



## Interregional cooperation within Union borders: Launch of Recite II

For ten years now, the European Union has been supporting the creation of cooperation networks among its cities and regions. The Commission will publish shortly, in the Official Journal of the European Communities, a call for project proposals in the field of internal interregional cooperation (Recite II), to be funded under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. Here are the principal details:

### Areas of action

Five areas for cooperation are contained in the recent call for proposals:

- developing local potential, particularly with a view to creating jobs;
- improving access to the single market for small businesses;
- improving the range of services provided to small businesses;
- setting up resource centres to support working women and their proper integration into economic life;
- safeguarding and improving the environment.

### Potential partners

Each cooperation project should involve between three and seven partners from at least three different Member States, with at least a third of them being located in regions eligible under Objectives 1 or 6 of the Structural Funds. The lead partner in each cooperation project may be a local or regional authority, but can also be a public, quasi-public or even private body if it is backed by a local or regional authority which undertakes to monitor the project actively.

### Terms and conditions

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the number of partners involved and how well they complement each other, the quality of the way the work will be organized, the scale of learning involved and the exchange of know-how, expected results and whether the budget is sufficient to attain the proposed goals.

### Budget

Each project will be entitled to Community part-financing ranging from ECU 1 million to ECU 3 million. This contribution will be limited to at most 75% of eligible expenditure in Objective 1 or 6 areas and to 50% elsewhere.

### Submission of proposals

Proposals should be sent to the Commission by 15 May 1997 at the latest.

### For more information

A fuller documentation package, containing also the application form, can be obtained by sending in a request by mail or fax, a fortnight after the publication of this call for proposals:

#### The European Commission

Regional policy and cohesion - DG XVI/A/2

Projects of internal interregional  
cooperation

Building CSM2 - 3/43

Rue de la Loi 200

B-1049 Brussels

Fax: +32-2-295.01.38/39/40

(quoting "DG XVI, Article 10, Feder,  
Coopération interrégionale interne")

or printed from the Commission's Internet site,  
address: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg16/art10/arhome.htm>

# Adoption of four new programmes

In September the Commission approved Community financing for four new Community Initiative programmes.

For information sheets on these programmes, contact L. Nigri, DG XVI/F/2, (fax: +32-2-296.60.03) or consult the "ERDF programmes" pages at the Internet site of DG XVI (electronic address: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg16/dg16home.htm>).

Countries / regions concerned	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU million)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (ECU million)
D Schleswig-Holstein	SMEs	1.8	1.8
L Luxembourg	SMEs	0.7	0.3
F/IT Corse/Sardegna	Interreg	73.0	33.7
F/IT Corse/Toscana	Interreg	51.9	18.6

## For solidarity and democracy in Europe

Between 1 and 3 October, the European Parliament organized a conference in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions with the title "The European Parliament and regional and local authorities for democracy and solidarity in Europe".

Among the subjects covered in the final declaration of this conference were: strengthening the role of the regional and local authorities as actors within the European Union, in particular by integrating into the Treaty the principle of partnership in conjunction with structural policy, as well as the application of this principle to other policies which fall

within the competence of local and regional authorities (culture, public health, the consumer protection, trans-European networks, vocational training).

On the future of the Community's policy on economic and social cohesion, the conference provided a forum in which to reaffirm that the next enlargement of the Union should not compromise current forms of solidarity and will require qualitative and quantitative reforms to the Union budget, in particular with a view to increasing the resources allocated to the Structural Funds after 1999.

## New publications

The Commission has recently published three new works in the series "Studies in regional development":

- "The spatial consequences of the integration of the new German Länder into the Community" (available in English only, ECU 32, Catalogue no. CX-85-94-511-C)
- "L'impact sur le développement régional et l'aménagement de l'espace communautaire des pays du Sud et de l'Est méditerranéens" (available in French only, ECU 45, Catalogue no. CX-85-94-543-C)
- "The regional impact of the Channel Tunnel throughout the Community" (available in English only, ECU 38, Catalogue no. CX-85-94-559-C)

In addition, the Commission has published:

- a guide to Community financing of "International Buyers' Exhibitions under the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Community Initiative" (available in all 11 official languages, ECU 7, Catalogue no. CX-97-96-306-C)
- a working tool to help with running Monitoring Committees: "Common guide for monitoring and interim evaluation" (available in all official languages except Swedish and Finnish, Catalogue no. CX-90-95-914-C)

Priced publications can be purchased from the sales agencies of the Official Publications Office. A list of these sales outlets can be obtained on request by fax to: +32-2-230.49.15.



European Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

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