



Newsletter No. 19

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Adoption of 27 new programmes

The European Commission has recently approved Structural Fund financing of 27 new regional development programmes.

Area concerned	Form of assistance	Total	SF
B Antwerpen	CI Urban	14.72	2.60
Charleroi (Fourcault)	CI Urban	11.32	5.66
Charleroi et Centre	CI Resider II	24.48	11.90
Hainaut (partially eligible)	CI Retex II	5.38	3.00
Wallonie	CI Konver II	10.43	4.92
DK Danmark	CI Konver II	4.76	2.38
D Bremen	CI Resider II	6.55	3.28
Nordrhein-Westfalen	CI SMEs	19.80	7.92
GR Ellada	CI SMEs	105.42	83.33
E Badalona, Badajoz, Baracaldo, Cádiz, Cartagena, Huelva, La Coruña, Langreo, Madrid, Málaga, Sabadell, Salamanca, Sevilla, Toledo, Valencia, Valladolid, Vigo	CI Urban	248.40	162.60
Baleares	Regional OP (Obj. 2)	20.51	10.37
Cataluña	Regional OP (Obj. 2)	1,116.61	510.70
Pais Vasco	Regional OP (Obj. 2)	693.97	325.92
Salamanca (Consórcio Salamanca Emprende)	GG	18.32	12.90
I Abruzzo (1994-1996)	Regional OP (Obj. 1)	271.30	150.50
Mezzogiorno	Research OP (Obj. 1)	1,198.20	784.00
NL Twente	CI Retex II	2.50	1.01
P Lisboa, Alentejo, Açores	CI Konver II	10.31	7.89
Lisboa, Porto	CI Urban	61.30	44.30
UK North East England	CI Rechar II	47.83	23.46

Interreg Community initiative:

Countries concerned	Regions concerned/ name of programme	Total	SF
D / CZ / PO	Sachsen	200.90	146.45
D / CH	Bodensee	9.70	4.86
D / CH / F	Rhin sup - Centre/Sud	49.16	24.58
D / NL	Ems-Dollart	53.31	22.47
D / NL	Euregio	49.61	22.01
D / NL	Euregio Rhein Waal	23.06	11.53
D / NL	Euregio Rheln-Maas-Nord	12.76	6.38

Programmes adopted up to 25 July 1995

- Total: Total of public (national and Community) contributions in millions of ecus;
- SF: Contribution of the Structural Fund or Funds concerned (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF-G) in millions of ecus;
- CI: Community initiative
- OP: Operational programme
- GG: Global grant
- Obj.1: Economic adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind
- Obj.2: Conversion of areas affected by industrial decline.

Adoption of PEACE programme (Ireland)

On 28 July 1995 the Commission approved the operational programme implementing the Peace Community initiative. The initiative is designed to promote and assist the peace and reconciliation process in Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland. The programme will benefit from a global budget of ECU 416 million for the period 1995-97, with the Structural Funds contributing ECU 300 million (80% for Northern Ireland and 20% for the 6 Irish border counties).

The programme contains five priority measures:

- supporting employment through training and advisory services (16.6% of total investment),
- reviving the rural and urban economy (19.4%)
- developing infrastructures and cross-border activities (15%),

- social integration, particularly of those groups which have suffered most from deprivation and violence (30%),
- industrial development and support for productive investment in small and medium-sized businesses (17.4%).

In addition to these priorities, the programme also provides for the financing of technical assistance measures, principally for the administration, monitoring and assessment of the programme (1.6% of total investment). Finally, for each district council in Northern Ireland the programme provides for the direct financing of measures included in the priorities described above but proposed and conducted in partnership with organizations representing different sections of society (14.7% of total investment).

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Administration of programmes in Italy

The Italian Budget and Economic Planning Minister, R. Masera, and the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for regional and cohesion policies, Mrs Wulf-Mathies, have signed an agreement on improving the implementation of Structural Fund measures in Italy by simplifying procedures, speeding up use of funds, and more efficient administration and monitoring of Community regional aid programmes.

The agreement is linked to an extension of the completion dates for 1989-93 programmes, which will be confirmed at the end of 1995 in the light of general progress with these reforms.

The Minister has undertaken to set up a special administrative unit ("cabina di regia") attached to his

Ministry to take charge of this revision of implementation procedures. It will be staffed with qualified personnel with ad hoc facilities at national level, and will supervise the administration of programmes with the support of similar structures at regional level, organized by the regional Presidents. A number of other administrative reforms are planned to take place in conjunction with these.

The Italian Government and the Commission hope that in this way the 1989-93 programmes can be satisfactorily concluded and the 1994-95 allocations more efficiently administered. The success of the Italian administration will be assessed before the end of 1995. The Commission will then be in a position to confirm the extension of the deadlines to the end of 1996 or 1997, according to the provisions of the original Decision.

In brief

Electronic report on the situation in the regions

A presentation of the main results of the fifth periodic report on the situation and socio-economic trends in the regions of Europe (competitiveness and cohesion, regional trends) is now available for consultation on any compatible PC running a Windows environment.

To obtain the diskettes containing this file, please contact R. Hall (DG XVI A4), fax: +32 2 299 46 84.

Conference on the broader Europe

On 16 and 17 October 1995 the European Commission and the Council of Europe are organizing a second joint conference in Prague on spatial development in the broader Europe in cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The event will be attended by high-ranking officials from the national civil services of around forty countries, representatives of regional and local authorities, Members of Parliament, representatives of international institutions, members of trade and industry, researchers and experts. Contact: F. Martinetto (DG XVI F2), fax: +32 2 296 60 03.



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