

Objective 2: 1997-99 programmes

During March, the Commission will be approving the first 32 programmes (SPDs) intended to support the economic and social conversion of declining industrial areas (Objective 2) for the 1997-99 period.

For more information 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>).

Readers will recall that Union assistance for Objective 1 and 5(b) regions is programmed for the period 1994-99, while programming for Objective 2 areas is generally divided into two stages: 1994-96 and 1997-99.

With one or two exceptions, the areas eligible in 1997-99 are the same as those eligible in the first stage.

Two of the three new Member States, Austria and Sweden, have opted for a single programming period from 1995 to 1999 (See Inforegio News Nos. 20 and 22).

Countries / area / topic	Total public investment (ECU million)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (ECU million)
B Aubange	2.174	1.008
DK Nordjylland	112.816	54.397
Lolland	26.786	13.835
D Nordrhein-Westfalen	853.483	450.617
West Berlin	384.070	191.175
Saarland	126.425	58.918
Bremen	112.629	55.113
Hessen	51.069	29.966
Bayern	38.646	19.769
Schleswig-Holstein	37.185	18.079
Niedersachsen	100.007	49.940
Rheinland-Pfalz	65.796	27.556
F Aquitaine	301.426	132.490
Languedoc-Roussillon	223.596	98.885
L Luxembourg	45.307	9.837
NL Arnhem-Nijmegen	202.347	76.776
Zuidoost-Brabant	269.240	107.317
Groningen-Drenthe	281.299	113.073
Twente	244.213	79.426
FIN Finland	347.919	133.517
UK West Cumbria and Furness	66.622	32.374
Eastern Scotland	320.139	139.918
East London and the Lee Valley	213.704	101.665
North East England	823.893	378.420
Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire	835.003	404.850
West Midlands	903.890	448.180
Gibraltar	12.877	6.050
Yorkshire and Humberside	857.673	400.698
Western Scotland	732.019	334.504
Industrial South Wales	579.986	254.385

INTERREG II C: transnational cooperation in the context of European spatial planning

As a result of consultations among the Member States, the latter will in 1997 present to the Commission 14 proposals for joint operational programmes under the Community Initiative Interreg II C. Strand C of this Initiative has been allocated ECU 412.84 million. Its purpose is to encourage transnational cooperation in the context of European spatial planning. This is an issue of growing importance because of the increasing interdependence of the Member States and their regions and the spatial planning impact of Community policies.

Readers will recall that the first two strands of INTERREG II cover cross-border cooperation (Strand A) and transeuropean energy networks (Strand B).

INTERREG II C differs from Strand A by covering larger geographical areas and being linked more specifically to spatial planning: it sets out to

- encourage local, regional and national authorities in the Member States to create a shared framework of transnational cooperation in this field,
- help the national and regional government levels in particular to tackle water management problems associated with floods and droughts in a more proactive way,
- improve the way Community policies impact on the Community territory,
- thereby contributing to a better balance between regions within the Union by encouraging an integrated approach to these problems.

Assistance under INTERREG II C will be closely tied in with the development of the European Spatial Development

Perspective (ESDP) which is being developed by the Member States and the Commission in order to provide the foundations for an integrated strategy in regional planning across the Union.

The 14 operational programmes to be approved in the coming months divide into three categories:

(1) Transnational cooperation in general (ECU 120.69 million)

- the Mediterranean and Italian/French Alps (E, F, I, GR),
- South-West Europe (P, E, F)
- Atlantic seaboard (P, E, F, UK, IRL),
- metropolitan areas in the Centre and North-West (F, L, B, D, NL, UK, IRL),
- the North Sea region (UK, NL, D, DK, S + Norway),
- the Baltic region (D, DK, S, SF + Baltic states),
- the "Adriatic" region (Adriatic, Danube, Central and South-East Europe) (D, A, I, GR + central and south-east European countries).

(2) Prevention of flooding (ECU 148.15 million)

- three flood prevention programmes: Rhine - Meuse (F, B, L, D, NL + Switzerland), France - Italy and Greece - Bulgaria.

(3) Prevention of droughts (ECU 114 million)

- four drought prevention programmes: Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece.

There will also be five pilot projects involving transnational cooperation, similar to programmes under INTERREG II C, which will in principle be financed under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation.

For more information, contact Mario Rodrigues, DG XVI/A/3, fax: +322296.32.71.

Directoria V: first impressions

The fifth Directoria event took place in Strasbourg from 24 to 26 February. The purpose of these meetings, which are organised on an annual basis by the Commission, is to inform regional and local administrators about Community programmes which are relevant to them and to help them participate in such programmes.

More than 2 500 people from 35 countries took part in Directoria V, twice as many as last time. Apart from this purely numerical success, Directoria V helped participants to advance various projects in concrete ways, in particular under the Recite II and Ecos-Ouverture II programmes. They were able to obtain detailed information on the spot

from Commission officials, find out about tried and tested methods for managing projects and networking schemes, meet with potential and actual partners, and even formalise their project proposals.

The local and regional authorities present at Directoria were also provided with information about a series of other Community programmes involving cooperation with non-Community countries in the fields of the environment, research and development, education and training, and cultural schemes. The Commission departments responsible in these fields were also present in Strasbourg and gave presentations of their activities.



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