



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

GUIDE TO COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

(TAKEN UNDER THE REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS)



SECOND EDITION



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While this document has been prepared for use by the general public, it does not necessarily represent the Commission's official position

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Introduction

The first edition of this guide contained detailed information on the Community initiatives already adopted by the Commission at the time of publication (November 1990): Rechar, Envireg, Stride, Interreg and Regis.

The present edition includes all the Community initiatives implemented under the reform of the structural Funds.

This guide has been prepared by the Information Department of the Directorate-General for the Coordination of Structural Policies.

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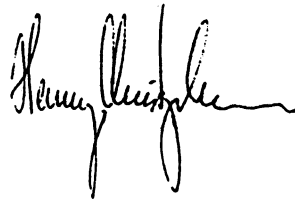
Foreword by Mr Christophersen, Vice-President of the Commission

The Community initiatives introduced as part of the reform of the structural Funds are intended to complement the measures contained in the Community support frameworks and so help achieve the goal set for the structural Funds by the Single European Act: the strengthening of economic and social cohesion.

These initiatives are specific instruments which give a Community dimension to the structural reforms introduced into the economy of the Twelve.

This handy and practical guide provides an overview of the contents and implementing procedures of the initiatives and should be a valuable tool for all those concerned with the efficient application of the measures in the Member States.

Such efficiency at practical level is essential if we are to achieve our common objective of the harmonious development of the Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henning Christophersen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Henning Christophersen

General situation

1. The reform of the structural Funds

A — Its basis: the Single European Act

The entry into force in 1987 of the Single European Act brought a considerable shift in Community policy as a whole, and structural assistance in particular.

The Single Act stressed the importance of the large frontier-free market in 1992, the strengthening of economic and social cohesion, faster progress in research and technology, the development of social and environmental policy and monetary integration.

The structural Funds have a role to play in the strengthening of economic and social cohesion and, accordingly, the Single Act provided for a reform to increase their efficiency and to coordinate their assistance, both between themselves and with the existing financial instruments.

The reform was set in train by a series of Regulations which came into force on 1 January 1989.¹

B — The main thrust of reform

The reform is based on certain principles such as the concentration of assistance on priority objectives, the doubling of resources by 1993, a decentralized programme approach instead of a project-based approach, partnership between the Commission and national, regional and local authorities, greater coordination between all the instruments and improved and simplified management, assessment and monitoring rules.

The new Community structural measures will now have five priority objectives:

- (i) the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind, the main aim of the reform (Objective 1) — countries concerned: Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Italy (in part), Spain (in part), the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) and France (overseas departments and Corsica);
- (ii) support for areas hit by industrial decline (Objective 2) — countries concerned: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom;

¹ Framework Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88; OJ L 185, 15.7.1988; coordinating Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 and implementing Regulations (EEC) Nos 4254/88, 4255/88 and 4256/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988.

(iii) combating long-term unemployment (Objective 3) and facilitating the occupational integration of young people (Objective 4) — countries concerned: all Member States;

(iv) with a view to reform of the common agricultural policy the adjustment of agricultural structures (Objective 5a) and rural development (Objective 5b) — countries concerned by Objective 5a: all Member States; by Objective 5b: all except Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

The Community's structural action, conceived separately for each Objective — with the exception of some measures under Objective 5a — is set out in practical terms in the Community support frameworks (CSFs), drawn up in partnership with the Member States. These indicate the sources of national and Community financing (multiannual financing plans) and reflect the strategies decided on jointly, in the light of the need to remain coherent with Community policies and regional and national sectoral policies.

Assistance under the CSFs will be mainly in the form of operational programmes, which can be implemented by an integrated approach, particularly where financing is to be provided by a number of Funds or, at least, one Fund and a financial instrument other than a loan.

The Commission may also provide assistance in other forms: part-financing of aid schemes, provision of global grants and, as in the past, aid to large-scale projects.¹

2. Community initiatives: the first steps towards a genuine Community policy

A — Background

Before the reform of the structural Funds, which came into force on 1 January 1989, four Community programmes (STAR, Valoren, Resider and Renaval) had been implemented under Article 7 of the old ERDF Regulation,² so constituting precursors of the current Community initiatives.

B — Definition

As part of the reform of the structural Funds, Article 11 of the coordinating Regulation³ enables the Commission to act on its own through Community initiatives complementing the measures agreed with the Member States and included in the CSFs.

By doing so, the Commission is laying the basis for a genuine Community policy since it focuses its initiatives in areas or sectors which it regards as paramount or essential for completion of the single market, and of particular importance for economic and social cohesion.

¹ The reform as a whole is set out in the *Guide to the reform of the Community's structural Funds* — ISBN 92-826-0029-7.

² Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84; OJ L 169, 28.6.1984, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 1.

C — Types of Community initiative

Community initiatives may concern all three Funds and the other Community financial instruments and all the objectives apart from Objective 5a. The Funds may act together or individually.

Initiatives of a regional nature or relating to rural development may require the participation of the three Funds and the Community lending instruments.

1. Article 3(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 on the ERDF identifies three types of Community regional initiative:
 - (i) those helping resolve serious problems directly associated with the implementation of other Community policies (regional initiatives accompanying other Community policies);
 - (ii) those promoting the application of Community policies (regional initiatives to promote Community policies);
 - (iii) those helping resolve problems common to certain categories of region (outlying, most remote and crossborder, etc.).
2. Initiatives which involve the EAGGF Guidance Section are intended, with a view to reform of the common agricultural policy, to speed up the structural adjustment of agriculture and promote rural development in the broad sense.
3. Participation by the European Social Fund in Community initiatives is governed principally by the guidelines set out in Article 4 of the new Social Fund Regulation¹ and the following criteria adopted by the Commission:²
 - (a) the Community aims in particular at reducing disparities between the various regions and strengthening the social fabric of the Community;
 - (b) a higher level of qualifications is necessary in the context of the completion of the internal market;
 - (c) the Community has to help to make a reality of the social dimension of the internal market.

D — Finance

Some ECU 5 500 million will be available to finance Community initiatives between 1989 and 1993. Of this sum, about ECU 1 700 million will be required for Community programmes adopted under the old rules and still being implemented (STAR, Valoren, Resider, Renaval).

¹ Regulation (EEC) NO 4255/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 21.

² SEC(89) 2001, 16 November 1989.

The remaining ECU 3 800 million will be used to finance 12 new initiatives and the bulk will go to the Objective 1 regions.

They are to be spent in the following way:

	<i>(million ECU)</i>
Rechar	300
Envireg	500
Stride	400
Interreg	800
Regis	200
Regen	300
Prisma	100
Telematique	200
Leader	400
Euroform	300
NOW	120
Horizon	180
Total 12 initiatives	3 800

Use of loans: In keeping with the spirit of the reform, particularly Article 3 of the coordinating Regulation,¹ it will be possible in the case of most of the initiatives to combine aid in the form of grants with recourse to loans from the EIB and the other financial instruments.

E — Implementation

After each Community initiative has been published in the Official Journal, the Member States, or the national, regional or local authorities which they designate, have six months in which to submit detailed proposals for operational programmes or, where applicable, global grants. The potential beneficiaries, which may be public or private bodies, submit their projects to the appropriate authorities in each Member State.

¹ Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 1.

Overview of Community initiatives (launched by the Commission since 1 January 1989)

Rechar

ECU 300 million

This initiative is intended to strengthen measures to assist the economic and social conversion of the coal-mining areas of the Community.

It follows the same development policy lines as the Resider and Renaval programmes, which were adopted by the Community to extend the efforts already being made under the structural Funds to assist in the conversion of areas affected by the decline in the steel industries and shipbuilding.

The main aim of Rechar is to diversify the economic life of coal-mining areas through greater efforts to create new economic activities, develop existing ones, improve the environment and support vocational training.

Envireg

ECU 500 million

The aim of this initiative is to improve the environment and foster economic development, and it mainly concerns the coastal areas of the Community regions whose development is lagging behind.

Through this measure, the Commission hopes that greater account will be taken of certain environmental problems which affect tourism in particular, so as to provide the regions concerned with the basis for lasting development which respects, restores and develops natural resources.

An important aspect of Envireg is improving the knowledge and know-how of regional and local authorities as regards the control and management of the environment through technical assistance measures, including the setting up of a network of international experts to which the authorities can refer.

Envireg should permit the launching of innovative and pilot schemes which will both facilitate the development of the regions in question and contribute to the Community's environment policy.

Stride

ECU 400 million

The aim of the Stride initiative (Science and technology for regional innovation and development in Europe) is to strengthen capacity for innovation and technological development, in the regions and areas under Objectives 1 and 2. It has three priorities:

- (i) to strengthen the research capacities of the Objective 1 regions;
- (ii) to improve and encourage participation by research centres and institutes and firms in Objective 1 regions in Community and international research programmes and networks;
- (iii) to develop links between research and industry both in Objective 1 regions and in Objective 2 areas.

Interreg

ECU 800 million

The main aim of this initiative is to assist the border areas of the Community to prepare for the single market in 1992. The main means of achieving this will be the promotion of closer cooperation between regions on different sides of national borders and the revitalization of the economies of the areas located on the Community's external borders.

Interreg will apply to all the regions and areas under Objectives 1 (regions whose development is lagging behind), 2 (industrial conversion) and 5b (rural development) on the Community's internal and external borders. Implementation of the projects will ideally be based on the active participation of regional and local authorities in the areas concerned.

In the case of border areas not directly eligible for assistance from the structural Funds, extra resources may possibly be allocated for studies on the impact of regional policy and demonstration or pilot projects under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation.¹

Regis

ECU 200 million

The aim of this initiative is to improve the socio-economic integration of the most remote regions of the Community: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira.

The Commission intends to help the most remote regions to diversify their activities by developing products and services for the local market, the markets of neighbouring non-member countries and the Community markets.

An important aspect of Regis is that it will seek new economic opportunities based on the potential of each region and offering prospects of medium-term viability as the internal market is completed.

¹ Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 15.

Regen

ECU 300 million

Regen will help to extend the internal market in energy to regions whose development is lagging behind by encouraging the extension of the natural gas network to Member States where it is not at present available, and by improving the connections between major European gas and electricity networks.

It will also help achieve the Community's energy objectives for 1995, since the introduction of gas will help the countries concerned to diversify their sources of energy while reducing their dependence on oil, and the development of a network of connections will make energy systems more flexible.

Prisma

ECU 100 million

Prisma will help firms in the least-favoured areas of the Community to benefit from completion of the single market by improving certain infrastructures and related services. The programme is confined to the Objective 1 regions where such services and infrastructures are most lacking.

Through Prisma, the Commission intends:

- (a) to support efforts to develop facilities for certification and testing;
- (b) to prepare SMEs:
 - (i) for participation in public contracts,
 - (ii) for the discontinuation of protective measures under Article 115 of the EEC Treaty,¹

through technical assistance, particularly in connection with the introduction of better production and distribution management methods.

Telematique

ECU 200 million

Telematique will promote the use of advanced telecommunications services in the least-favoured regions (Objective 1), particularly through better access to the advanced services available elsewhere in the Community.

It will reinforce the process begun under the STAR programme to encourage the use of advanced telecommunications services by small and medium-sized firms. It is also intended to help such firms in Objective 1 regions to create or develop services of that type themselves.

¹ Article 115 of the EEC Treaty on emergency or transitional derogations from the customs union.

Telematique will also promote the development in the public sector of telecommunications services able to contribute to regional development.

The emphasis is on services rather than investment in infrastructure, except where this is directly linked to the promotion of services to which the initiative relates.

Leader

ECU 400 million

This initiative will enable the Community to encourage an integrated approach to rural development at the grass-roots level and is additional to the measures for rural development under the Community support frameworks.

About 100 local groups in areas covered by Objectives 1 and 5b of the reform of the structural Funds will be chosen by the Commission, on the basis of proposals from the Member States, to receive assistance under the initiative. The Commission will sign an agreement with a national body in each Member State to provide a global grant from all three structural Funds to be used for the measures financed under Leader; that body will then be responsible for passing the assistance to the individual groups. The groups to benefit under Leader, together with details of their programmes, will be specified in the grant agreement.

The eligible measures include principally the stimulation of rural development, vocational training and assistance for employment, rural tourism, small firms, craft enterprises and local services, local processing and marketing of farm products and measures relating to the equipment and linking of local development groups.

An important aspect of Leader is the use of new information and communications technology which will emphasize the capacity of each group to serve as a model and thus introduce a multiplier effect for the initiative.

Three initiatives on human resources

ECU 600 million

The aim of the three Community initiatives (Euroform, NOW, Horizon) is to give a Community dimension to vocational training measures and the promotion of employment in general by creating or developing Community networks for the promotion of human resources.

The proposed initiatives, which are additional to measures under the CSFs, will, through transnational measures linking the Objective 1 regions with other regions of the Community, promote the development of joint approaches and practices by those involved in vocational training and the development of employment, so enabling the least-developed regions to participate in the joint effort to develop human resources.

The measures proposed are selected in the light of the need to concentrate resources on measures of an exemplary nature where implementation will have a multiplier effect.

To ensure the greatest possible coordination, synergy and efficiency of Community assistance, these initiatives will be linked with the other Community programmes on vocational training and the promotion of employment.

Euroform

ECU 300 million

(Initiative for the development of new qualifications, new skills and new employment opportunities.)

Euroform will also extend the measures taken under the Force and Eurotecnet programmes, and the LEDA and ERGO programmes, by building on their networks and undertaking or developing projects coordinated by them and strengthening their transnational dimension.

NOW

ECU 120 million

(Initiative aiming to enable women to share in the anticipated benefits of the completion of the single market in the areas of work and technological development. This to be effected by support and training measures.)

As a part of the third equal opportunities programme, it is also intended to make use of existing networks and measures (IRIS, LEIs) and experience acquired from implementation of those programmes in analysis, evaluation and management.

Horizon

ECU 180 million

(Initiative for the handicapped and certain disadvantaged groups.)

Horizon will draw on Handynet (European Community computerized information system on disability questions) and reinforce the Helios programme, mainly by part-financing model training and vocational readaptation measures not covered by this programme.

**Community initiatives
(1989-93)**

Detailed information

Rechar

Object: To increase Community support for the economic and social conversion of coal-mining areas in the Community, mainly through the establishment of new economic activities.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 20 of 27 January 1990, p. 3 and OJ C 185 of 26 July 1990, p. 18.

Allocation:

- ECU 300 million from the ERDF and the ESF (1989-93),
- up to ECU 120 million in interest subsidies from the ECSC,
- ECU 40 million in supplementary aid for readaptation in 1990 under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty (with the possibility of further appropriations in future years).

Loans: Possible from the EIB and the ECSC.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) restoration of the environment,
- (b) renovation and modernization of social infrastructures in mining villages,
- (c) establishment of new economic activities (particularly small and medium-sized businesses),
- (d) promotion of tourism,
- (e) vocational training.

ECSC supplementary social measures:

- (a) traditional vocational training,
- (b) pre-qualification programmes to help the least-qualified to find new jobs,
- (c) transitional aid for those starting new jobs,
- (d) early retirement.

*Eligible areas:*¹ 28 coal-mining areas in the Member States.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 27 July 1990.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ See Annex, p. 37.

Envireg

Object: To contribute towards the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic development, principally in regions whose development is lagging behind.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 115 of 9 May 1990, p. 3.

Allocation: ECU 500 million (1990-93) from the ERDF, the ESF and the EAGGF Guidance Section.

Loans: Possible from the EIB.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) reduction of pollution in coastal areas and in particular:
 - treatment and recycling of waste water and solid waste,
 - agricultural use of compost and sludge from urban sewage,
 - treatment of ballast, washing and bilge water containing oily and other residues;
- (b) planning of land use in coastal areas (protection of natural beauty and biotopes);
- (c) better management of toxic and hazardous industrial waste (infrastructures and studies);
- (d) strengthening of know-how and training relating to these measures.

*Eligible areas:*¹

- (a), (b) and (d): Coastal areas under Objective 1 and Mediterranean coastal areas under Objectives 2 and 5b — a coastal area being defined as a zone starting from the coastline not more than 10 km deep.
- (c) and relevant (d): All Objective 1 regions.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 9 November 1990.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ See maps, pp. 34 and 35.

Stride

Object: To improve the innovation and technological development capacity of regions whose development is lagging behind or which are seriously affected by industrial decline.

Decision: Commission Notice C(90) 1562/2 to the Member States — OJ C 196 of 4 August 1990, p. 18.

Allocation: ECU 400 million (1990-93) from the ERDF and the ESF.¹

Loans: Possible from the EIB and the ECSC.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) strengthening the research capacity of the Objective 1 regions;
- (b) improving participation in Community and international research programmes and networks and strengthening links between participants;
- (c) promotion of cooperation between research and industry.

*Eligible areas:*² Objective 1 regions and Objective 2 areas (for (c) only).

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 4 February 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ This Community initiative may be extended beyond 1993.

² See map, p. 34.

Interreg

Object: To prepare border regions for the large single market, principally through greater cooperation between regions straddling national borders.

Decision: Commission Notice C(90) 1562/3 to the Member States — OJ C 215 of 30 August 1990.

Allocation: ECU 800 million (1990-93) from the ERDF, the ESF and the EAGGF Guidance Section.

Loans: Possible from the EIB.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) development of and support for small and medium-sized firms,
 - (b) tourism and agritourism,
 - (c) provision of local water, gas and electricity supplies and local telecommunications,
 - (d) rural development,
 - (e) pollution prevention and control,
 - (f) improved transport and other communications systems,
 - (g) training and employment measures,
- and others.

*Eligible areas:*¹ Border areas under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b.

Special feature: The Commission will consider cross-border programmes implemented jointly by Member States.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 28 February 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies, and Mr Grillo Pasquarelli, Directorate-General for Agriculture.

¹ See map, p. 36.

Regis

Object: To strengthen Community measures for the most remote regions in order to speed up adaptation of their economies so that they may be better integrated into the single market.

Decision: Commission Notice C(90) 1562/1 to the Member States — OJ C 196 of 4 August 1990, p. 15.

Allocation: ECU 200 million (1990-93) from the ERDF, the ESF and the EAGGF Guidance Section.¹

Loans: Possible from the EIB.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) assistance for the diversification of agricultural production,
- (b) investment in alternative forms of tourism which do not endanger the environment,
- (c) assistance for SMEs,
- (d) consolidation of links with the rest of the Community and with neighbouring non-member countries, particularly ACP States,
- (e) measures to reduce risks associated with natural disasters,
- (f) training and employment measures.

Eligible areas: French overseas departments, Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 4 February 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ This initiative may be extended beyond 1993.

Regen

Object: To promote the development of networks to carry natural gas and electricity to regions whose development is lagging behind.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 326 of 28 December 1990, p. 7.

Allocation: ECU 300 million (1990-93) from the ERDF.

Loans: Possible from the EIB and the ECSC.

Projects involved:

- (a) building of natural gas networks in Portugal and Greece,
- (b) linking up of natural gas networks of Ireland and the United Kingdom,
- (c) building of a natural gas network to cover Corsica and Sardinia,
- (d) linking up of natural gas networks of Spain and Portugal,
- (e) linking up of electricity networks of Italy and Greece.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Public and private sectors.

Timescale: Projects or feasibility studies to be submitted as soon as possible.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

Prisma

Object: To improve infrastructure and business services in regions whose development is lagging behind, in preparation for the completion of the single market.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 33 of 8 February 1991, p. 9.

Allocation: ECU 100 million (1991-93) from the ERDF.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) creation and upgrading of calibration and metrology facilities and services for businesses,
- (b) technical assistance for SMEs both with regard to public contracts and to help them prepare for the discontinuation of measures under Article 115 of the EEC Treaty.

*Eligible areas:*¹ Objective 1 regions.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes or global grant applications to be submitted by 8 August 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ See map, p. 34.

Telematique

Object: To promote the use of advanced telecommunications services in regions whose development is lagging behind.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 33 of 8 February 1991, p. 7.

Allocation: ECU 200 million (1991-93) from the ERDF.

Loans: Possible from the EIB.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) encouragement of the use and provision of advanced telecommunications services by SMEs,
- (b) development of telecommunications services in the public sector which could contribute to regional development,
- (c) development of links within the Objective 1 regions and between these regions and the rest of the Community.

*Eligible areas:*¹ Objective 1 regions.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Operational programmes to be submitted by 8 August 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Berg, Directorate-General for Regional Policies.

¹ See map, p. 34.

Leader

Object: To encourage innovative development solutions which will serve as a model for all rural areas through support for integrated initiatives by rural communities.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 73 of 19 March 1991, p. 33.

Allocation: ECU 400 million (1991-93) from the EAGGF Guidance Section, the ERDF and the ESF.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) measures benefiting the inhabitants of the rural areas concerned:
- technical support to aid rural development for local authorities, project promoters and initiatives already running,
 - vocational training and recruitment aid,
 - rural tourism and farm tourism,
 - SMEs, craft enterprises and local services,
 - local value enhancement and marketing of agricultural products,
 - other rural development measures;
- (b) equipping (in particular with computer and telecommunications equipment) and management of local rural development groups;
- (c) networking of local groups across the Community (promotion, assessment, dissemination).

*Eligible areas:*¹ Objective 1 regions and Objective 5b areas.

Special feature: Initiative implemented through a network of local rural development groups.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Private and public sectors.

Timescale: Global grant applications to be submitted by 19 September 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Grillo Pasquarelli, Directorate-General for Agriculture.

¹ See maps, pp. 34 and 35.

Euroform

Object: To develop new qualifications, new skills and new employment opportunities through transnational measures to promote convergence at Community level, in particular between the regions whose development is lagging behind and the other regions.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 327 of 29 December 1990, p. 3.

Allocation: ECU 300 million (1990-93) from the ESF and the ERDF.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) promotion of transnational partnerships between administrations, public or private bodies responsible for vocational training and promotion of employment, or consortia, with the possible backing of enterprises, groups of enterprises or other partners, for the purpose of preparing, implementing, assessing and disseminating — particularly through Community networks — the results of joint training and employment promotion initiatives;
- (b) encouragement of the setting-up, development and operation of transnational initiatives through support for the establishment and operation of consortia to prepare, programme and implement training and employment schemes at regional, sectoral or technological levels.

*Eligible areas:*¹ Partnerships between bodies in all Member States with priority for those including at least one partner in an Objective 1 region.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: The long-term unemployed and young people, persons employed in SMEs, unemployed or threatened with unemployment, on apprenticeship contracts, etc. (Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 on the ESF).

Timescale: Operational programmes or global grant applications to be submitted by 29 June 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Hatt, Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs.

¹ See map, p. 34.

NOW

Object: To encourage transnational schemes to help women take full advantage, on equal terms with men, of the positive effects expected from economic growth and technological development.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 327 of 29 December 1990, p. 5.

Allocation: ECU 120 million (1990-93) from the ESF and the ERDF.

Eligible measures (summary):

- (a) schemes to encourage the setting-up of small businesses and cooperatives by women, including:
 - suitable vocational training and preparatory training measures,
 - the setting-up of businesses or cooperatives through start-up aid and recruitment aid,
 - aid for starting up services aimed at helping women obtain access to existing structures to facilitate the launching of craft activities or small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (b) schemes to provide guidance and advice, pretraining, training and access to employment for women wishing to return to work.

*Eligible areas:*¹ The whole Community with priority for transnational measures covering Objective 1 regions.

Special feature: Complementary measures, especially for the development of childcare facilities (limited to Objective 1 regions) and technical assistance.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Long-term unemployed women, women wishing to return to work after a prolonged interruption and, for Objective 1 regions and Objective 2 and 5b areas and for measures referred to under point (b), unemployed women and women in insecure jobs.

Timescale: Operational programmes or global grant applications to be submitted by 29 June 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Hatt, Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs.

¹ See map, p. 34.

Horizon

Object: To aid the economic, professional and social integration of handicapped persons and certain disadvantaged groups.

Decision: Commission Notice to the Member States — OJ C 327 of 29 December 1990, p. 9.

Allocation: ECU 180 million (1990-93) from the ESF and the ERDF.

Eligible measures (not exhaustive):

(a) for handicapped persons:

- vocational training,
- employment aid,
- the training of trainers in suitable economic sectors,
- the creation of SMEs and cooperatives by handicapped persons or aid for the employment of handicapped persons in the market economy,
- the creation of services to help the setting-up of craft enterprises and SMEs,
- pilot projects concerning the adaptation of infrastructures for handicapped persons,
- the exchange of information and experiences and the creation of networks;

(b) for disadvantaged persons:

- *pilot projects for:*
 - guidance and counselling measures,
 - vocational training,
 - exchanges of social development agents at Community level;
and in particular for Objective 1, in the case of persons obliged to adapt themselves to new socio-economic situations,
- *measures to:*
 - facilitate their occupational integration,
 - develop vocational training to tackle language problems,
 - help their children preserve their mother tongue.

*Eligible areas:*¹ The whole Community with priority for Objective 1 regions.

Implementation

Beneficiaries of the initiative: Handicapped persons (persons with serious handicaps resulting from physical or mental impairment); disadvantaged persons (persons suffering from specific difficulties which hinder or act as a brake on their economic and social integration).

Timescale: Operational programmes or global grant applications to be submitted by 29 June 1991.

Community contact: Detailed information may be obtained from Mr Hatt, Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs.

¹ See map, p. 34.

Annex

Maps and official texts

Maps of Objective 1 regions and Objectives 2, 5b and Interreg areas

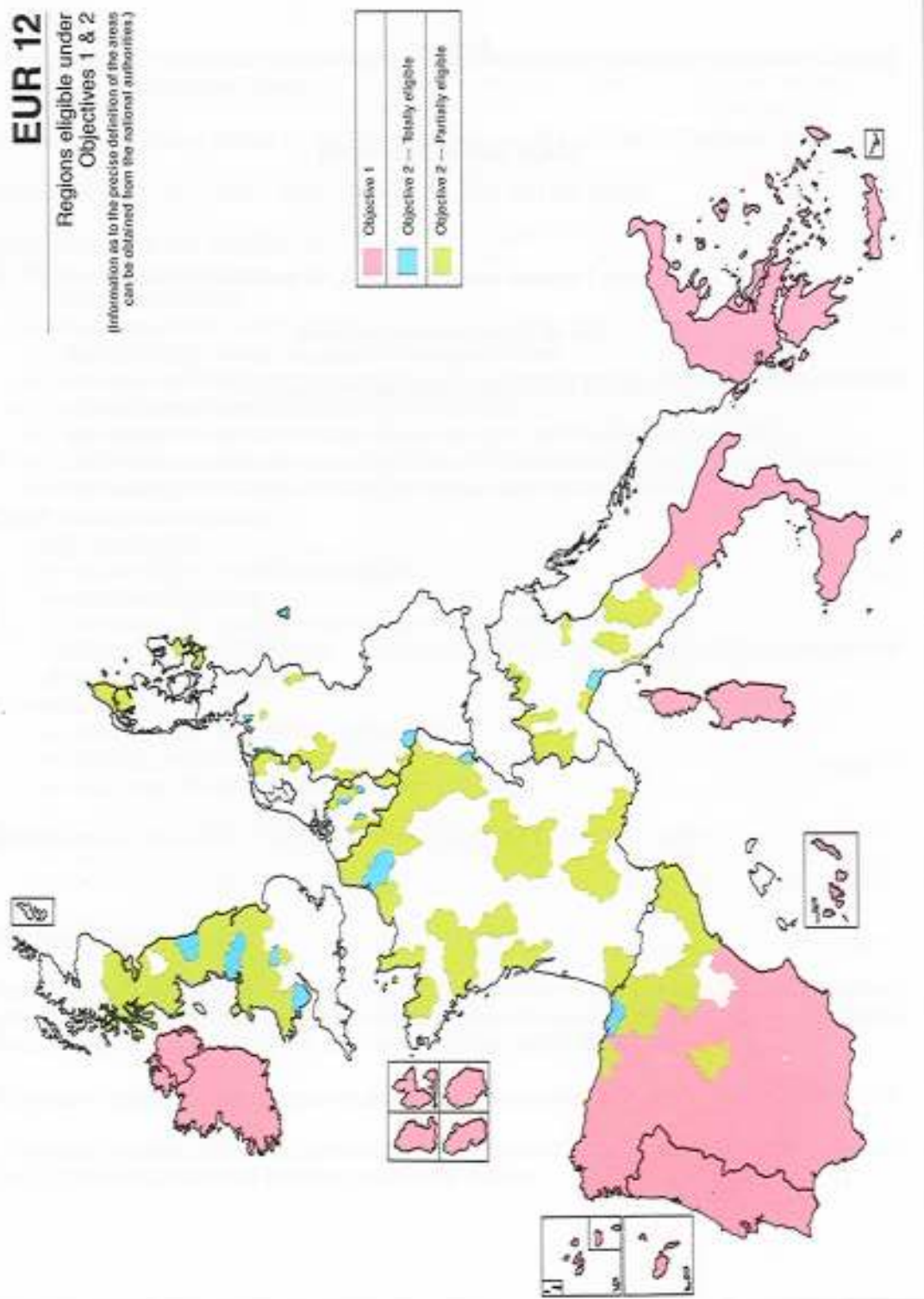
List of Rechar coal-mining areas

Official texts of the Community initiatives

EUR 12

Regions eligible under Objectives 1 & 2

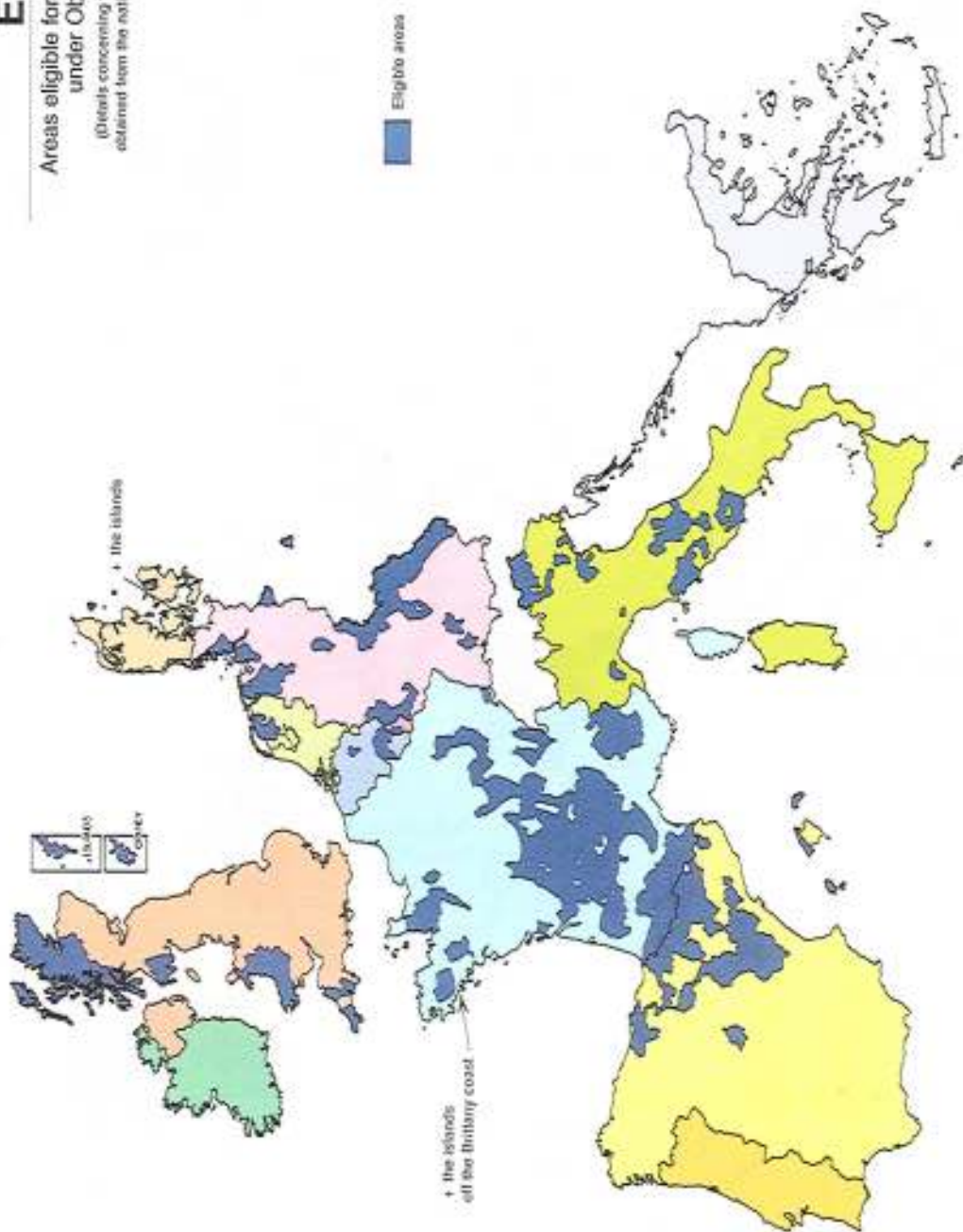
(Information as to the precise definition of the areas can be obtained from the national authorities.)



EUR 12

Areas eligible for assistance under Objective 5(b)

(Details concerning the areas can be obtained from the national authorities.)



Interreg border regions

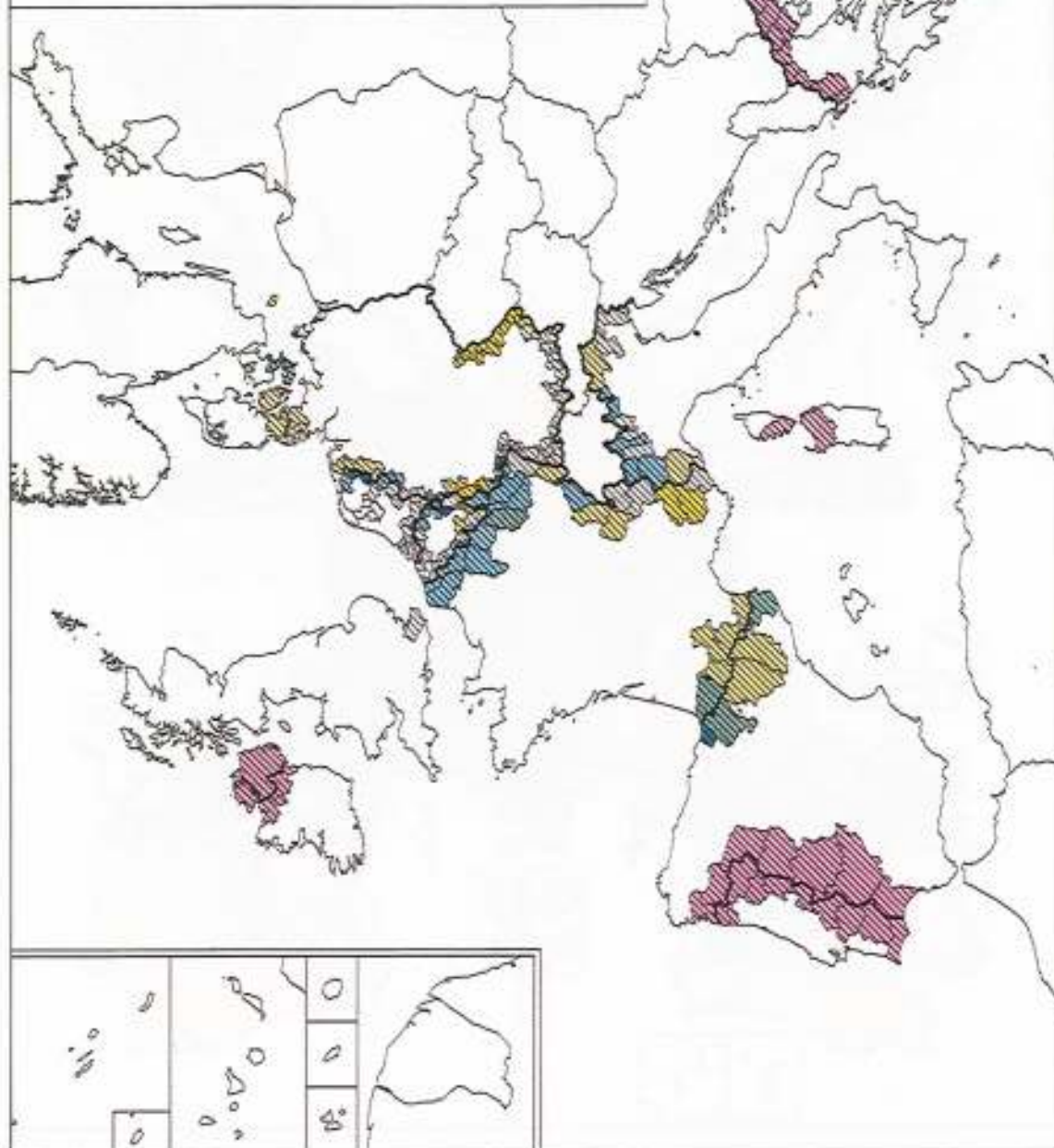
Legend:

- Objective 1
- Objective 2 — totally eligible
- Objective 2 — partially eligible
- Objective 5b — totally eligible
- Objective 5b — partially eligible
- Part. Objective 2 and part. Obj. 5b
- Interreg Area — Art. 10 EFIF/

Note: Northern Ireland excluding Belfast.

Source: Document Europa 2000 (DG XVI).

0 50 100
km



Coal-mining areas eligible under the Rechar initiative¹

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Coal-mining area</i>
Belgium	Kempen Bassin Sud
Germany	Aachen-Heinsberg Ruhrgebiet Saarland
Spain	Asturias Catalonia Léon-Palencia Teruel-Saragossa
France	Nord/Pas-de-Calais Lorraine Alès (Centre-Midi) La Mure (Centre-Midi) Bourgogne (Centre-Midi) Albi Carmaux (Centre-Midi)
Portugal	Douro
United Kingdom	Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire Staffordshire Warwickshire North-East England North-West England Yorkshire South Wales Kirkaldy (Scotland) Central (Scotland) Bathgate (Scotland) Midlothian (Scotland) Cumnock and Sanquhar (Scotland)

¹ See OJ C 177, 18.7.1990.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the economic conversion of coal-mining areas, which Member States are invited to establish

(90/C 20/03)

1. At its meeting on 17 December 1989, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning the economic conversion of coal-mining areas (hereafter called 'Rechar'), within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (*) and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 (†).

2. In the context of Rechar, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants is made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. Development aims

3. The Commission has taken this decision because many coal-mining areas are amongst the areas of the Community which have been or are likely to be hardest hit by problems of industrial restructuring, and because they have special difficulties in adjusting rapidly to changing economic circumstances. Thus, the Community initiative is designed to help resolve problems common to certain categories of region (Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88).

4. The Community initiative is intended to accelerate economic conversion concentrating on the most seriously affected coal-mining areas, by means of an effort which is additional to that foreseen in Community support frameworks drawn up in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. Priority will be given to improving the environment, to promoting new economic activities and to the development of human resources. Regional and local authorities and the social partners should be involved in the preparation and implementation of operational programmes in the manner appropriate to each Member State.

II. Definition of eligible areas for the purpose of Rechar

5. Eligible areas for Rechar will be delineated in terms of small spatial units, below administrative level 3 of the Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units, or geographically contiguous groups of such units, which:

- 5.1. contain coal-mining activities defined as the extraction from deep or open cast mines of hard coal or black lignite (coal-mining activities as defined under the ECSC Treaty);
- 5.2. employed at least 1 000 persons in the coal-mining industry on 1 January 1984 or later (all workers employed by any undertaking engaged in coal-mining activities coming under the ECSC Treaty, referred to hereafter as coal-mining jobs);
- 5.3. and satisfy one of the following conditions:
 - they have lost at least 1 000 coal-mining jobs since 1 January 1984,
 - the total number of coal-mining jobs lost since that date and future coal-mining job losses publicly announced equals or exceeds 1 000 jobs,
 - the total number of coal-mining jobs lost since 1 January 1984 and the number of such jobs at risk equals or exceeds 1 000. As regards the number of coal-mining jobs at risk, only those jobs will be taken into account which the Commission and the Member State jointly accept to be at risk, in particular because of the high cost of coal production relative to the Community average or the geological conditions which the coal mining industry is facing in the areas concerned. These conditions must be demonstrated by the Member State concerned with the necessary supporting information.
6. Assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), from the European Social Fund (ESF), from the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and from the European Investment Bank (EIB) may be made available in areas which:
 - (a) meet the criteria set out in paragraph 5 above;
 - (b) and are included in the list of eligible areas to be determined and published by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 13 of this notice;
 - (c) and fall within objective 1, objective 2 or objective 5 (b), defined in accordance with the dispositions of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 (‡).

(*) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

(†) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 15.

(‡) OJ No L 185, 15. 7. 1988, p. 9.

7. Areas which meet the criteria in paragraph 5 above but which do not fall within objectives 1, 2 or 5 (b) will be considered for inclusion in the list of eligible areas to be determined and published by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 13 of this notice, if the coal-mining activities are or were vital to the economic development of these areas and the loss or threatened loss of coal-mining jobs has or will lead to a serious worsening of unemployment in those areas. If included in the list of eligible areas determined by the Commission, such areas may have assistance made available to them on the same basis as in paragraph 6 above.

III. Eligible measures

8. Community assistance, in the form of loans or grants in aid as appropriate, may be made available within the framework of the Rechar programme, in favour of the following measures:

- (a) environmental improvement of areas seriously damaged by coal-mining activity, including coal tip reclamation, the cleaning-up and reconversion of disused coal-mining buildings and their surroundings, the modernization of such premises for small and medium-sized enterprises, landscaping, works to overcome the problem of subsidence, minor works for improving the appearance of the built environment, and roads giving access to the location of new activities;
- (b) renovation and modernization of social and economic infrastructures (community facilities, roads, water and electricity supplies) in mining villages provided that such operations are demonstrated to be an integral and essential element of a strategy for the economic regeneration of the areas concerned;
- (c) construction of new advance factory units and workshop premises;
- (d) promotion of alternative economic activities, and in particular the creation or development of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular by means of:
 - the provision of assistance for productive investment,
 - better access to risk capital,
 - the establishment or development of common services,
 - assisting the carrying-out of market research and studies, and the establishment and operation of business networks,
- assisting the promotion of innovation in industry and services, by means of the collection of information relating to product or process innovation and its dissemination and by means of aids to the commercial application of innovations in small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (e) assisting the promotion of tourism activities, especially those based on industrial heritage;
- (f) assisting the creation or increased activity of economic conversion bodies and regional development teams;
- (g) assisting vocational training and employment measures for any person, especially the unemployed, persons threatened with unemployment and persons employed in small and medium-sized enterprises, and especially those involved in an operation which is essential for the achievement of the development and conversion aims of the Rechar initiative; the construction of new facilities for vocational training of all kinds in coal-mining areas;
- (h) interest rebates on ECSC loans for investments in small and medium-sized enterprises (ECSC definition), and for the reclamation of sites for industrial use;
- (i) redeployment aids available under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty, in particular assistance for the provision of vocational training designed to provide miners or unemployed ex-miners with skills relevant to market requirements and to assist their integration within a changing economy;
- (j) any other measure which contributes to the economic conversion of the area concerned and for which loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) can be approved, including loans under the New Community instrument (NCI).

IV. The Community's contribution to the financing of Rechar

9. The Rechar programmes shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member State and the Community. In coal-mining areas eligible for Rechar, the total contribution by the ERDF and ESF during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 300 million. In addition to this, the ECSC could provide up to ECU 120 million in interest rebates on loans, and some ECU 40 million in supplementary redeployment aids under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty in 1990 with further amounts in subsequent years up to 1993, to be determined in the light of the availability of resources. Loans from EIB resources may also be made available.

10. While the selection of areas for assistance under Rechar will take into account job losses since 1984, the Commission's decision on the amount of the Community's budget contribution to individual operational programmes will naturally reflect the quality of the programme and the economic and social conditions and development needs of the area at the time of the decision as well as future job losses. The rates of assistance will be decided in conformity with the provisions of the regulations governing the Structural Funds and take account of the financing capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned. In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take into account, in particular, the following elements:

- the presence of a coherent regional strategy with a clear statement of the development and conversion aims into which the aims of the operational programmes for coal-mining areas have been properly integrated,
- the likely development impact of the proposed measures and in particular their contribution to the achievement of the aims of the operational programme,
- a demonstration of the additional character of the resources requested from the Community as well as those made available by the national and regional authorities in support of the operational programme,
- the likely effectiveness of the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation,
- the extent to which an optimal combination is made of loans and grants.

11. As regards budget contributions, the Commission will decide after examination of the proposals for operational programmes, on a maximum of four annual instalments for the period 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1993.

V. Implementation

12. Member States wishing to benefit from Rechar should submit to the Commission their proposals for the detailed definition of coal-mining areas in conformity with the criteria and thresholds given in Section II of this notice within one month of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

13. The Commission shall, after consultations with the interested Member States, determine and publish a list of eligible coal-mining areas for the purpose of Rechar in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* within two months of the latest date for the receipt of the above proposals from Member States. The Commission may extend this list subsequently.

14. Member States wishing to benefit from Rechar having eligible coal-mining areas in the list published by the Commission are invited to present detailed proposals for operational programmes, or amendments to an existing or proposed operational programme in application of Community support frameworks, within six months of the date of publication of this notice. Proposals for operational programmes received after this date, relating to coal-mining areas included in the abovementioned list, need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

15. All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200, rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down the criteria for the grant of readaptation aid under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty available under the Rechar ⁽¹⁾ programme

(90/C 185/04)

1. Introduction

The Commission has decided to implement the Rechar programme, the objective of which is to lend Community support to the economic redevelopment of the Community's coal-mining areas.

The programme includes a social component, by means of which the Commission aims to minimize the social consequences of coal industry restructuring by orientating and consolidating the supplementary measures existing under the umbrella of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

In the ECSC budget for 1990, ECU 40 million is set aside for Community financing of exceptional supplementary social measures under Rechar, and additional amounts may be made available in the subsequent years, up to 1993, depending on the resources available.

The Commission has decided to apply the ECU 40 million made available in the 1990 ECSC budget for four types of aid pursuant to Article 56 (1) (c) or (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty; these have been selected so as to give priority to activities which are both the most efficient with regard to the objectives of the Rechar programme as a whole and of special relevance to social aspects and the redeployment of workers. This notice specifies the measures for which aid will be allocated, as well as the rules of application for this supplementary intervention.

2. Measures

It has been decided that the ECSC should support the following measures:

2.1. *'Traditional' vocational training*

The vocational training policies aimed at persons leaving the coal industry are of more or less recent origin depending on the country. The Commission supports the trend towards extending vocational training, as it often leads directly to the redeployment of workers in new jobs.

Under the Rechar programme, the ECSC support for training will be increased by extending the

training period which may be financed by the ECSC by 12 months (this extra period is added to the 12 months laid down in the bilateral Convention) or by increasing the ECSC's participation (up to the equivalent of 100 % of previous salary instead of the 55 % provided in the bilateral Convention). The same procedures as laid down in the bilateral Convention are applicable (expenditure, categories which may be covered, calculation of ECSC contribution). The total contribution made by the ECSC may not exceed an average amount of ECU 4 000 per person.

2.2. *Basic pre-training programme for the reintegration of less qualified workers*

In dealing with coal workers with no or few qualifications, a large number of obstacles have to be overcome before they can be retrained and re-employed, including social and psychological handicaps (lack of motivation and industrial expertise, difficulties with required work-rates), the absence of basic qualifications and, with migrant workers, the problem of language.

Under the Rechar programme, the ECSC will provide support for appropriate programmes based on personalized learning methods including:

- initial instruction to help overcome social and psychological handicaps,
- pre-training or basic technical instruction,
- organization of training courses in firms to familiarize them with the industrial environment,
- language courses (where appropriate).

The total contribution made by the ECSC may not exceed an average amount of ECU 4 000 per person and the period in which costs are met has been fixed at 12 months.

2.3. *Redeployment aid*

Mine workers who decide to participate in the setting up of business centres often need professional advice and ongoing assistance, particularly during the start-up period. In most coal-mining areas steps have already been taken in this direction, the most common phenomenon being the creation of business centres, often sponsored and partly subsidized by the mining

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 20, 27. 1. 1990.

company itself, as well as by the local or regional authorities.

Under the Rechar programme, the ECSC will finance part of the cost met by these centres particularly administration and consultancy costs as well as expenditure on allowances paid to persons starting a new activity. Assistance will be provided as a flat-rate amount per person engaged in a business project offering the necessary viability guarantees. The total contribution made by the ECSC may not exceed an average amount of ECU 4 000 per person.

2.4. *Early retirement*

Parallel to the efforts directed at easing the reintegration of workers leaving the mining industry, the reduction in manning levels linked to the speeding up of colliery rationalization continues to be achieved in part by early retirement programmes.

Under the Rechar programme, ECSC assistance has been extended by an additional period of 18 months (in addition to the 18 months allowed by the bilateral Convention for this type of measure), applying the same procedures as those laid down in the bilateral Convention (expenditure categories which may be covered, age limits, calculation of ECSC contribution) for standard early retirement situations. The total contribution made by the ECSC may not exceed an average amount of ECU 4 000 per person.

3. *Implementation*

These supplementary measures are applicable to coal-workers in those areas deemed eligible under the Rechar programme either pursuant to Article 56 (1) (c) or (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty.

In the same way as all other measures financed under the Rechar programme, the ECSC social measures proposed to assist redeployment will have to be part of an operational programme to be submitted to the Commission. The programme must clearly explain how ECSC measures form part of a coherent plan which is being simultaneously co-financed by other Community instruments.

As far as other implementation provisions are concerned, the following requirements must be observed:

3.1. *Applications*

3.1.1. The Member States are asked:

- to specify, within the framework of the Rechar operational programme to be presented before 27 July 1990, the types of measures and the total amount of aid requested pursuant to Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty for 1990 and, as an indication, for the years 1991 to 1993,
- to submit to the Commission before 30 September 1990 supplementary information (name of company, number of beneficiaries and cost per measure, etc. . . .) as specified for applications for aid in the bilateral Convention relating to ECSC readaptation aid.

3.1.2. Applications for 1990 will refer only to measures put into operation between 1 January and 31 December 1990.

3.1.3. For the period 1991 to 1993, Member States shall present applications for aid annually.

3.2. *Payment requests*

3.2.1. Payment requests will be presented no later than 30 September of the fifth year in which the Commission decision to grant aid is taken.

3.2.2. 50 % of the aid granted may be paid as soon as the Member State confirms that the measures have started.

3.3. *Other procedures*

The other terms and conditions applicable shall be the same as those set down in the bilateral Conventions for the granting of readaptation aid pursuant to Article 56 (1) (c) and (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty, save where otherwise specified.

All correspondence relating to the Rechar operational programme, to be submitted before 27 July 1990, should be addressed to:

Mr E. LANDABURU,
Director General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes, which Member States are invited to establish within the framework of a Community initiative concerning the environment

(90/C 115/03)

1. The Commission of the European Communities decided on 2 May 1990, to establish a Community initiative contributing to protection of the environment and promoting economic development (hereinafter referred to as 'Envireg'), within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (*).

2. Community assistance in the form of loans and grants may be provided under Envireg for measures and in areas respecting the guidelines set out in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. Development aims

3. The aim is to help the least-favoured regions in the Community tackle some of their environmental problems and thereby help put their economic and social development on a firmer footing. The application at a regional level of the Community's environmental policies will also be made easier.

4. The specific objectives of Envireg are:

- 4.1. to reduce the pollution of coastal areas, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, whose economy depends significantly on tourism. Priority is given to areas experiencing rapid economic growth with serious environmental problems, and subject to sharp seasonal fluctuations in their population;
 - 4.2. to promote the planning of land use in coastal areas in such a way as to preserve natural beauty and protect and enhance biotopes in these areas;
 - 4.3. to contribute to the better control and management of toxic and hazardous industrial waste;
 - 4.4. to strengthen know-how relating to the design and management of facilities for reducing pollution and, more generally, to improve the ways in which environmental problems are tackled.
5. Operational programmes relating to Mediterranean regions must include sections covering at least the objectives described in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.4 above.

II. Definition of eligible areas

6. The following areas are eligible:

- as regards the reduction of pollution and land-use planning and related know-how: coastal areas covered by objective 1 and Mediterranean coastal

areas covered by objectives 2 and 5(b). Coastal area means a zone starting from the coastline not more than 10 kms deep, except in duly justified cases;

- as regards toxic and hazardous industrial waste and related know-how: all regions covered by objective 1.

III. Eligible measures

7. As regards reducing the pollution of coastal areas:

- the construction or modernization of infrastructures and equipment for the treatment of waste water, including the linking of sewage treatment plants to existing drainage networks, and connections and other equipment upstream of irrigation networks, which enable the use of water from sewage works. Priority for these actions is given to urban areas with fewer than 100 000 residents. However, in very exceptional cases, areas with a larger population may be considered;
- the construction of infrastructures, and equipment involved in the collection (preferably with a view, where practicable, for recycling) treatment, storage, recycling and disposal of solid waste in urban areas as defined above;
- studies, soil analyses, technical assistance, agricultural extension services and demonstration projects relating to the agricultural use of compost and sludge from urban sewage;
- port installations for storing and treating ship's ballast and washing or bilge water originating from shipping, containing oily residues and other chemical substances, together with small-scale equipment to minimize the effects of accidental discharges of these products.

Priority is given to projects undertaken by more than one local authority in a framework of joint planning. Where local authority areas located outside coastal areas take part in such a project, only the part of the investment relating to the needs of the coastal area is eligible for Community aid.

8. As regards land use planning for coastal areas:

- the costs of studies leading to regional land-use plans for coastal areas, identifying areas which could be used for various economic activities, for construction, the location of infrastructure networks and the definition of areas where nature must be preserved;

(*) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

— schemes to protect biotopes while providing for the development of tourism; studies, technical assistance and demonstration schemes for the protection of biotopes in relation to agriculture.

9. As regards the control and management of toxic and hazardous industrial waste:

- the construction of infrastructures and productive investments related to the collection, treatment, storage and recycling of hazardous or toxic industrial waste and of sludge from sewage. For each country, capacities should not exceed the likely requirements of all the regions, taken together;
- studies to identify industrial activities giving rise to pollution; cost of experts' fees for reports on ways of reducing the production of hazardous or toxic waste and waste water in industrial plants, and on making production processes more efficient in terms of the consumption of water and raw materials.

10. As regards the strengthening of know-how in connection with the abovementioned actions:

- feasibility studies and other analyses designed to determine the most appropriate treatment process;
- the launching of service centres to assist local authorities in selecting, installing and maintaining plant and equipment, and the establishment of bodies linking regional authorities in order to improve environmental management, especially of water resources;
- actions to facilitate the transfer of know-how between regional experts;
- the training of professionals involved in actions related to the aims of this initiative, particularly personnel responsible for maintaining plant and equipment.

IV. The Community's contribution to financing Envireg

11. The operational programmes under Envireg are to be financed jointly by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution of the structural Funds to Envireg in 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 500 million. Loans from the European Investment Bank may also be made available.

12. The amount of Community support given to operational programmes will depend on the importance of the problems in the fields covered by Envireg and on the quality of programmes.

The importance of the problems will be assessed by taking account of the resident population and the

importance of tourism in coastal areas, and of the scale of industries producing toxic and dangerous waste.

In assessing the quality of programmes, the Commission will take account in particular of the following points:

- the organization of services for selecting, setting up and running new installations and overhauling existing facilities;
- the existence of an global plan for reducing coastal pollution, into which Envireg is properly integrated;
- the state of progress in implementing Community policies for the environment in the fields covered by Envireg, for example an indication of how the operational programmes reflect national toxic waste plans;
- the additionality of financial resources available to Envireg programmes compared to those presently foreseen in the Community support frameworks for the environment, and other national spending in the fields concerned.

V. Administration of the operational programmes

13. For projects involving sewage and incineration plants, there must be a prior technical assessment to evaluate the technology to be used and how maintenance is to be managed. These technical assessments should be available to Monitoring Committees on request.

Also, the Commission will be setting up a network of experts to which the authorities responsible for operational programmes and those in charge of projects can refer.

VI. Implementation

14. The Member States should submit detailed proposals for operational programmes within six months of the publication of this notice. The Commission need not necessarily consider proposals received after this date.

Where an operational programme covers areas coming under several objectives (1, 2 or 5(b)), the expenditure relating to each of these objectives should be shown separately.

15. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200, rue de la Loi,
1049 Brussels,
Belgium.

Notice C(90) 1562/2 to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish, in the framework of a Community initiative concerning regional capacities for research, technology and innovation

(Stride)

(90/C 196/06)

1. At its meeting on 25 July 1990, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning improvement of regional capacities for research, technology and innovation (hereafter called 'Stride'), within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88.

2. In the context of Stride, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants is made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. Definition of development aims and eligible areas

3. The main aim of the Community initiative is to strengthen the research, technological and innovatory (R & T D) capacity of the regions whose development is lagging behind (objective 1) so that they are better placed to attract or retain technologically advanced activities in the productive sectors of the region and highly qualified personnel. Accordingly, most of the financial resources for Stride will be allocated to objective 1 regions.

Stride can also assist regions seriously affected by industrial decline (objective 2) by stimulating innovation in ways which encourage the diversification of the local economy.

Stride complements other Community actions in favour of R & D, especially those within the Community Support Frameworks (CSFs), the Community's R & T D framework programme and the Sprint (strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer) and Comett (Community action programme in education and training for technology) programmes, and will be coordinated with them. It is designed to increase the contribution that the Community's policies in favour of research, technology and innovation can make to achieving greater economic and social cohesion within the European Community.

4. Stride concentrates on three categories of measures, defined as follows:

4.1. In regions whose development is lagging behind (objective 1):

A. Stride seeks to encourage a wider regional distribution of research capabilities by helping public administrations in less developed regions assess technology requirements as part of their development planning, by helping them to audit local capabilities and potential, and to invest in the development of a long-term capability in selected areas of research, technology and innovation.

B. Stride seeks to improve the participation of research centres and firms in objective 1 regions in research programmes supported by the European Community as well as other international programmes, by improved awareness, supporting preparatory work, and by strengthening networks of cooperation within the European Community.

4.2. In regions whose development is lagging behind (objective 1) and in regions seriously affected by industrial decline (objective 2):

C. Stride encourages cooperation between research centres and firms, so that research carried out in the regions becomes more responsive to local needs, so that firms can meet a greater part of their requirements for assistance relating to the transfer and application of technology from local facilities and so that firms are stimulated to innovate and to employ highly qualified personnel.

II. Eligible measures

5. In this section of the notice, a list of eligible measures under Stride is given, grouped under each of the categories defined in paragraph 4 above. When submitting operational programmes, Member States are expected to choose from this list a more limited set of

measures on which Community assistance should be concentrated and which are consistent with the strategy for the development of research and technology in the regions. This choice should have regard, in particular, to the nature of the measures in favour of R & T D to be financed within the Community Support Frameworks, in relation to which Stride is a complementary action.

CATEGORY A

Strengthening research facilities in objective 1 regions

6. Stride may support the creation or development of a capability in a small number of fields of research, and for a small number of research centres including universities, to be jointly agreed between the Member State and the European Community. Priority is given to fields of precompetitive research identified as being capable of enhancing the economic potential of the region.

Research directly related to the natural resources' potential and environmental conditions specific to the region or to regions geographically adjacent to it may also be envisaged. Thus, Stride may finance, in particular:

- (a) evaluations, including external evaluations by appropriate research bodies to identify the R & T D contribution which it is possible to make to the specific development requirements of less favoured regions; to determine the R & T D potential of research bodies in order to assess technological target areas, as well as to establish the capability and performance of designated centres. Regional and local authorities should be kept fully informed of the results of these evaluations;
- (b) equipment, including intangible investment such as the purchase of patents and, where it cannot be financed from the resources provided for in the operational programmes submitted under the CSFs on the initiative of the Member States, basic infrastructure relating to:
 - science and technology parks (limited to R & T D facilities,
 - the creation and development of R & T D centres, industrial research associations, contract research organisations and other institutes, including the transformation, renovation and upgrading of existing facilities,
 - the creation and improvement of laboratories which are an integral part of technical education and scientific establishments, or which take part in research projects or technology transfer activities, particularly in association with firms in the region, or the creation and improvement of laboratories for research purposes in small- and medium-sized enterprises;

- (c) the financing, for the duration of a specified research project, of the extra operating expenditure incurred as a result of transferring R & T D activities and research staff from prosperous regions or of nationals abroad returning to an objective 1 region. The dispositions governing the granting of this aid must be agreed in advance with the Commission of the European Communities.

CATEGORY B

Promoting participation and greater interconnection in Community and other international research programmes and networks

7. Under this category of measures, and in addition to the measures described under category A above, Stride may finance:

- (a) actions to disseminate information among research centres including universities and firms about Community-assisted and other research programmes and networks. Priority should be given to using existing structures;
- (b) support to preparatory work for taking part in international cooperation for research, by assisting research centres, universities and businesses in technical preparation necessary for drawing up proposals and by financing equipment they need to gain access to networks;
- (c) demonstration and pilot activities concerning technological applications made possible by Community-assisted and other research programmes, provided that they are of significance for the regional economy in question;
- (d) the development of twinning arrangements with research institutes located outside objective 1 regions, which can facilitate staff exchanges, access to research equipment or joint research activity; the actions must take account of assistance granted under the Science programme.

CATEGORY C

Promoting linkages between research centres and industry

8. In objective 1 and, to a more limited extent, in objective 2 regions, Stride may assist the promotion of innovation by encouraging and reinforcing R & T D activities in firms, building on the experience of the actions and networks funded by the Sprint, Value and Comett programmes wherever possible so as to bring together the different participants at a regional level as well as at an international level.

9. To encourage linkages for R & T D purposes between firms and among firms and research centres, Stride may finance the following measures:

(a) the setting up and operation of consortia and other bodies which foster cooperative links among education and research bodies and between them and enterprises. In some instances, the role of the regional university-business training associations set up under the Comett programme might be expanded to include these activities;

(b) In objective 1 regions only, establishing or supporting aid schemes for firms in the following fields where expenditure results from a joint research project carried out by more than one firm or by a firm and a research centre or other qualified centre:

— assistance for the purchase of equipment and know-how for applied research, experimental development, pilot projects and the introduction of innovation into products and processes, and research related to quality control,

— approved research projects undertaken by small- and medium-sized enterprises,

— expert studies for the technical and financial evaluation of plans in research, or the promotion of innovation, in addition to measures supported by the Value programme;

(c) in objective 1 regions only the creation and in objective 1 and 2 regions the development of technology transfer and innovation services and facilities intended to serve regional development, provided that such actions are run in partnership with the productive sector, and that the need for actions supplementary to those already existing can be demonstrated, including:

— equipment for research,

— the operating costs of teams, belonging to either R & T D centres, industrial research associations and institutes or technology transfer agencies, responsible for assisting technology transfer to enterprises,

— promotion work aimed at regional and local economic operators, including information campaigns,

(d) the extension of inter-regional cooperation networks set up by the Community, in particular for innovation (Sprint), by financing facilities that cannot be funded under other Community programmes;

(e) vocational training requested by the productive sector including that undertaken by the organizations referred to under paragraphs 9 (a) and (c) for appropriate personnel such as technicians, engineers, researchers and experts including the updating of training after an initial professional experience; for the application of innovations including training for middle and senior management of SMEs; for the management of R & T D and for technology transfer agents;

(f) the short-term detachment for training purposes of personnel from research centres or firms located in eligible regions to research centres, firms or agencies providing services related to technology transfer or innovation in other regions of the Community or in third countries. Such measures would have to be essential to the development objectives of Stride and must take account of assistance granted under programmes such as Comett.

III. The Community's contribution to the financing of Stride

10. The Stride programmes shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member State and the Community. In areas eligible for Stride, the total contribution by the ERDF and ESF during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 400 million. Loans from EIB and ECSC resources may also be made available. On the basis of this initial experience, the Commission will examine at the appropriate time a possible prolongation of measures financed under Stride in areas eligible for assistance from the Community's structural instruments.

11. The amount of the Community's budget contribution to individual operational programmes will take into account regional differences in the distribution of R & T D activities and the quality of the operational programme. The rates of assistance will be decided in conformity with the provisions of the Regulations governing the Structural Funds and take account of the financing capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned. In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take into account the following elements, in particular:

- the presence of a coherent R & T D strategy with a clear statement of the aims for regional technology development into which the aims of the operational programmes under Stride have been properly integrated,
- the likely development impact of the proposed measures and in particular their contribution to the achievement of the aims of the operational programme, their coherence with other Community actions and their likely impact on the productive sectors of the regional economy,
- a demonstration of the additional character of the resources requested from the Community as well as those made available by the national and regional authorities and private sources in support of the operational programme,
- the ability to integrate with and make use of existing and planned networks within the European Community,
- effective mechanisms for implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation.

IV. The management of operational programmes

12. The design and management of programmes submitted under Stride should reflect informed scientific opinion on the R & T D and technological potential of the regions concerned.

In the preparation stage, the Commission will offer the necessary technical assistance to ensure that the priorities to be proposed in the programme reflect a rigorous scientific and economic evaluation. At the implementation stage, the monitoring of programmes should also involve recourse to scientific opinion on the choice of individual projects and progressing of them, according to dispositions to be jointly agreed between the Commission and the Member State concerned. These

dispositions must include safeguards to avoid any risk of double financing by the Community.

During the third year of implementation an evaluation of the results of Stride will be made, highlighting its contribution to greater economic and social cohesion.

13. Where appropriate, funding may be disbursed through a global grant to one or several intermediaries with the necessary scientific and financial expertise designated for that purpose by the responsible authorities of each Member State in agreement with the European Community.

V. Implementation

14. Member States wishing to benefit from Stride are invited to present detailed proposals for operational programmes, or amendments to an existing or proposed operational programme in application of Community Support Frameworks, within six months of the date of publication of this notice. Proposals for operational programmes received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

15. Expenditure related to objective 1 and objective 2 areas should be separately shown, where relevant. Requirements for technical assistance for the implementation of operational programmes should also be separately identified.

16. All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
 Director-General,
 Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
 Commission of the European Communities,
 200, rue de la Loi,
 B-1049 Brussels.

Notice C(90) 1562/3 to the Member States, laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning border areas (Interreg)

(90/C 215/04)

1. At its meeting on 25 July 1990, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning border areas (hereafter called 'Interreg') within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88.

2. In the context of Interreg, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants is made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. Development aims

3. The aims of the initiative are:

- to assist both internal and external border areas of the Community in overcoming the special development problems arising from their relative isolation within national economies and within the Community as a whole, in the interests of the local population and in a manner compatible with the protection of the environment,
- to promote the creation and development of networks of cooperation across internal borders and, where relevant, the linking of these networks to wider Community networks, in the context of the completion of the internal market of 1992,
- to assist the adjustment of external border areas to their new role as border areas of a single integrated market,
- to respond to new opportunities for cooperation with third countries in external border areas of the Community.

4. Previous experience of efforts to promote cooperation between border areas in the Community indicates that, in general, three types of actions can be distinguished:

- (a) the joint planning and implementation of cross-border programmes;
- (b) the introduction of measures to improve the flow of information across borders and amongst border regions, between public agencies, private organizations and voluntary bodies;

(c) the setting up of shared institutional and administrative structures to sustain and promote cooperation.

5. In the preparation of operational programmes for submission under the Interreg initiative, Member States and regional and local authorities are encouraged to present agreed proposals for cross-border cooperation as far as possible for the three types of action defined in paragraph 4 above and to develop their strategies for cooperation accordingly.

6. In providing Community assistance under this initiative to internal border areas, the Commission will accord priority to proposals which are made in cooperation with regional and local authorities in border areas and which include the establishment or development of shared institutional or administrative structures intended to widen and deepen cross-border cooperation between public agencies, private organizations and voluntary bodies. Where possible, these shared institutional or administrative structures should have the competence to implement jointly determined projects.

7. Measures assisted under this initiative should be designed to have their main development impact on the population of the border areas eligible under this initiative. Particular attention should be given to creating alternative employment opportunities in areas where job losses may arise due to changes in customs and other border-related activities.

II. Definition of eligible areas

8. Eligible areas for the purposes of the Interreg initiative include all objective 1, 2 and 5 (b) areas along the internal and external land borders of the Community delineated at administrative level III of the Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units (NUTS III), as listed in Annex 1 to this notice.

9. In exceptional cases, Community assistance may be given to measures relating to the creation or promotion of networks of cooperation, excluding investment in

infrastructure, established in the interests of the population of the border areas concerned, but which concern objective 1, 2 or 5 (b) areas outside the areas described in paragraph 8.

10. Infrastructure investments should be concentrated as far as practicable in administrative areas smaller than the NUTS III level, immediately adjacent to borders. However when, within depopulated regions, it is observed that economic development is held up by the absence of road infrastructures, these infrastructures can be exceptionally taken into consideration in the framework of this initiative in an area going beyond the strictly defined NUTS III level, to the extent that the main aim of these infrastructures is related to the development of the regions in question rather than facilitating transit across those regions.

11. Other internal and external border areas, not eligible for Community assistance under objectives 1, 2 and 5 (b), can nevertheless obtain limited amounts of assistance under Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 or under Article 1 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 or Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88. Operational programmes submitted under Interreg may, if appropriate, contain proposals for border areas as a whole, comprising both border areas eligible for Community assistance under objective 1, 2 and 5 (b) and correspondingly eligible under Interreg, and other adjacent border areas or border areas for which cross-border cooperation is proposed which can be granted assistance under the Articles cited above, as listed in Annex 2 to this notice.

III. Eligible measures

12. In this section of the notice, a list of measures eligible for assistance under the Interreg initiative is given below. When submitting operational programmes, Member States are expected to choose from this list a more limited but balanced set of measures on which Community assistance should be concentrated. This choice should have regard to the priorities described in paragraphs 6 and 7 above and to ensuring coherence with the measures in favour of the areas eligible under Interreg envisaged in the context of Community Support Frameworks, in relation to which Interreg is a complementary action.

13. As regards measures to promote cooperation between internal border areas of the Community, the following actions may be assisted, provided that a development impact can be foreseen on both sides of the

border and that their planning and, where possible, implementation is undertaken on a cross-border basis. Special attention should be paid to creating alternative employment opportunities in border areas affected by significant job losses as a consequence of the completion of the internal market:

- (a) studies related to development plans treating border areas as an integrated geographical unit;
- (b) aids to investment and the provision of services and facilities to support and promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and craft industries and, in particular, technology transfer and marketing support services. An accent should be placed on developing cross-border networks of economic contacts between SME;
- (c) the development of tourism (including agritourism) and the development and management for tourism purposes of natural parks through which a border runs;
- (d) the provision of local water, gas and electricity supplies and local telecommunications and the development of renewable energy resources; the common development and use of hydraulic resources and infrastructures;
- (e) pollution prevention and control, waste disposal or environmental conservation programmes and the monitoring of environmental standards of new industries locating in border areas;
- (f) rural development programmes to diversify farmers' incomes and for forestry, fishing and agricultural waste disposal;
- (g) genetic improvement and animal and plant health measures designed to increase agricultural productivity and to facilitate cross-border trade;
- (h) measures to improve agricultural products and processes, to promote product diversification, to develop quality labels and trademarks; measures to improve marketing structures and to support cooperative marketing strategies particularly where these facilitate cross-border trade;
- (i) the establishment or development of trade organizations, professional associations, planning and advisory groups such as cross-frontier development associations or other public, private or voluntary bodies aiming to facilitate cross-border contact in the economic and social spheres and the provision of language training for this purpose;

(j) in areas seriously deficient in infrastructures, improving transport and other communications systems (including media services) within and between border areas by the creation or modernization of infrastructures, provided that such operations have their principal development impact on the areas concerned on both sides of the border or are a response to problems directly linked to the existence of borders, for example by facilitating cross-border traffic;

(k) measures to promote cooperation in higher education, between research centres and in vocational training, particularly the sharing of resources and facilities on a cross-border basis;

(l) training and employment measures particularly for the unemployed and for persons directly or indirectly affected by changes in border-related activities arising from the establishment of the single market and related to measures described in subparagraphs (a) to (k).

14. With regard to measures for areas along the external borders of the Community, the following actions may be assisted:

(a) improving infrastructures, in particular access to and communications within external border areas, and the provision of local water, gas and electricity supplies;

(b) pollution prevention and control and waste disposal, including dealing with problems exacerbated by proximity to external borders, or in relation to subparagraphs (c) to (e) below;

(c) aids to investment and provision of supporting services and facilities in particular for technology transfer and for marketing for small- and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives;

(d) the promotion of tourism (including agritourism);

(e) agricultural and rural development measures as in paragraph 13 (f), (g) and (h) above;

(f) training and employment measures particularly for the unemployed and for persons directly or indirectly affected by changes in border-related activities arising from the establishment of the single market and related to measures described in subparagraphs (a) to (e).

15. Where there are possibilities for cooperation between external border areas of the Community and adjacent areas in third countries, assistance may also be given to actions similar to those listed in paragraph 13. However, Community aid under the Interreg initiative can only be given to eligible areas within the Community. In cases where proposals for cross-border cooperation with border areas in third countries are submitted, the Commission may give consideration to assisting such actions from other budgetary resources where possible and appropriate.

IV. The Community's contribution to the financing of Interreg

16. The Interreg operational programmes shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member States and the Community. The total contribution by the European Community's Structural Funds to interreg during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 800 million. Community resources will be concentrated mainly in objective 1 areas in accordance with the priorities established in Regulations governing the Structural Funds. In addition, further assistance may be provided for complementary pilot projects under Article 10 of Regulation (EEC No 4254/88, Article 1 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 and Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88. Loans from EIB resources may also be made available.

17. The Commission's decision on the amount of the Community's budget contribution to individual operational programmes will reflect the population and level of development of the border areas concerned and the quality of the programmes submitted. The rates of assistance will be decided in conformity with the provisions of the Regulations governing the Structural Funds and take account of the financing capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned. In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take into account the following elements in particular:

— the presence of a coherent regional strategy for the border areas concerned, seen as a single geographical unit, with a clear statement of the development aims into which the aims of the operational programmes have been properly integrated,

— the likely development impact of the proposed measures within the areas eligible for this initiative, taking into account deficiencies in infrastructures and services and the consequences for employment of the removal of internal borders,

— for internal border areas within the Community, the contribution the proposed measures will make to

promoting cross-border cooperation across as wide a number of fields as possible and thus assist the completion of the internal market,

- the additional character of the resources requested from the Community as well as those made available by the national and regional authorities in support of the operational programme,
- the likely effectiveness of the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. For border areas within the Community joint mechanisms should be envisaged,
- the extent to which an optimal combination is made of loans and grants.

V. Implementation

18. Member States wishing to benefit from Interreg are invited to present detailed proposals for operational programmes, or amendments to an existing or proposed operational programme in application of Community Support Frameworks, within six months of the date of publication of this notice. Proposals for operational programmes received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

Where relevant, expenditure related to objective 2 and 5 (b) areas should be separately shown.

Proposals relating to internal border areas in the Community should be submitted in the form of a single operational programme by the two or more Member States concerned. The structures and procedures for the implementation of the programme on a cross-border basis, where appropriate, should be indicated.

19. All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Where such correspondence relates to objective 5 (b) regions, it should also be addressed to:

Mr G. Légras,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Agriculture,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice C(90) 1562/1 to Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the most remote regions, which Member States are invited to establish

(Regis)

(90/C 196/05)

1. At its meeting on 25 July 1990, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning the most remote regions (hereinafter referred to as 'Regis' — initiative pour régions isolées — initiative for the most remote regions) within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (*).

2. Community assistance in the form of loans and grants may be provided under Regis to the regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira to finance operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities. These regions were selected on account of their great distance from the rest of the Community, their economic dependence, in most cases, on tropical agriculture, and their proximity to non-member countries which are party to preferential agreements with the Community.

I. Development aims

3. The reason for the initiative is the need to undertake development measures complementary to those agreed under the Community Support Frameworks (CSFs) to speed up adaptation of the economies of the recipient regions so that they may be better integrated into the European Community's internal market. The initiative forms part of the Community's policy towards its most remote regions.

4. The specific objectives of Regis are:

- to promote economic diversification,
- to consolidate the links between these regions and the rest of the European Community,
- to stimulate cooperation between neighbouring remote regions, and between them and nearby non-member countries, particularly those enjoying preferential arrangements with the Community,
- where appropriate, to increase their capacity to cope with natural disasters.

5. In drawing up operational programmes, priority should be given to economic diversification by developing products and services for the local markets, for the markets of neighbouring non-member countries and for the Community market.

II. Eligible measures

6. In this section a list of eligible measures is proposed. In submitting operational programmes, the Member States may choose a more limited, but balanced set of measures, on which Community aid will be concentrated.

7. In order to encourage economic diversification, the following measures are eligible:

- (a) assistance for the diversification of agricultural production in order to increase self-sufficiency and develop exports. This may involve the financing of investments relating to farms, packaging and processing, marketing schemes, the organization of agricultural producers and measures to improve the genetic quality and health of livestock. Similar assistance to upgrade traditional agricultural activities can be granted provided that a medium-term economic viability can be demonstrated;
- (b) assistance for investment related to the development of adventure holidays outside the main tourist centres which takes account of the local context and does not endanger environmentally sensitive zones (e.g. rural accommodation, family-run hotels, tourist facilities linked to the creation or development of national parks, forest and tropical river trails and hiking paths);
- (c) assistance for equipping craft and industry parks, workshops and short-stay factories; assistance for advisory, innovation and other services and installation of services to be used jointly by firms;

(* OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1989, p. 1.

(d) assistance for investments in small-scale energy production and links with existing distribution networks with particular emphasis on renewable energies, including geothermal energy.

8. In order to consolidate the links between these regions and the rest of the Community, the following measures will be eligible:

(a) investment in transport and telecommunications infrastructures and services, both over long distances and between neighbouring regions;

(b) trade missions, seminars and product promotion campaigns to secure outlets throughout the Community market.

9. The following measures will be eligible in the context of cooperation between the most remote regions and with neighbouring countries, particularly countries party to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention:

(a) assistance for organizing seminars, meetings, missions and studies and for setting up agencies through which to find potential partners and to define and implement joint cooperation measures;

(b) assistance for setting up services and purchasing equipment required for other joint initiatives, particularly in the fields of tourism and trade;

(c) assistance for the purchase of equipment and the construction of buildings needed for the development and improvement of services at the disposal of a geographical area extending beyond the Community regions and assistance with the costs of setting up bodies to develop services for the export of local knowhow;

(d) assistance for small inter-regional transport infrastructures.

10. Assistance to cover the extra costs of business investments resulting from the need to take account of natural hazards. Such extra costs will be calculated on the basis of criteria agreed jointly with the Commission of the European Communities.

11. Measures concerning vocational training and employment linked with the foregoing measures are eligible. These will include:

— the setting up of self-employed businesses and for recruitment to newly created stable jobs,

— vocational training in management and marketing, new technologies, tourism, environmental management and language training,

— vocational training in reducing the risks resulting from hurricanes, particularly for the agricultural sector,

— in view of the extent of unemployment or under-employment, it is also intended to provide assistance to social policies which help young people and the long-term unemployed to find employment and help the under-employed to be more fully employed.

III. The Community's contribution to the financing of Regis

12. The Regis operational programmes shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution by the structural Funds to Regis for the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 200 million. Loans may also be made by the European Investment Bank.

13. The Community contribution to the operational programmes will take account of the quality of the programmes and the remoteness of the regions, their population, their level of economic development and their specific handicaps. At the appropriate time, the Commission will examine whether this initiative should be extended beyond the year 1993.

In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take into account the following elements in particular:

— specific objectives for medium-term economic diversification, and the mechanisms for achieving them,

— the expected impact of the proposed measures on economic and social development,

— an exact timetable giving milestones at which an evaluation of the impact on economic development will be made, and the methods of monitoring and assessment to be used,

- a demonstration of the additional character of the resources requested from the Community as well as those made available by the regional and national authorities in support of the operational programme,
- the appropriate use of loans and grants.

IV. Implementation

14. Member States should submit detailed proposals for operational programmes within six months of the

date of publication of this notice. The Commission need not take account of proposals received after that date.

15. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice laying down guidelines for operational programmes in the framework of a Community initiative concerning transmission and distribution networks for energy which Member States are invited to establish (Regen)

(90/C 326/05)

1. At its meeting on 12 December 1990, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative in favour of regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1 regions) and which are inadequately equipped with energy infrastructures (referred to as Regen).

2. Community assistance in the form of loans and grants may be provided under this initiative to finance operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the present notice.

I. Development aims

3. The purpose of this initiative is twofold:

- first, to accelerate the creation of infrastructures for the reception and transmission of natural gas in peripheral regions where these do not presently exist;
- secondly, to accelerate the completion of Community-wide networks for the transmission and distribution of gas and exceptionally electricity, so as to ensure appropriate interconnections between peripheral regions of the Community and the rest of the Community.

4. By these actions, the initiative should contribute to improving the competitiveness of economic activities, especially industry, in the regions concerned; should enable these regions to benefit more fully from the establishment of an internal market in energy; should help create the conditions for a more effective management and greater security of energy supplies in the Community as a whole, and should contribute, where natural gas supplies are introduced, to a reduction in pollution related to the use of energy.

II. Eligible projects

5. In the framework of this initiative, the following projects have been identified for Community assistance in function of their degree of advancement and the estimate of expenditure to be made before 1993. Where not already carried out, preliminary feasibility studies will also need to be completed:

- the creation of reception facilities and transmission networks for the introduction of natural gas in regions of Portugal and of Greece,
- the establishment of an interconnection between the gas transmission networks of the Republic of Ireland and those of the United Kingdom,
- the inclusion of the Island of Corsica in a possible future interconnection between gas transmission networks on the mainland of Italy and a transmission network to be established on the Island of Sardinia,
- the establishment of an interconnections, between gas transmission systems in Portugal and those in Spain,
- the establishment of an interconnection, between electricity distribution networks in Italy and those in Greece.

III. The Community's contribution to the financing of this initiative

6. Projects submitted under this initiative shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution of the European Regional Development Fund to this initiative in the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 300 million. Loans are also expected to be made by the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community.

7. Requests put forward under this initiative should identify clearly any eventual requirements for complementary investment elsewhere in the Community's energy transmission and distribution networks necessary for the proper operation of the interconnections which it is intended to establish either in the period 1990 to 1993 or subsequently. Community assistance under this initiative will be conditional upon there being adequate undertakings by the responsible authorities that these complementary investments are programmed to take place in a timely fashion.

8. The Community's contribution will take account, in particular, of:

- the estimate of the Commission's services, in consultation with the European Investment Bank, of the work that is likely to be carried out in the period 1990 to 1993, and the requirement for Community payment credits for budgetary assistance that results, where relevant in addition to those that are already provided for in Community support frameworks;

— an assessment of the financial plans for these projects, so as to ensure the appropriate balance between grant and loan finance. The Commission of the European Communities may request an independent assessment of the costing and the financial plan proposed.

9. Cost-benefit analyses submitted in relation to proposed projects should indicate amongst other elements:

- the justification for the choice of the route and the capacity of the system,
- the expected internal rate of return of the investment,
- other benefits, for example in terms of the cost of energy to users in the regions and the better management and greater security of energy supplies for the regions in question and for the Community as a whole,
- the environmental impact of the projects.

10. The Commission of the European Communities will make available technical assistance as required in relation to the design, financing and implementation of projects in the framework of this initiative.

IV. Implementation

11. For projects where the Commission has already financed or been associated with the execution of the

necessary feasibility studies and these studies have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, Member States should submit detailed proposals as soon as possible, taking account of the requirements indicated above.

For projects where feasibility studies have not yet been completed Member States should submit proposals for Community assistance for any further studies required as soon as possible. When all necessary preparatory studies are completed and provided that the results of these studies justify a decision to implement the projects, Member States should submit appropriate detailed project proposals, taking account of the requirements indicated above.

Where a transnational gas or electricity interconnection is proposed, a single proposal should be submitted by the Member States concerned.

12. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr. E. Landáburu,
Director General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the preparation of enterprises for the Single Market (Prisma)

(91/C 33/05)

1. At its meeting on 25 January 1991 the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning improvements in the range of services offered to enterprises (hereafter called Prisma) within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 ⁽¹⁾.

2. In the context of this initiative, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants may be made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. DEFINITION OF DEVELOPMENT AIMS AND ELIGIBLE AREAS

3. This initiative is limited to Objective 1 regions. The main aim is to help enterprises in such regions adapt to the completion of the internal market so that they can benefit fully from the opportunities which arise. An essential feature of this initiative is the promotion of a policy of quality assurance in the enterprises concerned.

Three aspects of the completion of the internal market are taken into account in this initiative:

- a policy for Community certification and standardization,
- the opening-up of public procurement,
- the suppression of measures within the meaning of Article 115 (EEC Treaty).

4. The specific objectives of this initiative are:

- (a) to support efforts to develop certification and testing infrastructures. More particularly, the aim is to create or strengthen calibration and metrology services which will enable businesses and laboratories to have access to or possess

facilities and services needed to show their potential clients that they are able to comply with technical quality standards;

(b) to prepare small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs):

- for the opening-up of public procurement,
- for the suppression of measures within the meaning of Article 115 (EEC Treaty);

by means of technical assistance in particular for the introduction of better methods for managing production and distribution.

II. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

5. In this section of the notice a list of eligible measures is given. When submitting operational programmes, Member States may choose a more limited set of measures on which Community assistance should be concentrated. This choice should have regard to measures relating to industry already financed within the Community support frameworks.

6. Creation and strengthening of structures for calibration and metrology and related services for the benefit of enterprises

The following measures are eligible:

- (a) the creation or modernization of installations for testing laboratories (premises and equipment). Such laboratories should conform to the Series 45 000 European Standards and take account of the documentation (standards, guides, recommendations) produced by the Western European Calibration Corporation and the International Organization for Legal Metrology;
- (b) expenditure related to the control, by accredited bodies, of technical equipment in testing laboratories and enterprises;
- (c) start-up costs for accreditation bodies for calibration and metrology laboratories;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

- (d) consultation fees paid by businesses with a view to adjusting their production methods so that their products conform to Community policy on certification and quality assurance.

7. Technical assistance to SMEs

The following measures are eligible:

- (a) operating expenditure and facilities for local bodies whose aim it is to set up or develop the following services relating to public procurement:

- selection and distribution of information in a form adapted to the needs and capacities of enterprises on the basis of the TED (Tenders Electronic Daily), and other sources which include more detailed information or information relating to invitations to public tenders in non-member countries or for amounts beneath the thresholds in Community directives,
- information on national quality systems, Community testing and certification standards, legal and procedural obligations in other Member States,
- where appropriate, information on research and development results relating to products intended for public sector markets, information on new market opportunities, exhibitions, seminars or conferences related to public procurement,
- other support and advice services;

- (b) aids to SMEs for costs related to cooperation with other firms in the field of public tenders; registration and admission to lists of qualified tenderers; translation and other costs related to a response to public tenders outside the area where the firms are located;

- (c) other aids designed to improve competitiveness specifically directed towards SMEs located in Objective 1 regions and in sectors for which safeguards are presently authorized under Article 115 of the EEC Treaty.

III. THE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO FINANCING THE INITIATIVE

8. The operational programmes under this initiative will be jointly financed by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution by the European Regional Fund for the period 1991 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 100 million. Loans from the European Investment Bank may also be made available. On the basis of an initial experience, the Commission will examine at the appropriate time a possible prolongation of measures financed under this initiative in areas eligible for assistance after 1993.

9. The amount of the Community's contribution to the operational programmes will depend on the quality of the programmes, and the needs of the regions taking into account the additional facilities and services needed to enable the region's industry to participate fully in the internal market.

In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take into account, in particular, the following elements:

- their contribution to the development of the regions in question,
- the expected efficiency of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation procedures,
- the additionality of financial resources available to Prisma programmes compared to those presently foreseen in the Community Support Frameworks for related purposes, and other national spending in the fields concerned.

IV. THE MANAGEMENT OF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

10. In the preparation stage, the Commission will offer the necessary technical assistance to ensure that the priorities to be proposed in the programme reflect a proper evaluation of requirements. At the implementation stage, monitoring of the programmes will involve selecting and implementing individual projects in accordance with procedures to be jointly agreed between the Commission and the Member State concerned.

11. Where appropriate, funding may be disbursed through a global grant to one or more intermediaries with the necessary expertise, designated for that purpose by the responsible authorities in each Member State in agreement with the Commission.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

12. Member States wishing to benefit from the programme are invited to present operational programmes within six months of the date of publication of this notice. Proposals for operational

programmes received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

13. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr. E. Landaburu,
Director General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policy,
Commission of the European Communities,
200, Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes in the framework of a Community initiative for regional development concerning services and networks related to data communication (Telematique)

(91/C 33/04)

1. At its meeting on 25 January 1991 the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning the development of data communications in Objective 1 regions (regions whose development is lagging behind), hereinafter referred to as Telematique, within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (*).

2. Community assistance in the form of loans and grants may be provided under this initiative for measures and in areas meeting the guidelines laid down in this Notice and included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. DEVELOPMENT AIMS AND ELIGIBLE AREAS

3. The purpose of this initiative is to promote the use of advanced telecommunications services in regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1 areas), including improved access to advanced services located elsewhere in the European Community.

4. To this end, the initiative amplifies the process begun with the STAR programme (Regulation (EEC) No 3300/86) by encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to use services linked to advanced telecommunications systems. It is also designed to assist SMEs located in Objective 1 areas to initiate or develop such services.

Finally, it is intended to promote the development in the public sector of services for data communication likely to contribute to regional development.

The emphasis is on services, and not on investments in infrastructure which will be considered only where they are directly linked to the promotion of the services targeted by this initiative.

5. Aid is granted under this initiative on condition that European data communications standards are complied with, where such standards exist.

II. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

Operational measures submitted under this initiative may contain measures relating to the following three areas:

6. Development of the use by SMEs of services linked to advanced telecommunications systems and of the supply of such services by SMEs

This concerns all small and medium-sized enterprises whatever their legal status. Special attention should be given to the smallest enterprises.

The following measures are eligible:

6.1. As regards the use of advanced services by SMEs

(a) promotion, by agencies, chambers of commerce or other bodies, of the use of such services by SMEs, including in the tourism sector;

(b) feasibility studies, pilot actions and demonstration projects concerning applications of such services relevant to SMEs;

(c) aid to SMEs, individually or in groups, for the purchase of software and equipment for data communication to enable or develop the use of such services.

6.2. As regards the promotion of services offered by SMEs

(d) aid to SMEs, individually or in groups, to create or develop new activities associated with the provision to third parties of services linked to advanced telecommunications systems.

6.3. Special attention will be given to projects which will increase the effectiveness of measures in favour of SMEs in respect of which Community funds have

(*) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

already been granted under Sprint⁽¹⁾ and Impact⁽²⁾.

7. Development of services in the public sector for data communication likely to contribute to regional development

The following measures are eligible:

- (a) studies to evaluate the contribution to regional development of the use of public sector services linked to advanced telecommunications systems;
- (b) assistance to carry out pilot projects based on such studies;
- (c) aid for the purchase of software and equipment for data communication by public or similar bodies, including that enabling them to have access to transeuropean services in the public sector.

Special attention will be given to actions intended to ensure the establishment at a national and regional level of services for data communication directly related to the decentralized management of the Structural Funds, including the interfaces enabling automatic data transmission to the Commission.

8. Development of networks inside Objective 1 areas and between those areas and the rest of the European Community

The following measures are eligible:

- (a) aid for the installation of standardized equipment for accessing data communications networks in the Community, enabling the recipient areas to make better use of data communication services offered on the Community market;

⁽¹⁾ Sprint: Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer.

⁽²⁾ Impact: Programme on Information Market Policy Actions.

- (b) small investments to improve data communication infrastructures directly linked with the measures referred to in sections 6 and 7 above.

III. THE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO FINANCING THE INITIATIVE

- 9. The operational programmes under Telematique are to be financed jointly by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution of the European Regional Development Fund to Telematique in 1991 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 200 million. Loans may also be available from the European Investment Bank.
- 10. The amount of Community support given to the operational programmes will depend on the quality of the programmes and the population of the eligible regions.

In assessing the quality of the programmes, the Commission will take account in particular of the following points:

- their contribution to the development of the areas concerned and the integration of the Community market,
- monitoring and evaluation methods to be defined in agreement with the Commission,
- the additionality of financial resources available to 'Telematique' compared to those presently foreseen in the Community Support Frameworks for similar purposes, and other national spending in the fields concerned.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

- 11. Member States should submit detailed proposals for operational programmes within six months of the date of publication of this notice. The Commission need not take account of proposals received after that date.
- 12. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Regional Policies,
Commission of the European Communities,
200, Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

NOTICE TO MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for integrated global grants for which Member States are invited to submit proposals in the framework of a Community initiative for rural development

(91/C 73/14)

1. On 15 March 1991, the Commission of the European Communities, acting pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 ⁽¹⁾, decided to establish an initiative which would serve as a model for rural development, hereinafter referred to as Leader (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale — Links between actions for the development of the rural economy).

2. In the framework of the Leader programme, Community assistance in the form of integrated global grants may be provided to permit local groups to implement measures in accordance with the guidelines laid down in this notice. The groups and the programmes which they propose to implement will be chosen by the Member States and the Commission together on the basis of broader proposals made by the Member States.

I. OBJECTIVES

3. Readjustment of activities and maintenance of a sufficiently diversified socio-economic fabric call for an approach firmly geared to local requirements and local origin and making use of available organizational capacity and expertise. That is why the initiative is designed to establish a network of local rural development action groups (hereinafter called groups) enjoying a substantial degree of flexibility in implementing at local level the initiatives financed by national global grants. It is additional to the local development measures contained in the Community support frameworks.

4. The objective of the initiative is to find innovative solutions which will serve as a model for all rural areas and ensure maximum integration between sectoral measures.

5. The initiative will take the form of integrated global grants to competent bodies (which may be public authorities) nominated by the Member States. The bodies will coordinate use of the grant by local rural development groups. Leading figures in the local economy and society will take part in the operation of the groups, which may, in some cases, be local collective bodies (associations of municipalities).

6. The public, private or mixed bodies which will act as groups will be *selected* by the Commission and the Member States in collaboration ⁽²⁾ on the basis of broader proposals made by the Member States, taking account of certain criteria, some of a general nature:

— guarantee of solvency,

— administrative ability,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Within the meaning of Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88.

- local presence,
- participation of leading figures in the local economy and society in their operation;

while others will be specific to this initiative:

- quality of the local development programme proposed by the group in the form of a multi-annual business plan (objective and methods of implementation),
- know-how and expertise on rural development,
- acceptance of the principle of operating as a transnational network.

In preparing their proposals to the Commission and with its agreement, the Member States will be able to add other national selection criteria provided that the initiative's underlying philosophy and objectives are respected.

7. It will be proposed that use be made either of existing bodies meeting the above criteria or of new bodies set up by local communities to participate in the Leader programme.

Where the Member States and the Commission decide to use newly created groups, appropriate technical assistance will be provided where required. The national body may be made responsible for this.

8. The groups will operate on a network basis to exchange information and experience, using for this purpose not only traditional means but also new communications technologies where these are already available or can be readily provided. Each local group will be given the minimum equipment required. Operation of the network will benefit from technical assistance and centralized information at Community level (exchanges and visits, meetings, appraisal seminars, etc.) provided by the Commission.

In addition to its use for internal communications within the group network (facilitating the exchange of information and the pooling of methods), the data handling and transmission equipment will be important for external communications, helping to match supply of and demand for services.

9. This will enable the groups to act as intermediaries in exchanges by linking up to a series of transmission

and database networks in the following fields, for example:

- studies on the potential market for goods and services produced locally,
- links with travel agencies,
- reservation systems (hotel rooms),
- mail-order buying,
- links with the central purchasing offices of organic or quality food chains,
- access to distance learning.

10. The groups will undertake the delegated management of global financial allocations coordinated by the national body. The funds will be allocated to them on the basis of the local rural development programme submitted by them (business plan), an outline of which, complementary to the measures provided for in the relevant Community support frameworks, is annexed to the global grant agreement signed by the Commission and the appropriate national body, with the agreement of the Member State concerned. The agreement also covers the types of measures, the criteria for selecting beneficiaries, the conditions and rates for granting assistance and the specific provisions for monitoring utilization of the global grant.

II. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS

11. All areas under Objectives 1 and 5 (b) (55 % of Community territory) are eligible under this initiative.

In selecting the local areas to receive assistance, the Member States will be required to have regard to the need to ensure that the initiative serves as a model for all the Objective 1 and 5 (b) areas.

The groups selected will need to be local in character (locally formed bodies or the local branches of a regional body) and, using their knowledge of the area, will submit guidelines for the development of a rural area with a population ranging from about 5 000 people (areas with a very low population density) to 100 000 corresponding to an area smaller than the NUTS III

administrative category. Within this area individual initiatives undertaken by the groups may concern rural communities of a smaller size. In certain justified cases mutually agreed by the Member State and the Commission, group activities on technical support for rural development may cover a larger area provided their other activities are not affected.

III. MEASURES ELIGIBLE FOR GLOBAL GRANTS

12. Three types of measures are eligible: those of direct benefit to the inhabitants and economic operators of each of the rural areas concerned, those concerning the establishment, equipment and management of groups and those ensuring the operation of the network.

Particular attention will be paid to the need to avoid any investment which generates pollution and to the protection and development of rural landscapes.

13. Measures for agricultural and rural development as such

(a) *Technical support to rural development*

- Technical assistance at the request of local groups (micro-zone analysis, assessment of development potential, development engineering, production of dossiers, etc.).
- Technical assistance to development project promoters (identification of initiatives involving setting up or taking over businesses, feasibility studies, technical advice, follow-up, etc.).
- Technical assistance for existing activities (identification of potential markets, access to funding, innovation management, etc.).
- Link up with all the CSF-funded measures to encourage development of the area.

All activities of this type are to be undertaken by qualified development advisers and organizers in conjunction with other complementary Community measures.

(b) *Vocational training and assistance for recruitment*

The success for this initiative depends on the ability of local operators to find new ways of exploiting local resources and securing new know-how. Accordingly, training, particularly in the form of short modules, and assistance for recruitment should form part of the implementation of the various measures and apply both to the final beneficiaries of

the measures and to the groups' advisers and organizers. Giving some of the training a transnational character is an option which should be encouraged.

(c) *Rural tourism*

The aim of all measures in this field shall be to:

- improve knowledge of the demand for leisure in the countryside,
- develop both the quantity and quality of supply in the light of the increased requirements of potential customers in terms of the level of presentation and diversity of tourist services,
- improve the organization of the supply of tourist services and the matching of supply to demand (minimum standards, guaranteed quality of services, promotion of rural tourist products, reservation centres, etc.),
- at the same time, encourage centres of rural tourism with basic equipment (swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.) and those offering cultural facilities and opportunities for theme holidays (sports, arts and crafts, environmental discovery, etc.), together with a more broadly-based rural tourism centred on individual investment (particularly farm tourism).

All these forms of rural tourism are closely linked with agriculture since they offer a way of further exploiting the essential activity of farms, both through the diversification of activities (extra income and the prevention of out-migration) and in relation to the management of the countryside and the landscape which such farms undertake.

These actions must be implemented in a way consistent with the guidelines of the programme adopted by the Commission in favour of rural tourism enterprises (*).

The groups, besides identifying local project promoters, may facilitate:

- individual or collective investment (including tourism-related investment linked to agricultural activity),
- the adaptation of small public works to meet the needs arising from the supply of tourist services,

(*) COM(90) 438 final: 'Community action to promote rural tourism'.

- the listing, restoration and development of buildings and rural sites of tourist interest,
- promotional activities,
- market studies,
- the introduction of reservation systems,
- measures to extend the tourist season (short-range tourism, weekends).

(d) *Small firms, craft enterprises and local services*

It should be stressed that absolute priority under this heading will be given to measures to encourage the establishment, continuation and development of small firms, craft enterprises and local services. Such measures should take account of the special features of rural areas, particularly as regards:

- the possibility of combining other work with part-time farming,
- the close links of some firms with agriculture and forestry, for which they often provide inputs or absorb output,
- the geographical and cultural handicaps, which mean that special help should be given to sectors not greatly dependent on inputs from outside and able to exploit local human and natural resources,
- the dependency on advanced outside services and the need to provide specific assistance to the promoters of isolated projects.

The groups, besides identifying local project promoters, may facilitate:

- working from home,
- access by small firms and craft enterprises (particularly in the agri-foodstuffs sector, including fishing) to services (advisory services, market studies, transfer of technology, innovation, vocational training),
- establishment (start-up aid) of local services needed in an area, including those providing additional work for farmers,
- investment in the craft sector, including work on farms and forestry holdings.

(e) *Exploitation and marketing of local agricultural, forest and fishery products*

Rural areas offer considerable scope for the production of local specialities which are inadequately exploited or in the process of disappearing.

An option for quality is the only way forward and this implies support for a stringent process of strengthening the identity of products, controlling their quality, improving production and processing techniques, organizing the sectors manufacturing each local speciality and developing a policy on promotion. Here the initiative could finance measures not eligible under Regulation (EEC) Nos 866/90 and 867/90 (*) which are considered of use to the local area.

The groups, besides identifying local project promoters, may provide assistance for:

- local and regional market studies and analysis of distribution networks,
- equipment and technical assistance for the production of local specialities derived from agriculture, forestry and fisheries,
- transfer of technology,
- promotion of typical local and regional products,
- marketing (cooperative shops, participation in fairs, contacts with mail-order and central purchasing organizations, tele-marketing).

Priority will be given to collective and cooperative projects.

(f) *Other measures*

In addition to the above priorities, which in all cases will absorb the bulk of the global grant, the groups may propose to spend up to 10 % of their total funds on measures in other areas which contribute to local development.

14. Measures concerning rural development groups:

- Assistance for the establishment of a group where this measure has been mutually agreed (tapering operating aid, a contribution to establishment costs, training).
- Aid for data handling and transmission equipment (hardware, software, training).
- Technical assistance (expertise in particular subject areas and local development engineering).

(*) OJ No L 91, 6. 4. 1990.

Measures of this type must not as a general rule exceed 10 % of the total for the initiative and must be included in the business plan submitted by each group.

15. Measures concerning the transnational network for groups (technical assistance)

- Costs of operation of the network (Community-level organizing unit, exchanges, visits, translations, seminars).
- Costs of assessment of the network.
- Cost of circulation of results achieved by the networks.

All measures of this type must account for less than 2 % of the total for the initiative and will be funded by a levy at source on the total contribution from Community funds.

IV. COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE LEADER INITIATIVE

16. The Leader initiative will be jointly financed by the Member State and the Community. The total contribution to Leader by the structural Funds over the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 400 million.

17. The Commission decision on the amount of Community assistance in the Objective 1 and 5 (b) areas will be taken in the light of the quality of the programmes presented by the groups under the proposals drawn up by the Member States, the extent of the rural parts of those areas and the numbers of farmworkers and farms. Low population density and the geographical features of those areas may also be taken into account. It is planned to part-finance about 100 groups.

18. In assessing the quality of programmes, the Commission will pay particular attention to:

- complementarity with measures under the Community support frameworks for the areas concerned,
- the existence of an integrated development strategy for the rural area concerned,
- the multiplier effect of the proposed measures and their ability to serve as a model,
- the extent to which the local population and economic operators are involved in the planning and management of the measures,

— the degree of innovation, especially as regards measures relating to farming and the management of the countryside.

19. An indicative amount totalling less than 2 % of the total contribution from Community funds will be set aside to finance exchange of information and experience between groups and operation of the network at Community level.

20. During the preparation phase, the Commission will offer the technical assistance required to ensure that the selection of groups and preparation of their business plans is done in accordance with strict quality criteria.

21. The Leader programme will be monitored in accordance with special provisions to take account of its local nature and its capacity to serve as a model.

— At national level, if justified by the number of groups within the Member State, a single monitoring committee specifically concerned with Leader will monitor and assess the local groups. The secretariat to this committee may be provided by the national body which receives the global grant.

— All necessary information will be sent to the regional monitoring committees for the regions in which groups have been established in order to allow those committees to ensure consistency within the relevant Community support framework.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

22. The Member States may submit detailed proposals for integrated global grants (including a list of proposed local groups, their areas of operation and their business plans) within six months from the date of publication of this notice. The Commission will only take proposals received after that date into consideration in exceptional and duly justified cases.

If a programme concerns areas under both Objective 1 and Objective 5 (b), expenditure for each Objective must be shown separately.

23. Address to which all correspondence concerning this notice is to be sent:

Mr G. Legras,
Director-General,
Directorate-General for Agriculture,
Commission of the European Communities,
rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes/global grants which Member States are invited to establish, in the framework of a Community initiative concerning new qualifications, new skills and new employment opportunities

EUROFORM INITIATIVE

(90/C 327/03)

1. On 18 December 1990 the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning the new qualifications, new skills and new employment opportunities induced by the completion of the internal market and technological change (hereinafter called 'Euroform') within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

2. In the context of Euroform, Community assistance may be granted for measures which have a Community dimension or aim to promote transnational partnerships in accordance with the objectives and measures proposed in this notice, which are included in operational programmes/global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. Objective of the Euroform Initiative

This initiative must help to attain the following objective:

To give a Community dimension to vocational training measures and in general to employment promotion, through the development of transnational actions for qualifications and professional skills demanded, and in supply, on the labour market. This objective shall take into account the need to promote convergence of professional skills in the Community, notably between regions whose development is lagging behind and the other regions so as to facilitate vocational and geographical mobility of the workers.

These transnational actions shall comprise exchanges of training programmes, trainers, employment development agents or trainees with a view to obtaining a multiplier effect at the Community level. In order to support these actions the Community shall contribute towards convergence of national vocational training practices and employment aids, notably, insofar as it concerns access to vocational training methods, contents, and structure of courses, adaptation to changing technologies, the stimulation of creative attitudes and a spirit of enterprise.

The Community shall also support the principal actors for vocational training and promotion of employment, to enable them to follow the technological changes and to analyse the training and employment needs, to programme the actions, improve the management and assessment methods, while assuring an overall coherence and complementarity of the measures at appropriate levels and in particular at Community level.

In this context the Community shall equally reinforce programmes such as Eurotecnet, Force, Leda and Ergo, assuring at the same time their coherence with the objectives of the Structural Funds. A synergy with the Petra shall be assured in the context of the global strategy at the Community level for the vocational training of the young.

II. Eligible measures

To attain the above objective, this initiative offers the Member States joint financing possibilities through the Structural Funds to cover the following measures:

1. To promote the establishment and the functioning of transnational partnerships between administrations, public or private bodies responsible for vocational training and promotion of employment, or consortia, which can be supported by enterprises, groupings of enterprises or other institutions.

The transnational partnerships are, consequently, groups interested in working jointly for activities of Community interest.

These partnerships should aim to integrate the vocational training in a Community dimension and to further the adjustment to technological changes and also to promote the skills required as a result of the completion of the internal market.

The partners must act in concert to decide on the objectives, the work programme, the beneficiaries of

the programmes, the overall budget, as well as the role of each partner.

The Euroform initiative concerns the preparation, the implementation, assessment and dissemination — notably within the context of Community networks — of the results of joint training activity and, more generally, of employment promotion:

- the preparation consists of studies and measures, bearing on methods and results of training, training of trainers, managers of transnational actions, and vocational guidance activities; this preparation must take into account the Community dimension of the training and labour markets or put the accent on Community responses by the training systems in the face of technological changes,
- the implementation shall bear on joint operations for vocational training aimed at the development of new skills required to seize the opportunities which may be offered by the technological changes or the single market, as well as on transnational exchanges including exchange of trainers and training and employment programme managers.

These transnational partnerships may be set up between organizations in all Member States but priority will be given to those who integrate with at least one partner from an objective 1 region.

The beneficiaries of the training and employment measures will be those covered by Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88: i.e., the longterm unemployed and young people (concerned by objectives 3 and 4) and persons employed in SMEs, unemployed or threatened with unemployment, on apprenticeship contracts etc. (covered by objectives 1, 2 and 5 b).

To support the creation, development and operation of transnational actions, the Community will contribute towards the establishment and operation of consortia with a view to preparation, programming and implementation of training and employment measures at sectoral, technological or regional levels.

These consortia may be constituted by public and private organizations or bodies which pool together the resources and strategies for training and promotion of employment, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their specific activities thanks to

the synergies which can be obtained by working together.

The participants in the consortia can be those who have responsibility in the fields of vocational training and employment policy: administrations, private and public training organizations, universities and research institutes, enterprises or groupings of enterprises, economic and social partners etc.

The consortia may be constituted on the basis of an agreement fixing the objectives, work programme, the budget, and the role of each participant, etc. The Euroform initiative aims to finance jointly this work programme, that is to say activities for training and aid to employment, analytical and forecasting work, programming, studies, preparation, experimentation, assessment and dissemination of results of training and employment aid measures. These activities must be developed so as to enable the establishment of transnational partnerships.

These consortia may be:

- 2.1. Regional or local, aiming at conception of programmes for training and access to employment, their monitoring and assessment as well as the promotion and technical assistance especially for those giving training and the promoters of local initiatives wishing to grasp the opportunities that the technological changes and the single market can offer for the creation of new employment and new enterprises at this level. These actions will have priority support in objective 1 regions, for example, through aid to training and jobs development, as well as through accompanying equipment or investment measures. Aid for equipment and investment is limited to objective 1 regions.
- 2.2. Sectoral, with the objective of adapting training in economic sectors or branches of industry to technological changes and to the new context of the internal market, through preparation or implementation of operations for vocational training in a Community context.
- 2.3. Technological, with the objective of defining new qualifications and training needs (contents and methodology) brought about by technological

development, notably for the SMEs and job seekers by way of analysis and preparation and implementation of training measures at the Community level.

III. Community contribution to the financing of the Euroform Initiative

The operations covered by this initiative shall be co-financed by the Member States and the Community. The total contribution from the Structural Funds during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 300 million.

The Community's budgetary contribution to the different actions shall depend on the Community dimension of the transnational partnerships, the quality of the programmes, as well as the national and regional situation and capacity.

For the assessment of the programme's interest and quality, the Commission shall take account, in particular, of the following elements:

- procedure and measures foreseen for the promotion of transnational partnerships and for implementation, management and assessment of the programmes or global grants,
- integration and coordination of the activities contained in the programmes or global grants with actions already financed by the Structural Funds or developed in the framework of other Community programmes,
- the specializations and skills of the participants in the transnational actions.

IV. Implementation

Member States wishing to benefit from the Euroform Initiative are invited to present detailed proposals of operational programmes or global grants, and identify them separately by the objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must carry a general appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.

The Member States shall ensure that the promoters of programmes which are to be financed in the context of joint efforts by Euroform and other Community programmes (Eurotecnet, Force, LEDA, ERGO and Petra) declare clearly their intentions to do so at the time of submission of their demands for aid, so that their programmes can be identified, examined and assessed in this context.

Priority shall be given to the detailed proposals presented by Member States within six months of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date will not necessarily be taken into consideration by the Commission.

All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr J. Degimbe,
Director-General,
Directorate-General 'Employment, Industrial Relations
and Social Affairs',
200 Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes/global grants, which Member States are invited to establish, within the framework of a Community initiative to promote equal opportunities for women in the field of employment and vocational training

NOW INITIATIVE

(90/C 327/04)

1. On 18 December 1990, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative to promote equal opportunities for women (hereinafter referred to as 'NOW' within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

2. In the context of NOW, Community assistance can be made available for specific measures in favour of women, in conformity with the guidelines laid down in the present notice and which are included in operational programmes/global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

3. This initiative forms an integral part of the implementation of the third medium-term programme on equal opportunities (1991 to 1995).

I. Objective of the NOW Initiative

1. By carrying out transnational operations the NOW initiative aims to help women to take full advantage on equal terms of the positive effects expected from economic growth and technological development. These operations shall take into account the specific difficulties which women face in the labour market, especially in the less developed areas, and which are aggravated by the social exclusion that long-term unemployment represents for an increasing number of women.

2. Specific actions, of particular value as models, will be carried out in a transnational framework which may consist of exchanges of experiences, vocational training programmes, of trainers or trainees at Community level. These vocational training and employment promotion operations will be established to face up to the new challenge which the completion of the internal market represents for employment and equal opportunities.

These actions aim to:

- give new and added value to and promote women's qualifications as well as to assist in a change in the enterprise culture, to enable them to create their own enterprise or cooperatives,
- assist the reinsertion of women into the 'regular' labour market to avoid an aggravation in their exclusion from the labour market, and to prevent insecurity in women's employment.

Complementary measures will be financed by the Community, to reinforce the effectiveness of vocational training and promotion of employment operations at a regional and local level, especially in the less developed areas.

II. Eligible measures

To attain this objective, especially in objectives 1 areas, this Community initiative offers Member States the possibility of co-financing through the Structural Funds following measures, to be integrated in the framework of

transnational operations consisting in exchanges of training programmes, of trainers or trainees.

1. *Creation of small businesses and cooperatives by women*

There is an increasing tendency for women to opt for the creation of self-employed activities throughout the Community; the creation of small businesses is one way of solving the problem of female unemployment, especially in the less developed areas.

However, the initial assessment of small business activities by women tends to show that many women who want to set up a business underestimate the difficulties. The survival rate of these businesses is therefore low, mainly because of the lack of training and know-how.

These actions help to stimulate local development and women's integration into the socio-economic structure of less developed areas, provided appropriate support structures exist to ensure the support and follow-up of these initiatives at local level and to integrate them into the dynamics of Community development.

It is, therefore, necessary to set up vocational training measures at all stages of the establishment and development of businesses, as well as measures to support financially the creation of such businesses or cooperatives in a Community context.

Accordingly, the Community will support:

- (a) vocational training measures, including preparatory training, geared specifically to the needs of running businesses or cooperatives;
- (b) the creation of enterprises or cooperatives by way of aid for the creation of self-employed activities and recruitment aids;
- (c) aid for starting-up services aimed at helping women obtain access to existing structures to facilitate the creation of craft activities or small and medium-sized enterprises.

Their implementation will be supported, in particular by the Community network for local employment initiatives (ILE).

Priority will be given to actions carried out in the less developed areas and to cooperatives and enterprises which contribute to the reinforcement of social development at a local level (social services) or contribute to the local economy in the context of a transnational cooperation.

2. *Measures concerning guidance and advice, pretraining, training and access to employment with a view to professional reintegration*

(a) In view of the worsening of long-term unemployment among women and the difficulties encountered by such women wishing to re-enter the labour market after a long absence, the Commission will finance, throughout the Community, guidance and advisory operations intended to help their professional reintegration. These measures will be provided for long-term unemployed women, and for women wishing to re-enter the labour market after a long interruption who may, for the purposes of this initiative, be assimilated into the category of the long term unemployed;

(b) The Commission will also participate in financing the vocational training, including pre-training and employment measures, in favour of the categories of persons under (a) and in objective 1, 2 and 5 b areas in favour of unemployed women and women in insecure employment.

Priority will be given to measures jointly agreed by social partners in the enterprises and the vocational training organizations.

3. *Complementary measures*

These measures concern in particular childcare provisions and technical assistance; they should be directly related to the preceding measures.

3.1. Development of childcare facilities

General inadequacy in opportunities for childcare facilities, aggravated by unequal geographical distribution, constitutes a barrier to the participation of women with children in the labour

market and in vocational training and contributes to job segregation and a shortage of skills.

Within the framework of the measures provided by the NOW initiative, the Commission will support:

- (a) creation of childcare centres especially in zones of industrial concentration, for the benefit of women in enterprises, groups of enterprises or vocational training centres;
- (b) operating costs of childcare centres related to vocational training centres;
- (c) vocational training for the childcare workers, to raise their skills and, consequently, the quality of the services.

The infrastructural aid will be limited to objectives 1 areas. Preference will be given to measures combining infrastructure creation as well as vocational training.

3.2. Technical assistance measures

In order to attain the objectives and to improve the programming and monitoring capacity of the partners concerned (regional and local administrations, vocational training agents, socio-economic partners, research and information centres for women, etc.) and to promote concerted activities among them in a Community framework, the Community will support supplementary measures to help these partners. These measures will include in particular:

- (a) aid for the creation or the development of support structures, such as networks or transnational partnerships;
- (b) technical assistance for the implementation of the actions concerning NOW;
- (c) awareness-raising actions, collection and dissemination of information on good practice, in particular at transnational level;
- (d) the monitoring and assessment of vocational training or employment measures;

- (e) the transfer of experience from local level to national and/or Community level, including, *inter alia*, training of trainers and those responsible for negotiating on training matters within enterprises.

The implementation of these measures can be supported by the Community networks for equal opportunities such as IRIS, the childcare network and the positive actions in enterprises network.

- their coherence and complementarity with other Community actions,
- their impact on the development of the regional and local economy.

Actions of type 1 (c) and 3.1 (a) are limited to objective 1 areas.

III. The Community contribution to the financing of the NOW Initiative

1. The NOW Initiative operational programmes/global grants shall be the subject of joint financing by the Member States and the Community. The contribution by the Community's Structural Funds to the NOW Initiative during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 120 million.

2. The amount of the Community's budget contribution will take into account the nature and extent of the problems to be addressed and the quality of the operations. The rates of assistance will be decided in conformity with the provisions of the Regulations governing the Structural Funds and take account of the funding capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned.

In assessing the quality of the operations, the Commission will consider in particular:

- the Community dimension and the transnational character of the operations,
- the impact of the proposed measures on women's employment,
- their coherence with the Community medium-term programme for equal opportunities,

IV. Implementation

Member States wishing to benefit from the NOW Initiative are invited to present proposals for operational programmes or global grants and identify them separately, by objectives of the Structural Funds. These proposals should include an overall assessment of the situation, indicate the objectives to be attained, and provide a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Priority shall be given to the detailed proposals of operational programmes/global grants presented by Member States within six months of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date will not necessarily be taken into consideration by the Commission.

All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr J. Degimbe,
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Directorate-General 'Employment, Industrial Relations
and Social Affairs',
Commission of the European Communities,
200 Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes/global grants, which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning handicapped persons and certain other disadvantaged groups

HORIZON INITIATIVE

(90/C 327/05)

1. On 18 December 1990 the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish a Community initiative concerning handicapped persons and certain other disadvantaged groups (hereafter called 'Horizon') within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

2. In the context of Horizon, Community assistance in form of grants may be available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice and which are included in the operational programmes/global grants, submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

3. The categories of persons eligible for assistance under the Horizon initiative are as follows:

- (a) persons with serious handicaps resulting from physical or mental impairments (hereafter 'handicapped');
- (b) persons suffering from specific difficulties which hinder or act as a brake, on their economic and social integration (hereafter 'disadvantaged').

I. Objectives of the Horizon Initiative

The aims of the Horizon initiatives for the two categories are as follows:

1. *handicapped*: this initiative aims through transnational actions to improve the conditions for access to the labour market and the competitiveness of the handicapped, in particular, through vocational training in new technologies, notably distance training, and the adaptation of infrastructure which takes into account the specific needs of the handicapped. Their professional insertion in different sectors of the economy, which has up to now been somewhat insufficient due to existing working conditions, must also be improved. In this context and in the framework of

transnational actions it is necessary to provide for exchanges of experience at the Community level of operations whose objective it would be to transfer know-how to objective 1 regions which are less advanced than the other regions of the Community in implementing the measures in favour of this category of persons. This exchange of experience shall be carried out by actions common to the organizations involved and of which at least one organization should be from an objective 1 region. It is also envisaged to reinforce the Helios programme (Council Decision 88/231/EEC — OJ No L 104, 23. 4. 1988) which aims at promotion of employment and vocational training, the socio-economic and educational integration of the handicapped, as well as the Handynet system (Council Decision 89/658/EEC — OJ No L 393, 30. 12. 1989) concerning technical aids for vocational training and employment for the handicapped.

2. *disadvantaged*: in order to improve the knowledge of the problems of long-term unemployment and the deterioration in the socio-economic situation of certain groups of the population and consequently of responses to be applied, the Community intends to promote pilot projects in the form of innovative operations. In context of the combat against social exclusion, and in connection with the Poverty programme (Council Decision 89/457/EEC — OJ No L 224, 2. 8. 1989), these operations aim to reinforce the local capacity for actions and establish a network for the exchange of experiences at the Community level to deal with this type of situation, so as to integrate in the labour market and the society the groups of disadvantaged persons in the population. The Community aims to support the development of appropriate methods, and given the fact that the success of social policies in depressed areas depends largely on the ability to mobilize local participation, it shall encourage these activities, and support the exchange of experience at the Community level. In the same context, the Community shall support actions in favour of persons abruptly confronted by a new socio-economic situation and whose exceptional and mass arrival has a lasting effect on the labour market equilibrium of the areas concerned, particularly in objective 1 regions. The Community aims to support actions for promoting employment at local levels and vocational training

adapted to the specific difficulties of these groups, as well as guidance and counselling measures for their socio-economic integration, combined with mastering of the local language skills, and other measures destined to facilitate their installation.

II. Conditions for eligibility

For the handicapped, all the regions of the Community are eligible provided the operations concern transnational actions involving at least one partner from an objective 1 region.

For the disadvantaged, all the regions of the Community are eligible; for operations in respect of abrupt changes on the labour market as a result of the exceptional and massive arrival of persons in a new economic context, priority shall be given to objective 1 regions whose structures, compared to the other regions of the Community, have greater difficulty in responding to the specific needs of these categories of persons, and to cope with the problem because of the economic disequilibrium provoked by the influx of a population requiring rapid integration into the economic and social fabric.

III. Eligible measures

1. For handicapped persons to be inserted into the open economy, amongst other measures, through training given in a sheltered milieu, the following activities may be assisted in the form of transnational actions in association with at least one partner from an objective 1 region and consisting of exchanges of the programme of training, trainers or trainees.

(a) — in favour of the physically handicapped: vocational training for qualifications and/or skills, use of technologies which diminish physical constraints with a view to their training in new technologies amongst others; a particular emphasis shall be placed on modular distance training actions requiring the use of new information and communication technologies capable of breaking the isolation of the handicapped, and enabling their access to qualifications on equal terms with other persons,

— in favour of the mentally handicapped: vocational training and employment in economic sectors or jobs suitable and apt for them,

— training of trainers, social assistants, ergotherapists, psychologists, professional guidance experts, sign language interpreters, ergonomists and physiotherapists, using techniques to improve the transition of the handicapped from a sheltered environment towards the open labour market;

(b) aid for creation of SME's and cooperatives by the handicapped or aids in favour of creation of employment for the handicapped provided that these SMEs and cooperatives are eventually capable of being integrated in the market economy;

(c) aid for starting up services whose aim is to help the access of the handicapped to the existing structures facilitating the creation and development of artisanal activities and SMEs;

(d) pilot projects concerning the adaptation of infrastructure of collective interest with the aim of diminishing the difficulties of the physically handicapped, for example: signalization, access to public and private transport, ease and facility of circulation in buildings;

(e) dissemination to enterprises of the experiences and technologies which take account of the problems of the handicapped to facilitate their access to infrastructure and services of collective interest;

(f) creation in vocational training centres of physiotherapy and ergotherapy equipment to facilitate vocational training of the handicapped;

(g) creation or development of information networks in respect of access to professional training and employment of the handicapped;

(h) exchange of experiences and specialists between organizations specializing in the training of the handicapped from several Member States, with the aim of increasing know-how in the Community and the setting-up of an expert team for management and monitoring.

2. As regards disadvantaged groups of persons having specific difficulties with professional, economic and social integration, the following activities may benefit through Community aid in the form of pilot projects developed in the context of transnational partnerships:

(a) guidance and counselling measures;

(b) vocational training, including that for social development agents;

(c) exchange of social development agents at Community level;

(d) preparatory studies and technical assistance.

In addition, and in particular in the objective 1 regions, in the case of persons who are obliged to adapt themselves abruptly to an entirely new socio-economic situation which risks perturbing seriously the labour market due to the exceptional influx of these persons, the following measures may be supported:

(e) measures to facilitate their occupational integration into the labour market by providing training for qualifications or adapting their qualifications to those required by the labour market;

(f) measures linked to vocational training to tackle language problems;

(g) preparatory and accompanying measures for their children in order to improve or preserve mother-tongue skills with a view to their professional insertion;

(h) recruitment aid measures, aid towards the creation of self-employed activities, counselling and guidance measures;

(i) aid for starting-up services whose aim is to help these persons to have access to the existing services facilitating the creation and development of artisanal activities or SMEs;

(j) setting up of places of transit for multiple collective use (welcome, information, pre-training).

IV. The Community's contribution to the financing of Horizon

The operational programmes or global grants shall be the subject of joint financing by the Community and the Member States. The total contribution by the EC Structural Funds to Horizon during the period 1990 to 1993 is estimated at ECU 180 million. The eligibility of the actions is subject to the Regulations governing the Structural Funds. The type of interventions under 1 (c), (d), (e), (f) and 2 (i) and (j) are limited to objective 1 regions. Rates of assistance will be decided in conformity with the decisions governing the Regulations of the Structural Funds and take account of the financing capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned.

V. Implementation

Member States wishing to benefit from the Horizon initiative are invited to present detailed proposals of operational programmes or global grants, and identify them separately by the objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must carry a general appreciation of the situation, indicating the objectives to be attained, and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Priority shall be given to detailed proposals of operational programmes/global grants presented by Member States within six months of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date shall not necessarily be taken into consideration by the Commission.

All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr J. Degimbe,
Director-General,
Directorate-General 'Employment, Industrial Relations
and Social Affairs',
200 Rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries party to the Lomé Convention
CSF	Community support framework
EAGGF	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EIB	European Investment Bank
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERGO	European Community action programme for the long-term unemployed
ESF	European Social Fund
Eurotecnet	Community-wide network of demonstration projects in the field of new information technologies and vocational training
Force	Community action programme for the development of continuing vocational training
Handynet	European Community computerized information system on disability questions
Helios	Community action programme for disabled persons (Handicapped people in the EC living independently in an open society)
IRIS	European network of training projects for women
LEDA	Local employment development action programme
LEIs	Local employment initiatives
OJ	Official Journal
OP	Operational programme
Renaval	Community programme to assist the conversion of shipbuilding areas
Resider	Community programme to assist the conversion of steel areas
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises

STAR	Community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by improving access to advanced telecommunications services (Special telecommunications action for regional development)
Valoren	Community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by exploiting endogenous energy potential

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