



May 1995 EN

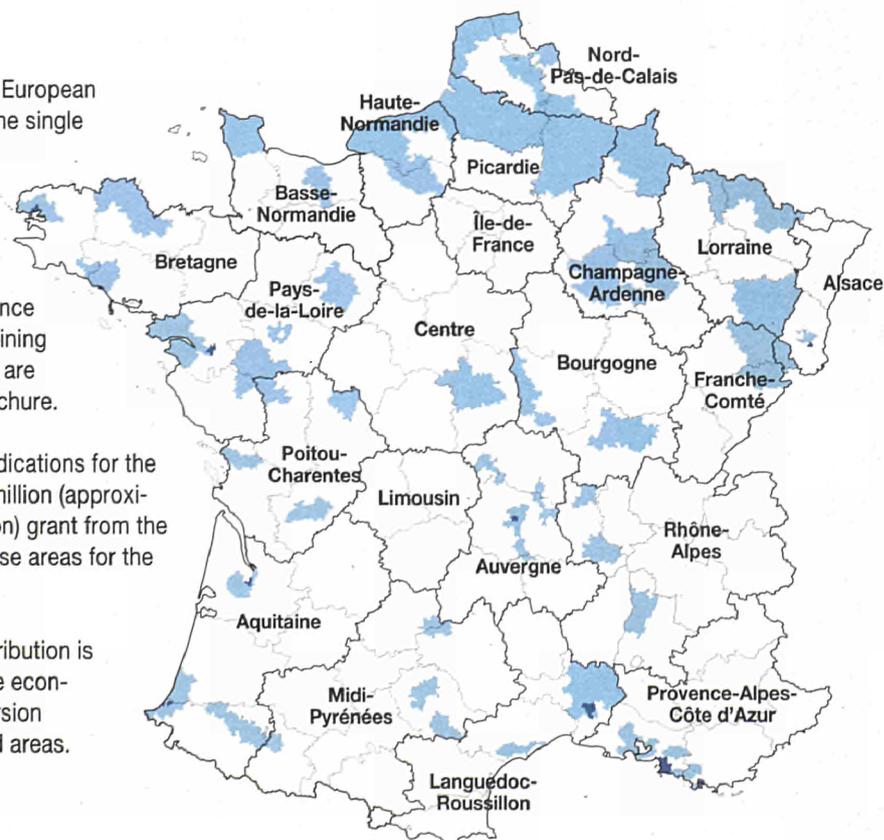
Summary of SPDs Objective 2 France

The Structural Funds' contribution to the conversion of declining industrial areas in France, 1994-1996

In December 1994, the European Commission adopted the single programming documents (SPDs) for the 19 regions of France containing areas eligible for Structural Fund assistance under Objective 2 (declining industrial areas), which are summarised in this brochure.

The documents give indications for the use of the ECU 1,765 million (approximately FFr 11.600 billion) grant from the Structural Funds to these areas for the period 1994-1996.

The Community's contribution is intended to support the economic and social conversion of these disadvantaged areas.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2
■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2



Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Alsace span the 12 municipalities of the potassium basin, the municipalities of Gwebwiller, Issenheim, Soultz and Vieux-Thann at the mouth of the Vosges valleys, and part of the agglomeration of Mulhouse.

These areas were not eligible for assistance under Objective 2 during the previous period

Alsace

Strategy

The central aim is to safeguard employment by ensuring the economic and social conversion of the mining sector and the adjustment of traditional industries in the region. Measures to assist conversion will mostly be implemented as pilot projects within an integrated programme of urban regeneration and environmental protection targeting local black spots. The programme is expected to create 1,000 jobs, which should balance the job losses forecast up to 1996.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Industrial redeployment and diversification of economic activity

This is the main thrust of the programme. The aim is to step up support for business initiatives by assisting the development of 200 companies, thus doubling the public sector contribution of the past three years. An additional assessment will be made to gauge the leverage effect of the measures on business investment.

1.1.

Support for business initiatives

Aid for consultancy, innovation and technology transfer, capital investment and the development of financial services. More closely targeted measures for small-scale production activities. Investment to exceed statutory requirements regarding environmental protection.

1.2.

Business premises

In particular, establishment and development of business parks, where plans to launch activities are confirmed.



- Zones eligible under Objective 2
- Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

1.3.

Increase in training capacity and promotion of closer ties between industry and research

1.4.

Tourist development (particularly business tourism)

Development of technology museums through consultation and cooperation among service providers (hotels, restaurants and museums) and closer ties with the local economy.

1.5.

Training

Priority will be given to retraining the staff of the Alsace potash mines.

Priority 2.

Urban and environmental regeneration

The aim is to promote selected local pilot schemes for urban and environmental regeneration. In the longer term, the measures are designed to promote the social and economic redevelopment of areas which are home to around 20% of the population of the eligible areas. The impact of the measures will be gauged by surveys among residents and in terms of reductions in unemployment in the areas concerned.

2.1.

Environment: treatment of industrial pollution

Treatment of chloride pollution (e.g. pilot scheme for the scenic development of tip heaps).

2.2.

Urban regeneration

Measures focused on mining and manufacturing districts and run-down areas (reclamation of urban wasteland, site development, assistance for the economic and social development of urban districts): organisation of community services and support for integration services and disadvantaged groups.

2.3.

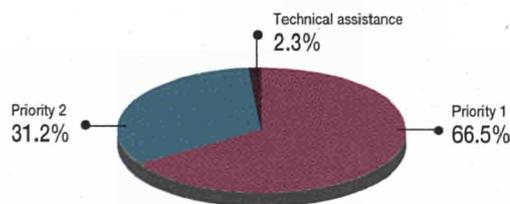
Aid for counselling, jobseeking and general services

Specific measures are planned to help young people gain access to the jobs market.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	13.024	18.576		31.600
1.1	3.230	3.960		7.180
1.2	1.692	3.000		4.692
1.3	3.000	4.800		7.800
1.4	2.276	4.000		6.276
1.5	2.826	2.826		5.652
Priority 2	6.121	7.392		13.513
2.1	2.576	3.031		5.607
2.2	2.924	3.300		6.224
2.3	0.621	1.061		1.682
Technical assistance	0.455	0.455		0.910
Total	19.600	26.423		46.023

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
Région Alsace
6 place de la République
F-67073 Strasbourg

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

Aquitaine's declining industrial areas account for 32% of the regional population, or 884,000 people.

They cover three employment areas, which total 50% of the industrial jobs in the region:

- The Bordeaux area, dominated by the aviation, aerospace and arms industries.

Port activity is heavily dependent on shipments of hydrocarbons.

- The Pau-Lacq-Orthez area, where activity is concentrated in the aviation sector and services related to oil prospection and extraction. The chemicals industry is centred around the Lacq gas field.

- The Bayonne - southern Landes area has a more diversified industrial fabric and a high volume of port traffic (fishery products and agrifoodstuffs).

Aquitaine

Strategy

The chosen strategy is designed to build upon the region's strengths: its skilled workforce, its internationally renowned industrial and technological capacity, its leading research centres and university laboratories, and the role of such areas as the outskirts of Bordeaux and the Franco-Spanish border as centres for port traffic and logistics activities.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Redeployment of economic and industrial potential

The aim is to maintain economic activity at its present level, particularly in troubled industrial sectors (measures will be geared to employment trends in these sectors, the proportion of companies employing more than 50 people and variations in annual investment).

1.1.

Aid for technology transfer and R&D structures (RTD)

1.2.

Stimulation of business demand for RTD

1.3.

Development of RTD structures

1.4.

Business competitiveness, new activities and environmental protection

1.5.

Continuing training for employees, business managers and small-scale manufacturers



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Diversification

The target is to increase the rate of business start-ups in new sectors of activity by 10%.

2.1.

Support for diversification

Within a sectoral framework based on centres of excellence and start-up support structures upstream, and high-performance businesses downstream.

2.2.

Development of tourism

2.3.

General local measures for crafts and trade

2.4.

Training related to economic diversification

Fields targeted: crafts, tourism, business creation and recruitment aids.

Priority 3.

Measures to attract investment to the employment areas

Improvement of business support and facilities.

3.1.

Development of centres of excellence

For agrifoodstuffs, aircraft maintenance and technological areas.

3.2.

Adaptation of port facilities

Development of multimodal terminals and rehabilitation of disused dockland.

3.3.

Living environment

Support for an economic and cultural policy of assistance for disadvantaged urban districts and environmental protection.

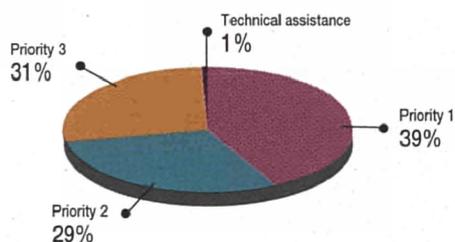
3.4.

Improvement of employment and training systems

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures are planned.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	41.703	35.549	76.137	153.389
1.1	6.489	6.489		12.978
1.2	7.782	8.164	31.750	47.696
1.3	7.691	7.691		15.382
1.4	12.617	6.308	44.160	63.085
1.5	7.124	6.897	0.227	14.248
Priority 2	31.163	35.929	53.956	121.048
2.1	13.636	10.606	43.944	68.186
2.2	5.953	10.908	3.666	20.527
2.3	5.953	8.794	6.346	21.093
2.4	5.621	5.621		11.242
Priority 3	32.975	66.564	2.727	102.266
3.1	7.876	15.761		23.637
3.2	11.811	23.636		35.447
3.3	10.606	24.485	2.727	37.818
3.4	2.682	2.682		5.364
Technical assistance	1.259	1.258		2.517
Total	107.100	139.300	132.820	379.220

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Aquitaine
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
Esplanade Charles de Gaulle
F-33007 Bordeaux
CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Auvergne cover part of the employment areas of Clermont-Ferrand, Issoire, Montluçon, Thiers and Vichy. Only Issoire and Montluçon were eligible for assistance during the previous programming period

Auvergne

Strategy

The central objective is to develop employment through progressive renewal of the industrial fabric and advanced service sectors capable of both supporting industrial activity and attracting investment to the eligible areas. The programme is expected to create 2,500 jobs. In industry, the aim is to cut forecast job losses.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Improvement of business competitiveness

The impact of the measures will be gauged in terms of industrial performance per employee: the aim is to redress disparities with regard to the national average for turnover, added value and investment per employee. The main objective is to help subcontractors move towards developing their own products, by adjusting to new technologies and building up their competitive know-how, and to encourage business creation.

1.1.

Provision of improved business amenities

1.2.

Support for quality and productivity

Measures to enable businesses to comply with the quality and productivity requirements of contractors and customers.

1.3.

Investment aids

These are designed to help business adjust to new production technologies.

1.4.

Training

Development of initial, retraining and resettlement courses.



- Zones eligible under Objective 2
- Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Development of training and research for businesses

The aim is to establish and develop collaboration between research, education and SMEs/SMIs. The impact of the measures will be assessed on the basis of three criteria: a 50% increase in the number of SME and SMI innovation projects receiving guidance from resource centres, a 5% rise in numbers in continuing training, and 10% more contracts signed between research centres and businesses.

2.1.

Development of training structures

2.2.

Links between business and research

2.3.

Training

Awareness-raising among staff and researchers.

Priority 3.

Local development

Measures under this priority target, on the one hand, improvements in urban services - where shortcomings are impeding economic activity, and the development of the tertiary sector in particular - and, on the other, development of tourist potential with a view to economic diversification. The impact of the measures will be gauged firstly by the stabilisation of unemployment rates in deprived districts and the results of surveys among residents, and secondly by a 10% increase in passenger traffic through Clermont-Ferrand-Aulnat airport and a 5% rise in tourist stays in hotels.

3.1.

Urban regeneration

Measures will be focused on deprived areas, and will include the rehabilitation of urban wasteland, improvement projects and assistance for the economic and social development of these districts.

3.2.

Tourism

Assistance will target leisure and business tourism.

3.3.

Training

Integrated training measures in the field of local and urban environmental protection. Measures are planned to improve women's access to the jobs market.

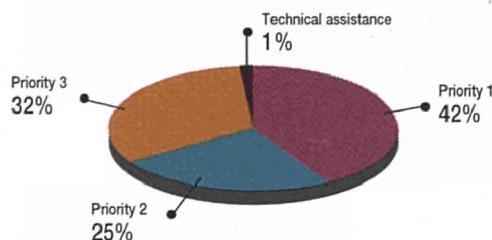
3.4.

Development training

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	25.313	29.109		54.422
1.1	7.591	11.387		18.978
1.2	1.670	1.670		3.340
1.3	10.626	10.626		21.252
1.4	5.426	5.426		10.852
Priority 2	15.521	15.521		31.042
2.1	8.348	8.348		16.696
2.2	6.831	6.831		13.662
2.3	0.342	0.342		0.684
Priority 3	19.505	19.505		39.010
3.1	6.072	6.072		12.144
3.2	9.032	9.032		18.064
3.3	2.884	2.884		5.768
3.4	1.517	1.517		3.034
Technical assistance	0.761	0.761		1.522
Total	61.100	64.896		125.996

(millions of ecus)

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Auvergne
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
18, boulevard Desaix
F-63033 Clermont-
Ferrand CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The employment areas of Cherbourg and Caen are eligible for assistance under Objective 2 from 1994 to 1996. The total population of these two industrial and urban centres is 493,000, or 36.5% of the regional population. From 1989 to 1993, the Cherbourg employment area received Structural Fund assistance under Objective 2 and further aid under the Community initiative RENAVAL.

The Cherbourg area also received assistance under the Community initiative KONVER in 1993.

Basse-Normandie

Strategy

The strategy seeks to build upon local strengths: Caen's "intellectual resources" (research centres, higher education provision, etc.) and Cherbourg's role as a leading centre of technological expertise and well-located port. The aim in Caen is to stem the industrial decline brought on by the closure of the steelworks, through support for SME investment. In Cherbourg, the measures are designed to increase the diversification of subcontracting activities, which are heavily dependent on nuclear construction and shipbuilding. The port function of both areas needs to be developed.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Support for regional businesses and workforce training

The target is to create 2,000 jobs in Caen and double the number of manufacturing companies in Cherbourg.

1.1.

Business investment, development of technology development programmes and joint initiatives

1.2.

Aid for business creation and the modernisation of training course content

In particular by means of support for innovation and research potential.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Reindustrialisation of the Caen area

2.1.

Conversion

Rehabilitation of disused steelworking and mining sites, development of premises for new activities, and restructuring of Caen-Ouistreham port, which is heavily dependent on the iron and steel industry.

2.2.

Training and research

Investment will target apprenticeship training capacity, initial and continuing training, and applied research.

2.3.

Economic diversification

Joint initiatives in support of crafts and services in outlying villages and small towns. Establishment of tourist facilities and development of the cultural and architectural heritage with a view to increasing the tourist appeal of the Caen area.

2.4.

Measures to meet the new human resource needs of businesses

Priority 3.

Continued conversion of the Cherbourg employment area

3.1.

Development of a centre of excellence in agribusiness

The aim is to improve the region's image in terms of maintenance, instrumentation and agrifoods production, in particular by means of support for research and technology transfer.

3.2.

Improvement of facilities for vocational and advanced technical training

Measures will be implemented in liaison with local SMEs.

3.3.

Action to stimulate economic activity, and support facilities for new businesses

3.4.

Development of the commercial port at Cherbourg

Completion of a Channel crossing terminal and development of an industrial estate and port facilities.

3.5.

Diversification of the tourist industry in the employment area

Development of tourist accommodation, a marine park, pleasure boating amenities and the cultural heritage.

3.6.

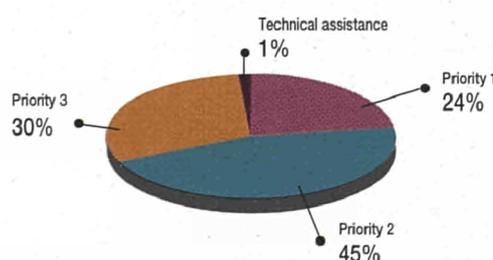
Measures to meet the new human resource needs of businesses

This specific scheme complements the measures provided for under Priority 1.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures are planned.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	13.720	21.010		34.730
1.1	7.920	12.340		20.260
1.2	5.800	8.670		14.470
Priority 2	25.920	51.770		77.690
2.1	12.960	30.220		43.180
2.2	7.320	10.950		18.270
2.3	2.590	6.030		8.620
2.4	3.050	4.570		7.620
Priority 3	17.530	38.260		55.790
3.1	2.750	5.200		7.950
3.2	2.870	5.180		8.050
3.3	1.410	2.680		4.090
3.4	1.220	3.330		4.550
3.5	7.000	18.450		25.450
3.6	2.280	3.420		5.700
Technical assistance	0.630	0.630		1.260
Total	57.800	111.670		169.470

(millions of ecus)

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Basse-Normandie
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
Rue D. Huet
F-14038 Caen CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Burgundy span the employment area of Creusot and part of those of Autun, Châlon and Montceau in the Saône-et-Loire département, and of Cosne-sur-Loire, Décize and Nevers in the Nièvre département. Only the Creusot, Châlon and Montceau areas were eligible for assistance during the period 1989-1993. The programme covers 423,000 inhabitants, or 26% of the total population of the region and 3% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Burgundy

Strategy

The aim is to revitalise economic activity in the eligible areas by building upon points of internal complementarity. The programme is expected to slow the pace of job losses and demographic decline in the areas concerned by 20%.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Encouragement for the development of economic activities

The results of the measures will be assessed in the light of employment trends in industry: the number of SMEs supported (target: +43%), leverage effect on business investment (to be increased fivefold), and the number of jobs created in assisted SMEs (target: +955). A range of mechanisms will be available to support businesses at every stage of their development.

1.1.

Intangible and capital investment and joint initiatives

1.2.

Structured development of tourist potential

This measure will aid economic diversification.

1.3.

Measures to promote and stimulate economic activity

These measures are designed to stimulate and promote cooperation among local economic operators.



■ Zonés éligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Local restructuring and redevelopment

The aim is to continue the adjustment of the eligible areas to their new economic functions. The impact of the measures will be gauged by the number of new and relocating businesses (target: 75) and by surveys among local economic operators on the quality of the urban environment.

2.1.

Development of facilities for industry

2.2.

Improvement of the urban environment

Particularly in deprived districts and mining areas.

Priority 3.

Human resource development

Measures under this priority are designed to improve the vocational skills base, targeting the less qualified sections of the workforce in particular.

The results of the measures will be gauged against the planned 20% reduction in the number of unskilled workers (skills levels Va and VI).

3.1.

Development of training and employment structures

3.2.

Analysis of businesses' training needs

The aim is to improve the content of training courses already established in support of Priority 1 measures. This measure concerns the Nevers area in particular, where needs have not been clearly identified.

3.3.

Training and pilot projects relating to jobs in community and business service structures

This measure is intended to complement action under Priority 2.

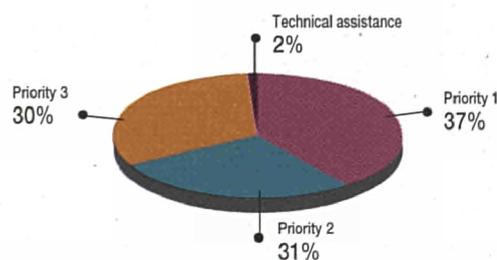
3.4.

Specific pilot projects

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	18.122	16.801	23.626	58.549
1.1	12.082	11.632	22.755	46.469
1.2	4.817	3.946	0.871	9.634
1.3	1.223	1.223		2.446
Priority 2	15.295	18.143	0.306	33.744
2.1	10.553	13.401	0.306	24.260
2.2	4.742	4.742		9.484
Priority 3	15.065	17.903	3.288	36.256
3.1	7.876	12.473	1.529	21.878
3.2	3.212	1.606	1.606	6.424
3.3	3.518	3.518		7.036
3.4	0.459	0.306	0.153	0.918
Technical assistance	0.918	0.918		1.836
Total	49.400	53.765	27.220	130.385

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Bourgogne
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
53. rue de la Préfecture
F-21041 Dijon CEDEX

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CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

Brittany's three employment areas affected by industrial decline - Le Trégor, Lorient and Brest - have a combined population of 763,000, or nearly 30% of the regional total. The Le Trégor area was eligible for assistance under Objective 2 from 1989 to 1993, and the Lorient area received support in 1993 under the Community initiative KONVER. All three areas are experiencing difficulties as a result of restructuring in the dominant sectors of their respective economies: agrifoodstuffs and electronics in Le Trégor, and the arms and shipbuilding industries in Lorient and Brest. This is compounded by problems specific to each area:

- demographic decline on the northern coast between Le Trégor (where the population is ageing) and Brest (where there is a migratory trend among young graduates);
- the crisis in the fisheries sector in Lorient, which is France's second biggest port for fresh fish.

Brittany

Strategy

The priorities for the region build on the specific strengths of each area. The central aim is job creation - a goal of both economic and demographic importance, in view of the strong trend towards mobility among young people and graduates. Another key issue for all three areas is the environment; here the aims include water supplies to industry and the development of tourist potential. Decisive action to diversify the economies of these three areas is also called for, to counter their severe dependency on virtually mono-industrial activities.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Measures to encourage business action on employment

The target is to create a total of 10,000 jobs in the eligible areas, 3,000 of them in industry.

1.1.

Aid for the creation and transfer of businesses

1.2.

Recruitment aids

1.3.

Modernisation of the craft sector

1.4.

Industrial premises

1.5.

Support for productive investment

1.6.

Vocational training, and business counselling on employment and training

1.7.

Diversification of declining sectors

1.8.

Measures to stimulate economic activity



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Development of R&D and training potential

The aim is to improve corporate technological capacity, which will be gauged in terms of growth in business expenditure on R&D, with a target of 10% over the duration of the programme.

2.1.

Support for research centres and technology transfer

2.2.

Assistance for purchases of new technology in SMEs

2.3.

Training in new technologies as part of support for SMEs

2.4.

Support for technical and vocational training establishments to promote cooperation with local businesses

2.5.

Capacity-building for vocational training centres

2.6.

Improvement of links between employment and training

2.7.

Development of human resource potential in the field of research and technological innovation

Priority 3.

Support for the modernisation of docklands

The targets are a 30% rise in the turnover of the two commercial ports concerned, and maintenance of employment figures for the ports at their current level.

3.1.

Modernisation of commercial port facilities

This measure involves action to develop co-ordination between Brest and Lorient.

3.2.

Rehabilitation of disused docklands

3.3.

Improvement of infrastructure serving Lorient port directly

Priority 4.

Development of tourist potential

The target is to increase turnover in the sector by 10% and create 1,000 jobs in tourism.

4.1.

Measures to structure and promote tourism

4.2.

Development of cultural and tourist infrastructure and amenities

4.3.

Development of tourist accommodation

Priority 5.

Measures to increase the attractiveness of the employment areas

Electrification of the line connecting Lannion to the high-speed rail network.

5.2.

Study on the development of Brest airport terminal

5.3.

Urban regeneration in Le Trégor

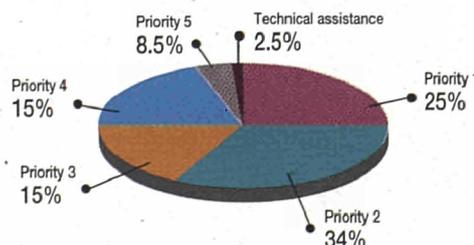
5.4., 5.5. and 5.6.

Environmental improvements: water quality for industry, industrial waste treatment and protection for vulnerable natural areas

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures are planned.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	22.89	23.74	49.03	95.66
Priority 2	30.81	32.33	5.42	68.56
Priority 3	13.77	28.75		42.52
Priority 4	13.29	13.29	5.97	32.55
Priority 5	7.63	9.77	2.97	20.37
Technical assistance	1.31	1.32		2.63
Total	89.70	109.20	63.39	262.29

(millions of ecus)

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Bretagne
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
3, rue Martenot
F-35026 Rennes CEDEX

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CSTM 1/25
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Eligible regions

In the Centre region, the employment areas of Vierzon and Bourges are eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Together they number 207,000 inhabitants, or 8.7% of the total population of the region. In 1993, Bourges received support under the Community initiative KONVER. The two areas account for 82% of the unemployed population of the Cher département. The decline in employment is a consequence of the crisis affecting the large local industrial concerns, in particular those dependent on the defence sector. The SME fabric remains fragile. But the area does have tourist potential, in the shape of the two towns' cultural and industrial heritage.

Centre

Strategy

The strategy is to promote industrial redeployment by means of diversification and the development of local potential, particularly in the tourist sector.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Employment and business competitiveness

The central objective is to diversify industrial production, currently dependent on the military sector, by developing the region's considerable potential in terms of know-how and technology.

1.1.

Aid for capital investment

Investment in property and equipment for business creation, expansion and relocation.

1.2.

Aid for intangible investment

Advice on technology, the secondment of managers, and company transfers.

1.3.

Aid for business financing

Establishment of or participation in a finance corporation, and a loan guarantee fund.

1.4.

Measures to promote and stimulate economic activity

1.5.

Continuing training to adapt workers to new jobs

1.6.

Guidance and integration measures for people at risk of unemployment

1.7.

Training for trainers



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.8.

Improvement of employment services

1.9.

Employment support

Priority 2.

Physical development

The aim is to increase the power of the eligible areas to attract new investment and activities.

2.1.

Environmental protection

Including: incentives for business investment to cut down on pollutant waste, river development under projects for the tourist industry, and measures to encourage the selective recycling of industrial waste.

2.2.

Development of tourist potential and the cultural heritage

Design of a programme for tourist development and facilities; preservation of the natural and architectural heritage; and improvement of tourist accommodation and amenities.

2.3.

Improvement of communications infrastructure essential for economic development

Electrification of the Bourges-Vierzon link and construction of a line serving the industrial estate at Bourges-Est.

2.4.

Rehabilitation of industrial sites and development of business parks

2.5.

Development of the urban environment
Redevelopment of urban wasteland and workers' housing in manufacturing areas.

Priority 3.

University and research facilities

The aim is to strengthen ties between universities and businesses by improving training, research and technology transfer structures.

3.1.

Support for technology transfer

3.2. and 3.3.

Cooperation between universities and businesses on continuing training, R&D and technology transfer

3.4.

Training for the managers and technical staff of research establishments

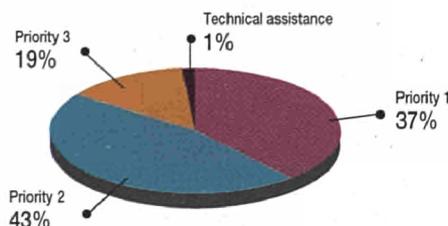
3.5.

Development of Vierzon as a centre for higher education and research

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes are planned for the monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	9.055	9.055		18.110
Priority 2	10.482	65.156		75.638
Priority 3	4.548	9.901		14.449
Technical assistance	0.115	0.115		0.230
Total	24.200	84.226		108.427

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Centre
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
181, rue de Bourgogne
F-45042 Orléans CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Champagne-Ardenne cover: the employment area of the Meuse valley (already eligible for assistance from 1989 to 1993) and the adjoining cantons of Noyon, Porcien and Reithel in the Ardennes département; a large section of the Troyes employment area and the adjoining canton of Romilly-sur-Seine in the Aube département; virtually all the employment area of Marne Moyenne and the adjoining cantons of Vignory, Doulaincourt and Ecury-sur-Coole, in the Marne. The programme covers 657,000 inhabitants, or 48.7% of the total population of the region and 4.5% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Champagne-Ardenne

Strategy

To foster internal potential and business competitiveness and extend local capacity to support new activities, in particular by opening the areas concerned to markets outside the region. The measures are expected to stem the decline in industrial employment, which fell from 20% in 1975 to 14.9% in 1990; the target is to level this off at 14% by 1997 and reach 15% by the year 2000.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Business development

This scheme will be vital for boosting the economy through support for the development of new and existing businesses, the promotion of increased competitiveness and the consolidation of the industrial fabric. The impact of the measures will be gauged by the increase in the rate of investment in all the areas concerned; the target is to raise it from 13.8% (the 1988-1990 average) to 14.5%.

1.1.

Increase in the technological content of processes and general improvement of industrial know-how

By means of measures both within the business and in liaison with other operators, placing the emphasis on intangible forms of assistance (development studies, cooperation, etc.).

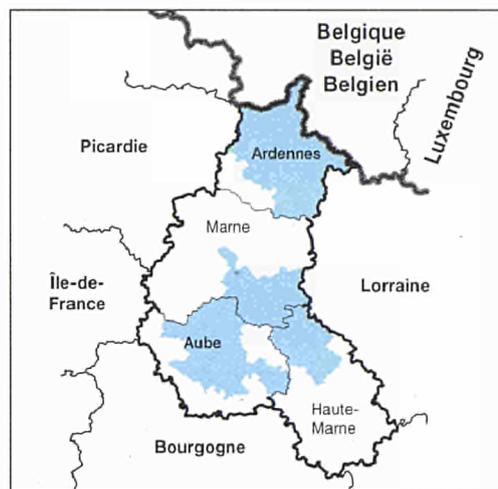
1.2.

Continuing training for staff

A substantial level of assistance will be available for this measure, via a policy of incentives.

1.3.

Development of advanced skills training centres



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.4.

Improvement of the position of existing businesses and business amenities for new economic operators

Improving business amenities and the industrial image of the regions concerned requires substantial local government support.

1.5.

Improvement of the general quality of training provision

Priority 2.

R&D and technology transfer

This scheme is more specifically intended to enhance competitiveness through added value and innovation. It will increase opportunities for technology transfer in the region. The target is a 20% increase in expenditure on research - ECU 45 million in the areas concerned in 1991 - by 1997.

2.1.

Development of R&D and technology transfer infrastructure

This measure targets the areas with a strong industrial tradition in particular.

2.2.

Human resource development for R&D and technology transfer

Training and accommodation for postgraduate researchers, technicians and technology consultants.

2.3.

Innovative projects and measures to increase awareness of technology

The aim is to encourage businesses to make wider use of available support for the introduction of new technologies.

Priority 3.

Local development

There are two objectives here: the development of logistical advantages with a view to opening up the local economy further and at the same time creating 400 jobs through the development of a multimodal terminal; and recognition of the role of tourism in the regional economy (the aim is to increase the average length of a visitor's stay from the 1993 figure of 1.6 days to 1.8 in 1996).

3.1.

Development of multimodal logistics facilities

3.2.

Establishment of tourist centres around the lakes and development of specific focuses of tourism

3.3.

Support for the professionalisation of the tourist industry

Training measures and investment aids.

Priority 4.

Measures to increase the attractiveness of the area

The aim is to improve the general living environment, thereby increasing local development potential.

4.1.

Urban regeneration

Restructuring of the urban fabric, in particular by means of liaison between districts and cooperation between towns.

4.2.

Environmental protection

Measures to combat industrial pollution, energy efficiency and recourse to renewable energy sources. Certain measures may be undertaken to develop natural areas in support of the strategy for the tourist sector.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding co-ordination, monitoring, assessment, communications and publicity.

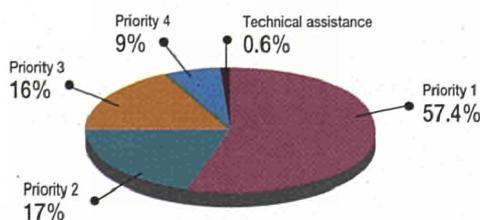
Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Champagne-Ardenne
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
1, cours d'Ormesson
F-51036 Châlons-sur-
Marne CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	44.392	47.061	24.603	116.056
Priority 2	13.175	13.950	9.765	36.890
Priority 3	12.183	25.358	5.270	42.811
Priority 4	7.285	6.975	0.310	14.570
Technical assistance	0.465	0.465		0.930
Total	77.500	93.809	39.948	211.257

(millions of euros)

Objective 2

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Franche-Comté cover Belfort, Montbéliard and Lure-Luxeuil, all of which were also eligible for assistance under Objective 2 during the programming period 1989-1993. The programme covers 414,000 inhabitants, or 38% of the total population of the region and 2.8% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Franche-Comté

Strategy

The central objective is to slow the decline in employment by converting industrial structures, retraining the workforce and providing appropriate support for economic development and diversification. The programme is expected to create 2,000 jobs, which should compensate for 50% of the job losses forecast up to 1996.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Development and diversification of industrial activity

The goal is to support the development initiatives of 200 businesses and house 50 of them in business parks. Additional quantitative criteria will serve as a yardstick for the leverage effect generated on business investment.

1.1.

Direct support for businesses and economic activity

1.2.

Organisation and structuring of the business environment

1.3.

Strengthening of ties between research and business

1.4.

Development of tourism



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Human resource development

The aim is to bring conditions in the areas concerned closer to the regional average, in terms of training facilities (+5% by area in three years), skills levels, and vocational studies in SMEs.

2.1.

Training

2.2.

Support for projects which will create jobs or stimulate local development

Priority 3.

Local planning, organisation and development

This scheme responds to the need to develop cooperation arrangements that generate economic benefits. The goal in the medium term is to maintain population levels in areas with a particularly high proportion of frontier workers. The success of the measures will be assessed at the next census.

3.1.

Cooperation in eligible areas of the conurbation

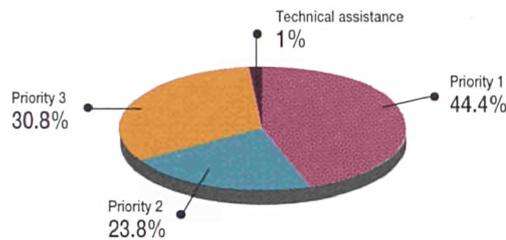
3.2.

Cooperation in the border cantons

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	21.244	36.875		58.119
1.1	7.739	7.739		15.478
1.2	7.891	22.611		30.502
1.3	2.124	3.035		5.159
1.4	3.490	3.490		6.980
Priority 2	11.381	11.381		22.762
2.1	6.525	6.525		13.050
2.2	4.856	4.856		9.712
Priority 3	14.719	15.175		29.894
3.1	11.305	11.761		23.066
3.2	3.414	3.414		6.828
Technical assistance	0.456	0.456		0.912
Total	47.800	63.687		111.687

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Franche-Comté
 Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
 8bis, rue Charles Nodier
 F-25035 Besançon
 CEDEX

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 B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Haute-Normandie have a population of 1.17 million, or 67% of the regional total. The region was eligible for assistance under Objective 2 over the period 1989-1993 and under the Community initiative RENAVAL from 1990 to 1993. Three declining industrial areas may be identified:

- The valley of the Seine from Rouen to Le Havre (the employment areas of Rouen, Lillebonne and Le Havre), which is highly industrialised and experiencing difficulties related to economic conversion, urban development and environmental pollution.

- The coast (the employment areas of Fécamp, Dieppe and La Bresle and part of the Le Havre area), where the substantial industrial fabric (largely composed of SMIs) is facing problems with conversion and diversification (into tourism).

- the Seine valley in the Eure département (the employment area of Vernon and part of the Rouen area), which requires controlled development to resist pressure from the Paris region.

Haute-Normandie

Strategy

The aim is to make the area less dependent on the large industrial groups (energy, chemicals, car manufacturing, mechanics, electrical construction and glass) and relocation from the Paris region for its development. With this in mind, solutions will be sought to remedy the duality of the local economy and its poor training, R&D, technology and service production capacity. There are also major environmental issues at stake, particularly with regard to industry (major hazards, air and soil pollution, etc.) and the development of conurbations. The strategy is to build upon existing strengths in terms of industry, ports and logistic resources, and diversify the tourist sector.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Employment and development of the tertiary sector

The two quantified targets of this scheme are a reduction in the unemployment rate, bringing it closer to the national average, and an increase in jobs in the tertiary sector.

1.1.

Regeneration of the industrial fabric

This measure targets subcontractors, business services and business creation.

1.2.

Development of large business parks

Establishment of technology parks, and business parks for activities of regional interest.

1.3.

Development of tourist potential



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.4.

Workforce training programmes

Content and objectives are determined on the basis of the strategic priorities for the conversion of the eligible areas.

1.5.

Development of the regional training observatory

The observatory will make it possible to assess needs more precisely and monitor training programmes.

1.6.

Improvement of training provision

Priority 2.

Development of ports and international markets

The target is a 10% increase in non-oil-related traffic and jobs at local ports.

2.1.

Improvement of goods handling and road links serving the ports, and modernisation of terminals

2.2.

Interregional and international cooperation

Cooperation measures on the economy, research and training.

Priority 3.

Increase in regional research and innovation capacity

The aim is to improve Haute-Normandie's regional ranking in France from 20th to 16th in terms of research and innovation.

3.1. and 3.2.

Partnerships between skills centres, higher education and technical training, and businesses

Priority 4.

The industrial and urban environment

This specific scheme supports environmental action under the other measures.

4.1.

Measures to prevent and treat pollution and industrial hazards, and energy savings

4.2.

Rehabilitation of disused industrial sites

4.3.

Urban development

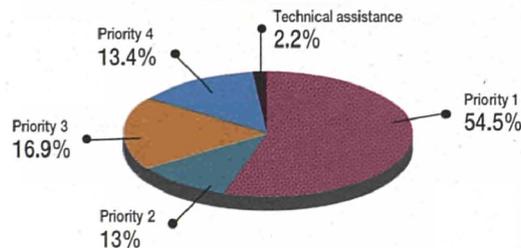
4.4.

Establishment of a training and resource centre for urban ecology

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes are planned to support the monitoring and assessment of measures and project engineering.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	79.610	101.770	26.210	207.590
Priority 2	19.000	59.510	0.450	78.960
Priority 3	24.700	33.380	-	58.080
Priority 4	19.490	24.050	2.280	45.820
Technical assistance	3.200	3.220	-	6.420
Total	146.000	221.930	28.940	396.870

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Haute-Normandie
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
Cours Clémenceau
F-76036 Rouen CEDEX

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CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Languedoc-Roussillon span most of the Alès area (the only area eligible for assistance under Objective 2 from 1989 to 1993), the employment area of Bagnoles-sur-Cèze, a large section of the Nîmes area in the Gard département, and, in Hérault, the Sète employment area and the southern section of the Béziers area. The programme covers 551,000 inhabitants, or 26% of the total population of the region and 3.8% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Languedoc-Roussillon

Strategy

The strategy is designed to promote the development of the large number of SMIs and micro-businesses, facilitate the adjustment of the workforce to the needs of these businesses, and create the right environment for their development. The aims will have been achieved if, at the end of the programme, around 3,000 jobs have been created and a further 5,500 safeguarded.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Economic development

The results of the measures will be gauged by the turnover of businesses in each key sector and the number of jobs created or safeguarded.

1.1.

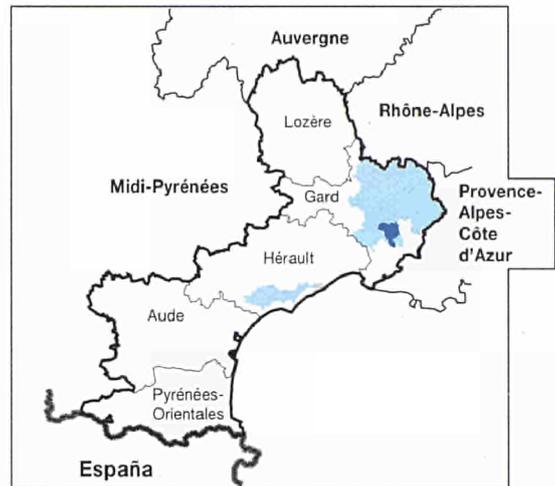
Business development

This measure is the cornerstone of the programme, covering support for intangible and capital investment, business creation, SME equity capital increases and launches of joint initiatives. It will be coordinated with the Priority 3 measures (human resources). The emphasis will be on the concept of business development projects, with a view to ensuring the integrated and efficient implementation of the various measures. Assistance will be tailored to local needs: support for diversification among subcontractors in the Bagnoles-sur-Cèze area, for the adjustment of the agrifoodstuffs sector in the vicinity of Béziers, and so on.

1.2.

Local development

Development of the fabric of the crafts and in some cases the trade sector, with a view to facilitating the adjustment of small units to economic change.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2
■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

1.3.

Development of tourist potential

The measures target underdeveloped potential in each area, with the emphasis on sectoral organisation (economic surveys, commercial strategies, product promotion and labelling, qualitative improvement of tourist accommodation and amenities and the creation of local focal points).

Priority 2.

Attractiveness of the area and business environment

This priority comprises measures designed to create the right economic environment for development.

2.1.

Measures to improve the economic environment for businesses

Facilities and support structures, improvements necessary for industrial activity, business services, rehabilitation of derelict industrial sites, prevention of industrial pollution, etc.

2.2.

Selected infrastructure projects

The selection will be determined by the expected impact on economic development: the Alès-Nîmes road link, road and port infrastructure connected with the extension of the port at Sète, etc. The latter project is expected to safeguard 800 jobs and create another 120.

Priority 3.

Human resources

This priority is closely linked to Priority 1. It is intended to meet business needs in terms of skills and employment growth, and will create between 1,500 and 1,700 jobs.

3.1. and 3.2.

Training for employees, self-employed workers and budding entrepreneurs

Training will be organised on the basis of regional agreements concluded under separate framework agreements for the various occupations. Specific measures are also planned to meet the needs of certain sectors (tourism, fish farming, etc.).

3.3.

Links between job supply and demand

These are new measures to assist micro-businesses to overcome administrative reservations and obstacles in particular.

3.4.

Measures to adapt training to specific goals and the needs of target groups

3.5.

Jobseekers' skills needs

Assessment of the skills level and additional skills needed on the jobs market and for local business development.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) are planned to monitor and assess the SPD, promote the Community's regional assistance efforts and improve training support facilities. The relatively high proportion of financing earmarked for these measures is an indication of the regional authorities' desire to extend such interinstitutional structures as training focal points - which proved their worth in the Alès area over the preceding period - to all the eligible areas.

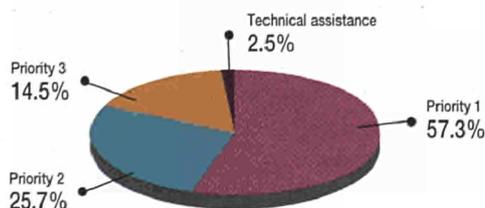
Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Languedoc-Roussillon
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
34, place des Martyrs de
la Résistance
F-34062 Montpellier
CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
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Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	40.3965	15.2000	77.2880	132.8845
Priority 2	18.1185	35.2010	4.4070	57.7266
Priority 3	10.2200	10.2200	4.8800	25.3200
Technical assistance	1.7650	1.7650		3.5300
Total	70.5000	62.3850	86.5750	219.4610

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Lorraine cover the employment areas in the north (iron and steel and coalmining) and south (textiles in the Vosges valleys) of the region. A large proportion of these areas received Structural Fund assistance over the period 1989-1993. New development schemes on the outer fringes of the region have extended the eligible area eastwards. The programme covers 1.1 million inhabitants, or 46% of the total population of the region and 7.5% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Lorraine

Strategy

The central aim is to support the continuation of the industrial tradition in these employment areas through diversification, whilst developing their other economic strengths, tourism in particular. The programme is expected to create 9,500 jobs and consolidate another 12,000.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Aid for business creation

The aim is to counter the low rate of business creation in the eligible areas and promote the right conditions for local economic resurgence by informing, encouraging and coordinating economic operators. The quantified target is to create 4,300 jobs in industry and the service sector, increase the rate of business creation by 10% and reduce the failure rates of new companies by one-third.

1.1.

Increased aid for the creation and transfer of businesses

1.2.

Adapted training for budding entrepreneurs

This measure provides for business project follow-up.

1.3.

Measures to improve facilities for relocating businesses

This scheme is intended to create the right conditions for the exogenous development of the employment areas.

Priority 2.

Support for the Longwy European Development Pole (EDP)

The industrialisation of the EDP area will be continued through the sustainable integration



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

of new businesses into the local economic fabric. The aim is to create 1,500 more jobs and stem the flow of outward migration from the Longwy area by the next census.

2.1.

Direct aid for business creation

2.2.

Economic integration of the EDP with the town of Longwy

This involves in particular forging links between new businesses and existing SMEs.

Priority 3.

Measures to increase business diversification and independence

This priority responds to the need to modernise and diversify the economic fabric by means of capital and intangible investment, supported by an improvement in the vocational skills base. The targets are the creation of 3,700 jobs and a 10% increase in the number of skilled workers in the industrial sector (technicians and skilled workers at levels II and III).

3.1.

Modernisation of production structures

3.2.

Technological innovation

This measure, like the previous one, will integrate the human dimension by adapting the workforce to new areas of know-how.

Priority 4.

Measures to improve training quality and provision

To improve the match between training supply and demand, 1,000 extra places are to be created on training courses of direct relevance for SMI in the employment areas.

4.1.

Assessment of business training needs

4.2.

Establishment of training facilities geared to business needs

Priority 5.

Continued urban and environmental regeneration

5.1.

Completion of work undertaken on the reclamation of disused industrial sites and the treatment of seepage water from the mines

5.2.

Adaptation of urban centres to new economic trends

A number of derelict urban sites will be selected for redevelopment. This measure should also stabilise demographic trends.

Priority 6.

Development of tourist potential

The aim is to increase turnover in the tourist sector by 15%, with a view to promoting economic diversification in the employment areas.

6.1.

Measures to structure supply and promote the professionalisation of the tourist sector

6.2.

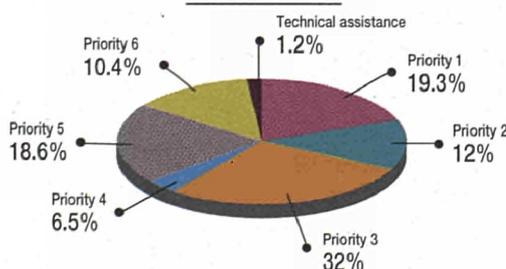
Training in tourist-related activities for the available workforce

Short retraining and continuing training sessions will be accompanied by longer courses (management, marketing, communication, etc.).

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	24.54	43.96		68.50
Priority 2	15.30	15.30		30.60
Priority 3	40.81	40.81		81.62
Priority 4	8.20	8.20		16.40
Priority 5	23.70	23.71		47.41
Priority 6	13.26	7.96	13.72	34.94
Technical assistance	1.59	1.59		3.18
Total	127.40	141.53	13.72	282.65

(millions of ecus)

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Lorraine
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
9, place de la Préfecture
F-57034 Metz CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of the Midi-Pyrénées include the employment areas of Figeac-Decazeville and Albi-Carmaux, which were eligible for assistance during the previous period, plus those of Tarbes and Castres-Mazamet.

The programme covers 373,000 inhabitants, or 15.3% of the total population of the region and 2.5% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Midi-Pyrénées

Strategy

The aim is to maintain the industrial tradition in these four employment areas by preventing any further decline in industrial potential and ensuring renewed growth in employment via national and European centres of excellence. The programme is expected to safeguard and create a total of around 2,500 jobs.

Priorities

Priority A.

Consolidation of the business fabric

This is a key priority, in view of the strong industrial tradition of these areas and the strategic importance of renewal to ensure its perpetuation.

A.1.

Aid for capital and intangible investment

This measure is designed to develop industrial SMEs and self-employed productive activities; it includes specific operations and joint initiatives.

A.2.

Business prospection, creation and transfer

Assistance under this scheme, combined with efforts to identify outside investors, is expected to create conditions conducive to the renewal of the industrial fabric.

A.3.

Continuing training and improvement of support services

Vocational retraining and suitable support, information, guidance and assessment services are vital for the consolidation and diversification of economic activity.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

Priority B.

Technological innovation

The area's excellent research and technology transfer potential will be developed for the benefit of SMEs; this priority targets more than 200 businesses.

B.1.

Technological investment

Financing for infrastructure and equipment in particular.

B.2.

Training in technology

Advanced scientific training in particular.

Priority C.

Local regeneration

Communications, telecommunications and the quality of life in urban areas are key factors in the revitalisation of industrial centres, alongside economic and social cohesion in the employment areas.

C.1.

Measures to improve communications with industrial centres

In particular by promoting new communications technologies (teleworking and distance learning) and developing business parks around the Tarbes air terminal.

C.2.

Rehabilitation of the urban environment

C.3.

Environmental improvements

In particular, treatment of pollution directly caused by industrial activity, which can be severe in some sectors such as tawing.

Priority D.

Economic diversification

The four areas possess undoubted tourist potential which needs to be developed.

D.1.

Investment in the tourist sector

Local organisation of the tourist economy and improvement of facilities.

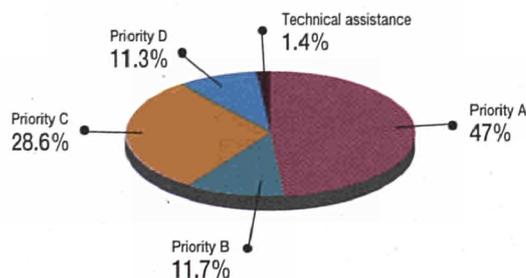
D.2.

Training in tourism

Technical assistance

Assessment, information, training for local managers and implementation measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority A	20.000	21.000	36.000	77.000
Priority B	5.000	7.000		12.000
Priority C	12.200	33.000	2.300	47.600
Priority D	4.800	4.800	4.000	13.600
Technical assistance	0.600	0.600		1.200
Total	42.600	66.400	42.300	151.300

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Midi-Pyrénées
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
Place Saint-Etienne
F-31048 Toulouse
CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas on the coast (Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne), which were already eligible for assistance during the period 1989-1993, are now joined by the cantons of Montreuil, Etaples and Berck, the coalfield - extended to include the cantons of Vimy and Vitry-en-Artois, previously eligible for assistance under RECHAR I -, the Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing conurbation (with the exception of the most rural areas) and Cambrésis.

It should be noted that the arrondissements of Avesnes, Douai and Valenciennes, which were previously eligible for assistance under Objective 2, are now defined as regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1). Objective 2 covers a population of 2,590,000 in this area, which represents 65% of the region's inhabitants and 17.7% of the French population eligible for assistance under the objective.

Nord - Pas-de-Calais

Strategy

The aim is to build on the development capacity which, in the space of five years, has brought the high-speed rail network, the Channel tunnel and the European teleport to the region, founded two universities and expanded research centres, and modernised both the region's training provision for young people and its production structures. The economic position of the eligible areas has stabilised over the last four years (employment is at 67% and the GDP at 70% of the regional figure), and the target is therefore an employment growth rate 0.3% above the national average. This will require the net creation of 31,000 jobs between 1994 and 1999.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Support for and revitalisation of economic activity

The share of financing reserved for this priority has been limited in view of previous progress on modernising the SMI base. However, it remains of strategic importance for strengthening the economic fabric and improving business competitiveness. The targets are 6% more SMIs, 5.6% more jobs and 5% more annual investment by 1999.

1.1.

Aid for business investment

1.2.

Business services for SMEs and SMIs

1.3.

Support for technological development

1.4.

Environment technologies and energy efficiency

These four measures, generally in the form of concerted action, will concentrate on the technological development and intangible investment on which the success of capital investment depends.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.5.

Development of regional potential in the area of information and communications technology

1.6.

Continuing training provision geared to business needs

This will place companies in a better position to undertake the necessary transformation and conversion measures.

1.7.

Links between vocational training and employment

This measure will follow a proactive policy of increasing the involvement of the business community in the training process.

1.8. and 1.9.

Specific road infrastructure projects

Key projects for the economic development of certain areas which are dependent on the fisheries sector and logistics activities.

Priority 2.

Training, research and technology

R&D remains a priority for areas which are still well below the average in terms of economic activity, particularly as regards in-house research in the private sector. This priority is expected to boost turnover and productivity and increase the number of contracts signed.

2.1.

Measures to reinforce centres of excellence and networks

This measure also includes support for corporate R&D.

2.2.

Cooperation between education establishments and industry

Support for technological development in these establishments, in cooperation with industry - in particular as regards continuing training - and for research in conjunction with local businesses.

2.3.

Training for researchers, advanced technicians and R&D consultants

The skills acquired will be used to benefit the business sector.

2.4.

Technological equipment for training and apprenticeship structures

2.5.

Measures to improve training systems and provision

Priority 3.

Living conditions, image and the environment

Past efforts to improve the industrial and urban environment are beginning to bear fruit and should be pursued.

3.1.

Rehabilitation of the remaining derelict industrial sites

3.2.

Increased action on urban renovation

Measures could focus on the municipalities of the mining basin and the north-eastern section of the Lille conurbation.

3.3.

Development of high-profile infrastructure and facilities

There is scope for large-scale projects in connection with the high-speed train, the Channel tunnel and the international business centre Euralille.

3.4. to 3.7.

Tourist potential and the natural and cultural heritage

Together, these measures could help to improve the image of these areas.

3.8. and 3.9.

Crafts and local development

3.10.

Improvement of rail infrastructure

Technical assistance

Two schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

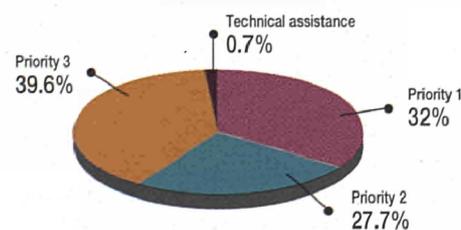
Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
2, rue Jacquemars-Giélée
F-59039 Lille CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
CSTM 1/25
B-1049 Brussels

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	101.700	144.750	142.290	388.740
Priority 2	88.120	83.000	9.740	180.860
Priority 3	126.030	212.320	10.630	348.980
Technical assistance	2.250	2.250		4.500
Total	318.100	442.320	162.660	923.080

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Eligible regions

The five employment areas eligible for assistance under Objective 2 have a population of 1,140,000, or 37% of the regional total : Saint-Nazaire and the Loire estuary downstream, and Le Mans, the Angers conurbation and the Cholet area upstream. The employment areas of Saint-Nazaire, Le Mans and Cholet also received Structural Fund assistance from 1989 to 1993.

Assistance was provided under the Community initiative RENAVAL for the entire département of the Loire-Atlantique.

Loire

Strategy

There are three central aims: slowing the pace of industrial job losses by means of support for economic activity and the diversification of industrial centres; creating and safeguarding skilled and sustainable jobs; and developing local potential.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Business and employment support

Two targets have been quantified: halving the gap between unemployment in the areas concerned and the regional average, and increasing the number of skilled workers by 0.5% per year.

1.1.

Development of business potential

Productive investment, business creation, shared services, business groupings in the craft sector, and "clean and lean" technologies.

1.2.

Support for employment and human resources

Improvements in employment services, and employment promotion.

1.3.

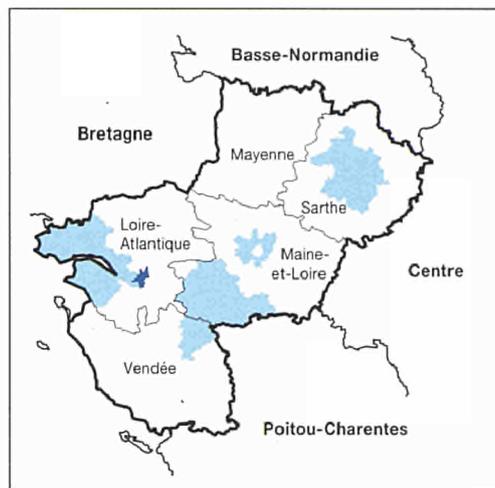
Development of the skills base

Training programmes, audits, training for trainers and modernisation of teaching aids.

1.4.

Development of recruitment and training structures

Support for vocational training centres and decentralisation of the public employment services.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Improvement of the business environment and facilities

The target is to cut industrial job losses by half, bringing the figure down to below 1% a year.

2.1.

Development of amenities for industry

Qualitative improvements in business parks, establishment of business incubators, and supply of office space.

2.2.

Infrastructure development

Development of disused industrial sites and business parks of strategic importance, amenities and primary networks for business parks, and development of multimodal transport facilities.

Priority 3.

Measures to improve the technological environment for businesses

The long-term goal is for 15% of industrial businesses in the eligible areas to conclude a contract with a technology transfer centre or university laboratory.

3.1.

Support for technology transfer

Networking of technology consultants and development of transfer structures and specific R&D programmes in the areas concerned.

3.2.

Development of human resource potential in terms of research and technology

Support for training centres, scholarships, and technology-based continuing training.

3.3.

Integration of economic development in technology training and research

Aid for training and research centres, to promote fields directly related to business development in the areas concerned.

Priority 4.

Local regeneration and diversification of economic activity

Two targets have been quantified: bringing non-industrial employment closer to the national average and increasing tourist business by 10%.

4.1.

Support for the coordination of local development

Development of observatories and operational business support units; business clubs, and establishment of development agents.

4.2.

Measures to increase the attractiveness of urban and suburban centres

Rehabilitation of urban wasteland, facilities, economic development schemes and development of public services for the economy.

4.3.

Tourism, heritage and culture

Support for facilities and accommodation, exploitation of the local heritage, and promotion and encouragement of tourist activities.

4.4.

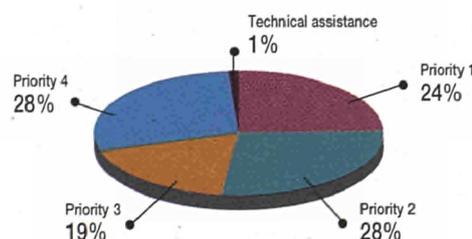
Environmental protection and natural areas

Maintenance and environmental development of strategic natural areas such as the Loire estuary.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures are planned.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	32.000	35.300		67.300
Priority 2	38.000	57.000		95.000
Priority 3	26.100	38.750		62.850
Priority 4	38.500	55.400		93.900
Technical assistance	1.300	1.300		2.600
Total	135.900	187.750		321.650

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Pays de la Loire
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
6, quai Ceineray
F-44035 Nantes CEDEX

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B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of Picardy span the départements of the Somme and the Aisne, with the exception of the employment area of Château-Thierry - nine employment areas in all. The Laon area was not previously eligible for assistance. The programme covers 1,019,000 inhabitants, or 56.3% of the total population of the region and 7% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Picardy

Strategy

The aim is to revitalise economic activity and create jobs by adjusting skills to needs and adapting businesses undergoing conversion and modernisation. But it is also important to ensure sustainable development by generating new resources through the development of endogenous potential and local initiatives.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Training and research systems

To correct the patent shortcomings of these systems, which have often failed to keep pace with economic change. The chief targets are:

- to increase the number of research staff in the public sector (Picardy is bottom of the French league table in this respect),
- to bring the unemployment rate among young people below the age of 25 down to 25% (from the present 30%).

1.1.

Higher education, research and business

Support for education and research establishments, and development of closer ties between universities, research and industry.

1.2.

Vocational and continuing training

Development of relevant training structures.

1.3.

Higher education and research

Development in these fields, in particular to remedy the lack of senior management staff.

1.4.

Employment and continuing training

Courses leading to qualifications at levels IV and V, special training for those experiencing difficulties, pilot programmes and promotion of placements abroad, advice and guidance, etc.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

Priority 2.

Modernisation of the economic fabric

The production base needs to be modernised and services in support of SMEs developed. These measures should increase investment per employee (from FFr 45,000 to FFr 50,000 a year) and the proportion of management staff (from 5.4% to 6%).

2.1.

Technology transfer

Aid for development of innovative products, processes and production equipment.

2.2.

Consultancy and joint initiatives

Measures to encourage businesses to make use of "intellectual resources".

2.3.

Capital and property investment

Aid for productive investment to improve the SMEs' technology base, and for property investment in the craft sector.

2.4.

Training for businesses

In response to organisational changes and new production and management techniques

Priority 3.

Environmental protection

Make good the shortfall in terms of environmental protection. The forecast impact is the creation of 500 jobs and the development of a centre of excellence in the field of waste treatment.

3.1.

Environmental protection and management of the natural heritage

Measures to combat pollution and conserve and develop natural areas, particularly with a view to encouraging tourism.

3.2.

Waste and clean technology

Establishment of industrial waste treatment and recycling activities, encouraging a high rate of local participation, and development of clean technology in the business sector.

3.3.

Pollution prevention and energy efficiency

Measures to encourage businesses to take these factors into account.

3.4.

Jobs and training in the environment field

This new measure is designed to stimulate job creation in the sector.

Priority 4.

Measures to attract investment to the region

The aim is to offer businesses a favourable physical environment, improve urban quality of life and support tourism.

4.1.

Recovery of disused sites, and business parks

Rehabilitation of disused industrial and urban sites with a view to developing business parks and restructuring the urban economic fabric.

4.2.

Urban development

Promotion of sound urban development, enhancement of the role of medium-sized towns, and renovation of run-down districts.

4.3.

Tourist development

Development of the historical, archaeological and natural heritage. Particular attention will be focused on organising the tourist sector, river tourism, specific development projects, and tourist accommodation facilities and amenities.

Technical assistance

Support of sectoral and local studies and consultancy measures for developers.

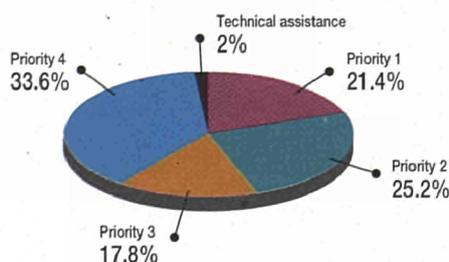
Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Picardie
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
51, rue de la République
F-80020 Amiens CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
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Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	26.266	35.156	3.650	65.072
Priority 2	30.916	34.479	76.290	141.685
Priority 3	21.733	47.133	2.793	71.659
Priority 4	41.038	102.685	2.136	145.859
Technical assistance	2.447	2.447		4.894
Total	122.400	221.900	84.869	429.169

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of the Poitou-Charentes region number 430,000 inhabitants, or 27.5% of the regional population:

- 149,000 around Angoulême (Charente),
- 155,000 around La Rochelle (Charente-Maritime),
- 51,000 in Nord-Deux-Sèvres (an extension of the Cholet area),
- 75,000 around Châtelleraut (Vienne).

The employment areas of Châtelleraut and La Rochelle also received Community assistance from 1989 to 1993.

Further assistance was provided under two Community initiatives: RENAVAL in La Rochelle and KONVER in Châtelleraut (1993).

Poitou-Charentes

Strategy

The aim is to restore competitiveness to the eligible areas by means of quality improvements in terms of the workforce, products and the environment. This strategy will be adapted to the needs of the various employment areas.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Continuation and extension of conversion measures

These measures are designed to remove the scars of a long tradition of industrialisation and to support means to alleviate the social problems related to industrial decline. The scheme is expected to redeploy 3,000 workers and redevelop most derelict sites.

1.1.

Support for local conversion initiatives

1.2.

Rehabilitation of derelict industrial and urban sites

1.3.

Promotion of employment by adapting training in sectors undergoing conversion

Priority 2.

Development of local strengths, particularly in the tourist sector

The aim is to develop the cultural, environmental and tourist potential of the four employment areas with a view to promoting economic growth and job creation.

2.1.

Tourist development and facilities and promotion of urban tourism



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

2.2.

Development and promotion of major amenities

(commercial port at La Rochelle, visual arts centre in Angoulême, etc.).

2.3.

Environmental improvements

Priority 3.

Increased action on development

The central aims of the measures grouped under this priority are maintaining industrial employment rates at their present level and increasing productive investment.

3.1.

Business aids

Support for capital and intangible investment.

3.2.

Development of facilities for industry and access infrastructure for business parks

3.3.

Support for employment and human resources

Advice, training and recruitment aid.

Priority 4.

Technology transfer, research and training

The key aim is to step up research activities in industry.

4.1.

Development of human resource potential in terms of research, science and technology

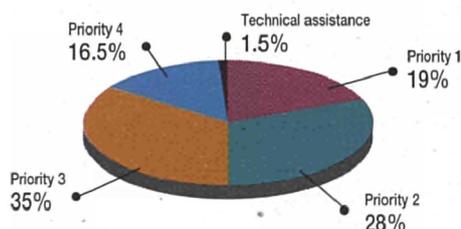
4.2.

Support for investment in vocational and continuing training

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance measures are also planned.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	10.080	10.080		20.160
1.1	1.700	1.700		3.400
1.2	5.750	5.750		11.500
1.3	2.630	2.630		5.260
Priority 2	14.650	27.000		41.650
2.1	4.350	6.525		10.875
2.2	3.350	10.050		13.400
2.3	6.950	10.425		17.375
Priority 3	18.430	30.203		48.633
3.1	4.250	4.250		8.500
3.2	8.830	20.603		29.433
3.3	5.350	5.350		10.700
Priority 4	9.070	9.070		18.140
4.1	1.520	1.520		3.040
4.2	7.550	7.550		15.100
Technical assistance	1.070	1.070		2.140
Total	53.300	77.423		130.723

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Poitou-Charentes
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
Place Aristide Briand
F-86021 Poitiers

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Eligible regions

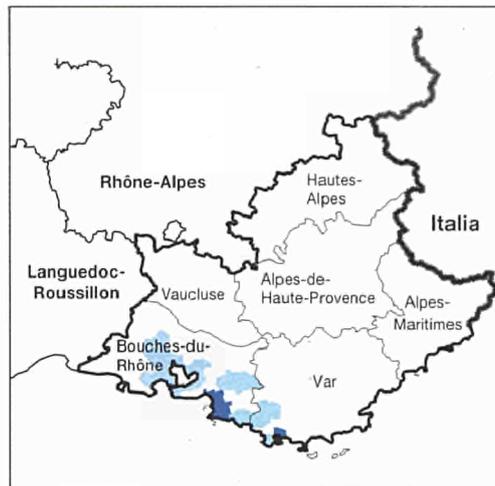
The declining industrial areas of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur cover the Fos and Etang de Berre areas (also eligible from 1989 to 1993), extended to include the Plateau de l'Arbois district, six arrondissements of Marseille, the Ciotat and Toulon-la-Seyne-sur-Mer areas (which previously received assistance under the RENAVAL programme) and the Gardanne coalfield. The programme covers 887,000 inhabitants, or 21% of the total population of the region and 6.1% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Provence - Alpes

Strategy

The aim is to start a virtuous circle of wealth creation, on the one hand by creating jobs - building on the excellent existing research and training potential and an advantageous position on the Mediterranean coast - and on the other by improving general living conditions for residents through the development of regional strengths, in terms of tourism in particular.

The estimated impact of the measures on employment will be to create some 5,200 jobs and safeguard 7,700 others (there are currently 89,000 industrial employees in the eligible areas).



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2
■ Zones partially eligible under Objective 2

Priorities

Priority 1.

Integrated business development

This key element of the regional strategy alone is intended to create or safeguard a total of 11,200 jobs.

1.1.

Business investment

Measures to support and anticipate industrial restructuring by improving the competitiveness of SMEs and SMIs and expanding their markets.

1.2.

Promotion of business development by creating the right intellectual environment

Increase in the number of research workers, training for staff, and technology transfer and dissemination.

1.3.

Business parks and property

To create a suitable physical environment for businesses.

1.4.

Training for economic operators

Priority 2.

Measures to increase potential

New resources can be developed by promoting the region's considerable advantages in terms of tourism and the environment, adopting strategies geared to each area.

2.1.

Development of cultural and tourist potential

2.2.

Urban restructuring

Measures to strengthen the economic and social cohesion of the extremely dense urban fabric along the Mediterranean coast.

2.3.

Environmental protection

Treatment of environmental problems related to industrial activity, and development of the natural heritage.

2.4.

Training

In the fields of tourism, the environment and local development.

- Côte d'Azur

Priority 3.

Development of geographical assets

The aim is to make the most of the position of the eligible areas at the centre of both the Mediterranean development belt and a vast local, regional and interregional market served by major transport and logistics activities, particularly in the Marseille conurbation.

3.1.

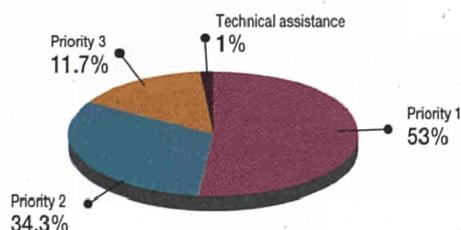
Development of the region's logistics function

Optimisation of overland distribution of goods from northern France and elsewhere in Europe, and of the role of centres for the distribution of products from the Far East on southern European markets. Support for European industrialists wishing to export by sea to the Mediterranean region. Measures to meet the logistic support needs linked to the transport of hazardous goods.

Technical assistance

Two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) technical assistance schemes are planned to finance ex ante appraisal, monitoring and assessment, and information and publicity.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	59.970	61.285	41.375	162.630
1.1	17.600	15.230	40.200	73.030
1.2	16.500	16.500		33.000
1.3	16.200	21.060		37.260
1.3	9.670	8.495	1.175	19.340
Priority 2	38.715	36.865	1.850	77.430
2.1	14.300	14.300		28.600
2.2	14.000	14.000		28.000
2.3	3.000	1.150	1.850	6.000
2.4	7.415	7.415		14.830
Priority 3	13.400	40.200		53.600
3.1	13.400	40.200		53.600
Technical assistance	1.015	1.015		2.030
Total	113.100	139.365	43.225	295.690

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région
Provence-Alpes-Côte
d'Azur
Secrétariat général pour
les Affaires régionales
Place Félix Barret
F-13282 Marseille CEDEX

The full text of the SPD is available at the same address, or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
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Eligible regions

The declining industrial areas of the Rhône-Alpes region encompass most of the Roanne, Valence and Saint-Etienne areas (only the last of these was eligible for assistance during the period 1989-1993). The programme covers 830,000 inhabitants, or 16% of the total population of the region and 6% of the French population eligible for assistance under Objective 2.

Rhône-Alpes

Strategy

The general aim is to shore up industrial performance, particularly in the sectors which have a competitive edge (metallurgy and textiles), diversify economic activity and improve the urban and natural environment of the eligible areas.

The practical results forecast for the programme include a 1% reduction in the current disparity (2.5%) between unemployment in the relevant employment areas and the regional average.

Priorities

Priority 1.

Measures to support and convert industrial concerns

The aim is to consolidate the local specialisation in the metallurgy and textiles sectors, in particular by helping subcontracting SMEs to develop their own products and adjust to market demand. The measures are expected to produce a 2% increase in local industry's national market share in each of these sectors. Investment in training is further expected to rise by a total of 10% in the businesses concerned.

1.1.

Support for business initiatives

Aid for capital and intangible investment, innovation and R&D, and for improving access to capital markets.

Assistance for micro-businesses is also planned to promote the industrialisation of small-scale production processes.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.2.

Measures to encourage business expansion and partnerships

Joint initiatives, shared business services, technology transfer and resource centres.

1.3.

Development of training structures

This measure is designed to adjust human resources in industry to local economic demand.

1.4.

Skills training

Analysis of businesses' staff needs and provision of appropriate skills training.

Priority 2.

Business creation and development

New activities must be encouraged with a view to diversifying the local economic fabric and creating jobs. More specifically, measures under this priority should yield a 5% increase in the number of hotel stays, the creation or expansion of 75 new businesses with more than 10 employees, and the creation of 600 jobs through inward investment.

2.1.

Facilities for business creation

Aid for the creation, expansion and acquisition of activities, business incubators and property, development of industrial services, and development of business parks and related infrastructure.

2.2.

Tourist development and promotion of the local heritage

2.3.

Training

Provision of adapted training to assist budding entrepreneurs and increase professionalism in the tourist sector.

Priority 3.

Local regeneration and environmental protection

Greater emphasis will be placed on both treating and preventing pollution as part of action on urban and industrial regeneration. Two surveys will be conducted among residents to assess the impact of measures.

3.1.

Urban regeneration

Measures will concentrate on deprived districts, and will include the reclamation of urban wasteland, improvement projects and the revitalisation of the craft and trade sectors.

3.2.

Measures to combat industrial pollution

Risk analysis and control, more effective treatment of pollution and adequate public information measures.

3.3.

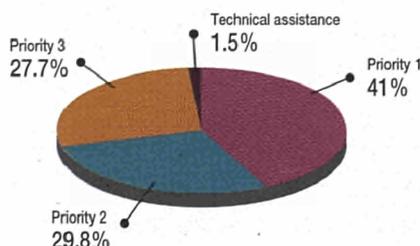
Training

Training in the protection of the local and urban environment will be provided with the aim of improving the integration of disadvantaged groups. Pilot projects are planned to meet specific needs.

Technical assistance

Two technical assistance schemes, one financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the other by the European Social Fund (ESF), are planned to meet statutory requirements regarding the coordination, monitoring and assessment of measures.

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National public-sector financing	Private-sector financing	Total
Priority 1	40.843	42.639	50.071	133.553
Priority 2	29.708	39.970	22.154	91.832
Priority 3	27.595	48.580	12.009	88.184
Technical assistance	1.554	1.556		3.110
Total	99.700	132.745	84.234	316.679

(millions of ecus)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

Further information on the programme is available from the regional authority responsible for its implementation:

Préfecture de la Région Rhône-Alpes
Secrétariat général pour les Affaires régionales
31, rue Mazenod
F-69426 Lyon CEDEX 03

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The Structural Funds

In order to promote harmonious overall development, the Community has adopted a policy focusing on economic and social cohesion with emphasis on non-repayable financial assistance in five priority objectives areas. *

Objective 1

Structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind.

Objective 2

Economic conversion of areas seriously affected by industrial decline.

Objective 3

Combating long-term unemployment and facilitating the integration into working life of young people and those threatened with exclusion from the labour market.

Objective 4

Preventive measures to combat unemployment associated with industrial change.

Objective 5a

Structural adaptation of agriculture and fisheries.

Objective 5b

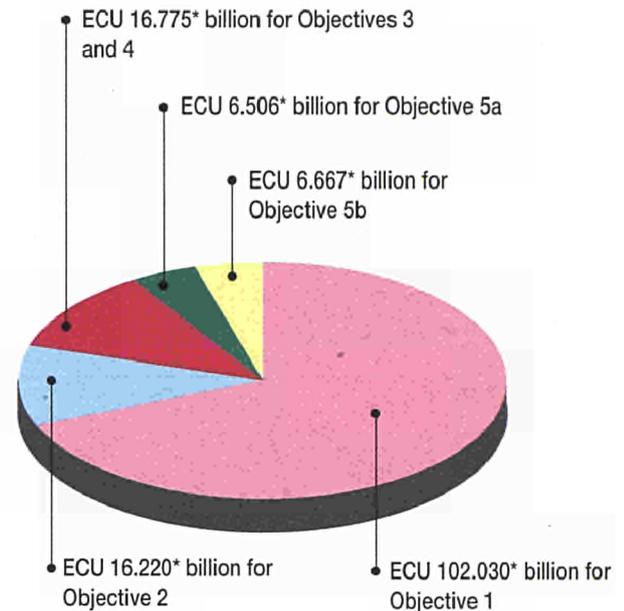
Economic diversification of vulnerable rural areas.

Objectives 1, 2 and 5b are regionally targeted and give rise to measures part-financed by the Structural Funds in certain regions, or parts of regions, recognized as eligible. Measures part-financed by the Structural Funds under Objectives 3, 4 and 5a may be implemented throughout the Community.

For the period 1994-99, the Structural Funds will have at their disposal a total appropriation of ECU 148.193 billion (1994 prices).

- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
- the European Social Fund (ESF),

- the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), and
- the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIGG)



* 1994 prices (excluding transitional and innovative measures).

“Part-financing” is the operative term because, in most cases, the Structural Funds can meet only part of the total cost of projects:

- up to 85% in the remotest regions and certain Greek islands,
 - up to 80% in the Objective 1 regions of Spain, Greece, Ireland and Portugal,
 - up to 75% in the other Objective 1 regions,
 - up to 50% for Objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5b.
- Complementary national financing may be of private or public (national, regional or local) origin.

Other Community sources of financing are available, such as grants from the Cohesion Fund, and EIB and ECSC loans.

* 1995 saw the introduction of a new Objective 6 for the development of underpopulated regions in Sweden and Finland.

