



Eight new assistance packages funded by the Structural Funds

The European Commission recently agreed to fund four new programmes and four global grants as part of 1994-99 programming.

In Italy, four new global grants have been approved:

- The "Centro Antico di Napoli" project will contribute to revitalising the city of Naples by building on the major tourist attractions of the "Decumano Maggiore".
- The "BIC Basilicata" project involves setting up a venture capital fund and running a publicity campaign to develop and promote small and medium-sized businesses in Basilicata.
- The "Gela Sviluppo" project will be devoted to small-business development in Sicily, in particular promotion, information and general raising of awareness in order to attract investment.
- The "Alimentaria" project sets out to develop a 'safety-conscious' culture in the workplace, improve the quality of manufacturing structures, disseminate technological innovations, and promote internationalisation and the use of new computer and data-exchange technologies.

The programme for Territorial Employment Pacts in Italian Objective 1 regions is one of the outcomes of the pilot "Employment Pact" schemes launched by the Commission in the summer of 1996. Total funding for the Italian programme amounts to EUR 234.3 million, which will support integrated local development measures; the focus is particularly on job creation

and innovation. The areas covered are: "Alto Belice Corleonese" (Sicily), "Calatino Sud Simeto" (Sicily), "Catania Sud" (Sicily), "Aera Nord Napoli" (Campania), "Agri Nocerino Sarnese", (Campania), "Nord Barese Ofantin" (Apulia), "Matese" (Molise), "Sangro Aventino" (Abruzzi) and Oristano (Sardinia).

Conference on Territorial Employment Pacts

Organised in the form of an exchange forum, a conference to be held in Brussels on 8, 9 and 10 November will provide local and regional authorities with the opportunity of meeting Pact co-ordinators and their promoters face to face in three "thematic villages": partnerships; innovation; programming and funding.

Initial estimates suggest that the Employment Pacts will help create about 50 000 jobs directly. The financial resources allocated to the Pacts is likely to be greater than EUR 1 600 million, including EUR 500 million from reprogramming Structural Fund assistance.

Apart from acting as a forum for meeting and exchanging information, the conference is designed to anchor the Pacts as a development approach in the minds of Member States and the Community's local authorities and promote this methodology in the context of the next Structural Funds programming period (2000-06).

For information and registration, contact:

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The Commission has also approved a new programme covering five **Employment Pacts in Spain's Objective 1 regions**. These are: "Principado de Asturias", "Bahía de Cádiz" (Andalusia), the coal-mining areas of "León y Palencia" (Castilla y León), "Ciudad autónoma de Ceuta" and "Ciudad autónoma de Melilla".

A programme in **Greece**, "**Autobus CNG**", is to develop the use of natural gas as a fuel in public transport, as a contribution to reducing air pollution in the Athens region.

In **Belgium**, the Brussels Capital Region is to receive an additional EUR 0.758 m under the **Urban II** Initiative. The programme proposal covers part of the district of Cureghem called "La Rosée", considered to be one of the poorest in the Brussels region.

Finally, under the Community Initiative Interreg IIC, a new programme has been approved to reinforce transnational cooperation in regional development planning in the "**Atlantic**

Arc". This programme involves five Member States: **Spain, France, Ireland, Portugal** and the **United Kingdom**. It is designed to contribute to creating the right conditions for the sustainable development of this large-scale area.

Country	Programme/Title	Investment Total in million euro	ERDF contribution in million euro
I	Centro Antico di Napoli (global grant - CSF-Obj.1)	47.790	24.966
I	Alimentaria (global grant - CSF - Obj.1)	31.755	19.390
I	BIC Basilicata (global grant - CSF - Obj.1)	10.778	5.600
I	Gela Sviluppo (global grant - CSF - Obj.1)	38.815	20.0
I	Territorial Employment Pact (OP)	234.3	106.488
E	Territorial Employment Pact (OP)	103.773	24.203
GR	Autobus CNG and supply station (pilot scheme)	74.8	37.4
B	Urban "La Rosée"	3.884	1.418
E-F-IRL-P-UK	Interreg IIC (OP) - "Atlantic Arc"	24.03	13.38

Summary descriptions of these programmes are available on our website at the following address <http://www.info regio.cec.eu.int/erdf/>

Innovative regions hit the web

Since their launch in 1994, the two networks "Regional Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategies" (RITTS) and "Regional Innovation Strategies" (RIS) have brought a hundred or so member regions into contact with each other throughout Europe.

A new website has been developed for these regions: <http://www.innovating-regions.org>
This is without doubt the easiest and quickest way of following their development.

Evaluation tool appears on paper

The Commission has recently published a set of six studies drawing together a large number of lessons learned from the MEANS programme (Méthodes d'Evaluation des Actions de Nature Structurale - in English: Methods for Evaluating Activities of a Structural Nature)

This unique methodological guide is intended to provide solutions to technical and organisational problems in the evaluation of projects and programmes for which the existing literature is not particularly useful.

This new collection of volumes is addressed not only to professional evaluators, who will find it a highly useful guide, but also to non-specialists and in particular to managing bodies and the members of monitoring committees overseeing structural programmes.

The subjects covered by the six volumes are:

- I. Evaluation design and management
- II. Selection and use of indicators for monitoring and evaluation

- III. Principal evaluation techniques and tools
- IV. Technical solutions for evaluation within a partnership framework
- V. Transversal evaluation of impacts on the environment, employment and other intervention priorities
- VI. Glossary of 300 concepts and technical terms.

The set comes in a sturdy box and can be obtained in either French or English from the Directorate-General for Regional Policies

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"The MEANS collection, Evaluating socio-economic programmes"

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