



## New Objective 2 programmes

In Info-Regio News for March this year we announced the forthcoming adoption of 32 single programming documents for declining industrial regions. All these programmes have now received final approval. In the meantime, the Commission has adopted, either in principle or definitively, a further 20 new Objective 2 programmes covering 1997-99. They are listed below.

The Commission has also approved funding for a programme under the Urban Initiative to revitalise the area of the local authority of Vantaa near Helsinki, Finland (Community contribution: ECU 3.933 million).

For more information on these programmes, contact L. Nigri, DG XVI/F/2 (fax +32-2-296.60.03) or consult DG XVI's Internet site <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg16/dg16home.htm>

Country / area	Total public investment (ECU million)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (ECU million)	Final adoption
B Turnhout	72.276	32.858	26/05/97
F Alsace	49.970	21.920	-
Auvergne	164.630	82.315	-
Basse-Normandie	231.383	80.330	-
Bourgogne	156.385	69.702	-
Bretagne	271.084	118.334	-
Centre	81.364	37.987	-
Champagne-Ardenne	243.205	113.806	-
Haute-Normandie	412.590	164.200	-
Nord - Pas-de-Calais	915.123	375.392	-
Pays de la Loire	348.185	162.493	-
Picardie	303.447	139.569	-
Poitou-Charentes	141.891	62.857	-
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	353.534	154.400	-
Rhône-Alpes	300.671	148.870	-
I Emilia-Romagna	38.416	14.171	07/05/97
Toscana	412.109	158.930	07/05/97
NL Zuid Limburg	162.007	65.523	26/05/97
UK Plymouth	78.792	38.590	12/06/97
Thanet	77.291	22.393	12/06/97

## Territorial pacts for employment

On 10 June the Commission approved a communication on progress in the implementation of a series of territorial pacts for employment (CSE 97/3). Readers will remember that these pacts are aimed at encouraging broad-based regional and local partnerships to develop innovative plans that will help create jobs.

well as detailing the criteria that will be used during the selection:

- a 'bottom-up' approach in projects
- a broad partnership including all relevant local actors
- an integrated approach leading to innovative schemes.

The Commission's communication lists some 80 projects submitted by the Member States, as

A copy of this communication can be obtained on request by fax from +32-2-230.49.15.

# Informal Council of regional ministers in Noordwijk

**The Union's ministers for regional policy and planning, meeting in Noordwijk on 10 and 11 June, approved the first version of a European spatial development perspective (ESDP). The purpose of this document is to improve cooperation on spatial planning at European level and provide a frame of reference for the various players concerned. It is not binding on Member States nor does it have a budgetary impact on Community policies.**

The ministers believe that the ESDP is a major step forward, which will highlight the Europe-wide, transnational and cross-border implications of the Member States' regional planning policies and the impact on spatial planning of the Community's own policies. What distinguishes the ESDP is the link it makes between three of the fundamental goals of the Union's policies, which are economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and the overall competitiveness of the Community territory. One of the main effects it is hoped that the ESDP will have is the strengthening of the interrelationship between policies for urban areas and policies for rural areas.

The adoption of the ESDP is intended to launch a wide-ranging debate among the Commission, the other European institutions and the Member States on how to translate it into practice. The Noordwijk meeting also stressed the need to include non-governmental organisations, universities and planning professionals in this discussion. The ministers underlined their readiness also to involve neighbouring countries outside the Union in this process.

Against the backdrop of the demographic, economic, social and environmental trends facing Europe, the ESDP sets out three main spheres for action:

## **A more balanced, multi-centred urban network and a new relationship between town and country**

- exploring the ways in which cities can cooperate and complement each other
- making towns and cities more dynamic, attractive and competitive
- ensuring sustainable development in cities
- developing partnerships between town and country
- enabling rural areas to diversify their activities.

## **Equal access to infrastructure and knowledge**

- improving the accessibility of regions
- ensuring more effective use of infrastructure provision
- ensuring the dissemination of innovations and knowledge.

## **Prudent management and further development of the natural and cultural heritage**

- safeguarding and developing the natural heritage in Europe
- creatively conserving and managing the cultural heritage and landscape, both rural and urban
- carefully managing aquatic resources.

A synthesis of this wide debate on spatial planning issues, that has now been set in motion by the ESDP, is to be ready for a forum, which is being organised for late 1998 and is intended in turn to contribute to the drafting of the final document.

## Projects to be mounted under Ecos-Ouverture II

**There are only two months left until the deadline for the submission of proposals under the Ecos Ouverture II programme. Readers will remember that this programme is aimed at developing cooperation between cities and regions in the Union and their counterparts in central Europe, the newly independent states or Mediterranean third countries.**

The call for proposals under Ecos-Ouverture II was published on 22 April 1997 and proposes two types of project.

Firstly, large-scale cooperation projects between countries belonging to the Union and non-member countries, which can qualify for a Community contribution of between ECU 200 000 and ECU 600 000 from the ERDF and between ECU

50 000 and ECU 200 000 from the PHARE and possibly the MEDA programmes.

Secondly, micro-projects for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the eastern and central European countries that have not yet taken part in such projects, which can qualify for PHARE funding of up to ECU 50 000.

Proposals for cooperation projects must reach the Commission by 9 September 1997. The list of projects selected should be published early in 1998.

The information packs for both large-scale and micro-projects under Ecos-Ouverture II can be obtained on request by fax from +32-2-296.24.73 or via the Internet on <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg16/art10/arthome.htm>



European Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

CX-AB-97-006-EN-C