996	0,539	0,270
A	Strategy to guarantee the quality and marketing of organic compost	1996	0,226	0,113
P	Demonstration project to promote the "Garrano de Gerês" for leisure activities	1996	0,078	0,059
	Accelerated diversification on Madeira through the introduction of products for use in the pharmaceutical industry (Tea Tree Oil)	1996	0,998	0,748
	Commercial exploitation of goat production in the Serra do Caldeirão	1996	0,856	0,637
FIN	Quality as a factor in the success of a rural business	1996	0,788	0,591
UK	Development of timber products	1996	0,171	0,085
	Feasibility and economic viability of integrating "Farm-woodland" and agro-forestry systems into commercial farms	1996	0,438	0,210
Mesures de diffusion				
EU	Provision of services and communication/information tools on the Community's rural development policy	1997	3,431	3,431
	Design work (rural development maps)	1996	0,007	0,007
	Mapmaking and printing (rural development maps)	1996	0,123	0,123
	Mapmaking and printing (farming and forestry maps)	1996	0,253	0,230
	Design work (farming and forestry maps)	1995	0,011	0,011
	Logo to instill awareness of rural development	1995	0,019	0,019

Annex 5: Major projects 1994-97*

ECU million

Year of adoption / Member State	Obj	Total cost	ERDF contrib (1)	National public contribution	Private contribution	Commitments			Payments		
						1997	1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	1997	1994-97 (3)	% (3)/1
1997											
SPAIN											
Main drain, Santander Bay	1	25,32	17,72	7,60	0,00	4,41	4,41	25%	2,21	2,21	12%
Cartagena-Puertollano oil pipeline	1	161,23	62,90	0,00	98,33	17,67	17,67	28%	0,00	0,00	0%
1996											
SPAIN											
Gibraltar-Córdoba gas pipeline	1	298,47	99,01	0,00	199,46	0,00	89,81	91%	0,00	71,85	73%
Valencia-Cartagena gas pipeline	1	60,69	23,81	0,00	36,88	0,00	23,81	100%	0,00	19,05	80%
Installation of natural gas, Huelva	1	27,40	7,28	0,00	20,12	0,00	7,28	100%	1,46	7,28	100%
1995											
IRELAND											
Tallaght Hospital	1	131,33	39,37	91,96	0,00	0,00	39,37	100%	0,00	31,50	80%
ITALY											
Port of Gioia Tauro	1	120,00	40,00	0,00	80,00	0,00	40,00	100%	12,00	32,00	80%

* Major projects within the meaning of Article 16(2) of the Coordination Regulation

Annex 6: Implementation of appropriations in 1997 by budget heading (not including decommitments and carryovers) (ECU)

	Item	Title	Commitments	Payments
CCA				
EAGGF-Guidance	B2-100	CSF		
	B2-1000	Objective 1	2.578.655.000	2.131.910.000
	B2-1001	Objective 5(a) (outside Objective 1 and 5(b) areas)	422.011.000	467.877.000
	B2-1002	Objective 5(a) (in Obj. 5(b) areas)	552.654.503	539.477.000
	B2-1003	Objective 5(b)	421.479.000	406.377.999
	B2-1004	Objective 6	51.300.000	34.357.800
Total EAGGF			4.026.099.503	3.579.999.799
FIFG	B2-110	CSF		
	B2-1100	Objective 1	308.327.621	339.999.998
	B2-1101	Objective 5(a)	59.076.033	145.893.090
	B2-1102	Objective 6	1.570.000	1.000.000
	B2-1110	Social measures linked to forced lay-ups	0	0
Total FIFG			368.973.654	486.893.088
ERDF	B2-120	CSF		
	B2-1200	Objective 1	10.069.898.812	8.295.704.757
	B2-1201	Objective 2	2.198.543.893	2.683.564.495
	B2-1202	Objective 5(b)	658.565.158	488.384.683
	B2-1203	Objective 6	56.130.000	53.782.000
Total ERDF			12.983.137.863	11.621.435.935
ESF	B2-130	CSF		
	B2-1300	Objective 1	4.058.768.093	3.335.008.243
	B2-1301	Objective 2	703.332.440	493.628.370
	B2-1302	Objective 3	2.202.908.639	1.784.006.994
	B2-1303	Objective 4	476.918.959	375.229.926
	B2-1304	Objective 5(b)	168.351.869	135.011.466
	B2-1305	Objective 6	28.820.000	20.515.000
Total ESF			7.639.100.000	6.143.399.999
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES				
PESCA	B2-140	PESCA (restructuring of the fisheries sector)		
	B2-1400	ESF	13.647.955	4.147.677
	B2-1400	FIFG	4.527.170	1.464.869
	B2-1400	ERDF	3.281.000	28.603.500
	Total Pesca			21.456.125
INTERREG	B2-141	Interregional cooperation		
	B2-1410	ESF	33.972.252	13.000.501
	B2-1410	EAGGF-Guidance	17.572.505	16.856.176
	B2-1410	FIFG	0	0
	B2-1410	ERDF	407.026.576	327.694.166
Total Interreg			458.571.333	357.550.843
PEACE	B2-1412	ESF	32.482.389	37.276.839
	B2-1412	EAGGF-Guidance	13.016.000	9.694.300
	B2-1412	FIFG	525.000	263.826
	B2-1412	ERDF	7.288.000	33.922.500
	Total Peace			53.311.389
NOW	B2-142	Employment and development of human resources		
	B2-1420	ESF	36.644.371	50.820.000
	B2-1420	ERDF	20.397	256.318
Total Now			36.664.768	51.076.318
HORIZON	B2-1421	ESF	76.360.917	72.556.906
	B2-1421	ERDF	20.396	256.317
	Total Horizon			76.381.313
INTEGRA	B2-1422	ESF	109.350.000	63.567.414
	B2-1422	ERDF	0	0
	Total Integra			109.350.000
YOUTH START	B2-1423	ESF	72.382.558	59.192.231
	B2-1423	ERDF	0	0
	Total Youthstart			72.382.558

	Item	Title	Commitments	Payments
Former GDR	B2-190	Structural measures under Regulation (CEE) No 3575/90 (former GDR)		
	B2-1900	ESF	-	-
	B2-1900	EAGGF-Guidance	-	-
	B2-1900	FIFG	-	857.840
	B2-1900	ERDF	-	29.504.312
	Total Former GDR		-	30.362.152

(*) Payments for 1989-1993

**Annex 7: Programme implementation by Member State (Objectives and Community Initiatives) for 1997
under the 1994-99 programme (ECU million)**

BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
SPD Hainaut (1994)	2 721,7	748,5	120,0	349,68	47%	96,0	267,6	36%
Objective 2								
SPD Aubange 1997-99 (1997)	2,2	1,0	1,0	1,0	100%	0,5	0,5	50%
SPD Liège 1997-99 (1997)	442,0	114,4	36,9	36,9	32%	17,4	17,4	15%
SPD Limburg 1997-99 (1997)	446,1	67,8	21,7	21,7	32%	10,9	10,9	16%
SPD Turnhout 1997-99 (1997)	82,1	32,9	32,9	32,9	100%	16,4	16,4	0,5
SPD Aubange 1994-96 (1994)	3,2	1,3	- 0,0	1,3	100%	0,0	0,6	46%
SPD Liège 1994-96 (1994)	290,8	80,2	-0,9	80,2	100%	39,6	66,7	83%
SPD Limburg 1994-96 (1994)	89,2	33,9	-4,9	33,9	100%	17,2	27,8	82%
SPD Turnhout 1994-96 (1994)	44,7	18,1	-1,3	18,1	100%	0,3	12,0	66%
Total	1.400,5	349,7	85,4	226,0	65%	102,4	152,4	44%
Objective 3								
OP Communauté flamande (1994)	626,1	190,3	31,9	121,5	64%	33,4	103,2	54%
OP Communauté française (1994)	368,0	160,4	26,6	104,7	65%	21,9	87,1	54%
OP Communauté germanophone (1994)	12,6	5,6	3,3	5,6	100%	0,9	2,8	50%
OP Région Bruxelles Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (1994)	33,3	12,5	2,0	7,7	62%	2,3	6,2	50%
OP Ministry of Employment (1994)	114,3	36,9	6,2	23,0	62%	3,1	18,7	51%
Total	1.164,4	405,8	70,0	262,5	65%	61,6	218,0	54%
Objective 4								
OP Communauté flamande (1994)	107,9	43,7	0,0	8,8	20%	0,0	4,4	10%
OP Communauté française (1994)	54,8	17,8	16,6	17,8	100%	8,3	8,9	50%
OP Communauté germanophone (1994)	1,2	0,5	0,4	0,5	100%	0,2	0,2	50%
OP Région Bruxelles Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (1994)	7,0	2,2	1,9	2,2	100%	1,0	1,1	50%
OP Ministry of Employment (1994)	15,7	6,0	0,0	6,0	100%	0,0	3,0	50%
Total	186,7	70,2	18,9	35,3	50%	9,4	17,7	25%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts Vlaanderen R. 2328/91 (1995)	135,8	49,5	9,1	27,0	55%	8,0	22,1	45%
SPD Vlaanderen R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	352,1	23,8	6,1	16,1	68%	1,0	8,8	37%
SPD Région Bruxelles Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest R. 866/90 (1995)	11,1	1,1	0,0	0,3	24%	0,0	0,1	12%
Forecasts Wallonie R. 2328/91 (1995)	101,1	30,1	0,0	11,7	39%	0,0	9,4	31%
SPD Wallonie R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	46,4	5,4	1,6	4,0	73%	1,2	2,7	50%
Federal Forecasts R. 2328/91 (1995)	166,7	63,6	8,8	46,5	73%	10,7	36,8	58%
Total	833,2	173,4	25,6	105,4	61%	20,9	80,0	46%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD Belgique/België (1994)	103,7	24,5	0,0	24,5	100%	0,0	19,6	80%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Meeljesland (1995)	34,2	10,3	0,5	1,8	17%	0,4	1,0	10%
SPD Wallonie (1995)	135,5	41,4	8,3	19,6	47%	5,5	11,1	27%
SPD Westhoek (1995)	96,6	26,4	0,0	3,5	13%	0,8	2,6	10%
Total	266,3	78,1	8,9	24,9	32%	6,7	14,8	19%
TOTAL	6.666,4	1.850,1	328,8	1.028,4	66%	297,0	770,0	42%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Vlaanderen (1995)	43,9	16,3	1,3	16,3	100%	3,6	8,1	50%
Wallonie (1995)	69,9	22,4	6,1	22,4	100%	6,3	11,2	50%
Total	113,8	38,6	7,4	38,6	100%	10,0	19,3	50%
Employment								
Vlaanderen (1994)	36,7	15,8	4,6	16,8	100%	2,3	8,4	50%
Wallonie (1994)	63,1	29,0	9,1	29,0	100%	4,5	14,5	50%
Total	99,8	45,8	13,7	45,8	100%	6,8	22,9	60%
Leader								
Hainaut (1997)	9,3	4,1	4,1	4,1	100%	2,0	2,0	50%
Meeljesland (1997)	4,2	1,1	0,0	0,0	0%	0,0	0,0	0%
Wallonie (1997)	7,9	3,3	3,3	3,3	100%	1,7	1,7	50%
Westhoek (1997)	7,2	1,8	0,0	0,0	0%	0,0	0,0	0%
Total	28,5	10,3	7,4	7,4	72%	3,7	3,7	36%
Pesca								
Belgique/België (1994)	5,3	2,5	0,5	2,5	100%	0,2	0,8	30%
SMEs								
Network IBEX Libramont-98 timber (1997)	1,0	0,3	0,3	0,3	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Vlaanderen (1996)	8,6	2,7	0,0	2,7	100%	0,0	0,8	30%
Wallonie (1995)	14,2	9,4	0,0	9,4	100%	0,0	3,2	34%
Total	23,9	12,4	0,3	12,4	100%	0,0	4,0	32%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Rechar								
Châtelet (1995)	1,9	0,9	0,0	0,9	100%	0,3	0,7	80%
Limburg (1995)	56,2	14,8	0,0	14,8	100%	0,0	7,4	50%
Total	58,1	15,7	0,0	16,7	100%	0,3	8,1	62%
Konver								
Bruxelles/Brussel (1995)	5,8	1,7	0,0	1,7	100%	0,0	0,9	50%
Vlaanderen (1995)	11,8	4,8	0,0	4,8	100%	0,0	2,4	50%
Wallonie (1995)	12,9	4,9	0,0	4,9	100%	0,0	2,5	50%
Total	30,4	11,5	0,0	11,5	100%	0,0	5,7	50%
Résilier								
Charleroi (1995)	31,4	15,2	4,0	15,2	100%	0,4	6,0	39%
Liège (1995)	28,4	12,5	0,0	12,5	100%	0,0	6,3	50%
Total	59,8	27,7	4,0	27,7	100%	0,4	12,2	44%
Réflex								
Vlaanderen (1996)	3,0	1,4	0,0	1,4	100%	0,0	0,7	50%
Wallonie (1995)	6,0	3,0	0,0	3,0	100%	0,6	2,1	70%
Total	9,0	4,4	0,0	4,4	100%	0,6	2,8	64%
Urban								
Bruxelles/Brussel (1996)	8,4	2,2	0,0	2,2	100%	0,0	1,1	50%
Antwerpen (1995)	15,2	2,6	0,0	2,6	100%	0,0	1,3	50%
Charleroi (1995)	11,3	5,7	0,0	5,7	100%	0,4	3,3	58%
Total	34,9	10,4	0,0	10,4	100%	0,4	5,6	54%
TOTAL	463,6	179,3	33,4	176,4	98%	22,3	85,2	48%
Interreg/Region								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/Luxemburg/ Nederland: Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
Belgique/France/Luxemburg: Wallonie-Lorraine- Luxembourg (1996)	62,2	30,2	0,0	26,2	87%	1,4	13,5	45%
Belgique/France: Ardennes (1996)	27,8	12,5	0,0	12,5	100%	0,0	3,7	30%
France/Belgique/België: Nord-Pas-de-Calais/Vlaanderen (1996)	38,3	18,0	1,1	18,0	100%	0,5	9,0	50%
France/Belgique/België: Wallonie/Nord-Pas-de- Calais/Picardie (1996)	148,4	71,5	0,0	10,0	14%	1,5	6,5	9%
(1995)	22,8	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Belgique/België/Nederland: Middengebied (1995)	66,3	32,4	0,0	32,4	100%	0,0	9,7	30%
Deutschland/Nederland/Belgique/België: Euregio Meuse- Rhine (1995)	71,9	35,7	0,0	33,5	94%	0,0	10,0	28%

DANMARK

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 2								
SPD Lolland 1997-99 (1997)	47,4	13,8	13,8	13,8	100%	6,92	6,92	50%
SPD Nord-jylland 1997-99 (1997)	222,3	54,4	17,4	17,4	32%	8,71	8,71	16%
SPD Lolland 1994-96 (1994)	30,5	7,0	-1,6	7,8	111%	-0,80	5,57	80%
SPD Nord-jylland 1994-96 (1994)	216,4	47,1	3,4	47,1	100%	24,13	41,42	88%
Total	516,5	122,3	33,1	86,1	70%	39,0	62,6	51%
Objective 3								
SPD Danmark (1994)	584,3	268,1	42,2	169,2	63%	39,6	154,8	58%
Objective 4								
SPD Danmark (1994)	87,7	38,9	7,4	20,4	53%	4,99	15,66	40%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts Danmark R. 2328/91 (1995)	352,5	102,7	17,0	67,3	65%	19,50	52,36	51%
SPD Danmark R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	213,6	26,7	0,0	10,5	39%	1,08	9,48	36%
Total	566,1	129,4	17,0	77,8	60%	20,6	61,8	48%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD Danmark (1994)	444,2	142,5	0,0	69,9	49%	27,9	58,2	41%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Danmark (1994)	202,3	54,0	10,7	24,2	45%	14,7	20,5	38%
TOTAL	2.401,2	765,3	110,4	447,6	59%	146,8	373,7	49%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Adapt Danmark (1995)	69,0	31,7	2,2	31,7	100%	7,0	15,9	50%
Employment								
Employment Danmark (1994)	28,1	14,1	3,5	14,1	100%	3,9	7,0	50%
Leader								
Leader Danmark (1996)	26,7	8,2	1,6	8,2	100%	0,5	2,4	30%
Pesca								
Pesca Danmark (1994)	48,6	16,4	4,1	16,4	100%	2,7	4,9	30%
SMEs								
SMEs Danmark (1996)	5,1	2,6	0,0	2,6	100%	0,0	0,8	30%
Konver								
Konver Danmark (1995)	5,3	2,4	0,0	2,4	100%	0,0	1,2	50%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Urban								
Urban Danmark (1995)	3,0	1,5	0,0	1,5	100%	0,0	0,5	32%
TOTAL	185,9	76,8	11,5	76,8	100%	14,1	32,7	43%
Interreg/Regen								
Danmark/Deutschland/Suomi Finland/Sverige: Baltic Sea (1997)	47,5	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	12,5	12,5	50%
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/ Nederland/ Deutschland North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Danmark/Sverige (1996)	28,0	13,0	2,4	13,0	100%	0,7	3,9	30%
Danmark/Deutschland. Fyns Amt/K E.R.N. (1995)	3,6	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,5	30%
Danmark/Deutschland Sonder-Jylland/Planungsraum V (1995)	22,2	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Danmark/Deutschland Störstrøm/Ostholstein/Lübeck (1995)	10,4	5,2	0,0	5,2	100%	0,0	1,6	30%
Danmark. Baltic Sea (1995)	4,6	2,0	0,0	2,0	100%	0,0	0,6	30%

DEUTSCHLAND

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
Regional OPs								
OP Berlin (East) (1994)	2 525,6	747,7	39,9	370,2	50%	109,6	310,8	42%
OP Brandenburg (1) (1994)	4 573,0	1 006,6	254,8	581,0	58%	233,1	496,1	49%
OP Brandenburg (2) (1994)	2 365,3	733,5	217,0	539,9	74%	101,7	367,3	50%
OP Brandenburg (3) (1994)	776,5	482,1	80,4	290,1	60%	91,7	267,5	55%
OP Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1) (1994)	4 752,4	810,7	136,1	501,8	62%	118,4	448,0	55%
OP Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (2) (1994)	1 564,4	667,1	7,1	415,1	62%	109,5	371,9	56%
OP Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (3) (1994)	809,9	363,0	47,6	218,5	60%	83,8	193,8	53%
OP Sachsen (1) (1994)	9 029,0	2 113,9	360,7	1 303,2	62%	388,6	1 163,4	55%
OP Sachsen (2) (1994)	1 710,7	631,3	121,4	479,0	76%	102,5	357,3	57%
OP Sachsen (3) (1994)	965,9	648,4	131,0	361,4	56%	109,8	317,5	49%
OP Sachsen-Anhalt (1) (1994)	9 430,3	1 134,4	450,9	790,6	70%	99,4	402,5	35%
OP Sachsen-Anhalt (2) (1994)	1 844,5	597,5	93,5	361,3	60%	90,2	290,7	49%
OP Sachsen-Anhalt (3) (1994)	1 106,2	660,3	142,5	405,1	61%	127,9	340,8	52%
OP Thüringen (1) (1994)	5 467,4	1 060,6	177,7	628,3	59%	96,1	417,4	39%
OP Thüringen (2) (1994)	1 928,9	530,8	68,9	297,9	56%	53,7	236,8	45%
OP Thüringen (3) (1994)	774,9	457,9	77,3	272,0	59%	88,9	229,6	50%
Multiregional OPs								
OP Fisheries (1994)	253,6	109,3	1,1	47,6	44%	12,7	39,5	36%
OP Workforce skilling (1994)	2 258,3	1 076,7	106,3	584,3	54%	172,6	503,6	47%
Total	52 136,6	13 831,6	2 614,3	8 447,3	61%	2 190,2	6 754,6	49%
Objective 2								
SPD Niedersachsen 1997-99 (1997)	225,2	49,9	16,0	16,0	32%	8,0	8,0	16%
SPD Bayern 1997-99 (1997)	42,7	19,8	19,8	19,8	100%	9,9	9,9	50%
SPD Berlin 1997-99 (1997)	413,1	191,2	61,1	61,1	32%	26,2	26,2	14%
SPD Bremen 1997-99 (1997)	207,0	55,1	17,6	17,6	32%	8,8	8,8	16%
SPD Hessen 1997-99 (1997)	78,2	30,0	30,0	30,0	100%	15,0	15,0	50%
SPD Nordrhein-Westfalen 1997-99 (1997)	1 613,3	450,6	144,0	144,0	32%	72,0	72,0	16%
SPD Rheinland-Platz 1997-99 (1997)	67,1	27,6	27,6	27,6	100%	13,8	13,8	50%
SPD Saarland 1997-99 (1997)	104,0	58,9	17,5	17,5	30%	8,7	8,7	15%
SPD Schleswig-Holstein 1997-99 (1997)	37,6	18,1	18,1	18,1	100%	9,0	9,0	50%
SPD Niedersachsen 1994-96 (1994)	95,7	43,1	0,0	43,1	100%	20,6	34,6	80%
SPD Bayern 1994-96 (1994)	30,5	12,3	0,1	14,3	116%	0,1	11,8	96%
SPD Berlin 1994-96 (1994)	401,0	155,4	39,2	155,4	100%	65,0	110,8	71%
SPD Bremen 1994-96 (1994)	177,6	47,6	0,0	47,6	100%	23,3	40,3	85%
SPD Hessen 1994-96 (1994)	48,0	16,6	0,0	16,6	100%	1,7	13,2	80%
SPD Nordrhein-Westfalen 1994-96 (1994)	1 262,2	340,4	0,0	340,4	100%	93,6	278,2	82%
SPD Rheinland-Pfalz 1994-96 (1994)	49,7	23,8	0,1	23,8	100%	0,0	14,3	60%
SPD Saarland 1994-96 (1994)	240,6	48,6	0,0	48,6	100%	1,7	33,1	68%
SPD Schleswig-Holstein 1994-96 (1994)	32,4	15,6	0,0	15,6	100%	3,0	12,4	80%
Total	5 125,8	1 604,5	390,9	1 056,9	66%	380,5	720,2	45%
Objective 3								
Regional OPs								
OP Baden-Württemberg (1994)	233,9	53,5	7,8	32,8	61%	10,7	29,4	55%
OP Niedersachsen (1994)	276,8	121,2	33,5	89,3	74%	18,9	65,1	54%
OP Bayern (1994)	125,3	56,5	0,0	25,0	44%	0,0	15,1	27%
OP Berlin (1994)	123,2	51,9	9,2	33,4	64%	6,3	25,7	50%
OP Bremen (1994)	93,5	39,5	6,7	25,5	65%	9,4	23,4	59%
OP Hamburg (1994)	86,3	39,1	7,8	25,2	65%	6,9	21,1	54%
OP Hessen (1994)	165,9	49,6	7,8	31,5	63%	9,5	28,1	57%
OP Nordrhein-Westfalen (1994)	743,8	280,6	44,5	143,3	51%	41,0	126,0	45%

- (1) Economic development
(2) Rural development
(3) Labour market

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
OP Rheinland-Pfalz (1994)	93,1	29,5	0,0	14,8	50%	2,6	13,0	44%
OP Saarland (1994)	108,7	40,9	7,0	26,1	64%	6,7	24,4	50%
OP Schleswig-Holstein (1994)	78,2	35,0	0,3	23,8	68%	2,2	21,5	61%
Multiregional OP								
Federal OP (1994)	2 589,7	887,6	4,1	478,4	54%	181,7	424,8	48%
Total	4 718,4	1 684,9	128,7	949,1	56%	295,8	817,6	49%
Objective 4								
SPD Deutschland (1994)	648,08	265,34	33,56	69,78	33,64%	33,09	56,59	21,33%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
SPD Niedersachsen R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	99,6	29,9	0,0	10,4	35%	2,8	6,6	22%
SPD Bayern R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	342,2	85,5	5,9	35,7	42%	13,9	32,9	38%
SPD Bremen R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	4,5	0,7	0,0	0,2	35%	0,0	0,2	25%
SPD Hamburg R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	24,1	4,3	1,4	2,1	49%	0,7	1,1	25%
SPD Hessen R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	84,8	21,2	5,5	15,1	71%	2,9	8,6	40%
SPD Saarland R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	17,8	3,1	0,5	2,6	82%	0,5	1,9	62%
SPD Schleswig-Holstein R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	10,2	3,1	0,0	0,5	16%	0,0	0,2	8%
SPD Baden-Württemberg R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	132,3	22,3	3,1	11,7	52%	0,7	7,4	33%
SPD Nordrhein-Westfalen R. 866 and 867/91 (1994)	132,5	30,1	4,7	19,5	65%	2,4	14,0	46%
SPD Rheinland-Pfalz R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	76,6	18,8	2,1	8,7	46%	0,5	5,7	31%
Forecasts Deutschland R. 2328/91 (1995)	3 491,8	871,8	145,0	576,3	66%	121,6	454,6	52%
Total	4 416,3	1 090,8	168,2	682,8	63%	146,0	533,2	49%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD Deutschland (1994)	285,2	76,0	0,1	37,8	50%	8,9	28,9	38%
Objective 6(b)								
SPD Baden-Württemberg (1995)	451,9	74,9	21,4	44,4	59%	17,3	28,5	38%
SPD Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	117,9	46,8	3,7	15,4	33%	2,7	10,4	22%
SPD Saarland (1995)	114,1	24,1	7,1	11,1	46%	4,8	7,1	29%
SPD Niedersachsen (1994)	699,1	245,1	78,4	155,8	64%	51,9	114,4	47%
SPD Bayern (1994)	2 993,5	572,0	115,7	330,9	58%	60,3	246,1	43%
SPD Hessen (1994)	235,2	80,8	8,7	43,2	54%	10,0	33,6	42%
SPD Rheinland-Pfalz (1994)	426,8	111,3	16,1	58,6	53%	14,4	41,9	38%
SPD Schleswig-Holstein (1994)	227,3	85,9	18,7	59,8	70%	22,9	49,1	57%
Total	5 265,9	1 240,8	269,8	719,3	68%	184,3	531,1	43%
TOTAL	72 596,4	19 793,8	3 505,6	11 982,9	61%	3 238,8	9 442,1	48%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Deutschland (1995)	539,9	256,7	16,6	93,9	36%	14,4	53,2	21%
Employment								
Deutschland (1994)	387,1	201,0	77,9	127,9	64%	54,7	95,8	48%
Leader								
Networks (1996)	2,0	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,4	40%
Schleswig-Holstein (1996)	16,6	6,6	0,0	6,6	100%	0,0	2,0	30%
Baden-Württemberg (1995)	14,3	5,7	0,0	5,7	100%	0,0	1,7	30%
Bayern (1995)	113,5	43,0	2,0	8,1	19%	1,5	4,6	11%
Berlin (East) (1995)	0,4	0,2	0,0	0,2	100%	0,1	0,2	80%
Brandenburg (1995)	33,7	18,8	0,0	18,8	100%	0,0	11,3	60%
Hessen (1995)	24,9	7,7	0,5	6,7	87%	0,1	2,0	26%
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1995)	29,3	15,6	0,0	15,6	100%	0,0	4,7	30%
Niedersachsen (1995)	40,1	18,8	0,0	18,8	100%	0,0	5,7	30%
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	8,9	4,4	0,6	4,2	96%	0,2	1,3	29%
Rheinland-Pfalz (1995)	25,5	8,6	0,0	8,6	100%	1,5	4,1	47%
Saarland (1995)	5,4	2,2	0,1	1,9	87%	1,0	1,6	69%
Sachsen (1995)	35,5	18,0	0,0	18,0	100%	1,3	6,7	37%
Sachsen-Anhalt (1995)	29,8	17,6	0,0	15,6	88%	1,5	10,2	58%
Thüringen (1995)	29,7	13,9	0,0	13,9	100%	6,6	10,8	77%
Total	409,5	182,2	3,2	143,7	79%	13,9	66,9	37%
Pesca								
Deutschland (1994)	62,0	23,0	-0,2	23,0	100%	5,8	7,7	34%
SMEs								
Network IBEX Magdeburg 1998 energy (1997)	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,3	100%	0,1	0,1	40%
Baden-Württemberg (1996)	1,8	0,9	0,0	0,9	100%	0,0	0,4	50%
Brandenburg (1996)	20,9	14,9	0,0	14,9	100%	0,0	4,5	30%
Niedersachsen (1996)	9,7	4,9	0,1	4,9	100%	2,2	3,6	75%
Rheinland-Pfalz (1996)	6,4	3,2	0,9	3,2	100%	0,0	1,2	36%
Saarland (1996)	3,1	1,6	0,0	1,6	100%	0,0	0,8	49%
Schleswig-Holstein (1996)	3,6	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,9	50%
Bayern (1995)	17,8	7,1	0,2	7,1	100%	3,6	5,7	80%
Berlin (1995)	43,0	16,3	1,7	16,3	100%	3,7	8,1	50%
Bremen (1995)	9,3	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,5	49%
Hessen (1995)	3,5	1,2	0,0	1,2	100%	0,0	0,4	30%
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1995)	36,0	18,7	3,7	18,7	100%	1,1	5,9	31%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	32,7	8,1	0,2	8,1	100%	0,1	4,0	50%
Sachsen (1995)	101,6	43,7	8,5	14,5	33%	6,8	11,4	26%
Sachsen-Anhalt (1995)	65,2	35,8	0,7	35,8	100%	0,0	17,6	49%
Thüringen (1995)	63,7	29,7	0,6	29,6	100%	5,1	14,8	50%
Total	419,0	189,1	16,9	159,8	84%	22,8	79,9	42%
Rural								
Brandenburg (1996)	49,3	30,3	0,0	30,3	100%	0,0	15,1	50%
Niedersachsen (1995)	3,4	1,7	0,0	1,7	100%	0,0	0,8	49%
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	299,2	74,8	15,8	45,4	61%	31,4	37,0	49%
Saarland (1995)	29,5	8,3	3,5	8,0	97%	1,1	3,3	41%
Sachsen (1995)	59,0	34,1	4,3	34,1	100%	0,0	14,9	44%
Sachsen-Anhalt (1995)	34,1	22,0	4,4	22,0	100%	1,4	10,2	46%
Thüringen (1995)	14,8	7,4	2,4	7,4	100%	3,4	5,9	80%
Total	489,3	178,5	30,4	148,9	83%	37,3	87,3	49%
Konver								
Baden-Württemberg (1996)	51,7	12,7	0,0	12,7	100%	0,0	6,3	50%
Brandenburg (1996)	53,9	37,1	0,0	37,1	100%	3,3	21,9	59%
Sachsen (1996)	69,2	43,5	0,3	25,4	58%	3,0	15,6	36%
Bayern (1995)	39,4	17,3	4,6	17,3	100%	1,5	7,9	46%
Berlin (1995)	26,4	17,5	5,8	17,5	100%	2,9	8,7	50%
Bremen (1995)	28,4	6,4	1,9	6,4	100%	2,9	5,1	80%
Hamburg (1995)	3,4	1,7	0,5	1,7	100%	0,1	0,5	30%
Hessen (1995)	67,8	16,7	4,0	16,7	100%	7,0	13,3	80%
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1995)	57,2	33,7	14,2	33,7	100%	17,2	27,0	80%
Niedersachsen (1995)	43,8	17,2	4,3	17,2	100%	0,0	6,4	37%
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	45,6	20,3	3,8	18,7	92%	0,0	7,5	37%
Rheinland-Pfalz (1995)	37,5	18,1	4,2	18,1	100%	5,2	12,2	67%
Saarland (1995)	9,5	1,2	0,0	1,2	100%	0,0	0,6	50%
Sachsen-Anhalt (1995)	29,5	19,3	8,2	19,3	100%	0,0	5,6	29%
Schleswig-Holstein (1995)	29,8	8,9	0,0	8,9	100%	1,9	6,3	71%
Thüringen (1995)	60,7	30,8	11,3	30,8	100%	0,0	9,7	32%
Total	653,8	302,5	63,2	282,8	93%	45,2	154,7	61%
Residua								
Brandenburg (1996)	42,4	25,2	0,0	25,2	100%	0,0	13,1	50%
Bayern (1995)	13,2	5,9	0,5	5,9	100%	1,4	4,1	68%
Bremen (1995)	6,7	3,3	0,1	3,3	100%	0,0	1,6	49%
Niedersachsen (1995)	53,3	17,1	0,0	17,1	100%	0,0	8,5	50%
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1995)	420,1	112,2	31,6	43,3	39%	18,2	26,6	24%
Saarland (1995)	46,8	12,9	3,5	12,9	100%	0,0	4,7	36%
Sachsen (1995)	37,4	16,1	1,2	16,1	100%	0,0	7,4	46%
Sachsen-Anhalt (1995)	8,3	5,4	0,4	5,4	100%	0,2	2,7	50%
Thüringen (1995)	11,2	7,4	1,3	7,4	100%	2,9	6,0	80%
Total	639,3	206,6	38,7	137,7	67%	22,7	74,7	36%
Retex								
Brandenburg (1996)	6,0	3,3	0,0	3,3	100%	0,0	1,6	50%
Niedersachsen (1995)	5,0	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,9	49%
Sachsen (1995)	108,6	46,0	0,0	5,0	11%	0,0	2,5	5%
Thüringen (1995)	44,6	10,9	1,3	10,9	100%	3,5	8,3	76%
Baden-Württemberg (1993)	24,5	2,1	0,0	2,1	100%	0,0	1,1	55%
Bayern (1993)	141,6	9,9	1,0	9,9	100%	3,1	7,9	80%
Hessen (1993)	7,6	1,9	1,3	1,9	100%	0,0	0,4	23%
Nordrhein-Westfalen (1993)	3,7	1,6	0,3	1,6	100%	0,3	1,0	62%
Total	341,5	77,4	4,1	35,4	47%	6,9	23,8	31%
Urban								
Sachsen (Zwickau) (1997)	19,7	9,8	9,8	9,8	100%	4,9	4,9	50%
Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel) (1997)	15,0	7,1	7,1	7,1	100%	3,6	3,6	50%
Halle (1996)	5,2	2,7	0,0	2,7	100%	0,0	1,4	50%
Saarbrücken (1996)	22,6	8,0	2,4	8,0	100%	0,7	2,4	30%
Berlin (1995)	31,5	16,4	0,3	16,4	100%	0,1	5,6	34%
Brandenburg (1995)	9,6	7,2	0,0	7,2	100%	0,0	2,4	34%
Bremen (1995)	16,7	8,2	0,2	8,2	100%	0,0	4,0	49%
Chemnitz (1995)	14,5	9,4	0,2	9,4	100%	0,4	3,4	36%
Duisburg (1995)	18,7	8,1	0,0	8,1	100%	0,0	2,4	30%
Erlurt (1995)	17,5	13,2	0,3	13,2	100%	0,1	4,0	30%
Magdeburg (1995)	20,1	12,9	3,7	12,9	100%	1,9	6,4	50%
Rostock (1995)	16,3	12,2	0,2	12,2	100%	0,0	5,6	46%
Total	207,3	115,2	24,2	115,2	100%	11,6	46,1	40%
TOTAL	4.148,6	1.732,2	275,0	1.268,7	73%	235,3	690,1	40%
Interreg/Regen								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/ Luxembourg/ Niederland: Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
Danmark/Deutschland/Suomi Finland/Sverige Baltic Sea (1997)	47,5	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	12,5	12,5	50%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Österreich/Deutschland/Elлада/Italia: Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (1997)	36,8	20,9	20,9	20,9	100%	10,5	10,5	50%
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/Nederland/ Deutschland: North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Deutschland/Österreich (1996)	56,3	24,6	0,0	24,6	100%	3,5	10,9	44%
Danmark/Deutschland Fyns Amt/K.E.R.N. (1995)	3,6	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,5	30%
Danmark/Deutschland Sonder-Jylland/Planungsraum V (1995)	22,2	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Danmark/Deutschland: Storstørv/Ostholstein/Lübeck (1995)	10,4	5,2	0,0	5,2	100%	0,0	1,6	30%
(1995)	51,4	25,2	-0,5	22,9	91%	0,4	7,4	29%
Deutschland/France: Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland/ Lorraine (1995)	46,5	23,3	0,0	23,3	100%	0,0	7,2	31%
Deutschland/Luxemburg: Euregio (1995)	30,9	8,0	0,0	8,0	100%	0,0	2,4	30%
Deutschland/Nederland/Belgique/België: Euregio Meuse- Rhine (1995)	71,9	35,7	0,0	33,5	94%	0,0	10,0	28%
Deutschland/Nederland: Ems-Dollard (1995)	62,7	22,5	0,0	22,5	100%	0,0	6,7	30%
Deutschland/Nederland: Euregio (1995)	53,6	22,0	-2,2	19,8	90%	0,0	6,6	30%
(1995)	12,8	6,4	0,0	6,4	100%	0,0	1,9	30%
Deutschland/Nederland: Euregio Rhine-Waal (1995)	23,2	11,5	0,0	11,5	100%	0,3	3,7	33%
Deutschland/Poland/Czech Republic: Sachsen (1995)	220,0	149,4	32,4	52,1	35%	24,5	34,3	23%
Deutschland/Poland: Brandenburg (1995)	110,7	73,5	0,4	10,5	14%	0,8	5,8	8%
Deutschland/Poland: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1995)	84,1	63,1	0,0	8,8	14%	0,0	4,4	7%
Deutschland/Czech Republic: Bayern (1995)	42,2	16,8	0,0	16,8	100%	3,0	6,4	50%
Deutschland/Suisse: Bodensee (1995)	13,8	6,9	0,0	6,9	100%	0,4	3,4	49%
France/Deutschland: PAMINA (1995)	22,1	11,1	1,0	11,1	100%	0,3	3,3	30%

ELLAS

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
Regional OPs								
OP Attiki (1994)	975,1	685,7	188,9	491,0	72%	129,3	408,5	60%
OP Kriti (1994)	435,3	312,3	96,9	237,4	76%	46,3	167,8	54%
OP Voreio Aigaio (1994)	327,9	210,2	31,8	121,7	58%	29,6	107,1	51%
OP Notio Aigaio (1994)	380,0	224,1	35,3	135,0	60%	33,4	109,5	49%
OP Epiros (1994)	344,9	236,5	61,2	186,3	79%	39,7	144,1	61%
OP Sterea Ellada (1994)	623,0	371,8	58,4	215,1	58%	27,5	148,9	40%
OP Dilitiki Ellada (1994)	514,2	310,7	80,7	214,6	69%	32,5	129,8	42%
OP Ionia Nisia (1994)	273,9	170,7	26,5	101,7	60%	8,4	64,7	38%
OP Kentriki Makedonia (1994)	816,9	588,5	17,7	354,1	60%	58,4	278,8	47%
OP Dilitiki Makedonia (1994)	341,5	244,0	50,2	146,7	60%	32,9	108,6	44%
OP Makedonia - Thraki (1994)	689,0	494,3	77,0	296,8	60%	80,4	247,3	50%
OP Peloponnisos (1994)	440,2	286,0	45,2	137,0	48%	7,4	86,7	30%
OP Thessalia (1994)	568,0	375,8	113,2	296,1	79%	68,0	199,9	53%
Multiregional OPs								
GG Industry (1997)	30,0	15,0	15,0	15,0	100%	1,1	1,1	7%
OP Technical assistance (1996)	84,6	67,3	2,0	15,5	23%	7,3	14,0	21%
OP Culture-tourism (1995)	797,7	229,1	0,0	74,0	32%	16,4	59,1	26%
OP Postal services (1995)	117,1	78,0	0,0	10,8	14%	0,0	5,4	7%
OP Telecommunications (1995)	383,8	203,7	75,8	165,1	81%	46,4	110,3	54%
OP Agriculture (1994)	2.882,7	1.287,4	232,0	976,8	76%	216,0	818,6	64%
OP Railways (1994)	548,0	329,1	0,0	223,5	68%	0,0	120,9	37%
OP Urban development (Underground) (1994)	1.566,0	783,0	183,5	657,0	84%	81,6	433,7	55%
OP Education and initial training (1994)	1.881,7	1.411,3	139,0	534,8	38%	165,3	417,5	30%
OP Energy (1994)	1.116,0	358,5	66,8	279,3	78%	64,7	254,0	71%
OP Environnement (1994)	515,0	376,7	0,0	157,5	42%	49,7	126,9	34%
OP Social exclusion (1994)	328,0	246,0	51,7	120,4	49%	19,7	59,9	24%
OP Public administration (1994)	305,4	166,6	19,2	67,4	40%	16,5	51,8	31%
OP Continuous training (1994)	1.283,0	756,0	124,4	437,9	58%	98,1	350,0	46%
OP Natural gas (1994)	825,4	354,6	47,9	249,6	70%	84,2	179,1	50%
OP Industry and services (1994)	2.778,9	705,0	108,5	290,7	41%	87,7	231,6	33%
OP Fisheries - Aquaculture (1994)	314,1	151,8	29,7	72,5	48%	31,7	58,5	39%
OP Research - Technology (1994)	560,2	316,2	28,5	155,7	49%	36,6	127,6	40%
OP Roads - Ports - Airports (1994)	2.542,4	1.327,4	360,0	1.000,4	75%	73,5	438,2	33%
OP Health - Prevention (1994)	339,0	226,4	0,0	57,3	25%	0,0	35,1	16%
Technical assistance	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
TOTAL	25.929,7	13.902,3	2.367,8	8.495,4	61%	1.692,1	6.095,2	44%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Ellada (1995)	49,7	33,5	2,5	29,9	89%	6,5	14,9	45%
Employment								
Ellada (1994)	104,7	70,7	15,8	28,4	40%	11,7	18,0	25%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Leader								
Ellada (1995)	263,6	148,0	0,0	22,6	15%	3,5	14,8	10%
Pesca								
Ellada (1994)	56,8	31,1	3,8	30,6	98%	10,4	13,0	42%
SMEs								
Ellada (1995)	156,9	83,3	0,0	28,8	35%	0,0	14,4	17%
Rochar								
Ellada (1995)	4,1	3,1	1,4	2,9	95%	0,7	1,5	48%
Korrer								
Ellada (1995)	20,3	12,9	1,4	12,9	100%	0,7	6,5	50%
Resider								
Ellada (1995)	8,9	4,7	0,0	4,7	100%	0,0	2,3	50%
Rutex								
Ellada (1993)	145,3	87,5	0,0	61,0	70%	11,7	48,4	55%
Urban								
Ellada (1995)	67,2	45,2	0,0	5,6	12%	0,0	2,3	5%
TOTAL	877,4	520,0	24,9	227,4	44%	45,2	136,0	26%
Interreg/Regan								
Elлада/Italia: Ipiros, Ionia Nisia, Dutiki Ellada and Puglia (1997)	304,9	169,2	39,9	39,9	24%	19,9	19,9	12%
Österreich/Deutschland/Elлада/Italia: Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (1997)	36,8	20,9	20,9	20,9	100%	10,5	10,5	50%
Elлада/Albania/Bulgaria (1995)	494,9	314,0	41,6	107,9	34%	47,4	96,4	31%
Elлада/Italia (REGEN Electricity) (1995)	189,4	75,8	0,0	22,0	29%	0,0	11,0	15%
Elлада: Completion of energy networks (REGEN) (1995)	459,2	183,7	60,5	183,7	100%	79,4	161,9	88%

ESPAÑA

Programmas (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
Regional OPs								
GG Castilla y León (1997)	352,8	56,2	4,7	4,7	8%	0,0	0,0	0%
MP Main drain, Santander Bay (1997)	25,3	17,7	4,4	4,4	25%	2,2	2,2	12%
MP Cartagena-Puertollona oil pipeline(1997)	161,2	62,9	17,7	17,7	28%	0,0	0,0	0%
GG Castilla-La Mancha (1) (1996)	41,4	6,5	1,7	3,2	50%	1,3	2,1	33%
OP Ceuta and Melilla (2) (1996)	16,3	13,1	0,0	13,1	100%	6,5	10,4	80%
OP Commerce and tourism (2) (1996)	41,9	31,4	10,7	31,4	100%	5,4	15,7	50%
MP Gibraltar-Cordoba gas pipeline (1996)	298,5	99,0	0,0	89,8	91%	0,0	71,8	73%
MP Natural gas installation, Huelva (1996)	27,4	7,3	0,0	7,3	100%	1,5	7,3	100%
GG Andalucía (1995)	1.894,5	223,9	4,2	106,8	48%	30,7	85,0	38%
OP Andalucía (3) (1995)	575,3	342,0	48,7	182,2	53%	55,9	166,3	49%
OP Cantabria (2) (1995)	12,0	9,0	1,2	2,6	29%	0,0	0,7	8%
GG Salamanca (1995)	39,1	12,9	0,0	6,3	49%	0,0	5,0	39%
GG Sodical (Castilla y León) (1995)	43,1	6,5	0,0	3,6	55%	1,5	3,9	51%
OP Andalucía (1) (1994)	6.727,8	2.991,6	740,6	2.388,2	80%	691,6	1.678,2	56%
OP Andalucía (2) (1994)	440,4	330,3	68,0	204,6	62%	47,6	153,0	46%
OP Asturias (1) (1994)	1.410,8	809,2	0,0	516,0	64%	168,5	450,8	56%
OP Asturias (2) (1994)	42,8	32,1	5,2	21,0	65%	5,1	18,4	57%
OP Asturias (3) (1994)	116,5	81,1	12,8	54,2	67%	14,0	51,5	63%
OP Canarias (1) (1994)	1.179,4	694,7	131,6	637,2	92%	135,9	478,2	69%
OP Canarias (2) (1994)	218,2	185,4	66,1	120,9	65%	76,3	103,7	56%
OP Canarias (3) (1994)	201,4	92,7	19,8	59,3	64%	18,8	54,9	65%
OP Castilla-La Mancha (1) (1994)	2.010,4	936,6	285,0	799,0	85%	198,8	573,3	61%
OP Castilla-La Mancha (2) (1994)	47,5	35,6	5,2	23,3	65%	5,8	20,1	57%
OP Castilla-La Mancha (3) (1994)	628,5	288,4	34,7	157,9	55%	41,9	137,4	48%
OP Castilla y León (1) (1994)	2.752,3	1.612,6	363,8	1.148,1	71%	341,9	890,0	55%
OP Castilla y León (2) (1994)	174,1	130,6	13,1	77,4	59%	6,8	49,8	38%
OP Castilla y León (3) (1994)	746,3	381,1	112,6	264,2	75%	53,3	200,4	53%
OP Ceuta (1) (1994)	70,9	47,4	7,3	42,7	90%	8,6	39,8	84%
OP Doñana Phase 2 (4) (1994)	225,5	146,6	0,0	58,1	40%	0,0	46,4	32%
OP Extremadura (1) (1994)	1.603,2	1.019,8	233,0	605,1	59%	70,8	340,9	33%
OP Extremadura (2) (1994)	211,2	168,9	37,5	104,6	62%	31,2	75,1	44%
OP Extremadura (3) (1994)	299,8	169,8	29,3	101,5	60%	28,2	89,1	52%
OP Galicia (1) (1994)	2.537,5	1.576,4	27,6	1.130,3	72%	246,7	1.023,6	65%
OP Galicia (2) (1994)	242,0	181,5	26,9	105,1	58%	22,5	83,5	46%
OP Galicia (3) (1994)	464,1	303,5	100,3	242,3	80%	43,6	175,0	58%
OP Melilla (1994)	82,4	42,1	0,0	28,1	67%	6,1	19,5	46%

(1) Single fund OP: ERDF

(2) Single fund OP: ESF

(3) Single fund OP: EAGGF

(4) Including appropriations under heading B2-1820

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
GG Murcia (1) (1994)	518,0	79,2	17,1	42,7	54%	8,6	31,5	40%
OP Murcia (1) (1994)	767,3	487,3	107,1	335,8	69%	32,6	229,2	47%
OP Murcia (2) (1994)	60,1	45,1	6,8	24,5	54%	7,9	19,8	44%
OP Murcia (3) (1994)	127,3	55,6	9,0	34,5	62%	7,2	30,5	55%
OP Multiregional Cantabria (1) (1994)	536,6	343,0	0,0	247,7	72%	103,7	225,1	66%
OP Multiregional Cantabria (3) (1994)	110,8	54,3	13,8	30,8	57%	7,9	18,2	33%
OP Regional Cantabria (1) (1994)	158,6	105,0	51,0	66,0	63%	46,9	54,4	52%
OP Comunidad Valenciana (1) (1994)	3.691,7	1.207,9	0,0	936,4	78%	98,9	722,6	60%
OP Comunidad Valenciana (2) (1994)	418,4	313,8	45,3	226,6	72%	41,2	188,2	60%
OP Comunidad Valenciana (3) (1994)	274,2	103,5	40,4	95,3	92%	24,2	75,7	73%
Multiregional OPs								
OP Updating of statistical data (1996)	79,4	59,6	0,0	20,1	34%	0,0	10,0	17%
OP Technical assistance(1) (1996)	26,7	20,0	0,0	8,0	40%	2,4	6,4	32%
OP Rural development (1996)	538,2	275,4	0,0	41,4	15%	0,0	20,7	8%
MP Valencia-Cartagena gas pipeline (1996)	60,7	23,8	0,0	23,8	100%	0,0	19,0	80%
GG IDAE (1996)	964,6	118,3	0,0	23,7	20%	18,9	18,9	16%
OP PITMA II (5) (1996)	623,7	59,7	16,4	24,0	40%	6,1	6,1	10%
OP Technical assistance(3) (1995)	18,4	13,8	2,0	4,0	29%	2,6	3,6	26%
GG Chamber of commerce (1995)	37,0	19,2	4,5	5,6	29%	2,6	3,2	16%
OP Regional aids (1994)	3 125,9	387,0	111,2	331,4	86%	117,3	309,1	80%
GG SMEs competitiveness (1994)	344,9	241,5	0,0	102,7	43%	0,0	77,5	32%
OP Local environment (1994)	828,6	580,6	265,0	361,8	62%	98,8	147,2	25%
OP FORCEM (1994)	447,6	262,5	38,0	176,8	67%	72,9	142,3	54%
OP Food industry (1994)	3 218,3	1 230,5	354,0	1 012,9	82%	186,9	712,4	58%
OP INEM (6) (1994)	3 475,2	2 606,4	407,5	1 747,9	67%	285,6	1 538,5	59%
OP Scientific infrastructure (1994)	479,4	342,2	60,9	256,9	75%	75,5	184,0	54%
OP Local (1994)	812,5	580,6	218,9	412,4	71%	136,6	262,4	45%
OP Ministry of Education (1994)	1 953,6	1 455,2	236,9	802,6	55%	161,1	688,7	47%
OP Ministries (1994)	72,2	54,2	9,0	28,9	53%	8,2	21,5	40%
OP Independent bodies (1994)	352,5	264,4	60,5	153,2	58%	61,1	112,9	43%
OP Fisheries(1994)	1 697,0	1 015,5	183,1	645,8	64%	193,7	532,4	52%
GG Industrial technology (1994)	472,6	143,2	30,0	82,8	58%	15,0	62,5	44%
Technical assistance	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,8	100%	0,3	0,3	43%
Total	52.254,8	25.705,6	4.702,5	17.689,8	69%	4.193,6	13.597,3	53%
Objective 2								
Regional OPs								
OP Aragón 1997-99 (1997)	478,0	105,2	23,7	23,7	23%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP Baleares 1997-99 (1997)	68,3	14,8	12,6	12,6	85%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP Cataluña 1997-99 (1997)	3 440,0	688,9	181,7	181,7	26%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP La Rioja 1997-99 (1997)	132,0	17,6	15,7	15,7	89%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP Navarra 1997-99 (1997)	136,3	25,4	25,4	25,4	100%	12,7	12,7	50%
OP Aragón 1994-96 (1995)	148,7	40,5	-7,2	45,6	113%	9,5	33,1	82%
OP Baleares 1994-96 (1995)	57,6	8,7	-0,6	9,5	110%	0,0	7,8	90%
OP Cataluña 1994-96 (1995)	4 665,3	448,2	0,0	448,2	100%	104,1	379,8	85%
OP La Rioja 1994-96 (1995)	64,9	8,5	-0,7	10,7	126%	-2,2	6,9	81%
OP Madrid 1994-96 (1995)	314,7	122,1	0,0	128,3	105%	0,3	68,1	56%
OP Navarra 1994-96 (1995)	102,6	21,4	-1,4	21,4	100%	0,0	16,7	78%
OP País Vasco 1994-96 (1995)	1 889,0	311,6	-11,4	311,6	100%	103,0	281,7	90%
Multiregional OP								
Multiregional OP 1994-96 (2) (1995)	64,7	29,1	-10,6	29,1	100%	0,0	27,7	95%
Total	11.562,2	1.841,8	227,1	1.263,5	69%	227,4	834,6	45%
Objective 3								
Regional OPs								
OP Aragón (1994)	45,1	20,3	0,0	20,3	100%	3,5	8,9	44%
OP Baleares (1994)	28,8	12,9	0,0	12,9	100%	0,0	3,0	23%
OP Cataluña (1994)	210,3	94,6	12,8	59,7	63%	16,8	48,7	51%
OP La Rioja (1994)	9,6	4,3	0,0	4,3	100%	0,8	1,6	38%
OP Madrid (1994)	250,2	112,6	0,0	43,7	39%	1,2	33,4	30%
OP Navarra (1994)	94,6	42,6	7,3	31,1	73%	7,6	27,7	65%
OP País Vasco (1994)	279,2	125,7	19,4	81,7	65%	20,1	66,2	53%
Multiregional OPs								
OP Various bodies (1994)	68,3	30,7	-3,3	30,7	100%	2,2	7,0	23%
OP INEM (6) (1994)	1.393,2	626,9	119,0	396,8	63%	63,7	339,4	54%
Multiregional OP (1994)	740,6	333,3	81,7	184,1	55%	57,1	150,7	45%
OP Universities (1994)	201,2	90,5	14,5	52,5	58%	15,2	38,4	42%
Total	3.321,1	1.494,5	251,4	917,9	61%	208,3	725,0	49%
Objective 4								
SPD España (1994)	1.045,0	368,6	47,0	214,7	58%	81,3	157,1	43%
Technical assistance	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,2	99%	0,0	0,2	99%
Total	1.045,1	368,8	47,0	214,8	68%	81,3	157,3	43%

(1) Single fund OP: ERDF

(2) Single Fund OP: ESF

(3) Single fund OP: EAGGF

(5) Industrial and technological programme for the environment

(6) National Employment Institute

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts España R. 2328/91 (1995)	408,26	157,00	40,05	91,78	58%	36,70	80,70	51%
SPD España R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	585,90	175,77	32,48	83,16	47%	31,10	71,64	41%
Total	994,2	332,8	72,5	174,9	53%	67,8	152,3	46%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD España (1994)	326,8	122,5	22,3	82,0	67%	23,2	65,9	54%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Baleares (1995)	147,3	46,5	5,2	23,5	51%	3,0	16,5	35%
SPD Aragón (1994)	776,4	306,2	57,8	217,2	71%	51,6	161,7	53%
SPD Cataluña (1994)	374,6	151,1	8,9	71,3	47%	13,9	59,8	40%
SPD La Rioja (1994)	184,7	39,7	2,2	21,9	55%	2,3	17,3	43%
SPD Madrid (1994)	113,1	49,5	5,3	24,5	50%	6,2	20,1	41%
SPD Navarra (1994)	162,8	57,8	9,7	51,1	86%	7,4	42,8	74%
SPD País Vasco (1994)	82,1	27,1	2,2	16,3	60%	3,7	13,0	48%
Total	1.841,0	677,9	91,3	425,7	63%	88,3	331,2	49%
TOTAL	71.345,1	30.543,8	6.414,2	20.768,7	68%	4.889,9	15.863,5	52%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt.								
España (1995)	461,9	293,2	57,4	139,2	47%	74,7	117,5	40%
Employment								
España (1994)	671,0	450,1	52,8	167,5	37%	51,3	116,0	26%
Leader								
Andalucía (1995)	194,6	77,8	0,0	10,3	13%	0,0	5,2	7%
Aragón (1995)	137,4	27,5	0,0	27,5	100%	0,0	8,2	30%
Asturias (1995)	35,5	13,0	0,0	13,0	100%	0,0	3,9	30%
Baleares (1995)	11,3	3,1	0,0	3,1	100%	0,0	1,2	40%
Canarias (1995)	30,8	12,3	10,3	12,3	100%	2,7	3,7	30%
Cantabria (1995)	20,1	6,4	0,0	1,1	16%	0,0	0,5	6%
Castilla y León (1995)	122,9	53,5	0,0	10,0	19%	2,9	7,9	15%
Castilla-La Mancha (1995)	110,7	46,4	0,0	4,9	11%	0,0	2,5	5%
Cataluña (1995)	68,1	13,6	0,0	2,2	16%	0,0	1,1	8%
Comunidad Valenciana (1995)	77,6	23,6	20,1	23,6	100%	5,3	7,1	30%
Extremadura (1995)	62,2	27,2	0,0	24,0	86%	0,0	7,2	27%
Galicia (1995)	119,5	43,8	8,3	11,8	27%	5,0	6,8	15%
La Rioja (1995)	18,4	3,7	0,0	3,7	100%	0,0	1,1	30%
Madrid (1995)	14,1	3,6	0,0	3,6	100%	0,0	1,1	30%
Murcia (1995)	24,3	9,5	7,7	9,5	100%	2,0	2,9	30%
Navarra (1995)	21,5	5,9	1,1	5,9	100%	0,3	1,8	30%
País Vasco (1995)	12,6	2,5	0,0	2,5	100%	0,0	0,7	30%
Total	1.081,7	373,5	47,6	169,1	45%	18,2	62,9	17%
Pesca								
España (1994)	93,0	41,5	3,8	10,7	26%	1,9	5,4	13%
SMEs								
Network IBEX León-98 food industry (1997)	1,0	0,6	0,6	0,6	100%	0,3	0,3	40%
España (1996)	1.383,1	251,1	57,6	92,9	37%	56,7	74,3	30%
Total	1.384,1	251,7	58,3	93,5	37%	56,9	74,6	30%
Rachar								
España (1996)	60,0	34,2	0,0	32,7	95%	9,8	26,1	76%
REGIS								
Canarias (1995)	385,5	216,9	41,9	117,3	54%	26,5	86,4	40%
Koover								
España (1997)	56,6	23,8	23,8	23,8	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Residor								
España (1996)	464,3	73,6	34,5	42,1	57%	29,9	33,7	46%
Retex								
España (1993)	361,1	90,4	43,7	82,2	91%	18,5	52,7	58%
Urban								
España (1995)	248,7	162,6	0,0	56,0	34%	10,2	44,3	27%
TOTAL	5.267,8	2.011,6	363,7	934,3	46%	298,0	619,5	31%
Interreg/Regen								
España/Morocco (1996)	185,3	101,4	23,0	37,1	37%	22,5	29,7	29%
France/España (1995)	142,6	62,4	10,3	19,1	31%	7,2	11,7	19%
España/Portugal (1995)	755,3	552,0	0,0	240,2	44%	50,5	154,4	26%
España/Portugal (Regen natural gas) (1995)	548,2	220,0	23,0	216,4	98%	17,8	180,3	82%

FRANCE

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
SPD Avesnes-Douai-Valenciennes (1994)	1 269,9	449,0	9,1	192,4	43%	62,0	167,2	37%
SPD Corse (1994)	637,8	253,4	27,2	105,2	42%	27,9	86,3	35%
SPD Guadeloupe (1994)	832,3	351,9	78,4	191,5	54%	82,4	160,8	46%
SPD Guyane (1994)	309,5	164,9	21,3	72,3	44%	24,4	61,9	38%
SPD Martinique (1994)	660,4	329,8	37,1	135,4	41%	34,7	95,3	29%
SPD Réunion (1994)	1 281,9	673,2	0,0	270,6	40%	51,8	247,7	37%
Technical assistance	0,6	0,3	0,2	0,4	103%	0,1	0,2	54%
Total	5 052,4	2 222,7	173,3	967,9	44%	283,4	821,3	37%
Objective 2								
Regional SPDs								
SPD Alsace 1997-99 (1997)	98,4	21,9	21,9	21,9	100%	11,0	11,0	50%
SPD Aquitaine 1997-99 (1997)	498,0	132,5	41,3	41,3	31%	20,6	20,6	16%
SPD Auvergne 1997-99 (1997)	231,2	82,3	26,2	26,2	32%	13,1	13,1	16%
SPD Basse-Normandie 1997-99 (1997)	234,9	80,3	26,8	26,8	33%	13,4	13,4	17%
SPD Bourgogne 1997-99 (1997)	204,8	69,7	18,8	18,8	27%	9,4	9,4	14%
SPD Bretagne 1997-99 (1997)	317,4	118,9	38,0	38,0	32%	19,0	19,0	16%
SPD Centre 1997-99 (1997)	126,1	38,0	38,0	38,0	100%	19,0	19,0	50%
SPD Champagne-Ardenne 1997-99 (1997)	297,5	113,8	36,4	36,4	32%	18,2	18,2	16%
SPD Franche-Comté 1997-99 (1997)	123,6	56,2	18,0	18,0	32%	9,0	9,0	16%
SPD Haute-Normandie 1997-99 (1997)	503,6	164,2	51,2	51,2	31%	25,6	25,6	16%
SPD Languedoc-Roussillon 1997-99 (1997)	342,0	98,9	34,1	34,1	35%	17,1	17,1	17%
SPD Lorraine 1997-99 (1997)	381,1	173,6	45,9	45,9	26%	23,0	23,0	13%
SPD Midi-Pyrénées 1997-99 (1997)	175,3	53,0	15,9	15,3	29%	7,7	7,7	14%
SPD Nord-Pas-de-Calais 1997-99 (1997)	1 172,7	375,4	114,8	114,8	31%	57,4	57,4	15%
SPD Pays-de-la-Loire 1997-99 (1997)	395,8	162,5	49,6	49,6	30%	24,8	24,8	15%
SPD Picardie 1997-99 (1997)	480,8	139,6	44,7	44,7	32%	22,3	22,3	16%
SPD Poitou-Charentes 1997-99 (1997)	187,6	62,9	20,1	20,1	32%	10,1	10,1	16%
SPD Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur 1997-99 (1997)	428,4	154,4	48,2	48,2	31%	24,1	24,1	16%
SPD Rhône-Alpes 1997-99 (1997)	429,2	148,9	54,8	54,8	37%	27,4	27,4	18%
SPD Alsace 1994-96 (1994)	47,3	19,9	0,0	19,9	100%	0,0	15,9	80%
SPD Aquitaine 1994-96 (1994)	372,4	100,2	-0,9	99,3	99%	1,1	84,4	84%
SPD Auvergne 1994-96 (1994)	109,5	52,9	1,3	52,9	100%	17,8	46,8	88%
SPD Basse-Normandie 1994-96 (1994)	155,9	49,3	3,5	49,3	100%	13,3	41,3	84%
SPD Bourgogne 1994-96 (1994)	122,4	36,5	-1,0	36,5	100%	7,4	31,3	86%
SPD Bretagne 1994-96 (1994)	228,9	82,9	0,0	82,9	100%	21,5	58,0	82%
SPD Centre 1994-96 (1994)	128,4	16,3	-1,6	16,3	100%	0,0	13,2	81%
SPD Champagne-Ardenne 1994-96 (1994)	245,1	55,7	5,3	55,7	100%	8,5	45,0	81%
SPD Franche-Comté 1994-96 (1994)	117,4	48,5	0,0	48,5	100%	0,8	34,4	71%
SPD Haute-Normandie 1994-96 (1994)	428,9	149,0	12,2	149,0	100%	23,9	129,9	87%
SPD Languedoc-Roussillon 1994-96 (1994)	231,9	56,1	-0,8	55,3	99%	13,0	47,0	84%
SPD Lorraine 1994-96 (1994)	214,2	98,1	-5,8	95,5	97%	21,6	84,7	86%
SPD Midi-Pyrénées 1994-96 (1994)	152,5	41,4	0,0	41,4	100%	7,0	27,2	66%
SPD Nord-Pas-de-Calais 1994-96 (1994)	925,0	303,0	0,1	303,0	100%	147,1	249,8	82%
SPD Pays-de-la-Loire 1994-96 (1994)	364,5	130,2	-0,2	128,1	98%	45,7	108,7	84%
SPD Picardie 1994-96 (1994)	479,2	122,4	0,0	122,4	100%	40,3	102,8	84%
SPD Poitou-Charentes 1994-96 (1994)	130,5	54,1	0,0	54,1	100%	16,6	47,0	87%
SPD Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur 1994-96 (1994)	264,7	99,4	4,8	99,4	100%	53,1	81,0	81%
SPD Rhône-Alpes 1994-96 (1994)	220,7	65,8	-1,6	65,8	100%	38,5	54,3	83%
Multiregional SPDs								
SPD Technical assistance 1997-99 (1997)	2,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	100%	0,5	0,5	50%
Total	11 569,3	3 828,9	760,2	2 320,3	61%	849,8	1 685,3	44%
Objective 3								
SPD France (1994)	7 753,93	2 613,61	221,02	1 421,01	54,37%	274,77	1 181,33	45,20%
Objective 4								
SPD France (1994)	1 820,1	653,4	98,0	285,1	44%	83,1	180,5	28%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts France R. 2328/91 (1995)	4 675,5	1 521,6	339,5	997,0	66%	319,7	722,5	47%
SPD France R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	1 404,5	258,9	45,5	126,5	49%	48,5	94,6	37%
Total	6 080,1	1 780,5	385,0	1 123,6	63%	368,1	817,1	46%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD France (1994)	842,99	189,90	31,61	94,88	50%	25,29	66,42	35%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Alsace (1994)	170,5	48,8	4,2	22,4	46%	3,1	13,7	28%
SPD Aquitaine (1994)	782,6	229,9	68,8	152,9	67%	47,0	98,6	43%
SPD Auvergne (1994)	730,4	166,0	38,0	100,6	61%	33,5	82,0	49%
SPD Basse-Normandie (1994)	433,4	133,3	22,6	66,0	50%	19,2	51,2	38%
SPD Bourgogne (1994)	409,3	112,7	0,0	49,4	44%	4,3	35,1	31%
SPD Bretagne (1994)	518,2	188,9	45,2	104,3	55%	41,3	85,3	47%
SPD Centre (1994)	260,3	84,1	14,5	36,6	44%	10,5	22,2	26%
SPD Champagne-Ardenne (1994)	102,3	29,3	5,3	11,9	41%	4,6	10,3	35%
SPD Franche-Comté (1994)	439,8	78,1	9,8	41,0	52%	11,9	28,3	36%
SPD Haute-Normandie (1994)	32,9	11,2	1,2	3,5	31%	2,0	2,8	25%

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
SPD Languedoc-Roussillon (1994)	344,3	119,9	36,8	64,0	53%	25,8	47,8	40%
SPD Limousin (1994)	569,6	129,7	28,8	82,7	64%	18,5	64,6	50%
SPD Lorraine (1994)	320,9	96,8	22,4	53,6	55%	22,6	43,8	45%
SPD Midi-Pyrénées (1994)	857,2	283,1	51,0	123,7	44%	33,6	91,4	32%
SPD Pays de la Loire (1994)	342,6	123,7	37,8	68,0	55%	32,1	56,0	45%
SPD Poitou-Charentes (1994)	450,8	130,1	22,1	64,6	50%	21,4	52,1	40%
SPD Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (1994)	290,8	95,7	24,0	47,2	49%	17,2	35,4	37%
SPD Rhône-Alpes (1994)	851,8	172,1	26,2	72,0	42%	11,7	41,9	24%
SPD Technical assistance (1997)	2,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	100%	0,3	0,3	30%
SPD Massif Central (1995)	27,4	12,7	1,4	3,8	30%	1,4	2,8	22%
SPD Massif des Pyrénées (1995)	17,8	8,6	0,0	1,1	13%	0,0	0,5	6%
Total	7.955,0	2.256,7	461,1	1.170,2	52%	362,1	870,2	39%
TOTAL	41.073,8	13.644,6	2.130,2	7.382,9	55%	2.246,6	5.622,2	42%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
France (1995)	680,9	278,4	25,8	72,7	26%	18,1	41,6	15%
Employment								
France (1994)	382,1	191,2	21,1	70,7	37%	29,9	56,6	30%
Leader								
Technical assistance national network (1997)	0,7	0,4	0,4	0,4	100%	0,1	0,1	40%
Alsace (1996)	9,9	4,4	1,1	4,4	99%	0,4	2,1	47%
Centre (1996)	17,7	7,7	1,1	7,5	97%	0,3	2,3	29%
Champagne-Ardenne (1996)	8,5	2,7	0,5	2,7	98%	0,1	0,8	29%
Douai, Valenciennes (1996)	4,5	2,0	1,3	2,0	100%	0,4	0,6	30%
Haute-Normandie (1996)	2,8	1,3	0,5	1,3	100%	0,2	0,4	30%
Lorraine (1996)	19,3	9,0	1,5	9,0	100%	0,2	3,4	38%
Midi-Pyrénées (1996)	65,6	25,5	3,0	25,0	98%	0,9	7,5	29%
Pays-de-la-Loire (1996)	22,6	11,2	1,5	10,8	96%	0,3	4,9	44%
Rhône-Alpes (1996)	33,5	15,9	2,2	15,3	97%	0,7	4,6	29%
Aquitaine (1995)	46,3	20,9	3,6	20,9	100%	7,0	12,2	58%
Auvergne (1995)	36,6	15,5	2,7	15,5	100%	0,9	4,9	32%
Basse-Normandie (1995)	28,1	12,3	2,1	12,3	100%	0,6	3,9	32%
Bourgogne (1995)	24,8	10,3	1,8	10,3	100%	0,5	3,4	32%
Bretagne (1995)	34,5	17,1	2,6	16,7	98%	0,8	5,0	29%
Corse (1995)	7,2	3,0	0,0	3,0	100%	0,0	1,0	32%
Franche-Comté (1995)	14,0	7,0	1,2	7,0	100%	0,4	2,1	30%
Languedoc-Roussillon (1995)	40,9	17,4	2,7	17,1	98%	1,7	6,1	35%
Limousin (1995)	50,1	18,2	3,0	18,0	99%	2,8	7,5	41%
Poitou-Charentes (1995)	62,4	11,9	1,7	11,5	97%	0,5	3,8	32%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (1995)	29,8	14,9	2,8	14,9	100%	0,8	4,5	30%
Total	659,8	228,5	37,4	225,7	99%	19,8	80,9	35%
Pesca								
France (1995)	81,3	28,3	0,0	28,3	100%	0,0	8,5	30%
SMEs								
Corse (1995)	8,6	3,0	0,4	3,0	100%	0,1	0,9	30%
Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Hainaut (1995)	25,1	6,3	0,0	6,3	100%	0,0	1,9	30%
Zones obj 2 and 5(b) (1995)	98,3	49,2	6,7	13,6	28%	4,9	7,1	14%
Total	132,1	58,6	7,1	22,9	39%	5,1	9,9	17%
Réchar								
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (1996)	39,3	16,9	0,0	16,9	100%	0,0	8,4	50%
Bourgogne (1995)	3,1	1,5	0,0	1,5	100%	0,5	1,2	80%
Languedoc-Roussillon (1995)	2,7	1,0	0,2	1,0	100%	0,1	0,5	50%
Lorraine (1995)	25,1	10,9	0,0	10,9	100%	0,0	5,5	50%
Midi-Pyrénées (1995)	4,4	1,1	0,0	1,1	100%	0,0	0,6	50%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (1995)	2,0	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,5	50%
Rhône-Alpes (1995)	2,0	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,5	50%
Total	78,7	33,5	0,2	33,5	100%	0,6	17,2	51%
Regis								
Guadeloupe (1996)	123,9	61,3	11,5	19,6	32%	8,1	12,1	20%
Guyane (1996)	47,3	28,4	0,0	28,4	100%	0,0	8,5	30%
Martinique (1996)	123,8	60,8	3,5	11,8	19%	0,5	4,7	8%
Réunion (1995)	204,0	115,6	8,7	24,9	22%	6,8	14,9	13%
Total	498,9	266,1	23,7	84,6	32%	15,4	40,2	15%
Konrer								
Alsace (1995)	20,0	4,3	0,0	4,3	100%	0,0	2,1	50%
Aquitaine (1995)	69,9	14,3	1,1	14,3	100%	4,4	10,9	77%
Auvergne (1995)	3,8	1,5	0,0	1,5	100%	0,0	0,8	50%
Basse-Normandie (1995)	6,8	3,4	0,0	2,0	60%	0,0	1,0	30%
Bretagne (1995)	12,6	6,2	1,1	6,2	100%	0,0	2,6	42%
Centre (1995)	28,9	5,2	1,0	5,2	100%	0,0	2,1	40%
Champagne-Ardenne (1995)	6,7	3,0	0,5	3,0	100%	0,0	1,2	41%
Ile-de-France (1995)	28,8	8,1	2,3	7,8	96%	1,4	4,2	52%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Languedoc-Roussillon (1995)	10,1	3,1	0,0	3,1	100%	0,0	1,5	50%
Limousin (1995)	28,1	4,8	0,8	4,8	100%	0,0	2,0	42%
Lorraine (1995)	8,6	3,9	2,8	3,9	100%	0,8	1,2	30%
Midi-Pyrénées (1995)	16,1	5,1	1,0	5,1	100%	0,0	2,0	40%
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (1995)	2,2	1,1	0,0	1,1	100%	0,0	0,6	50%
Picardie (1995)	21,7	10,0	0,6	10,0	100%	0,0	4,7	47%
Poitou-Charentes (1995)	3,1	1,5	0,0	1,5	100%	0,0	0,8	50%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (1995)	16,9	8,5	2,6	8,5	100%	0,0	2,9	35%
Rhône-Alpes (1995)	7,2	2,2	0,0	2,2	100%	0,0	1,1	50%
Total	291,5	86,2	13,8	84,5	98%	6,6	41,8	48%
Residat								
Basse-Normandie (1996)	21,7	5,1	0,0	5,1	100%	0,0	2,6	50%
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (1996)	45,7	14,4	0,0	14,4	100%	0,0	7,2	50%
Bourgogne (1995)	3,7	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,9	50%
Lorraine (1995)	73,5	31,1	0,0	31,1	100%	0,0	15,6	50%
Picardie (1995)	7,2	2,5	0,2	2,5	100%	0,4	1,2	49%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (1995)	15,3	5,2	0,0	5,2	100%	0,0	1,6	30%
Rhône-Alpes (1995)	6,1	2,2	0,0	2,2	100%	0,0	0,7	34%
Total	173,2	62,3	0,2	62,3	100%	0,4	29,7	48%
Réaux								
France (1993)	126,2	39,5	30,3	37,3	94%	1,3	4,7	12%
Urban								
Bourgogne (Châlons-sur-Saône) (1997)	14,0	5,3	5,3	5,3	100%	2,7	2,7	50%
Corse (Bastia) (1997)	6,5	3,5	3,0	3,0	86%	1,5	1,5	43%
Ile-de-France (Clichy-Montfermeil) (1997)	18,5	5,3	5,3	5,3	100%	2,7	2,7	50%
Ile-de-France (Mantes-la-Jolie) (1997)	16,4	5,3	4,3	4,3	80%	2,1	2,1	40%
Rhône-Alpes (Saint-Etienne) (1997)	15,1	5,3	3,9	3,9	74%	2,0	2,0	37%
Alsace (Mulhouse) (1996)	20,9	7,0	0,0	7,0	100%	0,0	2,1	30%
Ile-de-France (Aulnay-sous-Bois) (1996)	22,8	8,9	0,0	8,9	100%	0,0	2,7	30%
Ile-de-France (Les Mureaux) (1996)	17,0	7,0	0,0	7,0	100%	0,0	2,1	30%
Marseille (1996)	14,7	7,0	0,0	7,0	100%	0,0	2,1	30%
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Roubaix-Tourcoing) (1996)	17,6	7,0	1,6	7,0	100%	0,5	2,1	30%
Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Valenciennes) (1996)	9,7	4,9	0,4	4,9	100%	0,1	2,4	48%
Picardie (Amiens) (1996)	20,5	7,0	0,0	7,0	100%	0,0	2,1	30%
Rhône-Alpes (Lyon-Est) (1996)	25,6	7,0	0,0	7,0	100%	0,0	2,2	32%
Total	220,4	80,5	23,8	77,6	96%	11,6	28,7	36%
TOTAL	3.225,2	1.353,1	183,4	800,2	69%	108,7	359,8	27%
Interreg/Region								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/Luxembourg/ Nederland: Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
Belgique/France/Luxembourg: Wallonie-Lorraine- Luxembourg (1996)	62,2	30,2	0,0	26,2	87%	1,4	13,5	45%
Belgique/France: Ardennes (1996)	27,8	12,5	0,0	12,5	100%	0,0	3,7	30%
France/Belgique/België: Nord-Pas-de-Calais/ Vlaanderen (1996)	38,3	18,0	1,1	18,0	100%	0,5	9,0	50%
France/Belgique/België: Wallonie/Nord-Pas-de-Calais/ Picardie (1996)	148,4	71,5	0,0	10,0	14%	1,5	6,5	9%
France/España (1996)	142,6	62,4	10,3	19,1	31%	7,2	11,7	19%
France/Italia: Corse/Sardegna (1996)	71,8	33,7	0,6	33,1	98%	0,2	10,1	30%
France/Italia: Corse/Toscana (1996)	58,2	18,6	0,0	18,2	98%	0,0	5,5	29%
France/United Kingdom: Haute-Normandie, Picardie and East Sussex (1996)	80,8	34,1	0,0	34,1	100%	0,0	10,2	30%
France/United Kingdom: Nord-Pas-de-Calais/Kent (1996)	95,3	45,1	0,6	7,6	17%	0,3	3,8	8%
Italia/France (1996)	159,1	57,0	0,0	15,1	26%	0,0	7,5	13%
(1995)	51,4	25,2	-0,5	22,9	91%	0,4	7,4	29%
Deutschland/France: Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland/ Lorraine (1995)	46,5	23,3	0,0	23,3	100%	0,0	7,2	31%
France/Deutschland: PAMINA (1995)	22,1	11,1	1,0	11,1	100%	0,3	3,3	30%
France/Suisse: Franche-Comté (1995)	14,2	7,1	0,0	7,1	100%	0,0	2,2	31%
France/Suisse: Rhône-Alpes (1995)	11,6	5,4	0,0	4,3	80%	0,0	1,3	24%

IRELAND

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
OP Technical assistance (1996)	12,6	9,5	0,0	9,5	100%	0,0	2,8	30%
MP Tailaght hospital (1995)	131,3	39,4	0,0	39,4	100%	0,0	31,5	80%
OP Agriculture, rural dev. (1994)	1 816,6	933,1	277,8	784,6	84%	120,5	612,3	66%
OP Local development (1994)	442,2	262,6	15,1	141,1	54%	52,4	126,5	48%
OP Industry (1994)	1 672,6	1 043,3	30,8	599,2	57%	157,4	520,6	50%
OP Economic infrastructure (1994)	346,9	109,7	21,6	48,9	45%	19,0	41,2	38%
OP Fisheries (1994)	170,3	79,1	23,3	53,1	67%	23,7	47,6	60%
OP Human resources (1994)	4 670,1	1 789,1	265,1	1 120,2	63%	297,4	1 057,8	59%

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
OP Environmental services (1994)	125,6	78,0	0,0	34,0	44%	1,2	32,0	41%
OP Tourism (1994)	848,4	463,4	87,5	256,4	55%	74,1	224,0	48%
OP Transport (1994)	1.426,6	900,8	0,0	496,3	55%	146,6	466,3	52%
Technical assistance	0,5	0,5	0,3	0,5	100%	0,1	0,1	21%
TOTAL	11.863,7	5.708,4	721,6	3.583,1	63%	892,4	3.162,8	55%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Ireland (1995)	37,3	27,8	6,9	14,3	51%	6,6	12,6	45%
Employment								
Ireland (1994)	117,1	88,6	12,4	41,8	47%	16,9	33,9	38%
Leader								
Technical assistance national network (1997)	1,5	1,1	1,1	1,1	100%	0,3	0,3	30%
Ireland (1995)	166,7	68,4	0,0	7,5	11%	0,0	3,8	5%
Total	168,2	69,6	1,1	8,6	12%	0,3	4,1	6%
Peace								
Ireland (1994)	14,4	7,8	0,0	7,2	91%	2,3	3,6	46%
SMEs								
Ireland (1995)	66,1	28,8	0,0	28,8	100%	13,2	21,9	76%
Retax								
Ireland (1993)	22,9	11,5	3,7	11,8	103%	4,1	8,2	71%
Urban								
Ireland (1996)	27,7	20,8	10,4	12,2	59%	3,1	4,0	19%
TOTAL	453,6	254,8	34,6	124,7	49%	46,6	88,1	35%
Peace								
Ireland/Northern Ireland (1995)	412,4	301,7	53,3	176,3	58%	81,2	136,6	45%
Interreg/Region								
Ireland/United Kingdom: Northern Ireland (1995)	265,7	160,2	35,9	64,0	40%	0,5	14,6	9%
Ireland/United Kingdom: Wales (1995)	146,9	84,6	13,6	25,4	30%	14,2	20,1	24%

ITALIA

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
Regional OPs								
OP Pianura (3) (1997)	55,3	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
GG Crisis area Brindisi (3) (1997)	73,2	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
GG Crotona (3) (1996)	90,9	35,0	0,0	35,0	100%	10,5	10,5	30%
GG Manfredonia (3) (1996)	60,6	25,0	0,0	25,0	100%	0,0	12,5	50%
OP Abruzzo (1995)	365,7	165,5	0,0	165,5	100%	43,5	117,6	71%
OP Abruzzo (1) (1995)	187,6	93,9	-1,4	92,5	98%	27,1	74,4	79%
OP Calabria (1) (1995)	502,0	241,0	31,1	107,3	45%	33,3	75,1	31%
OP Campania (1995)	2.964,9	1.376,7	278,4	455,6	33%	59,5	149,3	11%
MP Port of Gioia Tauro (3) (1995)	120,0	40,0	0,0	40,0	100%	12,0	32,0	80%
OP Puglia (1995)	2.409,6	1.148,4	348,4	552,1	48%	194,0	286,9	25%
OP Sicilia (1995)	2.560,1	1.337,2	395,1	715,3	53%	243,6	450,3	34%
OP Basilicata (1994)	1.125,0	583,2	188,7	352,1	60%	141,9	236,3	41%
OP Calabria (1994)	1.313,9	580,3	166,8	290,8	50%	23,0	103,2	18%
OP Molise (1994)	523,5	292,0	93,9	153,6	53%	57,8	95,9	33%
OP Sardegna (1994)	1.808,6	967,1	192,6	461,7	48%	149,2	286,0	30%
Multiregional OPs								
OP Environment (3) (1997)	107,1	48,0	5,7	5,7	12%	2,9	2,9	6%
OP Airport infrastructure (3) (1997)	10,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	100%	2,5	2,5	50%
OP Park Projects (2) (1997)	69,9	52,4	26,2	26,2	50%	13,1	13,1	25%
GG Literature parks (3) (1997)	29,3	18,0	18,0	18,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP Civil protection (3) (1997)	120,3	60,0	20,0	20,0	33%	10,0	10,0	17%
OP Support for fruit and vegetable producer organisations (1) (1997)	8,2	4,1	0,0	0,0	0%	0,0	0,0	0%
OP "MEGA II" (1996)	120,0	72,0	18,0	21,7	30%	0,0	1,8	3%
OP Energie (3) (1996)	485,0	170,0	0,0	45,3	27%	0,0	22,7	13%
OP Road infrastructure (3) (1996)	498,0	249,0	0,0	28,8	12%	0,0	14,4	6%
OP Industry and services (1995)	5.359,1	2.592,7	509,4	2.513,3	97%	7,8	1.707,4	66%
OP Water resources (1995)	2.008,3	871,0	197,8	453,2	52%	76,6	204,2	23%
OP Tourism (1995)	274,9	130,0	0,0	22,2	17%	0,0	11,1	9%
OP Popular farming?? (1) (1995)	231,4	162,0	13,0	78,9	49%	25,1	68,4	42%
OP "Emergency" Employment (1994)	474,3	355,7	144,7	177,4	50%	55,4	71,7	20%
OP Technical assistance (2) (1994)	101,3	76,0	30,9	37,9	50%	5,5	9,0	12%
OP Training of trainers (1994)	245,3	184,0	74,9	91,8	50%	0,0	8,5	5%
OP Training of migrants (1994)	32,0	24,0	4,8	11,0	46%	2,4	6,5	27%
OP Ministry of Education (1994)	471,0	300,0	85,2	173,7	58%	90,2	139,9	45%
OP Fisheries (1994)	477,8	238,9	31,4	98,0	41%	21,8	57,0	24%
OP Research - development (1994)	1.258,2	784,0	269,1	335,0	43%	129,2	162,1	21%

(1) Single Fund OP: EAGGF

(2) Single Fund OP: ESF

(3) Single Fund assistance ERDF

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
OP Telecommunications (1994)	1 076,1	376,7	85,7	301,6	80%	91,3	264,0	70%
OP Rail transport (1994)	1 981,6	791,0	259,5	644,7	82%	62,0	370,2	47%
Technical assistance	1,1	1,1	0,5	1,1	100%	0,2	0,3	28%
Total	29 600,9	14 500,8	3 643,3	8 606,8	69%	1 591,3	6 072,9	35%
Objective 2								
SPD Emilia-Romagna 1997-99 (1997)	41,0	14,2	14,2	14,2	100%	7,1	7,1	50%
SPD Friuli-Venezia Giulia 1997-99 (1997)	110,1	39,2	28,0	28,0	71%	0,0	0,0	0%
SPD Lazio 1997-99 (1997)	187,1	76,9	14,8	14,8	19%	0,0	0,0	0%
SPD Liguria 1997-99 (1997)	339,7	129,5	41,4	41,4	32%	20,7	20,7	16%
SPD Lombardia 1997-99 (1997)	88,2	34,0	34,0	34,0	100%	17,0	17,0	50%
SPD Marche 1997-99 (1997)	86,1	31,0	31,0	31,0	100%	15,5	15,5	50%
SPD Umbria 1997-99 (1997)	125,6	53,1	17,0	17,0	32%	8,5	8,5	16%
SPD Piemonte 1997-99 (1997)	976,4	309,5	99,0	99,0	32%	49,5	49,5	16%
SPD Toscana 1997-99 (1997)	511,2	158,9	50,9	50,9	32%	25,4	25,4	16%
SPD Valle d'Aosta 1997-99 (1997)	30,5	13,5	13,5	13,5	100%	6,8	6,8	50%
SPD Veneto 1997-99 (1997)	303,6	107,8	49,5	49,5	46%	24,8	24,8	23%
SPD Emilia-Romagna 1994-96 (1994)	39,3	12,0	0,0	12,0	100%	0,0	6,0	50%
SPD Friuli-Venezia Giulia 1994-96 (1994)	59,0	14,1	-2,8	18,5	131%	-1,7	10,3	73%
SPD Lazio 1994-96 (1994)	158,4	59,0	6,5	59,0	100%	0,0	26,3	45%
SPD Liguria 1994-96 (1994)	219,2	81,6	15,4	81,6	100%	0,0	49,5	61%
SPD Lombardia 1994-96 (1994)	73,2	21,1	-2,0	21,1	100%	0,0	11,6	55%
SPD Marche 1994-96 (1994)	32,0	12,3	0,0	16,6	135%	-4,4	6,1	50%
SPD Umbria 1994-96 (1994)	37,3	17,4	-3,8	24,8	142%	-7,4	10,1	58%
SPD Piemonte 1994-96 (1994)	449,1	143,4	14,6	143,4	100%	56,3	102,8	72%
SPD Toscana 1994-96 (1994)	403,1	113,6	0,0	113,6	100%	48,1	85,8	76%
SPD Valle d'Aosta 1994-96 (1994)	1,6	0,6	0,1	3,3	599%	-2,8	0,2	42%
SPD Veneto 1994-96 (1994)	152,7	48,9	0,0	48,9	100%	0,0	24,5	50%
Total	4 424,4	1 491,8	422,3	936,3	63%	263,6	508,6	34%
Objective 3								
Regional OPs								
OP Abruzzo (1997)	45,6	21,2	6,4	6,4	30%	3,2	3,2	15%
OP Bolzano (1994)	54,4	24,5	9,3	15,7	64%	9,3	14,2	58%
OP Emilia-Romagna (1994)	409,8	184,4	24,7	99,3	54%	0,0	59,5	32%
OP Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1994)	118,6	53,4	20,3	34,1	64%	15,1	22,0	41%
OP Lazio (1994)	271,7	122,3	59,9	78,2	64%	24,7	33,9	28%
OP Liguria (1994)	94,0	42,3	7,2	27,0	64%	11,4	17,1	40%
OP Lombardia (1994)	389,1	175,1	85,8	112,0	64%	0,0	13,1	7%
OP Marche (1994)	81,7	36,6	17,8	23,5	64%	6,9	9,8	27%
OP Umbria (1994)	67,7	30,5	9,6	19,5	64%	3,4	8,4	28%
OP Piemonte (1994)	271,6	122,2	23,2	78,2	64%	18,4	51,8	42%
OP Toscana (1994)	145,8	65,6	22,0	42,0	64%	14,1	24,1	37%
OP Trento (1994)	62,7	28,2	5,0	18,1	64%	7,1	16,7	59%
OP Valle d'Aosta (1994)	30,1	12,4	1,5	6,3	51%	3,7	4,9	39%
OP Veneto (1994)	240,7	108,3	36,3	69,3	64%	7,3	23,8	22%
Multiregional OPs								
Multiregional OP (1997)	60,3	27,1	27,1	27,1	100%	13,6	13,6	50%
OP Innovative actions (1994)	118,9	53,5	21,1	30,2	56%	4,8	9,3	17%
OP Technical assistance (1994)	77,8	35,0	13,8	19,8	56%	0,0	3,0	8%
OP Training (1994)	456,8	205,6	81,2	115,0	56%	18,1	35,4	17%
Total	2 997,6	1 348,4	472,2	822,6	61%	161,8	363,6	27%
Objective 4								
SPD Ministry of Labour (1994)	903,7	406,7	164,4	263,3	65%	85,7	135,1	33%
Objective 5(a) Agriculture								
Regional OPs								
OP Bolzano R. 867/90 (1996)	1,6	0,4	0,0	0,4	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
OP Emilia-Romagna R. 866/90 (1996)	44,2	8,8	0,0	8,8	100%	0,0	2,7	30%
OP Friuli-Venezia Giulia R. 866/90 (1996)	13,3	3,4	0,0	3,4	100%	0,0	1,0	30%
OP Friuli-Venezia Giulia R. 867/90 (1996)	1,7	0,5	0,0	0,5	100%	0,0	0,2	30%
OP Lazio R. 866/90 (1996)	32,1	8,0	0,0	8,0	100%	0,0	2,4	30%
OP Lazio R. 867/90 (1996)	2,7	0,7	0,0	0,7	100%	0,0	0,2	30%
OP Liguria R. 866/90 (1996)	7,5	2,3	0,0	2,3	100%	0,0	0,7	30%
OP Liguria R. 867/90 (1996)	1,1	0,3	0,0	0,3	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
OP Lombardia R. 866/90 (1996)	132,6	26,5	0,0	26,5	100%	0,0	8,0	30%
OP Lombardia R. 867/90 (1996)	4,6	1,2	0,0	1,2	100%	0,0	0,4	30%
OP Marche R. 866/90 (1996)	62,7	16,3	0,0	16,3	100%	0,0	4,9	30%
OP Marche R. 867/90 (1996)	1,2	0,3	0,0	0,3	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
OP Marche Water Zoo R. 866/90 (1996)	3,2	0,8	0,0	0,8	100%	0,0	0,4	50%
OP Umbria R. 866/90 (1996)	20,4	4,1	0,0	4,1	100%	0,0	1,2	30%
OP Umbria R. 867/90 (1996)	1,6	0,4	0,0	0,4	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
OP Piemonte R. 866/90 (1996)	82,7	15,2	0,0	15,2	100%	0,0	4,6	30%
OP Piemonte R. 867/90 (1996)	4,8	1,2	0,0	1,2	100%	0,0	0,4	30%
OP Toscana R. 866/90 (1996)	53,0	10,0	0,0	10,0	100%	0,0	3,0	30%
OP Toscana R. 867/90 (1996)	4,1	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,3	30%
OP Trento R. 866/90 (1996)	30,8	6,5	0,0	6,5	100%	0,0	2,0	30%

Programmas (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
OP Trento R. 867/90 (1996)	3,8	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,3	30%
OP Valle d'Aosta R. 867/90 (1996)	0,7	0,2	0,0	0,2	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
OP Veneto R. 866/90 (1996)	72,6	14,5	0,0	14,5	100%	0,0	4,4	30%
OP Veneto R. 867/90 (1996)	3,1	0,8	0,0	0,8	100%	0,0	0,2	30%
OP Bolzano R. 866/90 (1995)	34,9	7,1	0,0	7,1	100%	2,1	5,6	80%
Multiregional OPs								
OP Italia R. 951/97 and 867/90 (1997)	714,0	185,6	30,0	30,0	15%	15,0	15,0	8%
Forecasts Italia R. 2328/91 (1995)	1 409,8	457,7	92,9	210,4	46%	122,5	181,3	40%
Total	2 744,9	775,0	122,9	372,1	48%	139,7	239,5	31%
Objective 5(a) Fisheries								
SPD Italia (1994)	456,4	134,4	2,8	47,5	35%	2,5	25,6	19%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1995)	273,4	44,0	5,7	17,6	40%	2,8	8,8	20%
SPD Liguria (1995)	185,3	36,2	4,3	10,5	29%	3,7	6,2	17%
SPD Marche (1995)	431,1	76,2	0,0	9,2	12%	0,0	4,6	6%
SPD Piemonte (1995)	425,0	83,5	0,0	9,8	12%	0,0	4,9	6%
SPD Bolzano (1994)	159,2	43,6	2,8	14,7	34%	0,6	6,9	16%
SPD Emilia-Romagna (1994)	311,2	57,1	13,1	19,8	35%	1,0	4,4	8%
SPD Lazio (1994)	514,9	145,7	0,0	16,7	11%	0,0	8,3	6%
SPD Lombardia (1994)	250,3	40,3	0,0	4,8	12%	0,0	3,0	8%
SPD Umbria (1994)	339,5	75,5	0,0	10,7	14%	0,0	5,4	7%
SPD Toscana (1994)	728,4	133,0	48,9	71,1	53%	38,8	46,7	35%
SPD Trento (1994)	65,8	19,9	4,1	6,7	34%	1,1	3,2	16%
SPD Valle d'Aosta (1994)	13,9	4,2	0,0	0,6	14%	0,0	0,3	7%
SPD Veneto (1994)	1 020,4	145,6	43,2	70,3	48%	25,0	33,6	23%
Total	4 718,5	904,7	122,0	262,6	29%	73,1	136,4	15%
TOTAL	45 846,5	19 561,7	4 849,9	11 311,2	68%	2 316,7	6 481,7	33%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Italia (1995)	405,0	219,7	0,0	81,7	37%	0,0	41,1	19%
Employment								
Italia (1994)	640,3	401,4	0,0	134,2	33%	0,0	67,6	17%
Leader								
Lazio (1996)	73,9	19,9	0,6	4,2	21%	1,2	2,1	11%
Liguria (1996)	18,3	4,8	0,0	3,9	82%	0,0	1,6	33%
Lombardia (1996)	17,3	5,5	0,0	4,5	82%	0,0	1,9	34%
Marche (1996)	44,6	10,3	0,7	1,9	18%	0,4	0,9	9%
Molise (1996)	18,1	9,8	0,0	0,3	3%	0,0	0,1	1%
Piemonte (1996)	48,8	11,3	1,3	2,6	23%	0,7	1,3	11%
Networks (1996)	3,1	2,0	0,0	2,0	100%	0,0	0,8	40%
Sicilia (1996)	65,2	32,6	4,2	11,4	35%	2,1	5,7	17%
Trento (1996)	10,5	2,7	0,9	2,2	82%	0,4	0,8	31%
Veneto (1996)	70,5	19,9	0,0	6,0	30%	0,0	3,0	15%
Abruzzo (1995)	31,9	16,0	0,0	15,4	96%	0,0	7,7	48%
Basilicata (1995)	39,1	19,6	0,0	2,4	12%	0,0	1,2	6%
Bolzano (1995)	23,4	5,9	0,0	4,8	82%	0,0	2,0	35%
Calabria (1995)	47,7	23,2	0,0	7,0	30%	0,0	3,5	15%
Campania (1995)	51,3	25,8	0,0	3,5	14%	0,0	1,8	7%
Emilia-Romagna (1995)	25,1	7,7	0,0	1,7	22%	0,0	0,9	11%
Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1995)	17,7	6,0	0,0	1,5	25%	0,0	0,7	12%
Puglia (1995)	53,2	26,6	0,0	6,6	25%	0,0	3,3	12%
Sardegna (1995)	78,0	36,4	4,0	5,1	14%	2,0	2,5	7%
Toscana (1995)	65,1	18,1	0,8	1,5	8%	0,4	0,7	4%
Umbria (1995)	38,0	10,3	0,8	2,4	24%	0,4	1,0	10%
Valle d'Aosta (1995)	2,2	0,6	0,0	0,5	82%	0,0	0,2	27%
Total	843,1	314,7	13,3	91,2	29%	7,5	43,8	14%
Pesca								
Italia (1995)	82,4	34,2	0,2	4,6	14%	0,1	2,3	7%
SMEs								
Italia (1996)	648,5	192,5	2,0	46,7	24%	1,0	23,4	12%
Rechaz								
Sardegna (1995)	1,8	0,9	0,1	0,9	100%	0,1	0,4	50%
Toscana (1995)	13,2	1,0	0,1	1,0	100%	0,0	0,5	50%
Total	15,0	1,9	0,2	1,9	100%	0,1	0,9	50%
Konver								
Italia (1996)	317,5	64,8	0,0	21,6	33%	0,0	10,8	17%
Residue								
Italia (1996)	427,1	92,3	0,0	42,6	46%	0,0	21,4	23%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Rural								
Italia (Obj. regions) (1993)	86,4	43,4	0,0	7,9	18%	0,0	6,3	15%
Italia (Obj. 2 and 5(b) regions) (1993)	178,8	39,6	0,0	4,2	10%	0,0	3,3	8%
Total	265,2	83,0	0,0	12,1	15%	0,0	9,6	12%
Urban								
Italia (1996)	337,5	136,0	0,0	26,4	19%	6,8	20,0	15%
TOTAL	3.981,6	1.540,6	15,7	463,1	30%	15,5	241,0	16%
Interreg/Regen								
Elada/Italia: Ipiros, Ionia Nisia, Dutiki Ellada and Puglia (1997)	304,9	169,2	39,9	39,9	24%	19,9	19,9	12%
Italia/Osterreich (1997)	27,4	11,8	13,1	13,1	110%	6,5	6,5	55%
Italia/Slovenia: Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto (1997)	31,4	15,6	11,7	11,7	75%	5,8	5,8	37%
Italia: Drought prevention (1997)	30,5	15,2	15,2	15,2	100%	7,6	7,6	50%
Osterreich/Deutschland/Elada/Italia: Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (1997)	36,8	20,9	20,9	20,9	100%	10,5	10,5	50%
France/Italia: Corse/Sardegna (1996)	71,8	33,7	0,6	33,1	98%	0,2	10,1	30%
France/Italia: Corse/Toscana (1996)	58,2	18,6	0,0	18,2	98%	0,0	5,5	29%
Italia/Albania: Puglia (1996)	178,2	81,5	0,0	15,5	19%	0,0	7,8	10%
Italia/France (1996)	159,1	57,0	0,0	15,1	26%	0,0	7,5	13%
Italia/Switzerland (1996)	52,7	20,0	4,4	20,0	100%	2,2	10,0	50%
Elada/Italia (Regen Electricity) (1995)	189,4	75,8	0,0	22,0	29%	0,0	11,0	15%
Elada: Completion of energy networks (Regen) (1995)	459,2	183,7	80,5	183,7	100%	79,4	161,9	88%

LUXEMBOURG

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 2								
SPD Luxembourg 1997-99 (1997)	45,3	9,8	9,8	9,8	100%	4,9	4,9	50%
SPD Luxembourg 1994-96 (1994)	18,2	5,3	-0,2	5,8	109%	0,0	4,3	80%
Total	63,5	15,2	9,6	15,7	103%	4,9	9,2	61%
Objective 3								
OP Private promoters (1994)	21,6	9,7	1,4	6,0	62%	1,6	5,7	58%
OP Public promoters (1994)	25,3	11,4	1,9	7,2	63%	2,1	7,0	62%
Total	46,9	21,1	3,3	13,2	62%	3,7	12,7	60%
Objective 4								
SPD Public promoters (1994)	6,1	2,3	0,0	0,9	38%	0,0	0,6	25%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts Luxembourg R. 2328/91 (1995)	128,4	36,7	0,0	15,6	42%	4,4	14,4	39%
SPD Luxembourg R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	20,5	3,1	0,0	1,0	31%	0,2	0,8	25%
Total	148,9	39,8	0,0	16,6	42%	4,6	15,2	38%
Objective 6(a) fisheries								
SPD Luxembourg (1994)	3,7	1,1	0,0	1,1	100%	0,0	0,3	30%
Objective 6(b)								
SPD Luxembourg (1994)	25,5	6,0	1,7	2,5	42%	1,5	1,9	32%
TOTAL	294,7	85,6	14,7	49,9	58%	14,8	39,9	47%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Luxembourg (1995)	0,8	0,3	0,0	0,3	100%	0,0	0,1	30%
Employment								
Luxembourg (1994)	0,6	0,3	0,0	0,3	100%	0,0	0,2	50%
Leader								
Luxembourg (1995)	4,8	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,2	0,7	65%
SMEs								
Luxembourg (1996)	1,4	0,3	0,0	0,3	72%	0,0	0,1	22%
Kooper								
Luxembourg (1997)	1,3	0,4	0,3	0,3	74%	0,1	0,1	22%
Restier								
Luxembourg (1997)	57,9	13,3	11,4	11,4	86%	3,4	3,4	26%
Urban								
Luxembourg (1995)	1,0	0,5	0,0	0,5	100%	0,0	0,3	50%
TOTAL	67,9	16,1	11,7	14,1	87%	3,8	4,7	29%
Interreg/Regen								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/Luxembourg/ Nederland: Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
Belgique/France/Luxembourg: Wallonie-Lorraine- Luxembourg (1996)	62,2	30,2	0,0	26,2	87%	1,4	13,5	45%
Deutschland/Luxembourg: Euregio (1995)	30,9	8,0	0,0	8,0	100%	0,0	2,4	30%

NEDERLAND

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1987	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1987	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
SPD Flevoland (1994)	964,9	150,0	15,7	57,7	38%	19,7	51,1	34%
Objective 2								
SPD Arnhem-Nijmegen 1997-99 (1997)	249,7	76,8	24,6	24,6	32%	12,3	12,3	16%
SPD Groningen-Drenthe 1997-99 (1997)	327,5	113,1	36,2	36,2	32%	18,1	18,1	16%
SPD Zuid-Oost Brabant 1997-99 (1997)	354,5	107,3	34,4	34,4	32%	17,2	17,2	16%
SPD Zuid-Limburg 1997-99 (1997)	222,2	65,5	21,1	21,1	32%	10,5	10,5	16%
SPD Twente-Overijssel 1997-99 (1997)	244,2	79,4	25,4	25,4	32%	12,7	12,7	16%
SPD Arnhem-Nijmegen 1994-96 (1994)	173,1	45,6	6,3	45,6	100%	21,4	34,1	75%
SPD Groningen-Drenthe 1994-96 (1994)	195,9	54,8	4,7	54,8	100%	16,7	46,6	85%
SPD Zuid-Oost Brabant 1994-96 (1994)	169,6	45,3	-0,7	45,3	100%	14,6	37,9	84%
SPD Zuid-Limburg 1994-96 (1994)	102,9	29,5	3,7	29,5	100%	8,1	16,4	56%
SPD Twente-Overijssel 1994-96 (1994)	156,4	49,0	1,8	44,9	92%	14,6	32,1	66%
Total	2.196,1	666,2	167,6	361,6	54%	146,2	238,0	36%
Objective 3								
SPD Nederland (1994)	2.219,7	935,3	159,4	593,9	63%	142,0	519,9	56%
Objective 4								
SPD Nederland (1994)	376,1	156,2	64,7	87,0	56%	52,1	63,2	40%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts Nederland R. 2328/91 (1995)	238,7	28,2	0,4	21,3	76%	1,8	9,9	35%
SPD Nederland R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	298,2	40,1	4,6	18,1	45%	0,6	11,1	28%
Total	636,9	68,3	5,0	39,3	58%	2,3	21,0	31%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD Nederland (1994)	127,5	46,6	0,0	15,5	33%	0,0	12,7	27%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Friesland (1994)	266,9	68,7	11,0	30,3	44%	11,8	22,1	32%
SPD Groningen-Drenthe (1994)	157,4	34,9	0,0	5,7	16%	1,5	4,6	13%
SPD Limburg (1994)	51,7	19,1	6,0	13,3	69%	3,5	8,0	42%
SPD Overijssel (1994)	70,2	15,5	2,5	7,4	48%	1,7	5,6	36%
SPD Zeeland (1994)	49,2	11,8	1,8	5,7	48%	0,8	4,3	36%
Total	595,4	150,0	21,1	62,3	42%	19,3	44,5	30%
TOTAL	7.016,5	2.172,7	423,4	1.217,3	56%	381,6	950,4	44%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Nederland (1995)	166,9	69,7	0,0	11,5	17%	2,4	8,2	12%
Employment								
Nederland (1994)	136,0	62,6	23,1	29,5	47%	16,4	19,7	31%
Leader								
Technical assistance national network (1997)	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	40%
Drenthe (1995)	2,8	1,1	0,0	1,1	100%	0,0	0,3	30%
Flevoland (1995)	4,4	2,1	0,1	2,1	100%	0,0	0,6	30%
Noordoost Friesland/noordwest Groningen (1995)	14,4	2,6	0,0	2,5	95%	0,0	0,7	28%
Noordwest Friesland (1995)	13,5	2,7	0,0	2,7	100%	0,0	0,8	30%
Total	35,2	8,5	0,2	8,4	98%	0,1	2,5	30%
Pesce								
Nederland (1995)	34,2	10,6	0,0	10,5	99%	1,4	3,1	30%
SMEs								
Nederland (1995)	26,9	10,3	0,0	10,3	100%	0,0	3,1	30%
Konver								
Nederland (1996)	32,0	12,0	1,0	12,0	100%	0,5	3,8	32%
Resider								
Nederland (1995)	83,8	23,5	4,4	22,5	96%	0,0	8,4	36%
Retax								
Twente (1995)	3,5	1,0	0,0	1,0	100%	0,0	0,5	50%
Urban								
Rotterdam (1997)	23,6	6,5	6,5	6,5	100%	2,0	2,0	30%
Utrecht (1997)	26,0	6,5	6,5	6,5	100%	2,0	2,0	30%
Amsterdam (1995)	19,7	4,7	1,0	4,7	100%	0,3	1,4	30%
Den Haag (1995)	68,2	4,7	0,4	4,7	100%	0,1	1,4	30%
Total	137,4	22,3	14,4	22,3	100%	4,3	6,7	30%
TOTAL	668,0	220,6	43,1	128,1	58%	25,2	66,0	25%
Interreg/Regen								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/Luxembourg/ Nederland: Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/Nederland/ Deutschland: North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
(1995)	22,8	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Belgique/België/Nederland: Middengebied (1995)	66,3	32,4	0,0	32,4	100%	0,0	9,7	30%
Deutschland/Nederland/Belgique/België: Euregio Meuse- Rhine (1995)	71,9	35,7	0,0	33,5	94%	0,0	10,0	28%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Deutschland/Niederland: Ems-Dollard (1995)	62,7	22,5	0,0	22,5	100%	0,0	6,7	30%
Deutschland/Niederland: Euregio (1995)	53,6	22,0	-2,2	19,8	90%	0,0	6,6	30%
(1995)	12,8	6,4	0,0	6,4	100%	0,0	1,9	30%
Deutschland/Niederland: Euregio Rhine-Waal (1995)	23,2	11,5	0,0	11,5	100%	0,3	3,7	33%

ÖSTERREICH

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
SPD Burgenland (1995)	822,5	165,6	50,0	83,8	51%	28,7	55,7	34%
Objective 2								
SPD Niederösterreich 1995-99 (1995)	199,2	22,4	0,0	22,4	100%	10,3	17,9	80%
SPD Oberösterreich 1995-99 (1995)	67,0	10,8	0,0	10,8	100%	3,2	8,6	80%
SPD Steiermark 1995-99 (1995)	467,6	58,0	11,6	34,1	59%	7,0	22,8	39%
SPD Vorarlberg 1995-99 (1995)	86,6	9,9	0,0	9,9	100%	3,6	7,9	80%
Total	820,3	101,0	11,6	77,2	76%	24,2	57,2	67%
Objective 3								
SPD Österreich (1995)	797,2	341,3	135,6	265,3	78%	95,4	199,2	56%
Objective 4								
SPD Österreich (1995)	175,0	62,3	20,9	32,6	52%	10,5	19,9	32%
Objective 5(a) Agriculture								
Forecasts Österreich R. 2328/91 (1996)	1.264,9	334,6	64,7	171,0	51%	68,8	157,4	47%
SPD Österreich R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	941,7	64,3	5,4	36,6	57%	12,4	31,7	49%
Total	2.206,6	398,9	70,1	207,5	62%	81,2	189,1	47%
Objective 5(a) Fisheries								
SPD Österreich (1995)	15,6	2,0	0,0	2,0	100%	0,0	1,0	50%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Niederösterreich (1995)	762,7	111,6	9,1	43,0	39%	16,0	35,0	31%
SPD Kärnten (1995)	404,8	58,0	10,0	32,3	56%	9,7	19,3	33%
SPD Oberösterreich (1995)	539,3	98,5	11,3	41,4	42%	16,7	34,4	35%
SPD Salzburg (1995)	104,2	16,0	3,2	8,0	50%	2,8	5,6	35%
SPD Steiermark (1995)	629,2	85,3	10,1	36,3	43%	10,1	31,0	36%
SPD Tirol (1995)	181,3	34,4	5,4	16,1	47%	2,7	10,0	29%
SPD Vorarlberg (1995)	58,3	7,2	0,6	2,6	36%	0,6	2,0	28%
Total	2.679,9	411,0	49,7	179,6	44%	68,7	137,2	33%
TOTAL	7.517,2	1.482,1	337,9	848,1	67%	298,7	659,2	44%
Initiatives (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Österreich (1995)	25,8	11,6	0,0	11,6	100%	0,0	5,8	50%
Employment								
Österreich (1995)	49,4	23,0	0,0	23,0	100%	6,9	18,4	80%
Leader								
Kärnten (1996)	8,4	2,9	0,0	2,5	85%	0,6	1,4	48%
Niederösterreich (1996)	14,0	5,6	0,0	4,5	80%	0,6	1,9	35%
Oberösterreich (1996)	19,0	4,9	0,0	4,5	91%	0,4	1,8	36%
Networks (1996)	0,5	0,3	0,0	0,3	100%	0,0	0,1	40%
Salzburg (1996)	2,8	0,8	0,2	0,8	100%	0,1	0,3	37%
Steiermark (1996)	14,9	4,3	0,2	4,3	100%	0,4	1,6	37%
Tirol (1996)	5,3	1,7	0,0	1,4	80%	0,0	0,4	24%
Vorarlberg (1996)	1,0	0,4	0,0	0,4	100%	0,1	0,2	48%
Burgenland (1995)	6,7	2,6	0,0	2,0	78%	0,2	0,8	31%
Total	72,7	23,4	0,4	20,5	88%	2,4	8,5	36%
SMEs								
Österreich (1996)	34,8	9,0	0,0	9,0	100%	0,0	2,7	30%
Rechar								
Steiermark, Oberösterreich (1996)	7,0	1,8	0,7	1,8	100%	0,4	0,9	50%
Resider								
Steiermark, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich (1996)	30,4	5,2	0,8	5,2	100%	0,3	2,5	47%
Relax								
Niederösterreich, Steiermark and Vorarlberg (1996)	16,2	2,6	0,0	2,6	100%	0,6	1,8	72%
Urban								
Graz (1996)	23,4	3,6	0,7	3,6	100%	0,2	1,1	30%
Wien (1995)	31,9	9,8	0,0	9,8	100%	0,0	4,9	50%
Total	65,3	13,4	0,7	13,4	100%	0,2	6,0	45%
TOTAL	291,5	90,0	2,6	87,1	97%	10,7	46,6	52%
Interreg/Regen								
Italia/Österreich (1997)	27,4	11,8	13,1	13,1	110%	6,5	6,5	55%
Österreich/Deutschland/Elлада/Italia: Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (1997)	36,8	20,9	20,9	20,9	100%	10,5	10,5	50%
Deutschland/Österreich (1996)	56,3	24,6	0,0	24,6	100%	3,5	10,9	44%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Österreich/Hungary (1995)	28,2	11,0	2,2	11,0	100%	0,7	3,3	30%
Österreich/Czech Republic (1995)	12,1	4,5	0,0	4,5	100%	0,0	1,4	30%
Österreich/Slovakia (1995)	16,0	5,5	0,0	5,5	100%	0,0	1,7	30%
Österreich/Slovenia (1995)	22,6	9,0	0,0	9,0	100%	0,0	2,7	30%

PORTUGAL

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
Regional OPs								
OP Alqueva area (1997)	376,7	203,1	39,0	39,0	19%	19,5	19,5	10%
OP Açores (1994)	872,9	647,0	155,4	528,6	82%	118,4	437,0	68%
OP Alentejo (1994)	250,6	182,0	36,5	145,0	80%	47,9	120,7	66%
OP Algarve (1994)	101,9	76,0	14,9	59,4	78%	15,1	53,2	70%
OP Centro (1994)	490,5	362,0	78,1	275,5	76%	51,0	222,2	61%
OP Lisboa e Vale do Tejo (1994)	517,2	382,0	88,8	288,8	76%	77,8	229,3	60%
OP Madeira (1994)	677,8	374,3	55,0	328,3	88%	79,1	288,0	77%
OP Norte (1994)	729,5	541,1	105,8	423,3	78%	109,5	349,7	65%
Multiregional OPs								
GG Local investment (1995)	33,3	25,0	0,0	25,0	100%	0,0	7,5	30%
OP Technical assistance (1994)	135,6	101,7	0,0	44,0	43%	0,0	31,0	30%
OP Knowledge and Innovation (1994)	2.276,2	1.689,4	166,5	1.062,0	63%	198,5	865,3	51%
OP Endogenous development (1994)	941,6	401,9	99,4	181,5	45%	73,9	135,9	34%
OP Environment/urban renewal (1994)	952,3	559,0	246,4	475,8	85%	115,7	318,2	57%
OP Training and employment (1994)	1.912,8	1.407,8	105,0	872,3	62%	132,3	685,6	49%
OP Infrastructure (1994)	3.979,6	1.997,9	352,2	1.630,5	82%	628,9	1.489,4	75%
OP Economic modernisation (1994)	10.492,7	4.420,5	628,0	2.957,4	67%	482,5	2.287,3	52%
OP Prínest (1) (1994)	40,0	30,0	0,0	30,0	100%	7,6	28,5	95%
OP Health and social integration (1994)	942,3	705,0	181,9	502,9	71%	102,2	383,1	54%
Technical assistance	1,2	1,1	0,3	1,1	97%	0,0	0,8	67%
TOTAL	25.724,8	14.106,8	2.353,2	9.870,6	70%	2.253,8	7.952,5	66%
Objective 2								
Adapt								
Portugal (1995)	29,8	21,4	0,4	21,4	100%	4,4	10,7	50%
Employment								
Portugal (1994)	61,8	45,5	11,6	21,2	47%	7,9	12,9	28%
Leader								
Portugal (1995)	174,5	130,9	39,9	50,6	39%	20,5	28,9	22%
Pesca								
Portugal (1994)	53,2	29,3	1,8	29,3	100%	2,2	8,8	30%
SMIs								
Portugal (1995)	238,6	125,4	0,0	14,4	12%	0,0	7,2	6%
Recher								
Portugal (1995)	3,0	2,3	1,4	2,2	99%	0,4	1,1	50%
Regis								
Portugal (1995)	161,5	126,5	25,1	105,5	83%	13,8	86,7	69%
Konver								
Portugal (1995)	18,2	14,0	6,1	14,0	100%	7,2	11,2	80%
Ruralis								
Portugal (1994)	14,9	9,1	2,2	9,1	100%	1,7	7,3	80%
Retur								
Portugal (1993)	478,2	204,9	0,0	194,8	95%	10,0	100,4	49%
Urban								
Lisboa e Porto (1995)	69,6	50,0	11,8	21,1	42%	11,8	16,4	33%
TOTAL	1.303,4	759,2	100,2	483,5	64%	80,0	291,7	38%
Objective 3								
Interreg/Region								
Portugal Drought prevention (1997)	8,4	6,2	6,2	6,2	100%	2,5	2,5	40%
Espania/Portugal (1995)	755,3	552,0	0,0	240,2	44%	50,5	154,4	28%
Espania/Portugal (REGEN natural gas) (1995)	548,2	220,0	23,0	216,4	98%	17,8	180,3	82%

SUOMI/FINLAND

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 2								
SPD Suomi Finland 1997-99 (1997)	743,6	135,3	55,2	55,2	41%	27,6	27,6	20%
SPD Suomi Finland 1995-96 (1995)	346,4	54,1	1,7	54,1	100%	15,9	45,7	84%
Total	1.090,0	189,4	56,9	109,3	58%	43,5	73,3	39%

(1) Statistical infrastructure

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 3								
SPD Suomi Finland (1995)	931,3	258,4	71,9	167,2	65%	53,0	104,3	40%
Objective 4								
SPD Suomi Finland (1995)	318,5	87,6	21,9	45,5	52%	15,1	28,0	32%
Objective 5(a) agriculture								
Forecasts Suomi Finland R. 2328/91 (1996)	1.153,9	294,2	55,0	162,8	55%	99,0	150,8	51%
SPD Suomi Finland R. 866 and 867/90 (1995)	359,2	43,1	12,1	19,0	44%	10,3	15,8	37%
Total	1.513,1	337,3	67,1	181,9	54%	109,3	166,7	49%
Objective 5(a) fisheries								
SPD Suomi Finland (1995)	78,5	23,0	0,0	23,0	100%	11,5	18,4	80%
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Åland (1995)	10,3	2,6	0,0	2,6	100%	0,6	1,4	52%
SPD Manner-Suomi (1995)	613,8	191,4	36,9	89,3	44%	30,2	53,0	28%
Total	624,0	194,0	36,9	85,9	44%	30,7	54,3	28%
Objective 6								
SPD Suomi Finland (1995)	1.316,9	459,9	114,1	272,3	59%	81,1	163,7	36%
TOTAL	6.872,2	1.649,6	368,8	885,1	57%	344,3	608,6	39%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Suomi Finland (1995)	51,2	23,6	3,9	23,6	100%	0,0	9,9	42%
Employment								
Suomi Finland (1995)	73,7	33,2	4,0	33,2	100%	3,9	18,5	56%
Leader								
Technical assistance - national network (1997)	0,5	0,2	0,0	0,0	0%	0,0	0,0	0%
Suomi Finland (Objective 5(b)) (1996)	44,3	16,2	0,0	16,2	100%	0,0	4,8	30%
Suomi Finland (Objective 6) (1996)	32,1	11,9	0,0	11,9	100%	0,0	3,6	30%
Total	77,0	28,3	0,0	28,1	99%	0,0	8,4	30%
Pesca								
Suomi Finland (1996)	8,8	3,4	0,0	3,4	100%	0,0	1,1	33%
SMEs								
Suomi Finland (1996)	27,9	11,1	3,7	11,1	100%	1,1	3,3	30%
Urban								
Helsinki/Vantaa (1997)	10,2	3,9	2,5	2,5	65%	1,3	1,3	32%
Joensuu (1996)	5,3	4,0	0,8	4,0	100%	0,4	2,0	50%
Total	15,5	7,9	3,4	6,5	82%	1,7	3,3	41%
TOTAL	254,0	107,5	14,9	105,8	98%	6,7	44,5	41%
Intramur/Røgen								
Danmark/Deutschland/Suomi Finland/Sverige Baltic Sea (1997)	47,5	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	12,5	12,5	50%
Suomi Finland/Baltic States coastal area, Southern Finland (1996)	22,7	6,1	2,0	6,1	100%	0,6	1,8	30%
Suomi Finland/Russia: Karelia (1996)	31,8	13,9	3,4	13,9	100%	1,0	4,2	30%
Suomi Finland/Russia: South-east Finland (1996)	40,7	9,6	1,9	9,6	100%	0,6	2,9	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norway: North Calotte (1996)	29,2	12,2	3,4	12,2	100%	3,3	3,7	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norway: Kvarken and Mittskandia (1996)	14,6	6,6	1,6	6,6	100%	1,8	2,0	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige: Islands (1996)	9,5	4,0	0,4	4,0	100%	0,2	1,2	30%
Sverige/Suomi Finland/Norway/Russia: Barents Sea (1996)	23,4	10,5	3,8	10,5	100%	3,1	3,1	30%

SVERIGE

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 2								
SPD Ångerslandskusten 1995-99 (1995)	89,5	18,0	0,0	18,0	100%	7,1	13,3	74%
SPD Bergslagen 1995-99 (1995)	321,4	67,0	0,0	12,8	19%	2,7	9,1	14%
SPD Blekinge 1995-99 (1995)	85,8	15,0	0,0	15,0	100%	6,2	11,2	75%
SPD Fyrstad 1995-99 (1995)	145,5	24,0	0,0	24,0	100%	3,8	12,0	50%
SPD Norra Norrlandskusten 1995-99 (1995)	161,2	36,0	0,0	36,0	100%	5,7	18,0	50%
Total	803,4	160,0	0,0	105,8	66%	25,5	63,6	40%
Objective 3								
SPD Sverige (1995)	771,0	347,0	92,6	165,6	48%	68,5	105,0	30%
Objective 4								
SPD Sverige (1996)	612,6	173,0	0,0	37,5	22%	0,0	18,8	11%
Objective 5(a) Agriculture								
Forecasts Sverige R. 2328/91 (1996)	304,6	79,7	13,0	42,2	53%	10,0	39,3	49%
SPD Sverige R. 866 and 867/90 (1996)	187,8	23,5	0,8	11,8	50%	4,0	9,4	40%
Total	492,4	103,2	13,8	54,0	52%	14,0	48,7	47%
Objective 5(a) Fisheries								
SPD Sverige (1995)	120,4	41,4	0,2	40,2	97%	20,0	32,0	77%

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 5(b)								
SPD Gotland (1996)	50,1	11,2	0,0	11,2	100%	2,3	5,7	50%
SPD Skårgården (1996)	30,3	7,2	0,0	7,2	100%	0,0	2,1	30%
SPD Sydöstra Sverige (1996)	327,0	49,0	4,6	12,5	25%	5,0	9,0	18%
SPD Västerbotten/Gävle/Dala (1996)	199,7	42,9	0,0	8,0	19%	0,9	4,9	11%
SPD Västra Sverige (1996)	120,1	30,7	0,0	30,7	100%	9,1	18,3	60%
Total	727,1	141,0	4,6	69,6	49%	17,4	40,0	28%
Objective 6								
SPD Sverige (1995)	635,0	252,0	23,7	80,1	32%	28,6	60,0	24%
TOTAL	4.162,0	1.217,6	134,9	552,7	45%	174,0	368,1	30%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Sverige (1995)	28,3	13,1	1,8	13,1	100%	0,9	6,5	50%
Employment								
Sverige (1995)	50,7	24,0	3,3	24,0	100%	1,7	12,0	50%
Leader								
National network (1997)	0,5	0,2	0,2	0,2	100%	0,1	0,1	40%
Sverige (Objective 5(b)) (1996)	71,8	12,1	2,1	12,1	100%	0,6	3,6	30%
Sverige (Objective 6) (1996)	14,1	4,0	0,7	4,0	100%	0,2	1,2	30%
Total	86,4	16,4	3,0	16,4	100%	0,9	4,9	30%
Peas								
Sverige (1996)	10,5	4,0	0,0	4,0	100%	0,0	1,2	30%
SMEs								
Sverige (1996)	48,6	17,2	4,2	17,2	100%	1,3	5,2	30%
Kenners								
Karlskoga, Karlsborg (1996)	11,4	3,3	0,7	3,3	100%	0,4	1,1	34%
Urban								
Malmö (1996)	11,9	5,0	1,8	5,0	100%	0,5	1,5	30%
TOTAL	248,1	82,9	14,9	82,9	100%	5,7	32,5	39%
Interreg/Regions								
Danmark/Deutschland/Suomi Finland/Sverige: Baltic Sea (1997)	47,5	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	12,5	12,5	50%
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/Nederland/Deutschland: North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Danmark/Sverige (1996)	28,0	13,0	2,4	13,0	100%	0,7	3,9	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norway: North Cape (1996)	29,2	12,2	3,4	12,2	100%	3,3	3,7	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norvège: Kvarken and Mittskandia (1996)	14,6	6,6	1,6	6,6	100%	1,8	2,0	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige: Islands (1996)	9,5	4,0	0,4	4,0	100%	0,2	1,2	30%
Sverige/Norway: Nordic Green Belt (1996)	13,0	5,5	2,4	5,5	100%	0,7	1,7	30%
Sverige/Norway: Göteborg/Bohus/Älvsborg (1996)	13,0	5,5	1,0	5,5	100%	0,3	1,7	30%
Sverige/Norway: Inner Scandinavia (1996)	10,8	4,5	1,4	4,5	100%	0,4	1,4	30%
Sverige/Suomi Finland/Norway/Russia: Barents Sea (1996)	23,4	10,5	3,8	10,5	100%	3,1	3,1	30%

UNITED KINGDOM

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Objective 1								
SPD Highlands and Islands (1994)	1 014,2	311,0	43,5	168,3	54%	37,8	132,4	43%
SPD Northern Ireland (1994)	2 267,4	1 242,2	257,0	883,9	71%	137,7	627,4	51%
SPD Merseyside (1994)	2 114,7	832,8	152,0	438,4	53%	125,9	357,4	43%
Technical assistance	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	100%	0,0	0,1	22%
Total	5 396,5	2 386,3	452,6	1 490,8	62%	301,4	1 117,2	47%
Objective 2								
SPD East London and the Lee Valley 1997-99 (1997)	250,0	101,7	21,6	21,6	21%	10,8	10,8	11%
SPD East Midlands 1997-99 (1997)	284,5	113,7	36,7	36,7	32%	18,4	18,4	16%
SPD Eastern Scotland 1997-99 (1997)	326,5	139,9	47,5	47,5	34%	23,8	23,8	17%
SPD Gibraltar 1997-99 (1997)	13,8	6,1	6,1	6,1	100%	3,0	3,0	50%
SPD Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire 1997-99 (1997)	1 031,3	404,9	57,7	57,7	14%	28,9	28,9	7%
SPD Industrial South Wales 1997-99 (1997)	629,3	254,4	57,3	57,3	23%	28,7	28,7	11%
SPD North East England 1997-99 (1997)	973,6	378,4	66,4	66,4	18%	33,2	33,2	9%
SPD Plymouth 1997-99 (1997)	87,5	38,6	38,6	38,6	100%	19,3	19,3	50%
SPD Thanet 1997-99 (1997)	81,8	22,4	22,4	22,4	100%	11,2	11,2	50%
SPD West Cumbria and Furness 1997-99 (1997)	78,6	32,4	32,4	32,4	100%	16,2	16,2	50%
SPD West Midlands 1997-99 (1997)	1 045,2	448,2	93,1	93,1	21%	26,5	26,5	6%
SPD Western Scotland 1997-99 (1997)	804,8	334,5	74,0	74,0	22%	37,0	37,0	11%
SPD Yorkshire and Humberside 1997-99 (1997)	1 012,1	400,7	129,4	129,4	32%	64,7	64,7	16%

Programmes (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
SPD East London and the Lee Valley 1994-96 (1994)	187,6	73,2	0,0	73,2	100%	22,3	57,6	79%
SPD East Midlands 1994-96 (1994)	195,2	66,2	-3,9	66,2	100%	14,6	55,4	84%
SPD Eastern Scotland 1994-96 (1994)	287,0	117,9	-1,4	117,9	100%	2,1	99,5	84%
SPD Gibraltar 1994-96 (1994)	13,5	5,1	0,0	5,1	100%	0,2	4,2	84%
SPD Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire 1994-96 (1994)	818,8	332,2	-1,5	332,2	100%	151,9	276,7	83%
SPD Industrial South Wales 1994-96 (1994)	400,9	151,1	0,5	151,1	100%	54,1	130,8	87%
SPD North East England 1994-96 (1994)	729,0	291,9	-6,2	291,9	100%	72,7	246,1	84%
SPD Plymouth 1994-96 (1994)	61,6	27,1	0,0	28,6	105%	-0,4	22,8	84%
SPD Thanet 1994-96 (1994)	25,2	8,9	-0,4	11,3	126%	-2,5	5,1	57%
SPD West Cumbria and Furness 1994-96 (1994)	62,2	24,2	-0,5	24,2	100%	1,8	19,8	82%
SPD West Midlands 1994-96 (1994)	983,8	372,8	-2,2	372,8	100%	152,6	309,9	83%
SPD Western Scotland 1994-96 (1994)	759,8	262,1	-2,4	262,1	100%	4,8	216,2	82%
SPD Yorkshire and Humberside 1994-96 (1994)	738,0	284,8	-2,4	284,8	100%	111,5	232,0	81%
Total	11.881,7	4.693,2	643,8	2.704,4	58%	907,3	1.997,7	43%
Objective 5								
SPD United Kingdom (1996)	3.662,0	1.655,4	551,3	1.081,0	65%	288,6	288,6	17%
SPD United Kingdom (1994)	4.012,4	1.522,1	-0,1	1.522,0	100%	0,0	1.400,3	92%
Total	7.674,4	3.177,5	551,2	2.603,0	82%	288,6	1.688,9	53%
Objective 6(a) Agriculture								
Forecasts United Kingdom R. 2328/91 (1995)	600,7	137,7	26,2	88,0	64%	21,4	66,3	48%
SPD United Kingdom R. 866 and 867/90 (1994)	204,7	51,2	0,0	38,6	75%	0,0	30,9	60%
Total	805,4	188,9	26,2	126,6	67%	21,4	97,2	51%
Objective 6(a) Fisheries								
SPD United Kingdom (1994)	240,8	88,7	0,0	44,3	50%	20,4	40,5	46%
Objective 6(b)								
SPD Borders Region (1995)	76,6	30,4	9,2	18,0	59%	5,0	12,2	40%
SPD Central Scotland / Tayside (1995)	64,0	25,4	4,1	8,8	35%	3,4	7,3	29%
SPD Dumfries and Galloway (1995)	125,3	47,7	16,3	30,5	64%	10,5	20,0	42%
SPD Grampian (1995)	96,2	39,5	12,2	23,4	59%	7,3	15,8	40%
SPD Lincolnshire (1995)	133,6	53,7	5,6	14,6	27%	5,9	11,1	21%
SPD Wales (1995)	488,2	184,0	54,1	104,1	57%	21,7	56,2	31%
SPD East Anglia (1994)	132,4	60,0	7,7	16,3	27%	5,8	10,4	17%
SPD English Northern Uplands (1994)	262,3	108,0	11,7	39,4	36%	16,7	33,6	31%
SPD South West England (1994)	514,3	219,0	26,1	81,9	37%	26,1	68,5	31%
SPD English Midland Uplands (1995)	33,3	12,2	3,1	5,1	42%	1,7	3,0	25%
SPD The Marches (1995)	90,8	40,6	4,4	15,9	39%	5,9	12,9	32%
Total	2.017,0	820,6	154,3	358,0	44%	110,0	250,9	31%
TOTAL	28.016,8	11.366,0	1.828,1	7.327,1	65%	1.649,1	5.192,3	46%
Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Adapt								
Northern Ireland (1995)	5,5	3,5	0,4	3,5	100%	0,8	1,8	50%
United Kingdom (1995)	676,4	313,3	0,0	69,1	22%	0,0	26,6	8%
Total	681,9	316,8	0,4	72,6	23%	0,8	28,4	9%
Employment								
Northern Ireland (1994)	19,5	12,8	0,9	12,8	100%	4,0	9,7	76%
United Kingdom (1994)	466,8	181,0	41,1	79,0	44%	32,5	64,0	35%
Total	486,3	193,8	42,0	91,8	47%	36,4	73,7	38%
Leader								
England (1995)	57,8	25,8	0,0	25,8	100%	0,0	7,5	29%
Highlands and Islands (1995)	27,9	12,0	0,0	12,0	100%	3,3	6,9	57%
Northern Ireland (1995)	31,5	11,4	0,0	11,4	100%	0,0	3,1	28%
Scotland (1995)	24,4	8,4	0,0	8,4	100%	2,8	5,4	64%
Wales (1995)	18,8	8,6	0,0	8,6	100%	3,7	6,5	76%
Total	160,4	66,2	0,0	66,2	100%	9,8	29,4	44%
Peasce								
United Kingdom (1995)	84,7	37,4	6,1	37,4	100%	6,8	11,2	30%
\$MEs								
England Obj. 5(b) areas (1997)	24,6	11,3	9,3	9,3	83%	4,7	4,7	41%
England Obj. 2 areas (1997)	74,1	32,4	27,3	27,3	84%	13,7	13,7	42%
Merseyside (1997)	9,8	4,9	4,2	4,2	86%	2,1	2,1	43%
Highlands (1995)	7,0	3,0	0,0	3,0	100%	0,0	1,0	31%
Northern Ireland (1995)	12,5	6,2	0,0	6,2	100%	1,9	5,0	80%
Scotland (1995)	19,7	8,5	0,0	8,5	100%	0,0	2,7	32%
Wales (1995)	5,2	2,3	0,0	2,3	100%	0,0	0,7	30%
Total	153,0	68,7	40,9	61,0	89%	22,3	29,8	43%
Rechar								
East Midlands (1995)	110,1	46,8	33,9	39,1	84%	18,2	20,8	44%
Eastern Scotland (1995)	25,3	11,6	0,9	10,9	95%	1,1	6,1	52%
North East England (1995)	56,8	26,0	2,2	25,6	99%	1,1	12,8	49%
North West England (1995)	18,0	8,1	1,0	7,9	98%	0,8	4,3	53%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Wales (1995)	57,3	25,2	3,8	24,3	96%	0,0	10,2	41%
West Midlands (1995)	30,9	14,1	1,1	13,8	98%	0,6	6,9	49%
Western Scotland (1995)	7,5	3,5	0,5	3,5	100%	0,4	1,9	55%
Yorkshire (1995)	106,4	49,5	35,5	40,9	83%	3,7	6,5	13%
Total	412,4	184,7	79,0	166,1	90%	25,9	69,6	38%
Konver								
United Kingdom & Gibraltar (1995)	307,7	136,9	81,1	93,6	68%	8,0	14,2	10%
Resider								
England (1996)	54,3	24,7	5,4	24,4	99%	2,7	12,2	49%
Wales (1995)	35,0	15,7	2,2	15,2	97%	0,0	6,5	41%
Western Scotland (1995)	27,9	11,7	1,3	11,5	98%	0,6	5,7	49%
Total	117,2	52,2	8,9	51,0	98%	3,3	24,4	47%
Retax								
Northern Ireland (1995)	10,1	5,1	1,3	5,1	100%	2,1	3,9	77%
United Kingdom (1995)	79,0	36,7	3,1	35,5	97%	1,6	17,8	48%
Total	89,1	41,8	4,5	40,6	97%	3,6	21,7	52%
Urban								
Brighton (1997)	9,4	4,5	3,4	3,4	75%	1,7	1,7	38%
Bristol (1997)	11,5	4,5	3,5	3,5	77%	1,7	1,7	38%
Coventry (1997)	9,5	4,5	3,1	3,1	69%	1,6	1,6	34%
Leeds (1997)	9,6	4,5	3,4	3,4	75%	1,7	1,7	38%
(1996)	17,3	8,0	1,6	8,0	100%	0,8	4,0	50%
East Midlands (Nottingham) (1996)	14,9	6,8	1,2	6,8	100%	0,6	3,4	50%
GMLC (Moss Side and Hulme) (Manchester) (1996)	17,7	8,0	0,0	8,0	100%	0,0	4,0	50%
London (Park Royal) (1996)	16,3	7,7	1,5	7,7	100%	0,8	3,8	50%
Merseyside (North Huyton, Liverpool, Neltherton) (1996)	40,1	19,5	2,2	19,5	100%	1,1	9,7	50%
Wales (Swansea) (1996)	11,7	5,6	0,0	5,6	100%	0,0	2,8	50%
West Midlands (Birmingham) (1996)	20,6	8,0	1,6	8,0	100%	0,8	4,0	50%
Western Scotland (Glasgow) (1996)	32,7	13,6	3,7	13,6	100%	1,8	6,8	50%
Yorkshire and Humberside (Sheffield) (1996)	14,8	6,8	0,0	6,8	100%	0,0	3,4	50%
Northern Ireland (1995)	27,9	19,4	2,4	19,4	100%	0,7	7,6	39%
Total	254,0	121,4	27,5	116,7	96%	13,3	66,3	45%
TOTAL	2.746,7	1.219,9	290,4	797,1	65%	130,3	358,5	29%
PEACE								
Ireland/Northern Ireland (1995)	412,4	301,7	53,3	176,3	58%	81,2	136,6	45%
Interreg/Regen								
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/Nederland/ Deutschland North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
France/United Kingdom: Haute-Normandie, Picardie and East Sussex (1995)	80,8	34,1	0,0	34,1	100%	0,0	10,2	30%
France/United Kingdom: Nord-Pas-de-Calais/Kent (1995)	95,3	45,1	0,6	7,6	17%	0,3	3,8	8%
Ireland/United Kingdom: Northern Ireland (1995)	265,7	160,2	35,9	64,0	40%	0,5	14,6	9%
Ireland/United Kingdom: Wales (1995)	146,9	84,6	13,6	25,4	30%	14,2	20,1	24%
United Kingdom/Morocco Gibraltar (1995)	1,7	0,7	0,0	0,7	100%	0,0	0,2	30%

EUROPE

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Leader								
Networks (1994)	16,0	16,0	2,9	10,7	67%	2,9	7,6	48%
Pesca								
(1997)	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Development of software to exchange auction information (B/NL) (1997)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Diversification by developing new markets by new technology (D/DK) (1997)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Electronic chart display and information system (B/F/EL/IT/IRL) (1997)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Information exchange between auction and remote markets (B/F/E) (1997)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: tourism as an instrument of development (I/GR) (1997)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: RECIPE (E/P) (1997)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
(1997)	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Technical support development in waterfood mussel cooperative (UK/IRL) (1997)	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Aqualine (1996)	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	70%
Transnational project: Maisons de la Mer (1995)	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	40%
Transnational project: Mareduet (1996)	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	40%
Transnational project: Pêche-Fish Co (1996)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Transnational project: Retifour (1996)	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1	100%	0,0	0,0	40%
Total	1,5	0,7	0,4	0,7	100%	0,1	0,1	17%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	S. Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Peace								
Ireland/Northern Ireland (1995)	412,4	301,7	53,3	176,3	58%	81,2	136,6	45%
Interrag/Reges								
Belgique/België/Deutschland/France/Luxembourg/ Nederland. Rhine-Meuse (1997)	426,7	137,1	15,5	15,5	11%	0,0	0,0	0%
Danmark/Deutschland/Suomi Finland/Sverige: Baltic Sea (1997)	47,5	25,0	25,0	25,0	100%	12,5	12,5	50%
Ellada/Italia: Ipiros, Ionia Nisia, Dytiki Ellada and Puglia (1997)	304,9	169,2	39,9	39,9	24%	19,9	19,9	12%
Italia/Österreich (1997)	27,4	11,8	13,1	13,1	110%	6,5	6,5	55%
Italia/Slovenia: Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto (1997)	31,4	15,6	11,7	11,7	75%	5,8	5,8	37%
Italia: Drought prevention (1997)	30,5	15,2	15,2	15,2	100%	7,6	7,6	50%
Österreich/Deutschland/Ellada/Italia: Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (1997)	36,8	20,9	20,9	20,9	100%	10,5	10,5	50%
Portugal: Drought prevention (1997)	8,4	6,2	6,2	6,2	100%	2,5	2,5	40%
United Kingdom/Danmark/Sverige/Nederland/ Deutschland: North Sea (1997)	30,3	14,5	14,5	14,5	100%	0,0	0,0	0%
Belgique/France/Luxembourg: Wallonie-Lorraine- Luxembourg (1996)	62,2	30,2	0,0	26,2	87%	1,4	13,5	45%
Belgique/France: Ardennes (1996)	27,8	12,5	0,0	12,5	100%	0,0	3,7	30%
Danmark/Sverige (1996)	28,0	13,0	2,4	13,0	100%	0,7	3,9	30%
Deutschland/Österreich (1996)	56,3	24,6	0,0	24,6	100%	3,5	10,9	44%
España/Morocco (1996)	185,3	101,4	23,0	37,1	37%	22,6	29,7	29%
France/Belgique/België: Nord-Pas-de Calais/Vlaanderen (1996)	38,3	18,0	1,1	18,0	100%	0,5	9,0	50%
France/Belgique/België: Wallonie/Nord-Pas-de- Calais/Picardie (1996)	148,4	71,5	0,0	10,0	14%	1,5	6,5	9%
France/España (1996)	142,6	62,4	10,3	19,1	31%	7,2	11,7	19%
France/Italia: Corse/Sardegna (1996)	71,8	33,7	0,6	33,1	98%	0,2	10,1	30%
France/Italia: Corse/Toscana (1996)	58,2	18,6	0,0	18,2	98%	0,0	5,5	29%
France/United Kingdom: Haute-Normandie, Picardie and East Sussex (1996)	80,8	34,1	0,0	34,1	100%	0,0	10,2	30%
France/United Kingdom: Nord-Pas-de-Calais/Kent (1996)	95,3	45,1	0,6	7,6	17%	0,3	3,8	8%
Italia/Albania: Puglia (1996)	178,2	81,5	0,0	15,5	19%	0,0	7,8	10%
Italia/France (1996)	159,1	57,0	0,0	15,1	26%	0,0	7,5	13%
Italia/Switzerland (1996)	52,7	20,0	4,4	20,0	100%	2,2	10,0	50%
Suomi Finland/Baltic States: coastal area, Southern Finland (1996)	22,7	6,1	2,0	6,1	100%	0,6	1,8	30%
Suomi Finland/Russia: Karelia (1996)	31,8	13,9	3,4	13,9	100%	1,0	4,2	30%
Suomi Finland/Russia: South-east Finland (1996)	40,7	9,6	1,9	9,6	100%	0,6	2,9	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norway: North Cape (1996)	29,2	12,2	3,4	12,2	100%	3,3	3,7	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige/Norway: Kvarken and Mittskandia (1996)	14,6	6,6	1,6	6,6	100%	1,8	2,0	30%
Suomi Finland/Sverige: Islands (1996)	9,5	4,0	0,4	4,0	100%	0,2	1,2	30%
Sverige/Norway: Nordic Green Belt (1996)	13,0	5,5	2,4	5,5	100%	0,7	1,7	30%
Sverige/Norway: Göteborg/Bohus/Älvsborg (1996)	13,0	5,5	1,0	5,5	100%	0,3	1,7	30%
Sverige/Norway: Inner Scandinavia (1996)	10,8	4,5	1,4	4,5	100%	0,4	1,4	30%
Sverige/Suomi Finland/Norway/Russia: Barents Sea (1996)	23,4	10,5	3,8	10,5	100%	3,1	3,1	30%
(1995)	22,8	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Belgique/België/Nederland: Middengebied (1995)	66,3	32,4	0,0	32,4	100%	0,0	9,7	30%
Danmark/Deutschland: Fyns Amt/K.E.R.N. (1995)	3,6	1,8	0,0	1,8	100%	0,0	0,5	30%
Danmark/Deutschland: Sonder-jylland/Planungsraum V (1995)	22,2	11,1	0,0	11,1	100%	0,0	3,3	30%
Danmark/Deutschland: Storstrøm/Ostholstein/Lübeck (1995)	10,4	5,2	0,0	5,2	100%	0,0	1,6	30%
Danmark: Baltic Sea (1995)	4,6	2,0	0,0	2,0	100%	0,0	0,6	30%
(1995)	51,4	25,2	-0,5	22,9	91%	0,4	7,4	29%
Deutschland/France: Rheinland-Pfalz/Saartland/Lorraine (1995)	46,5	23,3	0,0	23,3	100%	0,0	7,2	31%
Deutschland/Luxembourg Euregio (1995)	30,9	8,0	0,0	8,0	100%	0,0	2,4	30%
Deutschland/Nederland/Belgique/België: Euregio Meuse- Rhine (1995)	71,9	35,7	0,0	33,5	94%	0,0	10,0	28%
Deutschland/Nederland: Ems-Dollard (1995)	62,7	22,5	0,0	22,5	100%	0,0	6,7	30%
Deutschland/Nederland: Euregio (1995)	53,6	22,0	-2,2	19,8	90%	0,0	6,6	30%
(1995)	12,8	6,4	0,0	6,4	100%	0,0	1,9	30%
Deutschland/Nederland: Euregio Rhine-Waal (1995)	23,2	11,5	0,0	11,5	100%	0,3	3,7	33%
Deutschland/Poland/Czech Republic: Sachsen (1995)	220,0	149,4	32,4	52,1	35%	24,5	34,3	23%
Deutschland/Poland: Brandenburg (1995)	110,7	73,5	0,4	10,5	14%	0,8	5,8	8%
Deutschland/Poland: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (1995)	84,1	63,1	0,0	8,8	14%	0,0	4,4	7%
Deutschland/Czech Republic: Bayern (1995)	42,2	16,8	0,0	16,8	100%	3,0	8,4	50%
Deutschland/Switzerland: Bodensee (1995)	13,8	6,9	0,0	6,9	100%	0,4	3,4	49%
Ellada/Albania/Bulgaria (1995)	494,9	314,0	41,6	107,9	34%	47,4	96,4	31%

Initiative (year of adoption)	Total cost	\$ Funds contrib. (1)	Commitments 1997	Commitments 1994-97 (2)	% (2)/(1)	Payments 1997	Payments 1994-97 (3)	% (3)/(1)
Ellada/Italia (REGEN Electricity) (1995)	189,4	75,8	0,0	22,0	29%	0,0	11,0	15%
Ellada: Completion of energy networks (REGEN) (1995)	459,2	183,7	80,5	183,7	100%	79,4	161,9	88%
España/Portugal (1995)	755,3	552,0	0,0	240,2	44%	50,5	154,4	28%
España/Portugal (REGEN natural gas) (1995)	548,2	220,0	23,0	216,4	98%	17,8	180,3	82%
France/Deutschland: PAMINA (1995)	22,1	11,1	1,0	11,1	100%	0,3	3,3	30%
France/Switzerland: Franche-Comté (1995)	14,2	7,1	0,0	7,1	100%	0,0	2,2	31%
France/Switzerland: Rhône-Alpes (1995)	11,8	5,4	0,0	4,3	80%	0,0	1,3	24%
Ireland/United Kingdom: Northern Ireland (1995)	265,7	160,2	35,9	64,0	40%	0,5	14,6	9%
Ireland/United Kingdom: Wales (1995)	146,9	84,6	13,6	25,4	30%	14,2	20,1	24%
Österreich/Hungary (1995)	28,2	11,0	2,2	11,0	100%	0,7	3,3	30%
Österreich/Czech Republic (1995)	12,1	4,5	0,0	4,5	100%	0,0	1,4	30%
Österreich/Slovakia (1995)	16,0	5,5	0,0	5,5	100%	0,0	1,7	30%
Österreich/Slovenia (1995)	22,6	9,0	0,0	9,0	100%	0,0	2,7	30%
United Kingdom/Morocco: Gibraltar (1995)	1,7	0,7	0,0	0,7	100%	0,0	0,2	30%
Total	6.479,5	3.289,9	453,8	1.763,8	54%	357,6	1.008,8	31%
TOTAL	6.909,4	3.608,3	510,4	1.951,6	54%	441,7	1.163,0	32%

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Adapt	Community Initiative for the adaptation of workers to industrial change
CAP	Common agricultural policy
CEEC	Central and eastern European countries
CEEP	Centre européen de l'entreprise publique (European Centre for Public Enterprise)
CES	Confédération européenne des syndicats - European Confederation of Trade Unions
CI	Community Initiative
CIP	Community Initiative programme
CSF	Community support framework
EAGGF	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
Ecos-Ouverture	Cooperation network with central and eastern European cities
EC-BIC	European Community Business and Innovation Centre
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
Employment	Community Initiative for the development of human resources
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESDP	European Spatial Development Perspective
ESF	European Social Fund
Europartenariat	Events to promote contacts between businesses in regions eligible under the Structural Funds and businesses elsewhere in the Community and/or non-member countries
FIFG	Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
Forcem	Foundation for continuing training (Spain)
Horizon	Community Initiative for the occupational integration of handicapped and disadvantaged people
Interreg	Community Initiative for the promotion of crossborder and interregional cooperation
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
Konver	Community Initiative for the conversion of regions dependent on the defence sector
LAG	Local action group
Leader	Community Initiative for rural development projects
MGP	Multiannual (fisheries) guidance programme
Now	Community Initiative for the occupational integration of women
OP	Operational Programme
Pacte	Programme for sharing experience among local and regional authorities of Europe
Peace	Community Initiative for reconciliation and peace in Northern Ireland and in the border counties of Ireland
Pesca	Community Initiative for the fishing industry
Phare	Programme of aid for the economic conversion of central and eastern European countries
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise(s)
SMEs	Community Initiative for the adjustment of SMEs to the Single Market
R&D	Research and development
R&TD	Research and technological development
Rechar	Community Initiative for the conversion of coal-mining areas
Recite	Programme to create networks among the regions and cities of Europe
Regen	Community Initiative for energy networks
Regis	Community Initiative for the most remote regions
Resider	Community Initiative for the conversion of steel-making areas
Retex	Community Initiative for the diversification of economic activities in regions heavily dependent on the textiles and clothing industry

RIS	Regional Innovation Strategy
RISI	Regional Information Society Initiative.
SPD	Single programming document
Stride	Community Initiative on science and technology for regional innovation and development
TEN(s)	Trans-European network(s)
UNICE	Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe
Urban	Community Initiative to assist declining urban areas
Youthstart	Community Initiative for the occupational integration of young people