

COMMUNITY SOCIAL POLICY

PROGRAMMES, NETWORKS AND OBSERVATORIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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MARCH 1996

Note to the reader

This publication provides a snapshot, as at 1 March 1996, of a situation which is evolving all the time. It was designed as a documentary tool and does not bind the Commission in any way.

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication

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1. LABOUR MARKET

1.1. Socioeconomic research programme

(1) Objective

To help to provide information on decentralized, national or Community decision-making, making it possible to lay the foundations for a sustainable development of the European economies to enable them to meet international competition while creating jobs.

(2) Eligibility

Undertakings, research centres and universities in each Member State.

(3) Community support

1. This research programme is implemented under the fourth framework programme and scheduled for the period 1994-98.

2. Areas covered by the programme

The programme aims to develop a shared base of knowledge of the challenges facing Europe, derived from work and research in three areas, namely:

(a) an assessment of science and technology policy options, with research concentrating on three main interrelated subject categories:

- analysis of the situation in Europe with regard to the framework programme, set in a world context;
- assessment of the relationships between socioeconomic requirements and trends in the short and medium term and new scientific and technological developments;
- methodologies, tools and approaches;

(b) research into education and training, with the main research subjects grouped under two main categories:

- methodologies, tools and technologies: innovation and quality in education and training;
- policies, operations and requirements;

(c) research into social integration and social exclusion in Europe, grouped under the following four headings:

- the forms and processes of social exclusion;
- the causes of social exclusion, particularly unemployment;
- analysis of migration patterns;
- assessing the impact of social integration policies.

3. Budget

The total amount necessary for carrying out the programme is estimated at ECU 105 million.

(4) Procedures and information

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(5) Activities and media

- Studies in support of the present programme and preparatory studies for possible future operations.
- Conferences, seminars, workshops or other scientific or technical meetings, including intersectoral or multidisciplinary coordination meetings.
- Use of external expertise, including access to scientific databases and visits by scientists.
- Scientific publications, including dissemination, promotion and evaluation of results.
- Training activities associated with the research covered by the programme.
- Independent assessment (including studies) of programme administration and achievements.

1.2. Employment monitoring — System

(1) Objective To collect, analyse, summarize and disseminate information on employment trends at European Union level.

(2) Composition The system comprises two elements:

- network of correspondents: each Member State has one correspondent attached to a university or research institute, possessing considerable experience in studying the labour market and employment. They keep close track of current employment trends in their respective countries and send summaries of publications, reports and other documents to the analysis service. They prepare quarterly and annual reports on employment-related topics;
- the analysis service summarizes the information obtained, looks at trends affecting employment throughout the Community and publishes reports and bulletins. It draws up reports and articles on specific subjects and responds to requests for advice and information forwarded to it by the information service.

(3) Scope

1. *System, created by the Commission, was set up in 1989; it is managed by Ecotec Research and Consulting Ltd, a private company with offices in Birmingham, Brussels and Edinburgh.*
2. *System gathers data at European level on employment issues and provides the Commission with an analysis and interpretation service.*
3. *Funding of the system by the Commission (overall budget of ECU 920 000 for 1996).*

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(5) Information activities and media

- Data bank containing reviews and summaries of, and references to, documents collected through the network of correspondents and from other sources.
- A quarterly *Trends* bulletin containing articles on publications appearing in Member States on aspects of employment and related trends in the Community.
- Information service: documentation centre where documents and a data bank may be consulted, constituting the first point of contact for information requests.

1.3. Employment monitoring — MISEP

(1) Objective

To gather, summarize, translate and forward information generally available in the Member States, in so far as it may be useful in their daily decision-making to each of the national ministers responsible for employment measures, and to enable direct exchanges between its members by encouraging contacts between correspondents.

(2) Composition

MISEP (mutual information system on employment policy), established in 1982, comprises representatives of the national administrations and of the Commission.

(3) Scope

1. Administration

The system works in cooperation with a network of national representatives known as correspondents, who meet regularly to exchange directly information and experience relating to employment policies in the Member States. They occupy operational posts in their national administrations. They are appointed to MISEP by their director-general of employment services and act under his responsibility. Apart from their meetings, correspondents forward information regularly to a centralized secretariat for the *InforMISEP* bulletin. They periodically amend their basic information report.

2. Description of measures

These are aimed at improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of information.

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(6) Information activities and media

Provision is made for a number of communication media, particularly:

- the quarterly *Policies* bulletin, published since 1983, which presents information on changes in measures and systems in the Member States;
- basic information reports on the institutions, procedures and market policies carried out by the Member States;
- seminars to enable national correspondents to study and analyse results;
- computer processing of the information is available. Key words permit rapid access to information on programmes under way and their legal basis;
- assessments drawn up by independent consultants.

1.4. European Social Fund

(1) Objective

To combat unemployment, to facilitate access to the labour market for young people and persons exposed to exclusion, to help workers adapt to industrial change and changes in production systems, and to promote equal opportunities. In the less-developed regions of the European Union, special emphasis is placed on strengthening teaching, research, science and technology.

(2) Eligibility

ESF assistance is provided throughout the European Union, though priority is given to the regions whose development is lagging behind.

It takes two forms:

- Community support frameworks (CSFs),
- Community initiatives.

(3) Community support

1. The CSF is a programming tool for implementation of the joint priorities of the Commission and the Member State concerned for the purposes of accomplishing the tasks of the ESF.

It sets out the priorities and establishes appropriate assistance measures, incorporated into a financing plan. CSFs are put into practice through multi-annual operational programmes.

The ESF helps to finance programmes drawn up with the Member States in the following fields:

- vocational training (including pretraining and skills upgrading);
- job-creation aids;
- development of appropriate training, employment, support, counselling and guidance structures.

The ESF and Member States work in close partnership, with a bottom-up approach in an attempt to involve all the parties concerned in the implementation of the measures developed, i.e. NGOs, local authorities, economic and social partners, and the public and private sectors. The programming phase for the present period started in 1994 and extends until 1999. The emphasis is on four priority action areas:

- improvement of access to education and improvement of education quality, through basic training and the development of human potential in the fields of research, science and technology transfer;



- development of competitiveness by helping workers adapt to the challenge posed by industrial change, through the systematic development of continuing training;
- improvement of employment possibilities for persons threatened by unemployment or exposed to exclusion from the labour market, through the implementation of a series of coordinated measures, including complete pathways to integration;
- promotion of equal opportunities for men and women.

2. *The Community initiatives represent a second major framework of ESF assistance. They are intended to provide additional assistance in areas not sufficiently covered by the CSFs and to reinforce training and occupational integration activities under other Community programmes. They place the emphasis on the development of common ideas and practices by the various parties involved in vocational training and employment. Through the exchange of innovative experience, they encourage the transfer of know-how to the less-developed regions of the European Union.*

Following in the footsteps of the three Community human resources initiatives, Euroform, NOW and Horizon, which ran between 1991 and the end of 1994, two new initiatives were launched in 1994:

- 'Employment' and the 'Development of human resources', which will comprise three strands: NOW, to help promote equal opportunities for women in the fields of employment and vocational training; Horizon, which relates to the disabled and certain disadvantaged groups with a view to improving job market access conditions for these marginalized groups; Youthstart, the objective of which is to facilitate the integration of young people under the age of 20 with no basic skills or qualifications.
- ADAPT, which aims to give a Community dimension and added value to measures designed to help workers adapt to industrial change and changes in production systems.

3. *ESF financing may also be granted in respect of technical assistance for preparatory measures, assessment, monitoring and evaluation in the Member States.*

The ESF may also contribute to the financing of pilot projects, including the exchange of experience and transfer of know-how.

4. Budget

More than ECU 45 billion for the period 1994-99, of which ECU 2 billion is earmarked for the Community initiatives.

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1.5. Employment and the development of human resources

(1) Objective

This initiative has a threefold objective embracing distinct but closely connected strands:

- promotion of equal opportunities for women on the labour market ('Employment-NOW');
- enhancement of employment prospects for disabled people and other disadvantaged groups ('Employment-Horizon');
- fostering the integration of young people on the labour market, with the emphasis on those without basic qualifications or any training ('Employment-Youthstart').

(2) Eligibility

The initiative is applicable throughout the Union, with particular reference to the less-favoured regions.

(3) Community support

Draft communication from the Commission to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of the Community initiative 'Employment and the development of human resources' aimed at promoting employment growth, mainly through the development of human resources (COM(94) 46 final).

1. Characteristics

The initiative is a direct follow-up to the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, which calls first and foremost for proactive labour market measures to stimulate employment-intensive growth.

The main features of the Community initiatives are:

- transnationality: giving priority to transnational exchanges, cooperation and dissemination of information;
- innovation: encouraging innovative procedures;
- bottom-up approach: identification of common problems and needs at local, regional and multisectoral levels;
- strengthening of Community policies and programmes, especially in the field of employment, human resources and integration on the labour market.



2. Eligible measures

Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a limited list of measures per strand on which to concentrate financial assistance.

(a) Employment-NOW

Aimed at helping to reduce unemployment among women and improving their professional standing, qualifications and career prospects.

(b) Employment-Horizon

Geared to promoting measures to improve access to the labour market for the disabled and other disadvantaged persons who are unemployed or who face severe obstacles to integration due to the degree of their marginalization.

(c) Employment-Youthstart

Aimed at encouraging Member States gradually to adopt measures whereby young people can be guaranteed access to some form of education or training.

Within these three strands, the following measures may qualify for assistance:

- development, in particular through transnational cooperation, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems;
- training, especially with a transnational dimension;
- support for job creation, in particular through transnational cooperation;
- information and awareness-raising campaigns, with the emphasis on the transnational dimension.

3. Duration

The initiative covers the period from 1994 to 1999.

4. Budget

Activities covered by this initiative will be funded jointly by the Member States, the Community, companies and other appropriate bodies.

The total contribution from the Structural Funds for the period 1994-99 is estimated at ECU 1.4 billion, of which ECU 0.8 billion will be allocated to Objective 1 regions.

The breakdown for each strand is as follows:

- Employment-NOW: ECU 370 million,
- Employment-Horizon: ECU 730 million,
- Employment-Youthstart: ECU 300 million.

In addition, in October 1995 the Commission approved the granting of supplementary appropriations: ECU 100 million for Employment-NOW and also for Employment-Youthstart. Finally, ECU 100 million was allocated to a new 'Employment' strand for disadvantaged and socially excluded persons.

(4) Procedures and information

Member States are invited to submit their applications for support in the form of operational programmes or global grants within four months of the date of publication of the communication.

A monitoring committee has been set up in each Member State.

Mr A. Larsson

Deputy Director-General

Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels

1.6. ADAPT

(1) Objective

To help the workforce to adapt to industrial change and to improve the workings of the labour market with a view to boosting growth, employment and competitiveness; to forestall unemployment by improving the qualifications of the workforce; to facilitate the creation of new jobs and the development of new activities.

(2) Eligibility

The initiative is applicable throughout the Union, although particular emphasis needs to be placed on the needs of the less-favoured regions.

(3) Community support

Draft communication from the Commission to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of the Community initiative 'Adaptation of the workforce to industrial change' (ADAPT) aimed at promoting employment and the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change (COM(94) 46 final).

1. Characteristics

The initiative is aimed at implementing a major transnational action programme connected with the new Objective 4 of the Structural Funds, deriving essentially from the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the Union in 1993.

The main features may be summarized as follows:

- transnationality: the initiative will focus on the transfer of know-how, especially to the least-advanced regions of the Community, and on the advantages of cooperation;
- innovation: encouragement for innovative procedures;
- bottom-up approach: identification of local, regional and multisectoral problems and needs which are common to the Community as a whole;
- strengthening of Community policies and programmes, especially in relation to employment, the labour market and human resources, with particular reference to vocational training policy.

2. Eligible measures

Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a limited list of measures on which to concentrate financial assistance.

The following measures are eligible:

(a) training, counselling and guidance

- support in the form of expertise for firms to help them identify the consequences of the changes on the industrial environment;
- support for the development and supply of training schemes;
- provision of guidance and counselling services for workers affected by industrial change;
- assistance to SMEs for the implementation of continuing training programmes;
- creation of training programmes for entrepreneurs and managers;

(b) anticipation, promotion of networking and new employment opportunities

- encouragement for cooperation and training in new fields of economic activity with a view to creating new jobs;
- support for local employment development initiatives;

(c) adaptation of support structures and systems

- promotion of cooperation between companies and research in the field of technology transfer to local labour markets;
- development of schemes for the training of trainers in connection with the adaptation of workers to industrial change;
- promotion of regional, interregional and transnational cooperation between companies;

(d) information, dissemination and awareness raising

- development of databases on employment;
- studies related to industrial change;
- measures to raise awareness in the different economic sectors.

3. Duration

The initiative covers the period from 1994 to 1999.

4. Budget

Activities covered by this initiative will be financed jointly by the Member States, the Community, companies and other bodies.



The total contribution from the Structural Funds (European Social Fund and European Development Fund) is estimated at ECU 1.4 billion, of which ECU 400 million will be allocated to the less-favoured regions. In addition, in October 1995 the Commission approved the granting of supplementary appropriations (ECU 170 million) for ADAPT projects relating to the information society for the years 1997-99.

(4) Procedures and information

Member States are invited to submit their applications for support in the form of operational programmes or global grants. In each Member State, a monitoring committee has been set up for each initiative.

Mr A. Larsson

Deputy Director-General

Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs
European Commission

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1.7. ERGO

(1) Objective

To organize dialogue, cooperation and exchanges of information between partners at local, national and Community levels, in order to identify effective measures to combat long-term unemployment.

(2) Eligibility

The long-term unemployed, persons in charge of projects to combat long-term unemployment, etc.

(3) Community support

- Three-year action programme (1993-96).

ERGO 2 entails a three-pronged approach:

- (a) evaluation of projects and research concerned with combating long-term unemployment so as to gain insight into the ways and circumstances in which positive practices are developed in the Community;
- (b) organization and maintenance of dialogue between the various parties involved in combating long-term unemployment with a view to promoting exchanges of information and know-how in the interest of fostering partnerships;
- (c) funding of development activities. An annual budget of ECU 1 million is earmarked for the transfer of methodologies in order to develop know-how on reintegration at local level;
- (d) all the development activities will be monitored and evaluated with a view to:
 - assessing the net added value of a development activity in terms of the quantity and quality of assistance given to the long-term unemployed and the support provided for lasting reinforcement of local structures intended to help them;
 - providing a source of information which will help to underpin the transfer of experience and to disseminate more widely the lessons learned from the measures taken.

(4) Procedures and information

For registration of ERGO 2 applications, contact:

Marie-Christine Ashby
Rue Van Campenhout 37
B-1040 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 736 79 22
Fax (32-2) 736 11 47

European Commission

DG V

Unit 5/A/1

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels

Tel. (32-2) 295 51 84

**(5) Activities and
back-up**

Quarterly publication of a news-sheet.

1.8. SPEC

(1) Objective

To provide technical and financial support for all innovative regional or local job-creating projects, with a view to accommodating structural changes on the labour market, particularly in connection with the completion of the internal market.

(2) Eligibility

Regional authorities, development project staff and the social partners.

(3) Community support

1. The programme was launched by the Commission (DG V — Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs) at the request of the European Parliament.

2. Beneficiaries:

- initiatives designed to help individuals or local firms to combat unemployment connected with the effects of the single market;
- regions facing employment problems which are given priority under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b of the Structural Funds;
- frontier regions, where projects involve cross-border cooperation.

Priority will be given to innovative measures, pilot projects and schemes constituting a direct response to the employment-related effects of the single market.

3. Management

Two bodies are jointly in charge of the programme, in close collaboration with DG V:

- the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), which is responsible for managing the programme (publicity, selection of a panel of experts, allocation of financial aid, etc.);
- Local and Regional Development Planning (LRDP) provides technical assistance (technical documentation for all projects, expert opinions on the effect of the single market on local employment, seminar bringing together representatives of all the selected projects).

Together they organize information meetings for representatives of local authorities and public services in Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

4. Funding

Community grants of between ECU 5 000 and 20 000 are awarded, depending on the nature of the proposed project and the number of direct beneficiaries.

Co-financing of at least 30% for Objective 1 regions and 50% for other regions must be provided from non-Community resources. The IULA informs the selected projects of the detailed conditions for award of the grant; they have one month in which to accept.

5. Payment of the grant:

- 50% when the offer is accepted;
- 50% upon receipt of a declaration of completion, certifying that the grant was used for the purposes specified in the application.

6. The SPEC programme has been suspended. The programme was launched on the basis of a proposal from the European Council and at the request of the European Parliament in connection with the completion of the single market in 1993. Accordingly, the programme was scheduled to run for three years (1990-93).

(4) Procedures and information

Directorate-General V

Tel. (32-2) 299 11 11

or

IULA

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2509 LP The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel. (31-70) 324 40 23

Fax (31-70) 324 69 16

Telex 30510 IULA NL

(5) Activities and back-up

Commission publications:

Evaluation report 1991-92;

Evaluation report 1992-93.

1.9. LEDA

(1) Objective

To provide assistance at local level within the Community for combating unemployment and for creating new job opportunities by exploiting the potential for local development.

(2) Eligibility

Local, regional and national experts and representatives, local economy specialists and local development bodies.

(3) Community support

1. Characteristics

- Research and action programme launched in 1986 by the Commission with the aim of studying the strategies used to promote employment and economic development at local level.
- It is in its third phase (1993-95).
- It has an annual budget of ECU 2 million.
- It provides support in the form of advice and technical assistance, supplementing other Community programmes geared to the provision of financial support.

2. Operation

- (a) The first phase of the programme consisted of pilot projects in 12 areas of the Member States with a high level of unemployment. Local labour markets which have implemented innovative programmes to promote employment will take part in the programme as 'associated areas', forming a network to facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and the sharing of information. The third phase of the programme covers 33 areas of the Member States hard hit by unemployment.
- (b) The various initiatives undertaken have been analysed in group discussions, consultations at local level, conferences, interviews and reports.
- (c) Economic development and employment initiatives are studied, along with research and other activities carried out in areas where there is a need for priority action.

(4) Procedures and information

LRDP

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LRDP

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**(5) Activities and
back-up**

The lessons drawn from the pilot projects are disseminated through seminars, exchange visits and other instructional activities. In addition, reports in the form of general or technical memos for local operators are widely disseminated. A LEDA magazine is published twice a year and a LEDA newsletter four times a year.

1.10. EURES

(1) Objective

To promote cooperation between public employment services with a view to facilitating the mobility of workers within the European Union and certain EFTA countries.

(2) Composition

Network of 400 Euroadvisers responsible for providing information to the general public and to companies.

(3) Scope

- Facilitating access to information on job vacancies and applications in the Member States.
- Supplying general information on living and working conditions, employment and labour markets.
- EURES provides a wealth of information to help smooth the path to working in another Member State: conditions of residence, arrangements for frontier workers, social legislation, taxation, etc.
- Helping companies to recruit staff at European level.
- Exchanges of Euroadvisers between countries.
- Providing each member of the EURES network with access to the two databases disseminated by the coordination bureau, one concerning job vacancies and the other giving general information.
- Enabling the Euroadvisers to communicate with each other and with the coordination bureau through an electronic mail system.

(4) Information

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Fax (32-2) 299 05 08

Mrs Vassiliki Kolotourou
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(5) Information activities and media

The Commission provides assistance in the following areas:

- initial and continuing training sessions,
- meetings at national or Community level,
- EURES *Flash* news-sheet,
- directory of Euroadvisers,
- telematics network,
- Euroadvisers' workstations,
- EURES database (living and working conditions, labour market) disseminated via *INFO 92*.

1.11. Readaptation aids — Social measures for coal workers

(1) Objective

To intensify the Community effort in order to attenuate the consequences of restructuring for workers and to share the cost. This social aid supplements traditional ECSC aid (governed by bilateral conventions with the Member States) and thus makes it possible to cover a greater portion of the cost of measures.

(2) Eligibility

Information note on procedures concerning the social measures in connection with the restructuring of the coal industry (1994-97) (Official Journal C 108, 16.4.1994).

- In application of Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty, any social measures implemented in connection with closures or reductions of activity of a permanent nature, resulting from profound changes in the situation of the coal industry, are eligible.
- Likewise eligible, in application of Article 56(1)(c), are social measures implemented as a consequence of the introduction of new technical processes or equipment resulting in large-scale lay-offs, provided these measures are part of a national modernization, rationalization and restructuring plan for the industry in line with the provisions of Article 3(2) of Decision No. 3632/93/ECSC.
- ECSC assistance is granted both to production workers and to workers in the various related services. Aid may also be granted to workers affected indirectly, i.e. those who are obliged to change jobs or who lose their jobs.

(3) Community support

1. Types of measures:

- early retirement: social aid arrangements take account of all measures where the objective is to allow older workers to retire with a reasonable level of income. The reference age for eligibility is that laid down in bilateral agreements. The costs covered may include severance grants, pensions and social security contributions;
- redeployment: account will be taken of all measures contributing to effective re-employment within or outside the undertaking, which may include income support measures and mobility and reintegration aids;
- unemployment: in some instances, owing to the lack of adequate opportunities for re-employment, redundancies will be unavoidable. In this case, the cost of unemployment measures — which may include not only severance grants or monthly payments, but also various forms of short-time working or new job-sharing arrangements implying a reduction in working time — will be more extensively co-financed by the ECSC.

2. *Ceilings are fixed for all these measures, amounting to ECU 4 000 for early retirement, ECU 4 000 for redeployment and ECU 2 000 for unemployment.*
3. *The European Social Fund may provide assistance for vocational training and employment for unemployed workers threatened by long-term unemployment and those threatened by unemployment as a result of industrial change and changes in production systems.*
4. *Financial aspects: subject to future budgetary provisions, the Commission has set aside for this programme a total amount of ECU 110 million from the ECSC operating budget for the period 1994-97. In 1994 and 1995 this allocation amounted to ECU 40 and 38 million respectively; a total of ECU 26 million has been entered in the draft budget for 1996.*

**(4) Procedures and
information**

DG V — Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs
ECSC readaptation and social aspects of iron and steel policies
European Commission
Rue de Loi 200
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1.12. Rechar

(1) Objective

The aim of the Community initiative is to accelerate economic conversion, concentrating on the hardest hit coal-mining areas, by means of an effort to supplement that provided for in the Community support frameworks (CSFs) established under Article 8 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88. Priority will be given to environmental improvement, the promotion of new economic activities and the development of human resources.

(2) Eligibility

Notice to the Member States establishing the list of areas for assistance in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the economic conversion of coal-mining areas (Official Journal C 337, 1.12.1994).

(3) Community support

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which they are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the economic conversion of coal-mining areas (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).

1. Eligible measures

Community assistance, in the form of loans or grants, may be made available for the following measures:

- environmental improvement and conversion of former coal-mining buildings in areas seriously damaged by coal-mining activity, renovation of social and economic infrastructure in mining villages (community facilities, water and electricity supplies) as part of a strategy for economic regeneration;
- the promotion of alternative activities, in particular SMEs, by various means (new advance factory units and workshop premises, productive investment, access to venture capital, common services, market studies, cooperation networks, product and process innovation);
- the promotion of tourist activities, especially those based on industrial heritage;
- assisting economic conversion and regional development bodies;
- assisting training and employment measures, especially for SMEs whose activities are essential for the development of the region and for the redeployment of miners and former miners;
- interest rebates on ECSC loans, especially for investments in SMEs and any other conversion measure eligible for a loan from the EIB;
- the promotion of cross-border cooperation between coal-mining areas.

2. Financing

The Rechar programmes will be the subject of joint financing by the Member State and the Community. In coal-mining areas eligible for Rechar, the total contribution by the ERDF and ESF during the period 1994-97 is estimated at ECU 400 million.

(4) Procedures and information

Mr E. Landaburu

Director-General

Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

European Commission

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1.13. Konver

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| (1) Objective | To accelerate the conversion and diversification of economic activities in regions suffering from the decline in defence activities and industries. |
| (2) Eligibility | Regions heavily dependent on the defence sector, areas seriously affected by the decline in this sector, particularly in terms of employment, and those areas which are economically vulnerable in the face of this decline and threatened with serious conversion difficulties. |
| (3) Community support | <p><i>1. Characteristics</i></p> <p>Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning defence conversion (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).</p> <p><i>2. Eligible measures</i></p> <p>Measures are intended to assist all sectors of industrial activity in regions eligible under Konver. In areas eligible for assistance under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b, the qualifying measures will complement the schemes to assist industry, which include assistance for investment in production equipment, contained in the relevant Community support framework. Assistance will not be given to activities which could have either a dual application, civilian and military, or a purely military application. The eligible measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advisory services and equipment (excluding production machinery) to improve know-how in businesses: quality control, computer-aided design, marketing, health and safety, etc.; • aid for local associations of businesses and cooperation schemes, the creation of networks, and the provision of information on markets to improve know-how and accelerate the spread of innovative production methods and new forms of business organization, links between research centres and companies, and between companies and their suppliers and customers, etc.; • audits of firms in connection with the above subjects carried out by a team to provide ideas (particularly to SMEs), financial engineering measures; • temporary contributions towards paying qualified staff recruited under modernization plans drawn up with the assistance of outside experts; • vocational training for staff of businesses and providers of business services, and for staff in the military sector faced with redundancy or already unemployed; • improvement of areas damaged by military activity; • promotion of alternative economic activities, with an emphasis on the creation of SMEs; |

- renovation of economic and social infrastructure (community facilities, water and electricity supplies);
- promotion of tourism.

3. The eligible areas must meet one of the following criteria:

- they must have lost at least 1 000 jobs in defence activities since 1 January 1990;
- the total number of jobs lost in defence activities since that date and future job losses publicly announced in the defence activities must equal or exceed 1 000;
- the total number of jobs at risk in defence activities must equal or exceed 1 000.

4. The Community's contribution to financing the Konver initiative. Operational programmes under Konver are jointly financed by the Member States and the Community. The financial requirement up to the end of 1997 for the Community contribution to Konver is estimated at ECU 500 million (1994 prices). Loans from the EIB are also possible.

(4) Procedures and information

Mr E. Landaburu

Director-General

Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

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1.14. PESCA

(1) Objective	To enable the fisheries sector to carry out changes successfully and help it to cope with the attendant social and economic consequences and to contribute to the diversification of the areas concerned by developing job-creating activities.
(2) Eligibility	<p>PESCA is designed principally for areas dependent on fisheries in regions eligible under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b. Within these geographical limits, PESCA can provide assistance to a number of categories of final beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collective bodies, whether public or private; • individuals engaged in economic activity who are able to make a direct contribution to the diversification of activity; • other collective bodies, whether public or private, directly affected by change in the sector; • fishermen and others working in the fisheries sector.
(3) Community support	<p>Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for global grants or integrated operational programmes for which Member States are invited to submit applications for assistance within the framework of a Community initiative concerning the restructuring of the fisheries sector (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).</p> <p><i>1. Eligible measures</i></p> <p>The eligible measures may fall into one of the following categories:</p> <p>(a) Diversification of activities in the eligible areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study of local potential for economic development; • development of fishing ports; • assistance for the establishment of new craft firms and small businesses. <p>(b) Business services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment or development of companies or bodies providing advice on the management and organization of firms; assistance for managing the restructuring of firms in the sector; assistance for the grouping of firms; • assistance for the transfer of technology; • training in marketing, management and new technologies.

- (c) Maintenance or creation of jobs:
- retraining or extending the vocational qualifications of fishermen;
 - training of instructors;
 - improving employment services;
 - assistance for geographical mobility;
 - assistance for entry onto the labour market.
- (d) Financial engineering:
- facilitating access to the capital market by small and craft firms;
 - finance for interest subsidy schemes.
- (e) Specific projects of a general and/or transnational nature in the fisheries sector:
- common management of shared fisheries;
 - mapping sea-bed obstacles to fisheries;
 - rationalization of marketing chains for fisheries products;
 - promotion and upgrading of fisheries products; quality certification;
 - studies and research into new markets and new outlets.
- (f) Productive investment in the sector:
- aid for the improvement of productivity and rationalization of work;
 - diversification and conversion of firms in the sector, particularly towards maritime tourism;
 - adaptation of the products of firms in the sector to meet market opportunities.

2. Period

The PESCA initiative covers the period 1994-99.

3. Budget

PESCA receives joint funding from the Member States, the Community and the beneficiaries referred to in point (2) above. The total contribution of the Structural Funds to PESCA is ECU 293 million for the period 1994-99 (EUR 15), broken down as follows: ECU 139.1 million for Objectives 1 and

6 regions, ECU 148.9 million for the other regions, and ECU 5 million for a Community support structure for cooperation and exchanges between areas which are dependent on fishing, which is presently being set up.

(4) Procedures and information

The Member States shall submit applications for assistance concerning integrated operational programmes or global grants within four months from the date of publication of this notice.

In assessing the quality of proposals, the Commission will take particular account of the following elements:

- specific development objectives, on economically viable bases;
- expected impact;
- implementation mechanisms;
- monitoring, control and assessment methods;
- schedule for implementation, including deadlines for assessment of impact;
- additional nature of the assistance applied for;
- participation by those involved in economic and social activities in the sector;
- participation by regional and national authorities;
- appropriate utilization of loans and grants.

Information from:

Mr J. Almeida Serra
Director-General
Directorate-General for Fisheries
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

1.15. RETEX

(1) Objective

To accelerate the diversification of economic activities in regions heavily dependent on the textiles and clothing sector so as to render them less dependent on this sector and to encourage the adjustment of commercially viable businesses in all sectors of industrial activity. The purpose of RETEX is to strengthen the regional industrial fabric.

(2) Eligibility

- The zones eligible for RETEX are those which are heavily dependent on the textiles and clothing sector which are eligible for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under Objective 1 (regions where development is lagging behind), Objective 2 (areas of industrial decline) and Objective 5b (vulnerable rural areas) of the Structural Funds. As from January 1994, other areas heavily dependent on this sector becoming eligible under these Objectives — particularly the new *Länder* — may also qualify for RETEX. Moreover, in so far as the new regulations for the Structural Funds make the geographical coverage of the Community initiatives more flexible, this possibility may also be extended to a limited extent to other areas not eligible under these Objectives.
- Enterprises concerned: viable enterprises from all industrial sectors in the RETEX beneficiary areas, without excluding textiles and clothing.

(3) Community support

1. Eligible measures

- Advice and equipment (excluding machines for production) to improve know-how in businesses: quality control, computer-aided manufacturing and planning, marketing, health and safety, etc.
- Support for local associations of businesses and for cooperation, networking and market information schemes designed to improve know-how in the areas described above, to accelerate the spread of new forms of production or organization, to strengthen links between research and businesses, between businesses and their suppliers and customers, etc.
- The setting-up of a team to conduct audits of businesses (especially SMEs) on these topics, as well as feasibility studies and financial engineering measures.
- Temporary contributions towards paying qualified staff who are recruited to help in implementing modernization plans drawn up with the assistance of outside experts.
- Training for staff of businesses and providers of services to businesses, and for staff in textile and clothing firms faced with redundancy or already unemployed.
- Rehabilitation of industrial wasteland and restoration of redundant industrial buildings, aid to facilitate the treatment of liquid effluent and other industrial waste, technical assistance for the development of less-polluting processes.

2. Period

The RETEX initiative for which the Commission decision laying down the guidelines was adopted in May 1992 (Official Journal C 142, 4.6.1992) covers the period 1994-97 (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).

3. Budget

Operational programmes under RETEX are jointly financed by the Member States, the Community and the private sector. The financial requirement for implementing RETEX in the 1994-97 period is estimated at ECU 500 million which will be financed from the appropriations for the Structural Funds.

(4) Procedures and information

Mr E. Landaburu
Director-General
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
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1.16. SMEs

(1) Objective

To help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to adapt to the single market and to ensure that they become internationally competitive.

(2) Eligibility

This initiative is targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises located in the areas eligible for assistance under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b. SMEs outside these areas are not excluded from participating in the network activities provided for in the initiative. Producer cooperatives are eligible to take part in the initiative.

(3) Community support

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes and global grants which they are invited to propose in the framework of a Community initiative concerning the adaptation of SMEs to the single market (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).

1. Eligible measures

- Improving the production systems and organization of SMEs (total quality, technological innovation, management and organization, modern telecommunications systems).
- Taking into account the environment and the rational use of energy.
- Encouraging cooperation between research centres, technology transfer centres, universities, training centres and SMEs to promote R&TD.
- Access to new markets, private or public, in the Community and elsewhere.
- Developing cooperation and networks between SMEs, lead firms, subcontractors and customers.
- Strengthening vocational qualifications within SMEs.
- Improving access of SMEs to finance and credit (venture capital, equity participation funds, interest subsidies linked to EIB and EIF loans).
- Improvement of the business environment for SMEs.

2. Period

The SME initiative covers the period 1994-99.

3. Budget

The operational programmes are to be jointly financed by the Member States and the Community. The total contribution of the Structural Funds is estimated at ECU 1 000 million, of which ECU 800 million will be allocated to Objective 2 or 5b regions. EIB loans may also be made available.

**(4) Procedures and
information**

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2. SOCIAL PROTECTION

2.1. Missoc

(1) Objective

To provide rapid, comparable, regularly updated information on social protection and social welfare systems and policies in the Member States, while at the same time analysing the principal trends in the Member States and the factors triggering adjustments to the respective social protection systems.

(2) Composition

Fifteen national experts working in the relevant ministries. The central secretariat, situated in Cologne, cooperates closely with the Commission.

(3) Scope

- The Missoc network, focusing on social protection in the Community, was launched in 1990.
- National correspondents supply information to the secretariat, which in turn draws the various strands together (three updates a year), thereby ensuring that the bulletins provide accurate data.
- The network of national experts is appointed jointly by the Commission and the Member States.
- The Commission departments gather additional information to that collected by the national experts; the former are responsible for producing the report on social protection in Europe, requiring in-depth data and analyses concerning the operation of national systems.

(4) Network coordination

Secretariat

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(5) Information

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(6) Information activities and media

- ‘Social protection in the Member States of the Community’, in French, English and German.
- Report on developments in social protection systems and policies during the 1980s.
- Updates (bulletins) three times a year, in French, English and German, issued by the Secretariat.
- Commission report on social protection in Europe, in the nine official languages, every two years, distributed by the Commission.
- Report by the network of experts on supplementary schemes, in French, English and German, distributed every 18 months by the Commission.

2.2. Observatory on National Policies to combat Social Exclusion

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Objective | To study the efforts of the public authorities within the Member States to combat exclusion. |
| (2) Composition | One independent expert from each Member State. |
| (3) Scope | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The observatory was set up in 1990.• It is concerned with policies which may help open the door to employment, training, income, housing, education, health protection and all other rights and services which play a part in social integration.• Each expert prepares an annual national report. A consolidated report is drawn up by the coordinator.• Work was suspended in 1994 awaiting the Council's adoption of a decision proposal. |
| (4) Network coordination | Ms Diana Robbins
103 Boyne Road
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| (5) Information | Mrs Isabelle Prondzynski
European Commission
DG V/E/2
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 296 67 33
Fax (32-2) 299 05 09 |
| (6) Information activities and media | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual national reports.• Annual consolidated report. |



2.3. European Family Policy Observatory

- (1) Objective** To engage in information-oriented activities, particularly through the production and presentation on a regular basis of data analysing and evaluating demography and measures concerning families (household structure, female employment, birth-rate trends, etc.).
- (2) Composition** This multidisciplinary observatory is composed of private experts, independent of governments (one per Member State).
- (3) Scope** It was set up in September 1989 at the meeting of ministers responsible for family policies within the Council. Its task is to analyse policies affecting families in the Member States of the European Union.
- (4) Network coordination** Department of Social Policy and Social Work (York).

(5) Information

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**(6) Information
activities and
media**

- Each year it produces a general report on trends affecting families in the 15 Member States, along with technical annexes providing updated information in this field.
- In the context of the International Year of the Family, it is to produce an overview of trends in family policies over the last 10 years, addressing the current debate in the Member States on the family in 1994, and looking ahead to the future.

3. SOLIDARITY

3.1. Older people: financing of projects

(1) Objective	To promote the best practices in the field of the elderly.
(2) Eligibility	The activities eligible for funding (1995) will be those aimed at generating information and promoting exchanges of experience concerning the elderly and relationships between generations. Initiatives must involve three or more countries.
(3) Community support	<p><i>1. Priority areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role and potential contribution of active pensioners. • improvement of the situation of elderly women. • management of an ageing workforce. • transition from working life to retirement. • care for dependent elderly people and access to care. <p><i>2. Basic principles:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion of solidarity between generations. • boosting the capacity of the elderly to play a part in society. • the integration of elderly people threatened with isolation, i.e. migrants, those living in remote areas, the disabled and women. <p><i>3. General criteria</i></p> <p>Measures financed must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be innovatory or experimental. • aim to promote best practices in this area. • be implemented by organizations or individuals recognized as being at the forefront in the field concerned. • include measures to inform non-participating players about the results: greater priority will be given to measures which have a significant knock-on effect. • be transnational in scope. <p>In the case of comparative studies and transnational initiatives, the Commission reserves the right to invite the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and/or the European Observatory on Ageing and Older People to be involved in the work.</p>

(4) Procedures and information

Details of projects must be sent to the Commission, together with the names of partners and an estimate of funding from other sources.

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3.2. Disabled people: Helios II

(1) Objective

- To promote equal opportunities and the economic and social integration of disabled persons within the European Union;
- To achieve real cooperation between governments, organizations and associations for disabled persons, based on innovatory and successful experiences.

(2) Eligibility

Structure and operation:

- Advisory Committee (representatives of the Member States);
- European Disability Forum (representatives of European NGOs (non-governmental organizations) for disabled persons, National Councils for Disabled Persons and the two sides of industry);
- Liaison Group (members of the Helios Advisory Committee and the Forum);
- various working parties (employment, integrated education, an independent way of life, mobility and transport, Committee on Sports for the Disabled, tourism for all, Handynet coordination group).

Network(s) linked to the programme:

- 676 partners in the 12 Member States; technical assistance at European level from the Helios expert team;
- 363 information and advisory centres (Handynet);
- exchange and information activities specified by the governments of the Member States:
 - 780 partners in 1995,
 - 836 partners in 1996 (including EFTA countries);
- Handynet information and advisory centres:
 - 335 in 1995,
 - 350 in 1996 (including EFTA countries);
- technical assistance at European level provided by the Helios expert team.

(3) Community support

Specific measures:

- exchange and information between the partners appointed by the Member States for the duration of the programme, on functional rehabilitation, integration in the fields of education and economic and social integration/an independent way of life;
- activities entailing European-level cooperation through non-governmental organizations (transfer of model activities);
- computerized information and documentation system (Handynet);

- public information and awareness raising;
- establishment of codes of good practice;
- Helios awards for innovative projects;
- European Disabled People's Day (3 December);
- databases available on CD-ROM containing details of technical aids within the European Union;
- a computer-based message system and electronic newspaper;
- duration 1993-96.

(4) Procedures and information

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Director: Mr Philippe Lamoral
Information: Mr Yves Dricot and Mrs Claudia Ritter

(5) Activities and back-up

- *Helioscope*: quarterly magazine in the languages of the European Union, focusing on EU social policies with the emphasis on issues affecting disabled persons, NGO activities, national developments and the Helios programme.
- *Flash Helios*: fortnightly newsletter.
- Helios II directory (1995): directory of Helios addresses.
- Handynet database: technical aids for disabled persons, electronic mail and news.

3.3 Urban development: URBAN

(1) Objective

To prepare for the implementation of programmes to help deprived urban areas achieve a lasting improvement in living standards for their inhabitants; to help the authorities responsible in their efforts to provide the necessary amenities so as to attract economic activity and integrate the inhabitants of the areas concerned into the economy and the social mainstream.

(2) Eligibility

Target areas could be urban neighbourhoods geographically identifiable; either an existing administrative unit such as a borough, a commune or even smaller entities within a densely populated area, with a minimum size of population, with a high level of unemployment, with a decayed urban fabric, bad housing conditions and lack of social amenities.

(3) Community support

Notice to the Member States laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning urban areas (Official Journal C 180, 1.7.1994).

1. For the 1994-99 period, the Commission wishes to see in the context of the initiative an approach which could, for example, centre on the following measures.

2. Possible measures

The measures to be included in an integrated programme should be drawn up by the local partnership, taking into account the diversity of problems faced by cities. The measures include:

(a) Launching of new economic activities:

- provision of workshops; support for business, commerce, cooperatives, mutual associations, and services for SMEs; creation of business centres, technology transfer;
- creation of public/private partnerships;
- creation of a pool of management and marketing consultants; customized counselling for businessmen; advice to starters.

(b) Ensuring employment for local people:

- customized training schemes and language training;
- training for new technologies;
- mobile units for employment and training advice;

- work-experience scheme for the long-term unemployed;
 - support for job-intensive projects at the local level.
- (c) Improvement of social, health and security provisions:
- provision of nursery and crèche facilities;
 - improvement of health conditions; drug rehabilitation centres;
 - increasing security and preventing crime.
- (d) Improvement of infrastructures and environmental conditions linked to the above measures:
- renovation of buildings to accommodate new social and economic activities;
 - rehabilitation of public spaces;
 - improvement of energy efficiency;
 - improvement of access to telematics services;
 - reclamation of derelict sites and condemned areas;
 - provision of cultural, leisure and sports amenities;
 - actions to facilitate the mobility of the local population.
- (e) Special workshops targeted at residents of social housing.
- (f) Support in improving the local capacity to solve problems, including exchange schemes and the creation of partnerships of the city organizations and players concerned.

3. Period

The URBAN initiative covers the period 1994-99.

4. Budget

The total contribution by the Structural Funds to the URBAN initiative is estimated at ECU 600 million of which ECU 400 million should go to Objective 1 areas and ECU 200 million to other areas, with a preference for Objective 2 areas.

**(4) Procedures and information**

Member States wishing to benefit from URBAN are invited to present operational programmes or, where appropriate, applications for global grants for urban areas within four months of the publication of the present communication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Mr E. Landaburu

Director-General

Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels

4. MIGRATION POLICY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

4.1. 'Freedom of movement' network

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Objective | To monitor the steps taken by national courts and, in particular, local, regional and national authorities; to incorporate into national law and implement Community legislation concerned with the free movement of persons. |
| (2) Composition | One national expert per Member State. |
| (3) Scope | <p>The network compiles reports on freedom of movement for workers within the Community.</p> <p>The members of the network draw up a report and meet once a year.</p> <p>The experts may be asked to provide information on specific issues urgently required by the Commission (petition or parliamentary question).</p> |
| (4) Information | <p>Mr Denis Martin
European Commission
DG V/D/4
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
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Fax (32-2) 296 59 89</p> |
| (5) Information activities and media | Reports. |

4.2. RIMET

(1) Objective

To collect the information necessary for Community cooperation in the field of immigration policies.

(2) Composition

Fifteen independent correspondents in the Member States and one summary rapporteur.

(3) Scope

The basic information necessary for close cooperation in the field of national immigration policies is collected by independent experts, who submit half-yearly reports on new measures and political trends in the Member States relating to immigration and integration of third-country nationals.

(4) Information

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Tel. (32-2) 295 12 19
Fax (32-2) 295 18 99

(5) Information activities and media

- Annual summary report (since 1991).
- The Member States of the EEC — handling immigration in 1993: closed borders, stringent attitudes.

4.3. **Elaine** (European local authorities' interactive network for ethnic minorities' policies)

- (1) **Objective** To establish an exchange and information network between local authorities on practical aspects relating to the integration of migrants.
- (2) **Composition** Local authority personnel.
- (3) **Scope** Organization of meetings on practical experiences in towns, exchange of information and experience, partnerships, assistance for project leaders.

The Commission granted financing in 1993, 1994 and 1995.
- (4) **Information** **Ms Annette Bosscher**
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Elaine network
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6221 CP Maastricht
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- (5) **Information activities and media**
- Research and exchange of experience by means of meetings on subjects of direct interest to migrants, such as housing, care for the elderly migrants, intercultural education, etc.
 - Maintenance of a data library on these subjects, publication of a news fax and a who's who.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

5.1. Equal opportunities programme

(1) Objective	To help to promote full participation by women in the labour market and improve the value of their contribution.
(2) Eligibility	<p>Eligibility criteria:</p> <p>The projects submitted must cater for the objectives of the programme and have a European dimension. The Commission will give preference to innovatory projects.</p>
(3) Community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third medium-term action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-95). • Medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1996-2000).
(4) Procedures and information	<p>Grant application forms are available from the European Commission by contacting:</p> <p>Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs Equal Opportunities Unit Rue de la Loi 200 B-1049 Brussels</p>

5.2. 'Position of women in the labour market' network

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Objective | To analyse the obstacles, problems and challenges faced by women in the field of employment in the European Union. |
| (2) Composition | Network of 15 independent national experts, coordinated at European level. |
| (3) Scope | <p>Research network created in 1983.</p> <p>Within the framework of the action programme, three principal areas for analysis have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women's participation in the labour market; • upgrading of women's work and, in general, the quality of their employment; • identification of obstacles to the integration of women in the labour market and, in particular, the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities. |
| (4) Network coordination | <p>Dr Jill Rubery
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| (6) Information activities and media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulletin on women and employment in the European Union. • Annual summary report of the network. |



5.3. LEI

(1) Objective

To encourage and help women to create lasting employment through the setting-up and development of innovative businesses or any other employment-generating initiative, with a view to combating unemployment among women.

(2) Eligibility

Varies according to the section under which applications are submitted:

(a) Section A: grants awarded for innovative business plans; eligible candidates are women seeking to set up their own business who already have an advanced innovative plan; the criteria for innovation are laid down by the Commission in conjunction with the priorities assigned to the promotion of equal opportunities: innovation may cover areas such as the type of product or service envisaged, working methods, organization of the business and use of specific resources.

(b) Section B: job-creation grants for women setting up businesses: women setting up and running their own business may apply for an LEI grant within the first two years of launching the business, provided that at least two full-time jobs (or equivalent part-time jobs) for women have been created. Eligible businesses are those which demonstrate viability and innovative characteristics in specific fields such as:

- initiatives in developing sectors (e.g. new technologies, environment, culture and leisure);
- initiatives in male-dominated fields;
- rural initiatives providing a new product or service;
- initiatives meeting the needs of disadvantaged areas or certain social groups;
- transnational initiatives (e.g. joint subsidiaries, import-export, international business services, etc.).

Initiatives in the retail sales sector are generally excluded.

(3) Community support

The LEI programme is a key element in the third medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-95), launched in 1987 by the European Commission with technical assistance provided by the European network of experts and the grant management service.

The LEI programme supports women's initiatives through:

1. Technical assistance

The LEI network provides:

- information on sources of support available at local, regional, national and European levels;

- advice on the development of ideas and the implementation of plans;
- assistance in completing the LEI grant application form.

2. Award of grants

- Each year, the European Commission earmarks a budget of ECU 1.5 million for awarding a limited number of grants to women who wish to set up a business or some other employment-generating initiative, or who have recently launched such a venture.
- Two types of grant are available: grants for the development of a business plan and feasibility study (Section A), and job-creation grants for new businesses (Section B).

3. A network linking businesses managed by women in Europe, with the aim of promoting exchanges of experience and cooperation between the businesses.

4. Training and technical assistance programmes for businesses managed by women, entailing transnational partnerships, organization of training courses and ongoing development.

5. Publication of practical guides and specialized information with a view to disseminating the most notable results and strengthening the competitiveness of businesses managed by women at Community level.

(4) Procedures and information

To obtain a grant, women are invited to contact the LEI network's national expert, who will be able to help them submit their application to the European Commission. Applicants must prove that they have the necessary ability to run a business, on the basis of training or experience, and that they have taken appropriate steps in conjunction with local business support structures.

Contacts at European level:

• **LEI network coordination unit**

Breakthrough Consultants

Headquarters:

36 Vas. Georgiou St

GR-54640 Thessaloniki

Tel. (30-31) 84 06 25

Fax (30-31) 36 11 00/ 86 11 00

Brussels office:

Boulevard Clovis 12

B-1040 Brussels

Tel. (32-2) 732 51 19

Fax (32-2) 735 12 09



- **LEI grant management unit**
 Comitato Impresa Donna — CNA
 Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée 1
 B-1040 Brussels
 Tel. (32-2) 280 00 54/280 09 92
 Fax (32-2) 280 09 01

The list of LEI network national experts is available at the coordination or management unit in Brussels.

It should be noted that the current version of the LEI programme will end with the third Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men.

(5) Activities and back-up

Publications:

- *Guide to better business*, published annually, is a practical manual designed to help women launch and manage their own business;
- *Dossier*, published twice a year, aims at disseminating information, detailing instances of good practice and promoting partnerships and cooperation between businesses managed by women.

5.4. Child care network

(1) Objective To collect and evaluate information on existing child care services in all the Member States, and to raise awareness of the importance of child care.

(2) Composition The network comprises one expert from each Member State (two from Belgium) and a coordinator.

(3) Scope

1. *The network was set up in 1986 under the second Community action programme on equal opportunities. In 1991, under the third medium-term Community programme on equal opportunities, the network embarked on a new programme of activities lasting until 1995.*

2. *The tasks of the network, as set out in the Council recommendation of 31 March 1992 on child care, cover:*

- the provision of care for children while parents are in or seeking employment, education or training;
- leave arrangements for employed parents with responsibility for the care and upbringing of children;
- the environment, structure and organization of the workplace, to make it responsive to the needs of workers with children;
- the sharing between men and women of occupational, family-oriented and educational responsibilities arising from the care of children.

3. *The network is allocated a budget by the Commission each year.*

(4) Information Contact the national representative or coordinator.

European Commission

**Directorate-General for Employment,
Industrial Relations and Social Affairs**
Equal Opportunities Unit
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 295 11 11/20 93
Fax (32-2) 295 01 29/65 07

Network coordination

Peter Moss
Thomas Coram Research Institute
27/28 Woburn Square
London WC1H 0AA



National representatives

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CBGS, Markiesstraat 1
B-1000 Brussels

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ESP-CP 590/5
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Viale Aldo Moro 38
I-40127 Bologna

Luxembourg

Jean Altmann

5, avenue de la Libération
L-3850 Schifflange

Netherlands

Liesbeth Pot

NIZW, PO Box 19152
3501 DD Utrecht

Portugal

Virginia Bras Gomez

Direcção-Geral de Acção Social
Av. Miguel Bombarda No 1-1
P-1296 Lisbon

United Kingdom

Bronwen Cohen

Children in Scotland
Princes House
5 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4RG

(6) Information activities and media

- Twice-yearly meetings of the network.
- Working parties deriving from the network are concerned with:
 - men's involvement in child care,
 - rural regions,
 - the quality of services.
- The members of the network are frequently consulted at national level by governments and other organizations. Seminars, conferences and exchange visits have played an important part in the network's activities from the outset.
- Creation of a database on the largest national organizations concerned with reconciling parents' working lives, children's upbringing, child care services and equal opportunities.
- The network coordinator has compiled a database of European and international organizations (network, ministries, departments and institutions).
- Publication of an annual report and other documents.

5.5. IRIS asbl

(1) Objective

To promote equal opportunities in vocational training, raise the profile of training for women, expand such training, and establish and strengthen links across Europe.

(2) Composition

The membership of IRIS comprises vocational training establishments for women, employers' and trade union organizations, and companies which organize continuing training with a focus on equality or which have undertaken positive action measures including training.

As of 1 July 1995, IRIS is no longer a Commission network, but a non-profit-making association (asbl) which is pursuing the same objectives as the former network and has signed an agreement with the European Commission authorizing it to use the name IRIS.

(3) Scope

1. *IRIS has established the following priorities:*

- to promote equal opportunities in vocational training and raise the profile of training for women, particularly through information and awareness-enhancement measures relating to any Community action concerned with vocational training for women;
- to expand vocational training for women;
- to create partnership links between vocational training bodies throughout Europe.

2. *Budget*

Members pay an annual contribution of ECU 380 to the IRIS association, with the exception of Community organizations and Member States' ministries whose rules do not allow them to make financial contributions to private bodies.

3. *IRIS membership*

To join the IRIS network, bodies must contact the association (IRIS asbl), which sends them detailed information and an application form. To qualify for membership, bodies must:

- organize vocational training courses;
- organize vocational training with a focus on equal opportunities;
- organize training which improves women's chances of integrating or re-integrating into the labour market or improves their vocational skills and qualifications;
- work in cooperation with the social partners or public authorities;
- stimulate the development of training practices and policies for women.

All members are included in the database (which gives a profile of the member, its type and sector of activity, and target group) and are listed in the IRIS contact register.

4. *IRIS asbl will provide information and facilitate access to all Community programmes and initiatives concerned with vocational training for women, including Leonardo, the European Structural Funds, the Employment initiative (particularly its NOW strand), the Leader programme, etc.*

(4) Coordination

Mrs Rebecca Franceskides

IRIS asbl
Rue de la Tourelle 21
B-1040 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 230 51 58
Fax (32-2) 230 62 30

(5) Information

As above.

(6) Information activities and information carriers

- The *IRIS Info Memo* pamphlet will be published regularly (10 editions a year), providing the latest information on the IRIS association.
- *Reflections on training for women*, IRIS collection, will reproduce contributions from academics and recognized researchers on the latest theoretical developments concerning equality in training.
- Contact disk for IRIS members.
- Contact disk for vocational training establishments.
- Thematic workshops and seminars.
- Training of instructors.
- The annual report will review the year's activities.
- Two databases: one will include the training instruments produced by the IRIS members, the other photos showing the activities of the IRIS members.
- 'IRIS special dossiers' on various vocational training subjects.

5.6. Working party on equal opportunities in education

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Objective | To encourage girls and boys to diversify their career choices, to press for the achievement of genuine equality of opportunity, to include such issues in the training of teachers, and to remove the stereotypes present in educational materials. |
| (2) Composition | The network is composed of 15 representatives of the Education Ministries and 15 representatives of national structures for equality between men and women. |
| (3) Scope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network was set up in 1986 subsequent to the Council resolution of 3 June 1985 setting out an action programme for boys and girls at school. • The working party meets twice a year. |
| (4) Information | <p>Mrs Jane Kearney
 European Commission
 DG V/A/3
 Rue de la Loi 200
 B-1049 Brussels
 Tel. (32-2) 295 70 21
 Fax (32-2) 296 35 62</p> |
| (5) Information activities and media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of conferences and seminars. • Reports and brochures. |

5.7. 'Women in the decision-making process' network

(1) Objective	To analyse the obstacles encountered by women in the decision-making process and propose appropriate strategies.
(2) Composition	Network comprising 15 independent national experts and a coordinator (professors of political science, researchers and specialists in equal opportunities).
(3) Scope	Network established under the third action programme. Measures aimed at encouraging women in the decision-making process represent one of the two aspects of action intended to improve the status of women in society.
(4) Network coordination	<p>Sabine de Bethune Rue Mercelis 33a B-1050 Brussels Tel. (32-2) 512 77 23 Fax (32-2) 514 40 28</p>

National experts

Belgium

Eliane Vogel-Polsky
Avenue Jeanne 44
B-1050 Brussels

Denmark

Helle Jacobsen
Tordenskjoldsgade 27
DK-1055 Copenhagen

Germany

Suzanne Seeland
Westfälischestraße 27
D-10709 Berlin

Greece

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Carlota Bustelo
Claudio Coello 108
E-28006 Madrid

France

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14 bis, rue Jean Ferrandi
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Ireland

Frances Gardiner
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Rathgar
Dublin 6

Italy

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Luxembourg

Monique Laroche-Reeff
24, rue de l'École
L-3317 Bergem



Netherlands

Monique Leijenaar

Univ. of Nijmegen
Thomas van Aquinostraat 1
6500 HK Nijmegen

Austria

Regina Köpl

Eigenheimstraße 66
A-2380 Perchtodsdorf

Portugal

Maria Regina Tavares da Silva

Av. da Republica 32-1° esq
P-1093 Lisbon Cedex

(5) Information

Maria Stratigaki

European Commission
DG V/A/3
Bureau J-27R 6/66
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 296 25 77
Fax (32-2) 296 35 62

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Sweden

Lena Josefsson 'Andréasson'

Nybrogatan 21
S-11439 Stockholm

United Kingdom

Lily M. Segerman-Peck

110 Riverview Gardens
Barnes
London SW13 9RA

(6) Information activities and media

- *Statistical panorama of participation by women in the decision-making process* (1992).
- Report of the Athens conference (2 and 3 November 1992).
- Women and decision-making: Comparisons between Italy and the United Kingdom.
- Brochure: *Women in the decision-making process* (EN-FR).
- V/2078/94 — 'European elections 1994: representation of women on the electoral lists and in the European Parliament' (EN-FR).
- V/5953/95 — 'Women's participation in four political groups in the European Parliament' (EN-FR).
- V/5962/95 — 'Strategies to promote participation by women in the decision-making process' (EN-FR).

- V/6467/95 — 'Panorama: participation by women in the decision-making process at regional and local levels' (EN-FR).
- V/6468/95 — 'The European elections 1994: presentation of actions co-financed by the EC to promote participation by women in the decision-making process' (EN-FR).

5.8. Participation by women in the decision-making process

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Objective | Under the third medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-95), the European Commission has set the objective of promoting increased representation of women in the decision-making process. |
| (2) Eligibility | Any regional association, organization or institution from one or more Member States of the European Union may apply for joint financing. |
| (3) Community support | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Measures considered for joint financing under this programme in 1994 must have as their objective the promotion of participation by women in the decision-making process at regional level in the Member States of the European Union.</i> 2. <i>This may relate to the design and implementation of a programme or project with precise objectives (preferably quantified) to enable an assessment at the end of the period of its effects on the overall objective of promoting participation by women in the decision-making process at regional level.</i> 3. <i>All applications for joint financing must be accompanied by a document testifying to the interest and/or involvement of regional authorities concerned in the project and its implementation. Preference will be given to projects providing for cooperation between various partners in order to ensure a pluralist approach and cooperation between the regional authorities and women's groups active in the region concerned.</i> 4. <i>The decision on joint financing</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A selection committee will meet annually during September; applications should reach the Commission by 31 August 1994. (b) A number of selection criteria will be taken into account by the Committee in making its selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the application; • the requirement for an equitable distribution of the total budget set aside for this measure (maximum ECU 260 000) between the various Member States; • the consistency of the proposed measure with the objectives of the programme; • the possibility of seeing the specific effects of the measure at the end of the period; • the transregional aspect of the measure and/or its transferability to other regions of the European Union. |

- (c) Joint financing will be a maximum of ECU 20 000. The basic principle is that the amount granted is not to exceed 50% of the overall budget of the proposed measures, with the other 50% being provided by another source of financing.

5. Quid pro quo requested by the Commission

- Reference to assistance by the European Commission, accompanied by the European 'Equal opportunities' logo in all publications relating to the measure for which the grant is awarded.
- Tools developed by the European network 'Women in the decision-making process' could be made available to the promoters of measures. The Commission reserves the right to make the use of these tools a condition of its joint financing.

6. Payment of the contribution

- 30% of the agreed amount will be paid by the Commission 60 days after signature of the contract.
- 40% will be paid 60 days after acceptance of the interim report.
- The remaining 30% will be paid 60 days after receipt of the final report on the measure carried out and of the definitive account.

Note: For measures lasting a maximum of six months, payments may be made as follows: 70% 60 days after signature of the contract, 30% 60 days after receipt of the final report on the measure carried out and of the definitive account. No presentation of an interim report.

(4) Procedures and information

1. How to apply for joint financing

- Contact the representative of the network 'Women in the decision-making process' in each Member State, who will provide information to applicants.
- Send your grant application, with a covering letter of application (preferably in English or French), to:

Mrs Agnès Hubert
European Commission
DG V/A/3
Equal Opportunities Unit
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

A copy is to be sent at the same time to the expert in your country.



2. European Commission network 'Women in the decision-making process'

Network coordinator

Sabine de Bethune

Rue Mercelis 33a
B-1050 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 512 77 23
Fax (32-2) 514 40 28

National experts

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Eliane Vogel-Polsky

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B-1050 Brussels

Denmark

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GR-11528 Athens

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E-28006 Madrid

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F-75006 Paris

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Nybrogatan 21
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London SW13 9RA

Person to contact at the European Commission:

Maria Stratigaki

European Commission
DG V/A/3
Bureau J-27R 6/66
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 296 25 77
Fax (32-2) 296 35 62



5.9. 'Application of the equality Directives' network

(1) Objective	To monitor the application of Community Directives dealing with equality for women and men.
(2) Composition	Network of experts.
(3) Scope	Identifying specific problems common to all the Member States: burden of proof, indirect discrimination, concept of equal value, prohibition of discriminatory clauses in collective agreements, the law and positive action, and penalties.
(4) Network coordination	<p>Ms Sacha Prechal Europa Institut Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid Turfdraagstersbad 1012 XT Amsterdam The Netherlands Tel. (31-20) 525 21 61 Fax (31-20) 525 35 62</p>
(5) Information	<p>Mrs Marianna Paraskevas European Commission DG V/A/3 Rue de la Loi 200 B-1049 Brussels Tel. (32-2) 295 84 80 Fax (32-2) 296 35 62</p>
(6) Information activities and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal encyclopaedia (national and Community legislation and case-law). • General report of the network covering problems connected with application of existing legislation relating to equal pay for equal work and for work of equal value (1993). • <i>Sex equality litigation in the Member States</i> (1993). • 'Report on indirect discrimination and discrimination relating to pregnancy and maternity' (1995). • <i>Equal treatment after Maastricht</i> (1993). • 1993 general report of the network.

5.10. Equal opportunities in broadcasting

(1) Objective To increase women's participation throughout the media sector, including the highest management levels where decisions on resources and programming are taken.

(2) Composition The Steering Committee brings together senior staff from the personnel departments of public radio and television broadcasting organizations in the 15 Member States.

(3) Scope The Committee meets twice a year, usually in Brussels, in order to:

- exchange information and experience;
- promote positive action projects (with financial support from the European Commission);
- monitor employment practices and policies.

At each meeting, the Committee examines a specific topic such as training, careers, recruitment, working conditions, sexual harassment, the position of women in temporary jobs, women in the decision-making process and in programme-making, and the reconciling of family and working life. It draws up recommendations which are put to the directors-general of the main radio and television companies in the European Community.

The Committee concentrates on the problem of employment in broadcasting. The growing number of women in decision-making posts and in creative jobs within the media should help to influence the content of programmes and to promote a positive image of women's role in society.

(4) Network coordination The coordinators are:

Kate Holman and Elena Sana
Genesheerstraat 9
B-1560 Hoeilaart
Tel. (32-2) 657 37 26
Fax (32-2) 657 55 86

(5) Information **Mrs Françoise Mulfinger**
European Commission
DG V/A/3
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 295 70 23
Fax (32-2) 296 56 32

**(6) Information
activities and
media**

Publications:

- *Equal opportunities in European radio and television broadcasting. Practical guide.*
- 'Recommendations of the Steering Committee on Equal Opportunities' (1986-91).
- *Equal opportunities for persons employed on fixed-duration or casual contracts in the broadcasting sector*; Kate Holman and Solange Ortiz.
- *Guidelines on the co-financing programme for audiovisual productions focusing on equal opportunities.*
- *Women on the air*; twice-yearly bulletin in the nine EC languages.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH

6.1. Project funding

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Objective | To maintain a high level of health protection in the Member States. |
| (2) Eligibility | Any individual or organization from a Member State with knowledge and experience of the following areas: cancer, AIDS, drug addiction, alcohol, health education, mental health, health and the environment, transmitted diseases, cardiovascular diseases, blood, nutrition, rare diseases, voluntary and involuntary accidents and injuries, public health policy and analysis, and health indicators and data. |
| (3) Community support | <p>To be eligible, interested parties must promote innovative approaches, coordinate activities at Community level and develop exchanges of information and experience with particular reference to prevention, social rehabilitation, training of staff concerned with education, epidemiology and data collection. Time-limit for submission of projects: 15 March for projects commencing in the second half of the year and 15 September for projects commencing the following year. The duration of projects must not exceed 36 months. Those relating to drugs, health and the environment must not exceed 24 months.</p> <p>Criteria for evaluation of projects by the Commission:</p> <p>(a) Projects will be considered only if they have a link with the measures proposed by the Commission and provide added value for the European Community.</p> <p>Added value means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities involving the participation of at least two countries; • activities carried out jointly in several Member States; • activities likely to be applicable in other Member States. <p>(b) Projects must be clearly defined.</p> <p>(c) The needs underlying the measure must be clearly identified.</p> <p>(d) Procedures for evaluation and dissemination of the results must be set out in the project proposal.</p> <p>(e) It is necessary to take into account the activities of other Commission departments, and of national or international organizations such as the WHO and the Council of Europe, in order to avoid any duplication.</p> <p>(f) Applicants must demonstrate their ability to carry out the project.</p> |

**(4) Procedures and information**

Application forms are available on request from DG V in Luxembourg.

European Commission

Directorate for Public Health and Safety at Work (DG V/F)

L-2920 Luxembourg

Fax (352) 4301 345 11

6.2. Europe against cancer

(1) **Objective** To make people more aware of the causes of cancer and how it can be prevented.

(2) **Eligibility**

- National players involved in cancer prevention.
- Committee of Cancer Experts.

(3) **Community support**

(a) Action plan 1987-89, 1990-94, 1996-2000.

(b) Specific measures

Support for measures aimed at:

- cancer prevention: prevention of smoking (awareness raising, pilot projects, innovatory information campaigns), nutrition (studies on eating habits, recommendations), combating carcinogens, studies, classification and labelling, specialized publications, systematic screening and early detection — studies, European network of pilot programmes, evaluation and promotion of and support for screening programmes;
- informing the public: updating and distribution of the European cancer code, European Cancer Week, production of information packs, innovatory information measures, information on occupational hazards for workers;
- health education: information and awareness raising for school staff, distribution of teaching aids, promotion of pilot measures for young people, encouragement of better eating habits;
- training for the medical profession: national or regional meetings, network of pilot projects (faculties of medicine, nursing schools, dentistry schools), training in oncology, mobility, collection and exchange of teaching materials, exchanges of experience and European seminars on continuing training in the area of cancer treatment and specifically its prevention for the different categories of nursing staff;
- research support;
- Commission contribution for 1994: ECU 11.3 million.

(4) **Procedures and information**

Mrs S. Blanco, Department Head
 European Commission
 DG V/F/2
 Bâtiment Jean Monnet, C3/60
 Plateau de Kirchberg
 L-2920 Luxembourg
 Tel. (352) 4301 373 24
 Fax (352) 4301 345 11

(5) Activities and back-up

- *Europe against Cancer* (review).
- Newsletter.
- European code.
- Posters.
- European Cancer Week.

6.3. Europe against AIDS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Objective | To support and supplement national measures to combat AIDS. |
| (2) Eligibility | Support for projects carried out in the Member States by organizations engaged in AIDS-related activities. |
| (3) Community support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1991-93 action plan within the framework of the 'Europe against AIDS' programme. Extension until the end of 1995. • European Parliament and Council Decision 95/1729 regarding the extension of the 'Europe against AIDS' programme (Official Journal L 168, 18.7.1995). • Extension until the end of 1994 under consideration. • Action programme to prevent AIDS — communicable diseases (1996-2000). |

Specific measures:

- Evaluation of knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of the general public and specific target groups regarding AIDS; campaigns to provide information and raise awareness.
- Exchanges of information and pilot projects concerned with health education for young people.
- Measures to prevent the transmission of AIDS.
- Social and psychological assistance.
- Dissemination of information on social support and counselling, encouragement of networks for prevention and assistance; studies on psycho-social aspects.
- Collection of data and exchange of information concerning epidemiology.
- Enhancement of human resources through training of those responsible for the care, social support and counselling of HIV-infected persons.

The Commission is assisted in the implementation of its programme by an Advisory Committee composed of representatives from the Member States. This committee regularly examines a wide range of problems and advises the Commission as to the priority it should give to the proposed measures.

Support for projects carried out in the Member States constitutes the principal method of implementing the programme.



The criteria for selecting projects are as follows:

- conformity with at least one of the stated objectives;
- consideration of the Community 'added value' deriving from the project (transnational participation, development of a model applicable in other Member States, information which can be used in other Member States, etc.);
- clarity of, and justification for, the needs;
- relevance of the methodology adopted;
- competence and experience of the organization concerned;
- budget commensurate with the objectives;
- national authorities' support for the project.

(4) Procedures and information

Mr Michel Langlais
European Commission
DG V/F/2
Bâtiment Jean Monnet
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 4301 331 36

6.4. Biomedicine and health

(1) Objective To contribute to improving the effectiveness of research and development in medicine and health, in particular through better coordination of research and development by the Member States and by ensuring that results are applied through cooperation and the pooling of resources at Community level.

(2) Eligibility Research workers from industry and the universities, hospital clinicians and engineers.

(3) Community support 1. *Biomed 2 is a specific programme under the fourth framework programme (1994-98).*

The work programme will concentrate on major problems such as AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, mental and neurological diseases, the rising cost of high-quality health care, the introduction of new drugs, health technologies and health-care systems.

2. *All the disciplines, from basic research up to clinical research, will be encouraged to interact in all fields.*

3. *Objectives addressed by horizontal activities include demonstration activities and ethical, social and legal aspects of biomedical and health research.*

4. *Biomed 2 is divided into seven fields:*

- pharmaceutical research;
- biomedical technology and engineering research;
- brain research;
- research on diseases with major socioeconomic impact:
 - from basic research into clinical practice,
 - research on AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases,
 - research on cardiovascular diseases,
 - research on chronic diseases, ageing and age-related diseases,
 - research on occupational and environmental health,
 - 'orphan' illnesses;

- human genome research;
- public health research, including health services research;
- research on biomedical ethics.

Horizontal activities will also be conducted on ethical, social and legal aspects and demonstration projects.

5. Period 1994-98; budget: ECU 336 million.

**(4) Procedures and
information**

European Commission

DG XII — Science, Research and Development
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7. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

7.1. Leonardo da Vinci (1995-99)

(1) Objective

Community action programme for the implementation of a vocational training policy in Europe to encourage quality and innovation in national vocational training systems by contributing added value, to increase language skills, to promote equal opportunities in training for men and women and to combat exclusion by offering disadvantaged persons a second chance.

(2) Eligibility

The Leonardo da Vinci programme is being implemented in the 18 countries of the European Economic Area. It will be extended to associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe and to Cyprus and Malta.

A wide range of organizations are eligible: private- or public-sector enterprises/establishments, social partners at national or Community level, training bodies, universities, national, regional and local authorities, and research centres and institutes.

The promoters must fulfil the following conditions: they must implement the programme's common framework of objectives, form a transnational partnership between at least three countries for pilot projects, and register for one of the strands and one of the specific measures set out in the programme.

(3) Community support

1. The provisional budget for the Leonardo da Vinci programme is approximately ECU 620 million for 1995 to 1999.

2. Action supported by the Leonardo da Vinci programme

- Strand I: support for the improvement of vocational training systems and arrangements in the Member States (development of new forms of learning, devising of a method for validating vocational skills, etc.). This strand is mainly addressed to the people responsible for vocational training systems.
- Strand II: support for the improvement of vocational training measures, including university/industry cooperation, concerning undertakings and workers (acquisition of the skills needed to cope with new technologies and work organization methods, setting-up of a regional or European sectoral training network, etc.). This strand is addressed more to the economic and social partners active in the field of vocational training.
- Strand III: support for the development of language skills, knowledge and the dissemination of innovation in the field of vocational training (audits of language skills in SMEs, development of language aids catering for the



specific needs of sectors of the business community, and transfer of methodologies, results or training products developed at transnational level to training systems and arrangements, etc.).

- Strand IV: support measures (aid in forming a transnational partnership, setting-up of databases on projects and products, etc.). This strand mainly relates to the organization and monitoring of the programme.

3. The beneficiaries of the Leonardo da Vinci programme may be:

- apprentices or young people undergoing vocational training;
- young workers;
- graduate students;
- trainers, tutors or persons responsible for vocational training in enterprises;
- language teachers or trainers;
- public decision-makers at local, regional or national level;
- members of a trade union or an employers' organization.

Individuals may not submit an application directly but may benefit from the programme under a proposal submitted by an organization.

4. Financial support

The financial contribution from the Community will be on the basis of co-funding:

- transnational pilot projects: up to 75% of expenditure with a ceiling of ECU 100 000 per year and per project;
- transnational placement and exchange programmes: up to ECU 5 000 per beneficiary for a placement or an exchange; the duration of placements varies between three and 12 months and of exchanges between two and 12 weeks;
- surveys and analyses: between 50 and 100% of expenditure.

(4) Procedures and information

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**(5) Activities and
back-up**

- Application form.
- Vade-mecum.
- Magazine.
- Europa server on the Internet:
<http://www.ceclu/en/comm/dg22/leonardo.html>.



7.2. Socrates

(1) Objective

To develop the European dimension in education at all levels, to promote a quantitative and qualitative improvement in knowledge of languages in the Union, to promote cooperation between institutions in the Member States' education systems, to encourage the mobility of students and teachers, to encourage the academic recognition of diplomas, periods of study and other qualifications.

(2) Eligibility

The Socrates programme is implemented in the 18 countries of the European Economic Area.

It concerns all types of educational establishment; all categories of teaching staff; all persons following courses; the managerial staff of educational establishments; education counsellors and inspectors; policymakers in the field of education at local, regional and national levels; associations which are active in the field of education; undertakings, organizations and agencies working in education or involved in the production and distribution of educational materials.

(3) Community support

1. *The budget for the Socrates programme is ECU 850 million for the period 1995-99, subject to review in 1997.*

2. *Areas of action of the Socrates programme*

- Higher education (Erasmus)

Action 1 is aimed at developing the European dimension of higher education establishments through the organization of exchanges of students for recognized study periods; promoting the mobility of teaching staff; short, integrated European language modules; intensive short-term education programmes; thematic networks relating to specific fields; etc.

Action 2 consists of awarding grants to students engaging in studies abroad for periods of between three and 12 months, to help them cover their mobility costs (travel, language preparation, differences in costs of living).

- School education (Comenius)

Action 1 concerns transnational partnerships between pre-primary, primary and secondary schools with the aim of developing European education projects on subjects of common interest to schoolchildren in different Member States.

Action 2 is aimed at developing the education of the children of migrant workers, occupational travellers, travellers and gypsies. It is also aimed at promoting intercultural education to prepare schoolchildren for life in a society of ever-increasing cultural and linguistic diversity.

Action 3 consists of the organization of training activities for teachers and other educators so as to improve the level of education in general and to give a European dimension to teaching through the exchange of experience.

- Promotion of language skills (Lingua)

This involves measures to improve the teaching and learning of the official languages of the Union and the member States of the EEA in all sectors of education (European cooperation programmes for the training of language teachers; immersion courses for language teachers; awarding of grants to enable future language teachers to spend from three to 12 months in assistantships abroad; development of new learning tools; joint education projects for language learning).

- Open and distance learning

Two sets of measures have been introduced: support for European cooperation in the fields of open and distance learning through the awarding of financial assistance to European partnerships aimed at the development of distance learning and to monitoring projects; promotion of distance education in areas of action other than Socrates.

- Adult education

Transnational projects to improve the European dimension of adult education in general, as a complement to the actions under the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

- Exchange of information and experience on education systems.

(4) Procedures and information

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(5) Activities and back-up

- Guide for applicants.
- Vade-mecum.

7.3. Youth for Europe III

(1) Objective

To promote active cooperation in the youth field on a European scale, and to help young people to integrate into society by offering them an opportunity to participate in building a Europe which is closer to its citizens, has a greater sense of solidarity and is more respectful of cultural differences.

(2) Eligibility

Young people aged between 15 and 25 resident in one of the 15 Member States of the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein or Iceland. In the case of Action D, only the non-member countries designated as eligible may participate.

In order to be eligible for funding under the 'Youth for Europe' programme, projects must have a strong educational element and foster openness towards other cultures. Projects may be submitted by youth organizations, other local, regional, national or European organizations and structures, governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the youth field, young people carrying out group projects on their own initiative, or any group or organization working with young people, youth centres, social and cultural organizations, youth services, etc.

(3) Community support

1. *The programme was adopted on 14 March 1995 for five years (1995-99). It incorporates all projects in the youth field proposed by the Community.*

2. *'Youth for Europe' comprises five main areas of action:*

- Action A: intra-Community activities directly involving young people: youth exchanges which are not part of education or training structures; support for local projects set up and run by young people, with a view to developing their initiative, creativity and sense of solidarity; periods of voluntary service in another Member State involving cooperation on projects of benefit to the host community.
- Action B: youth workers: direct support for activities directly involving young people (study visits, training projects, etc.) direct support for European cooperation on training youth workers (exchanges of experience, development and use of training modules).
- Action C: cooperation between Member States' structures: exchanges of experience, creation of partnerships and networks, etc.
- Action D: exchanges with non-member countries (countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Mediterranean basin and Latin America).
- Action E: information for young people and youth research: exchanges of experience, publication and dissemination of information for young people, etc.

3. Subsidizing of projects

- There is no provision in the programme for granting Community subsidies to natural persons on an individual basis.
- Apart from the completion of certain formalities, award of a grant is conditional upon: conformity of the project with the programme's general objectives; its potential for fulfilling the specific objectives of the action concerned; the degree to which the basic principals and selection priorities for the action concerned have been taken into account; compatibility of the proposed project with its provisional budget allocation; the criterion of balanced geographical distribution of beneficiaries, taking into account their region of origin.
- As a general rule, Community funding will not exceed 50% of the budget for each project, except in the case of projects targeting disadvantaged young people, for which a higher rate of funding may be requested.

(4) Procedures and information

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(5) Information and activities

- The guide for applicants was published in May 1995. It is aimed at youth organizations, national, regional and local authorities and any other potential operator. Its aim is to facilitate access to the various actions under the programme, setting out the main priorities of each and the relevant application procedures.
- The vade-mecum presents the general policy behind the programme, explaining the background and the Union's policy on European cooperation in the youth field, and the specific objectives of the various actions envisaged under the programme.

7.4. Tempus

(1) Objective

Tempus forms part of the overall European Union assistance programmes for economic and social reform in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (known as the PHARE programme) and the republics of the former Soviet Union (known as the TACIS programme), and in this context seeks to support the restructuring of the higher education systems in these countries and adapt them to market economy requirements.

(2) Eligibility

The number of partner countries involved in the Tempus/PHARE programme rose from two (in May 1990, Poland and Hungary) to 11 in February 1992 and currently the following countries take part: Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovenia.

For the 1996/97 academic year, the following republics of the former Soviet Union will take part in the Tempus/TACIS programme: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, as well as Mongolia.

The Tempus programme is open to all G24 countries. Any non-EU countries wishing to take part must fund their involvement out of their own resources (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Turkey).

(3) Community support

1. Budget

- Tempus/PHARE: the amount allocated to Tempus/PHARE actions between 1990 and 1995 was ECU 518.71 million. The share earmarked for Tempus by the recipient countries varied according to their desiderata from 10 to 25% of the PHARE budget made available to them.
- Tempus/TACIS: the amount allocated to Tempus/TACIS actions for 1993-95 was ECU 47.5 million. Tempus accounted for approximately 5% of the annual TACIS budget and should account for 10% in 1996.

2. The following actions are pursued under the TEMPUS programme:

- Joint European projects (JEPs) (funded for a three-year period) involving at least one university in a partner country, one university from a Member State and one partner organization (university or enterprise) in another Member State. These projects can support:
 - joint teaching and training actions designed *inter alia* to set up new courses, to develop and overhaul existing curricula, to enhance university capacity for continuing training and retraining, to set up short intensive courses, and to develop distance teaching systems;
 - measures to support the reform and development of higher education and its capacity, particularly in restructuring the management of establishments and higher education systems, modernizing infrastructures by purchasing the equipment needed to set up a JEP and, if necessary,

through the provision of technical and financial assistance to the authorities responsible;

- promotion of university cooperation with the socioeconomic players — including the business sector — through joint actions;
 - improving the mobility of teachers, administrative university staff and students.
- Structural and/or complementary measures: grants are awarded for structural measures and/or complementary measures (particularly technical assistance, seminars, studies, publications, information activities) to support the aims of the programme, particularly helping in the development and restructuring of the higher education systems in the partner countries.
 - Individual grants: individual grants can be paid to teachers, trainers, university administrators, senior ministerial officials, managers of education systems and other training experts, from partner countries or from EU countries, for the purposes of visits to promote the quality, development and restructuring of higher education and training in the partner countries.

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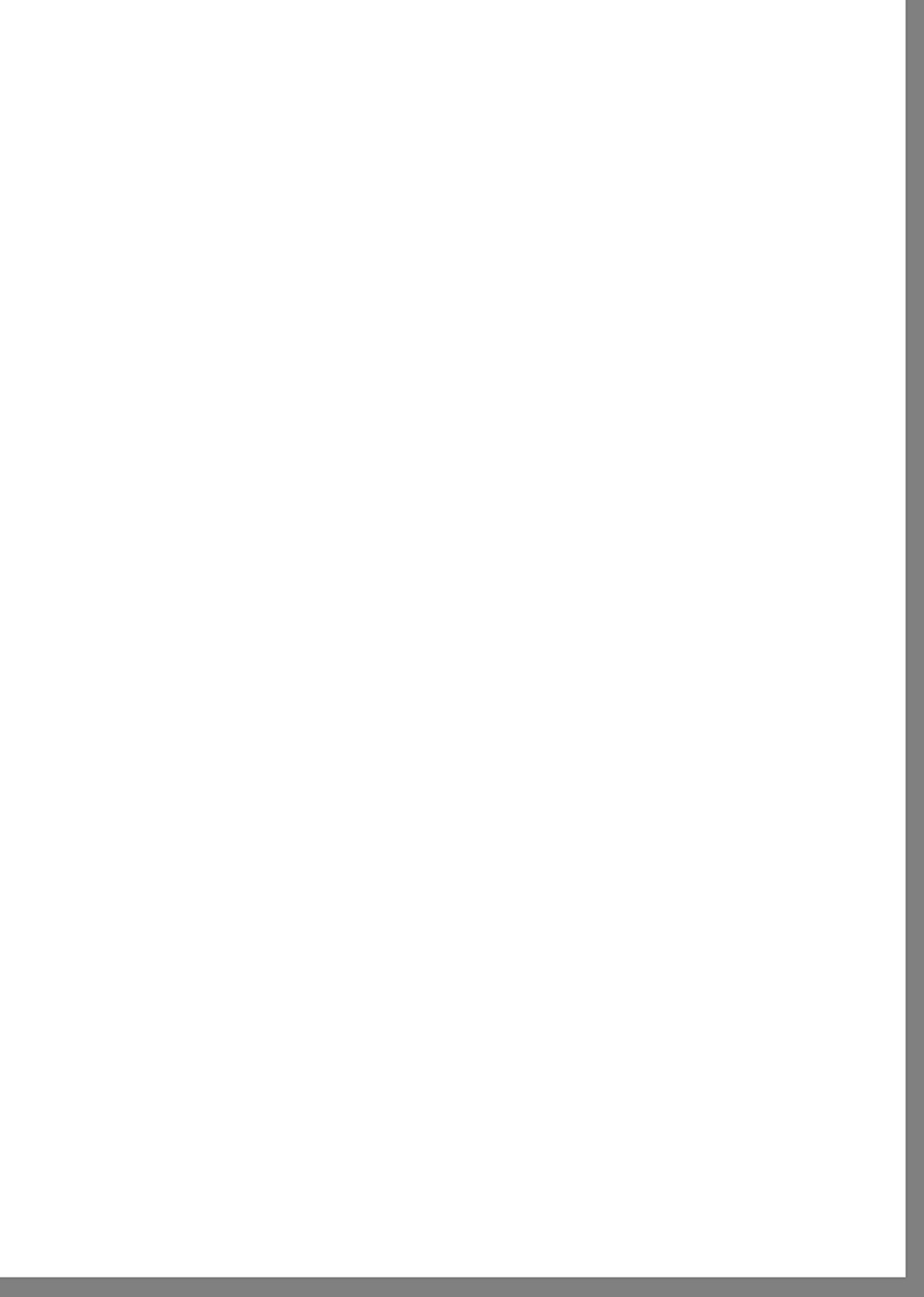
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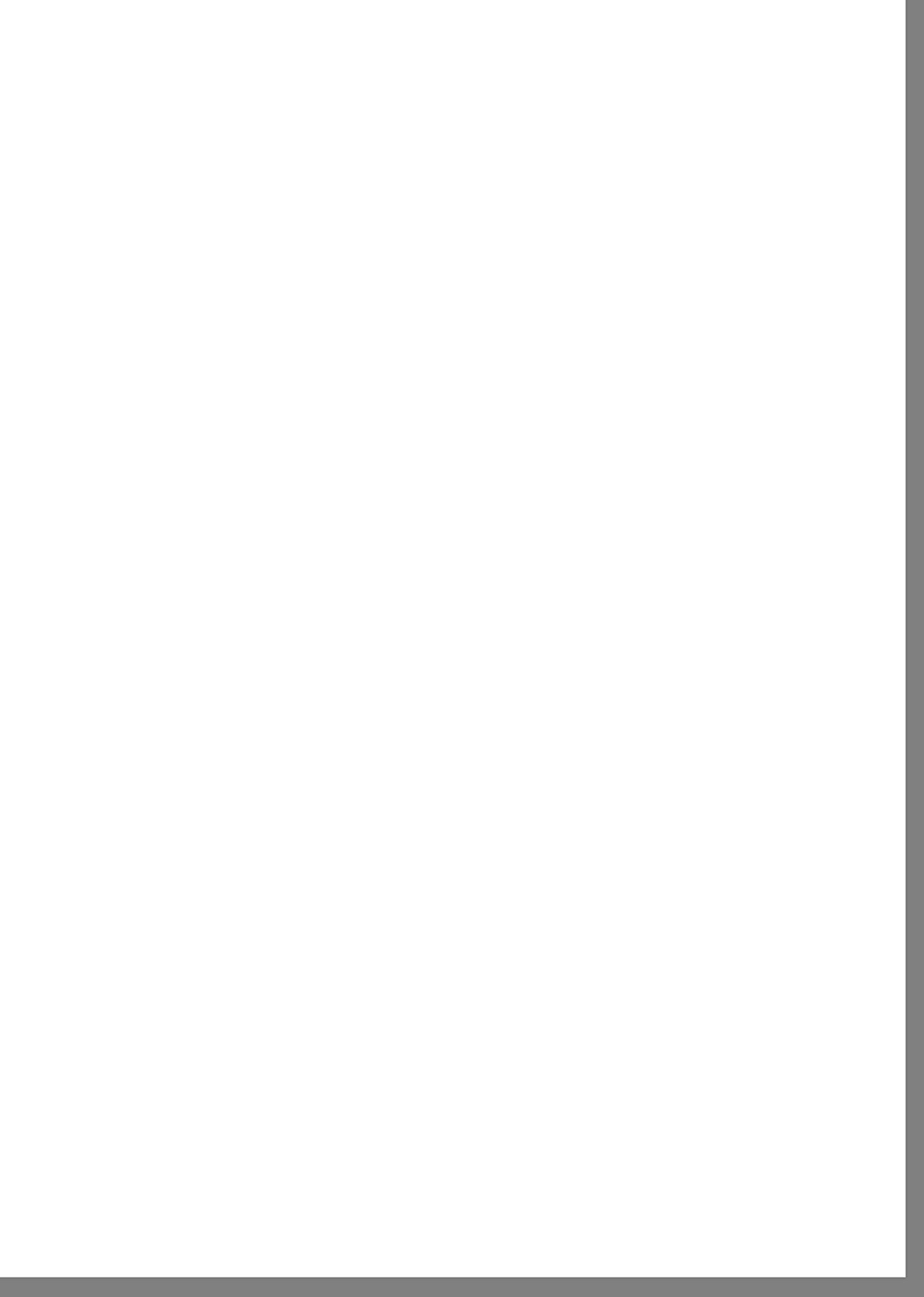
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