



inforegio | news

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New Inforegio site: consult the database of success stories and submit information on your project

A database containing almost 500 examples of economic and social development projects supported by the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund can be accessed, by country and by theme, on the new Inforegio web site. The site also provides a facility for submitting information on interesting new projects for inclusion in the database. Please feel free to submit information on your project.

See http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/projects/stories/index_en.cfm

Working for the regions in Hungarian

Working for the regions, a key publication of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy, has recently been translated into Hungarian by the European Commission delegation in Budapest. Copies are available from the delegation office at: **Bérc u.23, H 1016 Budapest, Hungary.**

The 'Community added value': the Commission extends the debate on the future of cohesion policy

The European Commission has recently announced that the first in a series of follow-up seminars on the future of cohesion policy will take place on 27 and 28 May 2002 at the Commission's Charlemagne building in Brussels.

During the second European forum on cohesion, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on 21 and 22 May 2001, Commissioner Barnier, responsible for regional policy, announced that the Commission would organise one or more follow-up seminars on the priority themes of future cohesion policy. These priorities, whether horizontal and social or geographical, are outlined in the 'Second report on economic and social cohesion'. The May seminar will deal with geographical priorities, including: the least developed regions; the urban question; the diversification of rural areas; cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation; areas undergoing industrial restructuring and areas with severe geographical or natural handicaps.

The objective of the seminar will be to determine, for each priority theme, a field of Community intervention that would allow for the clear demarcation of the future role of the Structural Funds. One of the key issues for the future reform of the cohesion policy concerns the nature of Structural Funds interventions and, in particular, the need to focus on actions of greatest Community added value with a clear distribution of tasks and competencies between the Community, national, regional and local levels.

The seminar will gather experts from the Member States, the candidate countries and the regions, as well as representatives of the social partners and the Community institutions. Participants are expected to take an active role in the debate. The programme for the event foresees three parallel workshops on the following topics:

- regions lagging behind in terms of development
- restructuring of the regions
- European integration of the regions.

Discussion documents for each of the three workshops will be published on the Inforegio web site between 1 and 15 May 2002 (<http://europa.eu.int/inforegio>).

On the first day, following a brief introduction by the Commission, the workshops will facilitate a wide-ranging debate. The morning of the second day, which will be chaired by Commissioner Barnier, will then be devoted to a large debate.

This seminar will provide a renewed opportunity for an in-depth analysis of future options for cohesion policy after 2006.

'EU regional priorities — Defining community added value'

Seminar

27 and 28 May

Charlemagne Building, 200 rue de la Loi

B-1049 Brussels

Research and development in the regions of the EU: high concentration of regional research and development expenditure

More than half of all high-tech patent applications were submitted by only 13 out of 211 regions in 2000. This is one of the conclusions of two reports on research and development (R & D) in the EU which were published on 13 March 2002 by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, in Luxembourg.

While expenditure on research and development accounted for an average of 1.87 % of GDP in the EU in 1998, the four regions that were most active in this field (Braunschweig, Stuttgart, Upper Bavaria, Tübingen), all in Germany, each spent more than 4 % of their GDP on R & D activities. In absolute terms, the Île-de-France region (France) spent most (EUR 13.4 billion) on R & D in 1999 and alone accounted for almost 9 % of all R & D expenditure in the EU.

Overall, spending on R & D was highly concentrated, with 28 out of 211 regions accounting for more than half of all spending in 1997. In terms of R & D personnel it was Stockholm (Sweden) which topped the ranking of EU regions, with 3.65 % of its total labour force directly involved in R & D in

1998. Next came two regions in Germany — Upper Bavaria (3.33 % in 1997) and Braunschweig (3.18 % in 1997) — followed by Vienna in Austria (3.14 %).

In 2000 nearly 57 500 applications for patents were submitted to the European Patent Office (EPO), including 10 500 applications for high-tech patents. The Member State that accounted for most patent applications in the EU was Germany, with 42 % of EU applications. Here, too, there was strong regional concentration: 21 regions out of 211 accounted for more than half of the patent applications filed with the EPO, and only 13 regions produced more than half of the high-tech applications. Eurostat's *Statistics in focus, Science and technology*, No 1/2002, 'Patent activities in the EU: towards high tech patenting 1990 to 2000', and No 2/2002, 'R & D expenditure and personnel in European regions 1997-99', are available from: **Eurostat Press Office: Philippe Bautier, Tim Allen, Louise Corselli-Nordblad, BECH Building, L-2920 Luxembourg; tel. (352) 43 01-33444; fax (352) 43 01-35349; e-mail: eurostat-pressoffice@cec.eu.int; web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>**

Interreg III: adoption of five new programmes

In March 2002, the Commission announced the adoption of five new programmes under the Community initiative Interreg IIIA.

Programmes 2000-06	Total cost (million EUR)	Contribution from the Structural Funds (million EUR)
Interreg IIIA		
Belgium/The Netherlands	174.8	84.2
Greece/Cyprus	71.2	47.0
Greece/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	103.3	73.0
Italy/Switzerland	74.4	25.6
Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland	179.2	134.4

For further information on this initiative, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/interreg3/index_en.htm



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