




---

**Newsletter No. 26**


---

March 1996 - EN

---

## How widely known is the ERDF?

---

**In May and June 1995 a survey was conducted within the European Union to discover how Europe's citizens identify with and are attached to their regions, and how familiar they are with national regional policies and Community regional policy, in particular its principal instrument, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Below is a brief summary of the findings.**

In all Member States citizens identify with their region, but, for historical and political reasons, the concept of what constitutes a region remains a flexible one. In Spain, for instance, 80% of citizens consider their region to be their autonomous community, whereas 83% of Greeks and 76% of Finns see it as a much smaller area.

In all countries individuals are much more closely attached to their city, region and state than to the European Union or Europe. Attachment to the region is closest in recently federalized Belgium, as is to be expected.

Awareness of the development policies for disadvantaged regions undertaken by each Member State seems to have diminished with the proportion of citizens knowing about them having fallen from 46% in 1992 to 38% in 1995 and those saying they know nothing whatever about them having risen from 28% to 34%.

With regard to Community regional policy, 42% of Europeans say they know about it, 43% have no precise idea on the subject and 15% think that the Community does not have a regional policy. On the question of the main priority to be assigned to regional policy, job creation ranks first in 14 out of 15 Member States (83% in Finland, 82% in Sweden, 80% in France, 78% in Spain, etc). While awareness of the ERDF may have increased since 1992 in 9 of the countries of Europe of the Twelve, only 28% of Europeans are familiar with the activities of the European Regional Development Fund.

The full results of the survey will be issued shortly as part of the regional development studies published by the European Commission.

### New publication

The Commission recently published in the regional development study series an analysis of the relationship between trade unions and regions in Europe. The study now available in German ("In den Regionen für die Regionen Europas. Über die

Aneignung eines neuen gewerkschaftlichen Arbeitsfeldes - Regionale Entwicklungsstudien n°25 ", Catalogue No CX-89-95-470-DE-C), will be published also in English and French. To obtain a copy, contact OOPEC approved bookshops (Fax: +352 48 85 73).

# Adoption of 12 new programmes

The Commission has adopted 12 new Community initiative programmes (see Table) since the beginning of 1996. For

fuller information on these programmes, contact L Nigri, DG XVI.F.2, Fax: +32 2 296 60 03.

Eligible region / area	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU m 1995)	Structural Funds contribution (ECU m 1995)
<b>D</b> Brandenburg	Konver	52.5	37.1
Brandenburg	Rechar II	43.9	30.3
Brandenburg	Retex	5.1	3.3
Sachsen	Konver	40.9	25.1
<b>F</b> Alsace (Mulhouse)	Urban	18.0	7.0
Ile de France (Aulnay-sous-bois)	Urban	19.8	8.8
Ile de France (Les Mureaux)	Urban	15.0	7.0
Picardie (Amiens)	Urban	14.0	7.0
Provence - Alpes - Côte-d'Azur (Marseille)	Urban	17.6	7.0
<b>NL</b> Nederland	Konver	32.0	12.0
France/Spain border area	Interreg II	127.0	62.4
European development pole (B, F, L)	Interreg II	58.3	30.2

## Six seminars on regional planning

**In 1996, the European Commission will organize in association with the Committee of the Regions six seminars on regional planning in six cross-border areas of Europe.**

The areas covered by the various seminars have been established, for practical reasons, on the basis of the areas defined in the Commission's forward study, Europe 2000+, and are not the anticipated areas for the future Community Initiative INTERREG II C.

These meetings are intended for elected representatives and representatives of the local, regional, national and Community political institutions concerned and for those with an active economic and social involvement in regional planning.

Responsibility for the preparation and organization of each seminar rests with the host region.

The planned timetable is as follows:

- 28 March: Besançon, Franche-Comté, will host a seminar on the Alpine Arc (comprising regions of France, Germany, Italy and Austria).
- 22 April: a seminar on the Mediterranean area (Spain, France, Italy, Greece) will be held in Florence, Tuscany.
- 6 and 7 May: a meeting will take place in Bavaria for regions having a border with Central and Eastern Europe (Germany, Finland, Austria, Italy, Greece).
- 4 June: a meeting of the Central and Capital City region (Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom) will take place in Maastricht, Limburg.
- 10 September: Edinburgh, Scotland, will host a seminar of North Sea and Baltic regions (Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom).
- The final seminar, devoted to the Atlantic seaboard (Spain, France, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom), is planned for 8 October at Santiago de Compostela, Galicia.

