

Adoption of 34 programmes

In July and August 1996, the Commission approved Community funding for 34 new programmes, 29 of which are Community Initiative programmes.

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

Country / area /subject involved	Form of assistance	Total public investment (ECU million)	Structural Funds contribution (ECU million)
E Andalusia gaz naturel (Huelva)	Major project	7.3	7.3
Castilla-la Mancha (Sodicaman)	Global grant	9.2	6.5
IRL Ireland technical assistance	Operational programme	12.6	9.5
IT Mezzogiorno (Obj. 1) road infrastructure	Operational programme	498.0	249.0
Apulia Manfredonia	Global grant	35.3	25.0

Eligible countries and areas	Community Initiative	Total public investment (ECU million)	Structural Funds contribution (ECU million)
E España	SMEs	372.6	251.1
E España	Resider II	125.6	73.6
F Nord - Pas-de-Calais	Rechar II	31.3	16.9
F Nord - Pas-de-Calais	Resider II	27.9	14.4
F NPDC Roubaix-Tourcoing	Urban	17.6	7.0
IRL (North Dublin, Tallaght, Cork)	Urban	21.1	15.8
A Österreich	Rechar II	3.7	1.8
A Österreich	Resider II	10.5	5.2
SF Suomi / Finland (Joensuu)	Urban	5.3	4.0
S Sverige	Konver	6.7	3.3
S Sverige	SMEs	34.4	17.2
UK England	Resider II	45.3	22.3
UK Merseyside	Urban	31.9	17.3
UK Greater Manchester	Urban	16.1	8.0
UK Nottingham	Urban	13.8	6.8
UK Sheffield	Urban	14.3	6.8
UK Scotland (North Glasgow, Paisley)	Urban	28.3	13.6
B/F Wallonie / Nord - Pas-de-Calais - Picardie	Interreg II A	143.0	71.5
E/Morocco	Interreg II A	185.3	101.3
SF/S Barents	Interreg II A	20.9	10.5
SF/S Nordkalotten	Interreg II A	24.4	12.2
SF/S Kvarken-Mittskandia	Interreg II A	13.2	6.6
SF/S The islands region	Interreg II A	8.1	4.0
SF Karjala	Interreg II A	27.8	13.9
SF The south coast region	Interreg II A	16.3	6.1
SF South-east Finland	Interreg II A	25.0	9.6
S/Norge Göteborg, Bohus, Älvsborg	Interreg II A	11.0	5.5
S/Norge Jämtland	Interreg II A	11.0	5.5
S/Norge Värmland, Kopparberg	Interreg II A	9.0	4.5

Innovative schemes financed by the ERDF

(Article 10)

The launching of the innovative schemes to be financed by the European Regional Development Fund is now well under way. The Commission adopted eight themes for the period 1994-1999.

In September 1995 the Commission launched its calls for proposals for innovative cooperation projects covering the **information society**, **promotion of innovation**, the **development of cultural resources** and **new sources of employment**.

For these four themes, the Commission received a total of 877 proposals and has already approved 132 of them, which will soon receive ERDF financing (see table).

The calls for proposals for **urban pilot projects** and **regional planning projects** were published in November 1995 and April 1996. The projects to be financed by the ERDF are being selected at present.

The calls for proposals for **internal interregional cooperation** (within the Union) and **external interregional cooperation** (with third countries) will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in October and December 1996 respectively. Also, the next European meeting of representatives of the local and regional authorities, Directoria, will be devoted entirely to these last two themes. This meeting will probably be held in Strasbourg from 10 to 12 February 1997. For any additional information on this subject please contact: fax +352 22 98 04.

Results of the calls for proposals in September 1995 (situation on 31 August 1996)

Number of projects selected	Information Society		Promotion of Innovation		Cultural Cooperation	New Sources of Employment
	Regional Strategies	Multiregional Projects ⁽¹⁾	Regional Strategies	Multiregional Projects ⁽¹⁾	Multiregional Projects ⁽¹⁾	Regional Projects
Belgium	1	-	1	-	1	2
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	1
Germany	3	1	1	-	4	5
Greece	2	1	3	2	3	3
Spain	2	1	5	2	5	10
France	3	1	1	-	4	6
Ireland	2	1	1	-	3	3
Italy	1	-	2	1	3	7
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Netherlands	1	-	-	-	1	-
Austria	1	1	1	-	1	-
Portugal	-	1	-	-	4	1
Finland	2	1	1	-	-	1
Sweden	2	-	1	-	1	1
United Kingdom	3	-	3	2	3	1
Total	23	8	20	7	33	41

⁽¹⁾ The proposals are organised according to each project's leader region. Each multiregional project must involve three to six regions from at least two countries.

EIB: Assessment of the first half of 1996

During the first half of 1996, the European Investment Bank granted loans totalling ECU 8.173 billion.

Of this figure, ECU 7 790 million are intended for projects to be carried out in the European Union (in all the Member States except Luxembourg) and ECU 383 million for projects to be executed outside the Union (the countries of central and eastern Europe, the Mediterranean countries, the ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific - countries, and South Africa).

The loans granted in the Union are aimed in particular at **transport** (Spata airport in Greece, high-speed train between London and the Channel Tunnel, French TGV to Marseilles and Nimes), **energy** (United Kingdom/Belgium gas pipeline, the Freudenu hydroelectric power station in Austria, supply of Russian gas to Germany), **telecommunications** (Eutelsat television satellites, mobile telephone system in the Netherlands), and **industry** and **services** by means of individual loans (logistic centres) or global loans, which make it possible to finance hundreds of small local initiatives.



European Commission
Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion

CX-AB-96-009-EN-C