



1025-7039

## Structural assistance for the applicant countries

**On 20 July the Commission decided on how the resources available under the pre-accession structural instrument (ISPA) should be divided among the ten applicant countries in central and eastern Europe (indicative allocation). This follows adoption by the Council of the Regulation establishing this new instrument, which will part-finance projects to develop transport infrastructure and environmental protection.**

Under the financial perspective for the period 2000-2006, ISPA is to dispense funding totalling EUR 1 040 million every year. The instrument will provide assistance along similar lines to the Cohesion Fund.

The indicative allocation by country (see below) has been based on a combination of population, per capita GDP and surface area. Each country is assigned a bracket within which its share should fall, both to encourage them to submit high-quality projects and to ensure flexibility in administering the funds.

Bulgaria	8.0% - 12.0%
Czech Republic	5.5% - 8.0%
Estonia	2.0% - 3.5%
Hungary	7.0% - 10.0%
Lithuania	4.0% - 6.0%
Latvia	3.5% - 5.5%
Poland	30.0% - 37.0%
Romania	20.0% - 26.0%
Slovenia	1.0% - 2.0%
Slovakia	3.5% - 5.5%

In the field of the environment, the projects supported should be designed to help the beneficiary countries comply with EU legislation. In the field of transport, the infrastructure projects assisted must be designed to encourage sustainable methods of moving people and goods as well as to promote interconnections between,

and the interoperability of, national networks and links from these to the trans-European networks.

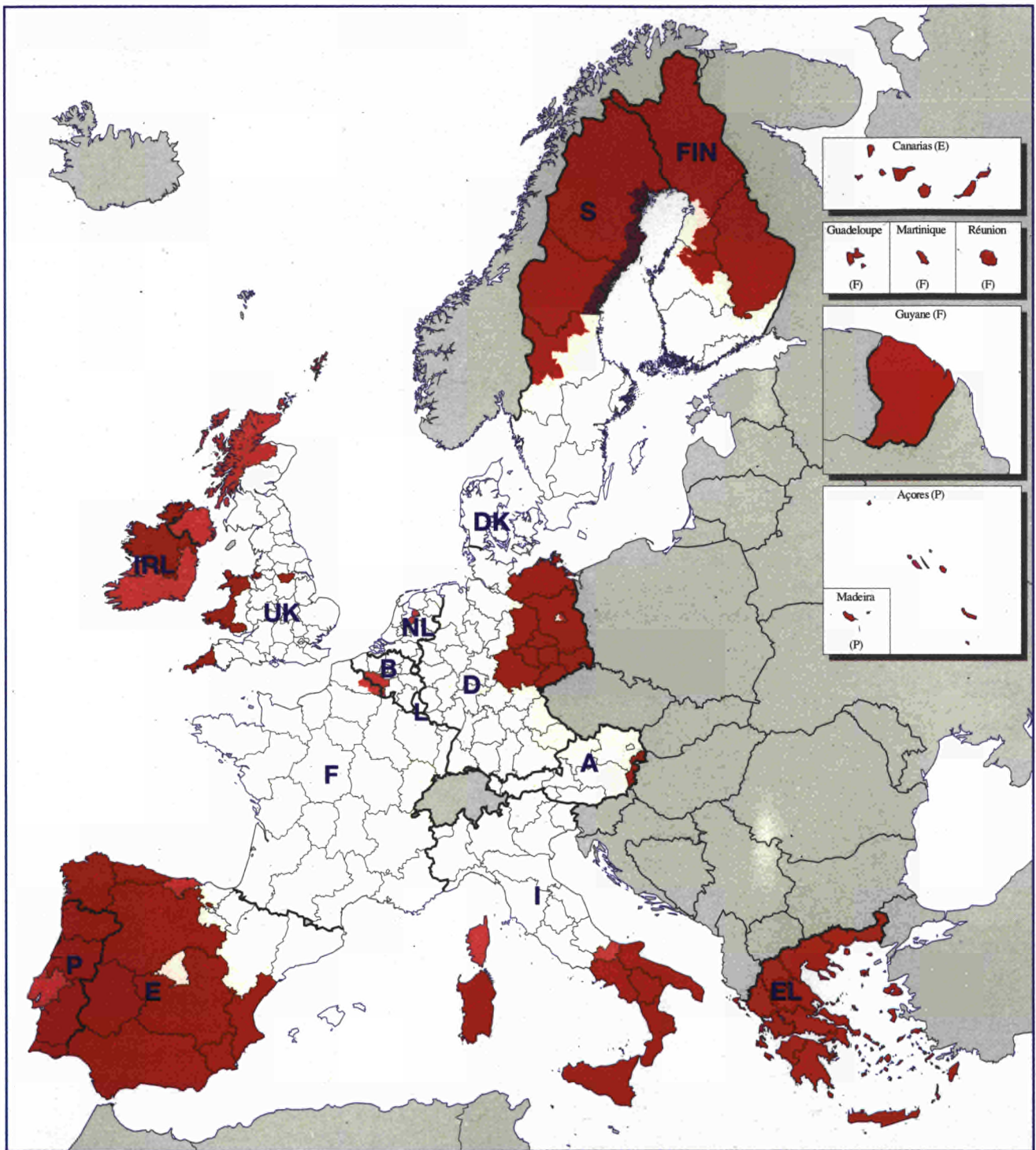
Projects will be selected in the light of their contribution towards targets set in the Accession Partnerships between the Commission and each applicant country.

In principle, the total volume of an eligible measure (project, independent stage of project or group of projects) should not be less than EUR 5 million. The level of the Community contribution from ISPA can be up to 75% of the public or equivalent expenditure, or exceptionally 85% in the case of projects considered essential by the Commission to attaining the targets set. This rate may be lower where projects will later generate income, or in the case where the 'polluter-pays' principle is applied.

More information about ISPA together with the standardised application forms for assistance are available on the Inforegio website: <<http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/ispa>> or on request by fax to: +32-2-2966003.

The texts of the Accession Partnerships are available on the Europa website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/enlarge/access\\_partnership/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/enlarge/access_partnership/intro/index.htm)

# Map of the areas eligible under Objective 1 of the Structural Funds in 2000-2006



- Regions eligible under Objective 1
- Transitional support under Objective 1
- Special programme to assist coastal areas of Sweden

The Peace programme to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland will also receive funding for five years under Objective 1.

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European Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy

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