



Cohesion and enlargement

The Commission recently summarised its approach to future cohesion policy in its communication to the European Council summit in Madrid dealing with the impact of further enlargements of the Union.

"The strengthening of economic and social cohesion is a fundamental objective of the European Union, as set out in Article B of the Treaty. The financial perspective and the regulations for the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund concern the period up to 1999, when they are to be re-examined.

The report which the Commission will make in 1996, in accordance with Article 130b of the Treaty, will provide a basis for that review. At present it is difficult to predict the Union's future policy for cohesion or its financial implications, even for the existing Union; as regards the enlarged Union, theoretical estimates based on extrapolation of present arrangements cannot be a valid basis.

Cohesion policy must be made more effective, particularly in the perspective of enlargement, and the future review will need to cover all aspects of the policy so as to develop principles for its conduct in the period following 1999. A smooth and acceptable reform of cohesion policies will need to be progressive and will therefore take time. At this stage, in advance of the review, it is possible to indicate only preliminary orientations for the development of cohesion policy in the context of enlargement.

The general application of the cohesion policy throughout the Union should be maintained,

even if there is a need for concentration. The cohesion countries should benefit from a guarantee of continued solidarity, whose application should, however, take account of the success achieved in economic and social cohesion. Support for least-favoured regions should continue to be the main preoccupation. The Union should also manifest its solidarity with disadvantaged regions and people in richer Member States.

In the framework of the Structural Funds, the Community Initiatives, which can adjust flexibly to changing priorities, should be reinforced. During a time when most Member States are going through a process of rigorous budget management in order to fulfil or to maintain the Maastricht criteria, the Community should also provide a clear signal that it shapes its policies in such a way that the principle of budget discipline is clearly respected.

While the objective should be full application of cohesion policy to new Member States, transitional arrangements after accession will be necessary to integrate them gradually into the policy and its financial aspects. In the application of the policy, the economic effectiveness of transfers must also be assured. Experience suggests that volumes of assistance which are high in relation to the recipients' GDP are difficult to use effectively, and can even distort their economic structure. In the case of new Member States, this aspect may be aggravated by problems of administrative systems, absorptive capacity, and the need for national part-financing. These considerations will need to be taken into account in the context of enlargement."

Community Initiatives

As announced in Inforegio News 24, here are the basic figures for the 74 Community Initiative programmes adopted between 15 November and end-December 1995. To obtain detailed fact sheets about these programmes, please contact L. Nigri, DG XVI/F/2, fax: +32-2-296.60.03.

If you want the complete text of a programme, you must contact the national or regional authority responsible for implementing the programme in question. The relevant authority is indicated in DG XVI's fact sheets.

Eligible region / area	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU m 1995)	Struct. Fund contrib. (ECU m 1995)
B Bruxelles (région)	Konver II	5.8	1.7
Liège (Province)	Resider II	28.3	12.5
DK Aalborg	Urban	0.3	1.5
D Bayern	Konver II	25.1	12.7
Bayern	SMEs	13.9	7.0
Bayern	Resider II	11.7	5.4
Berlin	Konver II	18.1	11.8
Berlin	SMEs	21.3	14.6
Brandenburg	Urban	9.6	7.2
Bremen	Konver II	8.9	4.5
Duisburg (Nordrhein-Westfalen)	Urban	16.2	8.1
Hamburg	Konver II	2.4	1.2
Hessen	Konver II	21.1	12.4
Hessen	SMEs	1.7	1.2
Niedersachsen	Konver II	35.3	12.9
Niedersachsen	Retex II	3.6	1.8
Nordrhein-Westfalen	Konver II	31.2	14.9
Rheinland-Pfalz	Konver II	27.3	13.9
Rostock (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)	Urban	16.0	12.0
Saarland	Konver II	1.9	1.2
Saarland	Rechar II	13.6	6.3
Saarland	Resider II	26.9	12.9
Sachsen	SMEs	99.7	42.8
Sachsen	Retex II	90.1	41.8
Schleswig-Holstein	Konver II	22.7	8.9
Thüringen	SMEs	41.7	29.0
Thüringen	Rechar II	10.0	5.0
Thüringen	Resider	9.0	6.1
Thüringen	Retex II	19.1	9.6
GR Ελλάδα	Konver II	17.0	12.0
E Canarias	Regis II	255.3	216.9
F Alsace	Konver II	19.1	4.3
Aquitaine	Konver II	34.4	13.2
Auvergne	Konver II	3.0	1.5
Basse-Normandie	Konver II	7.3	2.3
Bourgogne	Rechar II	3.1	1.5

Eligible region / area	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU m 1995)	Struct. Fund contrib. (ECU m 1995)
Bourgogne	Resider II	3.7	1.8
Bretagne	Konver II	10.4	5.2
Centre	Konver II	8.3	4.2
Champagne-Ardenne	Konver II	4.5	2.4
Corse	SMEs	6.8	3.0
Ile-de-France	Konver II	14.2	5.5
Languedoc-Roussillon	Konver II	6.3	3.1
Languedoc-Roussillon	Rechar II	2.0	1.02
Limousin	Konver II	15.7	4.0
Lorraine	Konver II	2.2	1.1
Lorraine	Rechar II	25.1	10.9
Lorraine	Resider II	73.5	31.1
Midi-Pyrénées	Konver II	8.6	4.0
Midi-Pyrénées	Rechar II	3.0	1.15
Nord - Pas-de-Calais	Konver II	2.0	1.1
Nord - Pas-de-Calais	SMEs	12.6	6.3
Picardie	Konver II	19.2	9.4
Poitou-Charentes	Konver II	3.1	1.5
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	Konver II	11.2	5.9
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	Rechar II	2.0	1.0
Réunion	Regis II	184.4	115.6
Rhône-Alpes	Konver II	7.2	2.2
Objectifs 2 et 5b	SMEs	81.3	49.2
I Toscana	Rechar II	1.8	0.9
L Differdange, Dudelange	Urban	1.0	0.5
A Wien (Gürtel plus)	Urban	25.9	9.8
P Portugal	SMEs	165.0	124.0
UK North West	Rechar II	13.8	6.9
West Midlands	Rechar II	25.4	12.7
Italie/Grèce (énergie)	Interreg II	50.0	20.0
Frontière Gibraltar / Maroc	Interreg II	1.5	0.7
Frontière DK (Bornholm)	Interreg II	4.0	2.0
Frontière Autriche / Hongrie	Interreg II	22.8	11.0
Frontière Autriche / Slovaquie	Interreg II	11.0	5.5
Frontière Autriche / Slovaquie	Interreg II	18.0	9.0
Frontière Autriche / République tchèque	Interreg II	9.0	4.5

Programme information on Internet

As well as the Inforegio News newsletter, important speeches on Community regional policy, an overview of DG XVI's internal organisation and information about other publications, our Internet site will also soon be

offering a guide on how the European Regional Development Fund operates and a database with information on the programmes funded by the ERDF. DG XVI's electronic address is <http://www.cec.lu/en/comm/dg16/dg16home.html>



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