

New Objective 1 programmes adopted

New documentation on Interreg III and Urban II

The Commission's staff have just finalised two working papers to help regional and local authorities to prepare their programmes under Interreg III A (cross-border cooperation) and Urban II (development of declining urban areas). These two documents are based on the General Regulation governing the Structural Funds in 2000-06 and on the Commission's guidelines for these two Community Initiatives.

A draft version of the document on ex-ante evaluation and indicators for Interreg III A is available at present in French, English and German, while the guide for Urban II programmes is available in all eleven official languages.

<http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbdoc/docoffic/working/sf2000_en.htm>

The European Commission recently approved the first set of operational programmes to implement the development strategies set out in the Community support frameworks under Objective 1 for Portugal, southern Italy and the new German Länder.

Portugal

Seventeen of the nineteen operational programmes have been approved, ten of which cover the whole country. The programmes "Education", "Employment, training and social development", "Information society", "Science, technology and innovation", "Health" and "Culture" are designed to raise skills levels and encourage employment and social cohesion. The "Economy" and "Fishing" programmes aim to modernise the productive sector, and the "Accessibility and transport" and "Environment" programmes will contribute to the development of the country and its geo-economic position. The five programmes for the mainland regions, as well as those for Madeira and the Azores, will promote sustainable regional development and national cohesion.

Italy

Nine of the fourteen operational programmes for the regions of southern Italy have been adopted. About 70% of the financial resources contained in the Community support framework will be allocated to the seven programmes for the eligible regions (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Apulia, Sardinia, Sicily) and to the region of Molise which will receive transitional assistance; projects will concentrate on developing natural, cultural and human resources, local production, the urban environment, transport and the information society. The two multiregional programmes on local development and research are designed to reinforce skills in the population and regional competitiveness.

Germany

The operational programme for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is intended to promote the

development and structural adjustment of this region and should lead to the creation or safeguarding of about 9 500 jobs a year. It also sets out to offer training courses to 224 000 people in order to ward off the dangers of unemployment. The region will also benefit from projects funded under the multiregional programmes still being negotiated.

For more information, please consult the "What's New" page on the Inforegio website: <<http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/news>>.

Programme	Total cost*	Structural Funds Contribution*
Portugal		
Education	1 665	1 167
Employment	2 822	1 606
Information society	625	316
Science, technology and innovation	957	464
Health	698	476
Culture	327	237
Fishing	365	178
Economy	9 378	2 732
Accessibility and transport	3 368	1 388
Environment	456	333
Azores	1 259	854
Madeira	1 187	705
Alentejo	1 868	1 089
Algarve	728	453
Centre	2 860	1 710
North	4 640	2 717
Lisbon and the Tagus valley	2 732	1 448
Italy		
Local development	3 919	1 979
Research	2 039	1 191
Basilicata	1 586	743
Calabria	5 863	1 994
Campania	9 216	3 825
Molise	605	181
Apulia	6 671	2 639
Sardinia	4 686	1 946
Sicily	9 415	3 858
Germany		
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	5 500	2 456

* In million euro.

Objective 1 in Spain and Greece

On 26 and 27 July 2000 the Commission gave its approval in principle to the Community support frameworks for developing the Spanish and Greek regions eligible under Objective 1 between 2000 and 2006.

The new Spanish development strategy concentrates resources on integrated schemes covering improvements to the country's competitiveness and productivity, the information society, the environment, employment, local and

urban development, transport and energy networks, rural development, and fishing and aquaculture.

The Greek development strategy targets the following main areas: improving skill levels in the population, modernising infrastructures, increased competitiveness in the service sector, industry and agriculture, improving the quality of life, developing the information society and cohesion at national level.

The European Commission will give final agreement to these documents after receiving opinions from the advisory committees in which the Member States are represented.



Opening in February 2000 of a major project financed under the Greek CSF programme for 1994-1999 – the extension of the Athens metro.

	Total cost*	Structural Funds Contribution*
Spain	84 754	39 548
Greece	42 290	22 710

* In million euro.

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In brief

New publications

Two new volumes in the series of Regional Development Studies have just been published, as well as a booklet illustrating projects to revitalise declining urban areas under the Community's Urban Initiative.

Study no. 28 is a compendium of spatial planning systems in the European Union; it comprises an overview volume pointing out similarities and differences between national systems (available in French and English) plus separate volumes on the policies followed in each of the fifteen Member States (only available in English; the volumes on Spain and Luxembourg are not yet finalised).

Study no. 32 looks at innovative schemes to encourage local development and employment in three European cities, Glasgow (UK), Dublin (Ireland) and Duisburg (Germany). The wide range and efficiency of the policies conducted there over the past ten years provide a fruitful field for analysis.

The booklet on "**Building a better tomorrow in deprived neighbourhoods**" surveys twenty-one development projects in

twelve cities which have received assistance in recent years under the Community's Urban Initiative. Richly illustrated and notable for the clarity of the accompanying text, this publication is currently available in French and English.

These publications are available on request from the information centre of the Regional Policy DG either by fax: +32-2-296 60 03 or e-mail: <regio-info@cec.eu.int>

Conference on the information society

In the wake of the European Council in Lisbon and the e-Europe initiative to develop new technologies, the European Commission is organising a conference on the place of the information society in regional development programmes for the 2000-06 period in Lyon on 18 and 19 December. The purpose of this conference is to bring together the various national, regional and local partners in order to set goals and make the information society a genuine asset to the regions.

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