

**Newsletter No. 28**

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**Adoption of sixteen new programmes**

Between 1 April and 2 May 1996, the Commission approved Community funding for twelve new Community Initiative programmes (see table).

The Commission also recently approved in principle the funding for a major gas pipeline project between Cordova and Gibraltar (Community contribution: ECU 99 million), for two global grants to Spain's less-developed regions (IDAE programme - Community contribution: ECU 118.3 million), for Calabria in Italy (CROTONA programme - Community contribution: ECU 35 million), and for a technical assistance programme in Greece.

The Greek programme is to receive a Community contribution of ECU 67.3 million,

the total volume being ECU 84.8 million; this programme is designed to increase managerial capacity within the public service in Greece for implementing Community-supported programmes between 1994 and 1999. In detail, it covers information programmes, modernization schemes involving private-sector firms and public bodies, vocational training for civil servants and the creation of an ad hoc structure designated «MOU» (Management Organization Unit).

For information sheets on all these programmes, please contact L. Nigri, DG XVI/F-2, (fax: +32 2 296 60 03) or consult the «ERDF programmes» page at DG XVI's Internet site (address: <http://www.cec.lu/en/comm/dg16/dg16home.htm>).

Eligible region / area	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU m 1995)	Structural Funds contribution (ECU m 1995)
<b>B</b> Vlaanderen (Westhoek-Middenkust)	Retex	2.9	1.4
<b>D</b> Brandenburg	SMEs	18.7	14.9
Brandenburg	Resider II	37.8	26.2
Saarland	SMEs	1.8	1.5
<b>I</b> Italia (Genova, Venezia, Roma, Napoli, Salerno, Foggia, Bari, Cosenza, Reggio Calabria, Palermo, Catania, Siracusa, Cagliari)	Urban	267.3	117.7
Italia	Resider II	199.1	85.6
<b>A</b> Österreich	SMEs	18.0	9.0
Deutschland/Österreich	Interreg II	51.2	24.6
Danmark/Sverige (Øresundsregionen)	Interreg II	26.0	13.0
France/Italia	Interreg II	115.5	57.0
France/Belgique (Ardennes)	Interreg II	26.9	12.5
France/United Kingdom (Haute-Normandie/Picardie/East Sussex)	Interreg II	73.0	34.0

# The Structural Funds and equal opportunities

**On 7 and 8 March, the European Commission organized a conference together with the Belgian authorities on the topic of the Structural Funds and equal opportunities between women and men.**

The first day of the conference was devoted to discussing good practice in this area, based around three sub-topics: diversifying the choices and activities available to women, developing local initiatives in urban and rural areas, and ways of combining family and working life. During the second day, participants looked at the terms and conditions on which the equal opportunities principle can be integrated into the way assistance from the Structural

Funds is implemented, i.e. during the development of programmes, in the work of the monitoring committees and in the course of the assessment process.

For more information on this subject, see the Commission communication «Incorporating Equal Opportunities for Women and Men into all Community Policies and Activities» COM(96) 67 final, catalogue no. CB-CO-96-083-C) as well as the proceedings of the conference (available in English, French and Dutch from the Ministry of Employment and Labour - Equal Opportunities unit - rue Belliard 51, B-1040 Brussels).

## Dates for your diary

### Annual congress of the EBICs

The fifth annual congress of the European Community Business and Innovation Centres (known as EC-BICs or EBICs) will take place in Brussels on 30 and 31 May this year. The EBICs were launched by the Commission as a pilot operation in 1984 to provide a useful services to newly created innovative businesses in Europe. Contact: EBN (European Business and Innovation Centre Network), fax: +32 2 772 95 74.

### Europarteneriat in Luleå

The 14th Europarteneriat event will take place in Luleå in northern Sweden on 13 and 14 June. The Europarteneriat events are trade meetings organized with the support of the Commission to encourage the creation of commercial, technological and financial cooperation links between businesses in the host region (the north of Scandinavia in this case) and those from the rest of the Community and elsewhere. Contact: C. White, DG XVI/F-2 (fax: +32 2 296 60 03).

### Start-up of Interreg II C

On 3 and 4 July, the Commission will be organizing a seminar to help the Member States in preparing programmes under the Community Initiative Interreg II C. The seminar will bring together representatives of the Member States and the Commission as well as the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The seminar will tackle issues involving eligible areas and the content of transnational cooperation under the three headings of the Interreg II C Initiative: regional development planning and transnational cooperation (all Member States), flood prevention (B, D, GR, F, I, L, NL) and control of drought (E, GR, I, P). Contact: Mr Rodrigues (Fax: +32 2 296 62 29).

### Desertification in the Mediterranean

The Commission is organizing an international conference this autumn on desertification in the Mediterranean. The main aim of the conference is to establish contacts among research scientists and decision-makers involved in combatting desertification. It is being held in Crete from 29 October to 1 November. Contact: C. White, DG XVI/F-2 (Fax: +32 2 296 60 03).

## New publications

The Commission has recently published two new volumes in the series «Regional Development Studies» - «La notoriété des politiques régionales en Europe» (available in French, catalogue no. CX-95-96-156-C) and «Etude prospective des régions de l'arc alpin et péri-alpin» (available in French and Italian, catalogue no. CX-85-94-527-C).

Another recent publication is: «Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund 1994-99, regulations and commentary». It is already available in English and French and will soon come out in all the other official languages of the Union (catalogue no. CX-88-95-121-C). All these publications can be obtained in bookshops approved for the sale of publications from the Office for Official Publications of the European Community (contact: fax +352 48 85 73).



European Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

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