

**Newsletter No. 44**

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**Adoption of ten new programmes**

The Commission has recently approved Community funding for ten new programmes:

- a major project for the treatment of waste water in Santander bay (E),
- an integrated development programme for the Alqueva area (P),
- two single programming documents (SPDs) for declining industrial areas in the Franche-Comté and Midi-Pyrénées regions (F),
- three Urban programmes for the revitalization of decaying urban areas in

Clichy-Montfermeil, Châlons-sur-Saône and Saint-Etienne (F),

- three programmes of cooperation under Interreg: Interreg II A: cross-border cooperation between Italy and Slovenia, Interreg II C: combatting drought in Italy and Interreg II C: regional development planning (Adrianube).

For more information on these programmes, you can contact L Nigri, DG XVI/F/2, Fax +32-2-230.49.15) or consult the Internet site of DG XVI: <<http://www.inforegio.org/erdf>>

Country / region / city	Type of programme	Total public investment (million ecu)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (million ecu)
E Cantabria Santander	Major project	25.318	17.722
F Franche-Comté	Objective 2 SPD	123.574	56.172
Midi-Pyrénées	Objective 2 SPD	121.172	52.972
Ile-de-France Clichy-Montfermeil	Urban Initiative	15.688	5.320
Châlons-sur-Saône	Urban Initiative	13.950	5.331
Rhône-Alpes Saint-Etienne	Urban Initiative	12.738	5.320
P Alentejo Alqueva	PEDIZA	362.567	203.133
Italy (Drought)	Interreg II C Initiative	30.476	15.238
Italy-Slovenia	Interreg II A Initiative	31.250	15.580
Germany, Italy, Greece, Austria (Adrianube)	Interreg II C Initiative	35.996	20.905

**Alqueva**

The specific development programme for the Alqueva area (PEDIZA) is one of the largest projects of integrated regional development funded to date by the Structural Funds. It is based around the construction of the Alqueva dam on the Guadiana river and is intended to provide a strategic water reserve of 4 150 cubic hectometres, regularization of the flow of the river and irrigation of 110 000 ha of farmland.

On the environmental side, the programme contains a series of measures to guarantee the quality of surface water and to safeguard parts of the natural environment. Various non-governmental organizations will also be associated with monitoring the operations. In 1998, this programme is due to be supplemented by a hydroelectric power station project part-funded by the Cohesion Fund.

**Interreg II C**

The new 'C' strand of the Interreg II Initiative is designed to encourage cooperation in regional development planning. Fourteen programmes have been announced and two have already been adopted:

- The campaign against drought in Italy sets out primarily to improve sewage treatment plants in Sicily and Sardinia, but also includes various studies and information projects concerning the hydrological cycle in the Mediterranean.
- The "Adrianube" project is aimed at developing joint schemes among four Member States (Germany, Italy, Greece, Austria), and through the Phare programme with several neighbouring countries in central and eastern Europe, in the following fields: multimodal transport, management of the cultural and natural heritage, networking of cities.

# New projects financed by the Cohesion Fund

The Commission recently approved Community funding for a series of new projects with a total volume of approximately ECU 240 million.

## Spain

- ECU 102 million for the Benavente-to-Camarzana section (30 km) of the Rias Bajas expressway in Galicia
- ECU 47 million for the Atalaya del Cañavete-to-Motilla del Palancar section (35 km) of the expressway between Madrid and Valencia
- ECU 32 million for a special-waste incinerator in Tarragon (30 000 tonnes/year)

- ECU 59 million for five projects of afforestation and control of erosion and desertification
  - ECU 22.1 million for the basin of the Ebro
  - ECU 12.7 million for the basin of the Jucar Levante
  - ECU 10.3 million for the northern parts of the country
  - ECU 9.2 million for the basin of the Guadiana
  - ECU 4.2 million for the basin of the Duero

## Portugal

ECU 17 million for the inter-communal network for treatment of solid waste in the Algarve

## New Internet site

The World Wide Web site dedicated to regional policy and cohesion in the European Union has been significantly revamped over the summer period. It now consists of five subsites:

**Panorama:** Overview of the whole site and an introduction to the regional policy of the EU for the uninitiated

**News:** All that is new and up-to-date on the site but also in European regional policy generally (newsletters, upcoming events, etc)

**The Funds:** Information on the programmes financed by the ERDF and the projects of the Cohesion Fund.

**Documents:** The complete text, summaries or references for a large number of documents on regional policy and the operation of the Funds.

**Contacts:** Who's who in DG XVI and Monika Wulf-Mathies' private office - The other sites dealing with regional development - How to get on DG XVI's mailing list  
Another new feature: most of the site is now accessible in three languages, English, German and French. The others will be added in due course. Finally, the site's address has been simplified and is now <<http://www.inforegio.org>>

## In brief

### Urban pilot projects

In the Inforegio newsletter for August (No 43) we unveiled a list of the urban pilot projects to be funded by the ERDF between now and 1999. If you want to know more about the pilot projects which have already benefited from Community funding, the Commission has just published a report of about fifty pages devoted to monitoring and assessment of the projects carried out between 1990 and 1996 (CX-06-97-925-C). A copy of this report, which is available in English and French, can be obtained on request by fax to +32-2-732.71.11.

### Cross-border cooperation

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) has been publishing, with the support of the European Union, a series of information sheets on cross-border cooperation. These sheets exist only in English. Among those already published are: a general introduction to cooperation in regional development planning in Europe (series A sheets), a description of various Interreg programmes (series B sheets) and a presentation of various kinds of good practice in cross-border cooperation (series C sheets). If you would like a detailed list of these sheets and wish to order some of them, please contact the LACE Secretariat, fax +49-2562-1639.



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Editor: J.-P. Berg, EC DG XVI F 2. This publication does not necessarily express the official views of the Commission.  
For further information, please contact: Mr L. Nigni. Fax: +32 2 296 60 03. Address of DG XVI on the Internet: <<http://www.inforegio.org>>  
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