



November 1995 EN

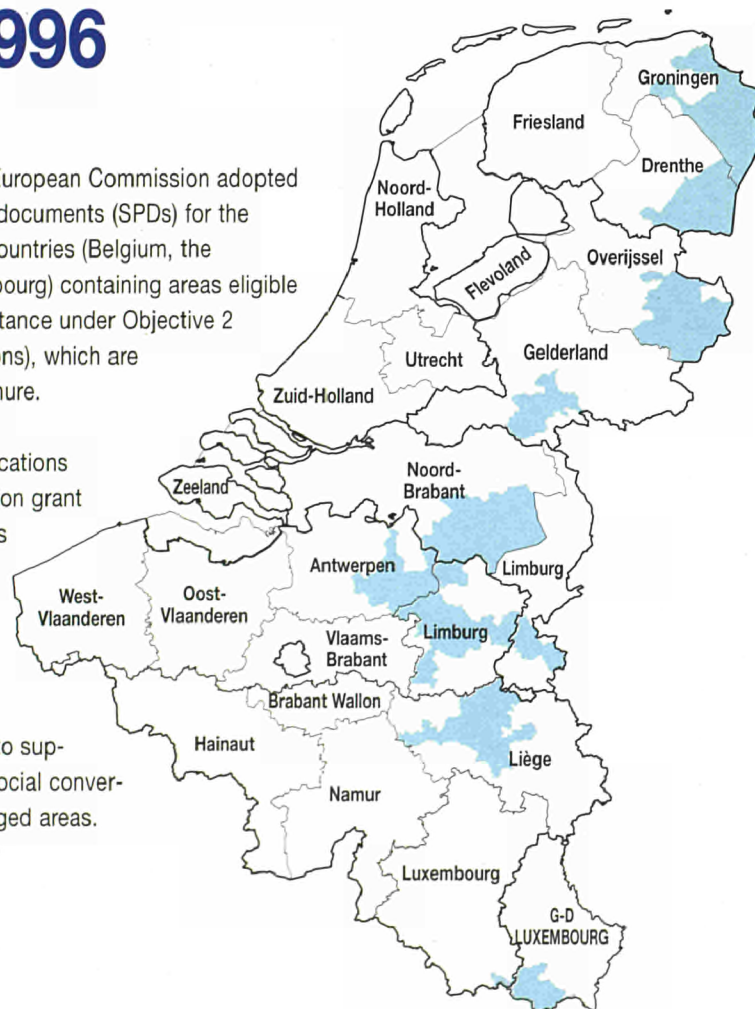
Summary of the Objective 2 SPDs for the Benelux countries

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

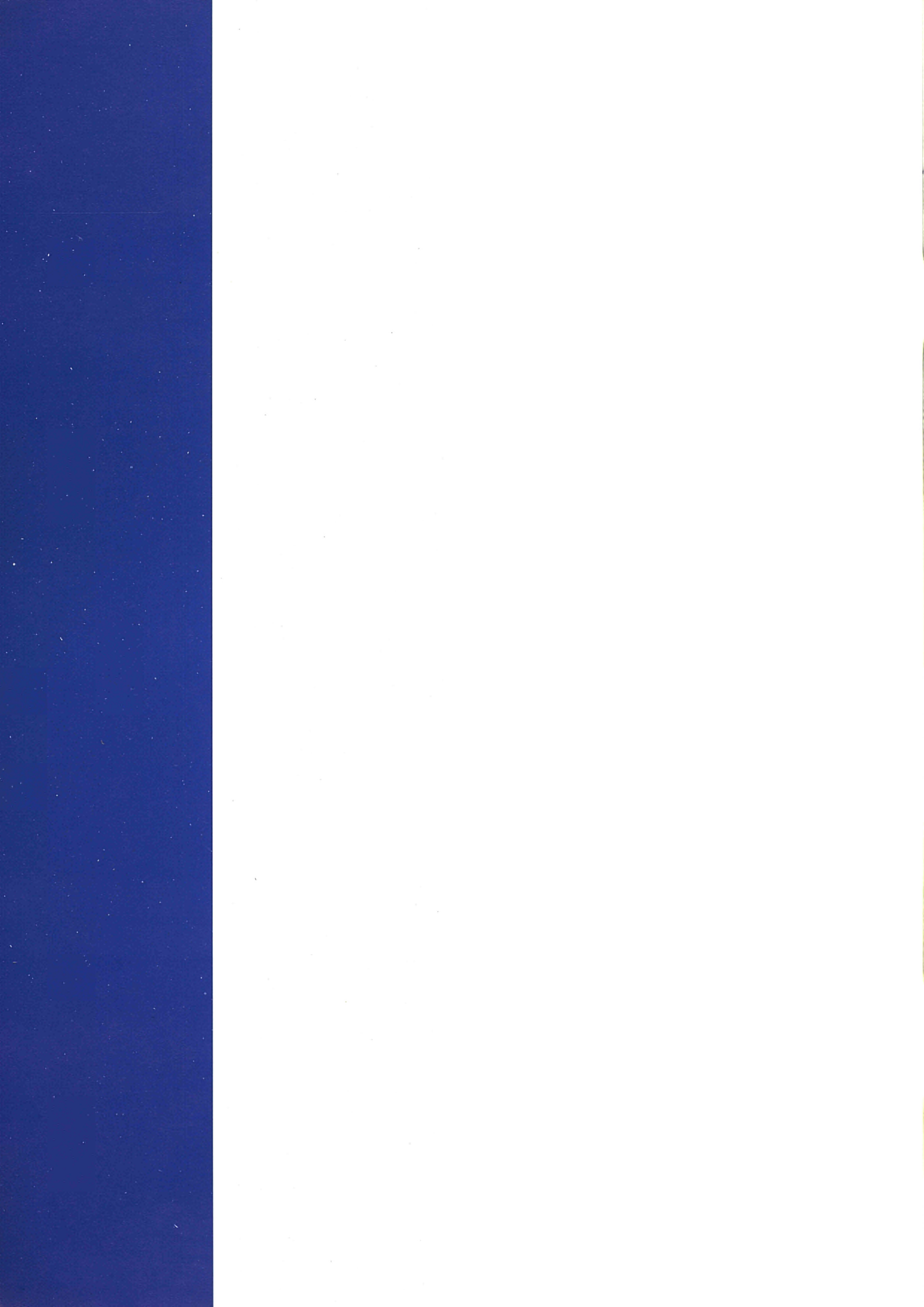
In December 1994, the European Commission adopted the single programming documents (SPDs) for the regions of the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) containing areas eligible for Structural Fund assistance under Objective 2 (declining industrial regions), which are summarised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

The documents give indications of how the ECU 467 million grant from the Structural Funds to these areas for the period 1994-1996 will be used.

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



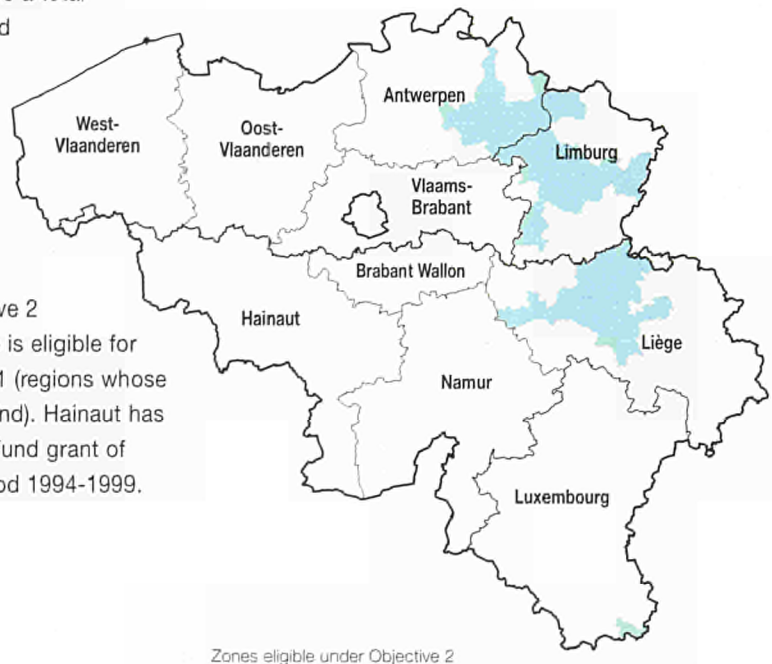
■ Zones eligible under Objective 2



Belgium

Four Belgian provinces contain Objective 2 areas: Luxembourg, Liège, Limburg and Antwerpen. These areas have a total population of 1.4 million, and from 1994 to 1996 they are due to receive a Structural Fund grant of some ECU 160 million (at 1994 prices), or nearly BFr 6.5 billion.

Hainaut contains no Objective 2 areas, as the entire province is eligible for assistance under Objective 1 (regions whose development is lagging behind). Hainaut has been awarded a Structural Fund grant of ECU 730 million for the period 1994-1999.



Eligible regions

The municipality of Aubange in Luxembourg province in Belgium (Arlon arrondissement) is eligible for assistance under Objective 2 for 1994-1996, as it was for the previous planning period. It numbers some 14,500 residents.

Aubange is a border area within the EDP, and the crossborder conurbation it forms with the neighbouring municipalities of Pétange (L) and Longwy (F) has been hard hit by the decline of the iron and steel industry. Frontier workers, mostly employed in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, account for a substantial share of the municipal workforce.

Aubange

Strategy

The programme pursues the strategy implemented to date, which focuses on industrial activity in Aubange and the crossborder conurbation in the mechanics, electrical and electronics sectors. A twin-track development process is planned:

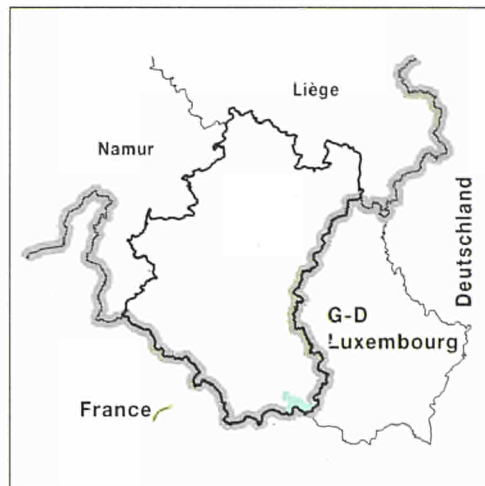
- exogenous development, which, with the arrival of major multinationals, puts the local economy back on its feet after the collapse of the iron and steel monoindustry;
- endogenous development, via closer ties between the newcomers and local SMEs, particularly in terms of industrial logistics (stock control and distribution, etc.), and via a process of training and technological development.

Priorities

Priority 1

Business development and employment growth

A single priority has been identified for the programme: creating the right conditions for employment-generating investment by businesses - SMEs and SMIs in particular - with a view to shoring up the tentative economic recovery, which has gone only part-way to offsetting the job losses of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The target is to create 300 jobs over the short term in the Belgian part of the EDP (European Development Pole).



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.1.

Business facilities

Facilities for industrial parks (in particular to ensure a reliable water supply), development of basic industrial premises and establishment of an instrument to finance business sites.

1.2.

Measures to promote technological innovation

By means of training centred on new technologies and growth sectors, training for young people in need of additional qualifications, and intercompany training schemes. Community assistance is available for 61 trainees.

1.3.

SME development

Through management training for budding entrepreneurs and in-house training for business creation, development and conversion. Community assistance covers 118 trainees.

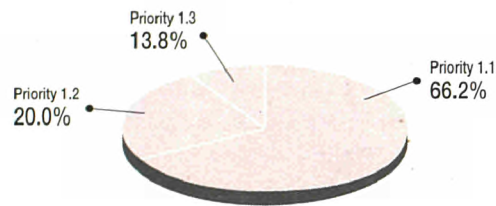
Useful addresses

Ministère de la Région wallonne
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The full text of the SPD is available from the relevant regional authority 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 funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1				
1.1	0.862500	1.293750	-	2.156250
1.2	0.261250	0.319250	0.025000	0.605500
1.3	0.176250	0.215500	-	0.391750
Total	1.300000	1.828500	0.025000	3.153500

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Eligible regions

The province of Limburg in the north of Flemish-speaking Belgium lies within a «500 km» radius of the half of the EU population with the greatest purchasing power and levels of labour participation. Its proximity to Eindhoven/Aachen and Leuven is important in view of the fact that the region is one of the EU's largest centres for research and development. The following 19 municipalities are covered by Objective 2 during the new programming period: As, Beringen, Diepenbeek, Genk, Ham, Hasselt, Heusden-Zolder, Leopoldsberg, Lummen, Nieuwerkerken, Opglabbeek, Sint-Truiden, Tessenderlo, Zonhoven, Dilsen-Stokkem, Houthalen-Helchteren, Lommel, Overpelt and Maasmechelen.

The region supports a population of 458,221 (1993 census) living in an area of 1,102 km². The average rate of registered unemployment in Limburg between 1990 and 1992 was 7.8%, compared with 5.3% in the rest of Flanders and 8.7% in the EU. In June 1994, almost 57% of unemployed people had been jobless for over a year.

Limburg

Strategy

The main development strategy is to make a substantial contribution to the socio-economic development of Limburg, in particular to improve employment prospects through the optimum use of the available development opportunities, yet without compromising the quality of the residential environment. This aim can be translated into a number of operational aims:

- to substantially reduce the gap between the regional unemployment rate and the unemployment rate in the rest of Flanders by the end of 1998;
- to increase the regional activity rate to the level of the rest of Flanders by the end of 1998;
- to increase the competitive strength of regional industry;
- to increase the quality of human capital with a view to improving the match between labour market supply and demand;
- to protect and improve the regional environment and to improve the attractiveness of the region to foreign investors;
- to improve socio-economic cohesion within the region.

Priorities

Priority 1:

Supporting the industrial sector

To support and assist SMEs, to increase cooperation between enterprises, to strengthen applied scientific research.

1.1.

Supporting SMEs

Organising targeted information meetings; consultancy services.

1.2.

Promoting the region to foreign investors



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.3.

Infrastructure and business accommodation

Access to sites; demolition, rebuilding and conversion; infrastructure work on business sites (sewage, telematics, utilities).

1.4.

Technology and innovation

Organisation of thematic workshops; encouraging cooperation and technology transfer.

1.5.

Advice, supervision, training and reintegration activities

Programmes aimed at general management.

Priority 2:

Support for the tertiary sector, notably commercial services and telecommunications, transport and logistics, tourism and new media

To maximise the positive growth potential of the tertiary sector in the region. Limburg is also Flanders' greenest province and an excellent destination for short stays. More support is therefore needed for the continued improvement and expansion of Limburg's tourism sector.

2.1.

Support for SMEs, especially in transport and logistics, new media, commercial services and telecommunications

2.2.

Infrastructure and business accommodation

Access roads to industrial sites; construction of infrastructure on industrial sites; telematics infrastructure; security provisions.

2.3.

Technology and innovation

Organisation of thematic workshops; carrying out SWOT analyses.

2.4.

Tourism

Advice, supervision of marketing and management; creating a tourist infrastructure; promotional activities.

2.5.

Expansion of an urban agglomeration

Preparatory work on zones promoting economic development; facilities to promote public transport in the interests of economic development and a good living environment.

2.6.

Advice, supervision, training and reintegration activities

Programmes aimed at general management.

Priority 3:

Improving and protecting the environment

Preventive measures must be taken and environmental damage must be stopped at source. The EU will in principle only support measures aimed at creating sustainable development.

3.1.

Promoting the application of environmentally-friendly production processes by SMEs

3.2.

Decontamination of polluted industrial premises and essential infrastructure provisions (environment park)

3.3.

Recycling and other innovative treatment methods for industrial waste, plus environmental research and development

3.4.

Protecting and developing nature and the landscape

Actions to open up the natural habitat and landscape for tourism; reception facilities for tourism.

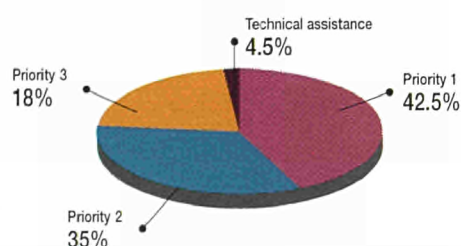
3.5.

Environmental training

Training programmes for managers in SMEs; training of workers in the environmental sector; careers advice; retraining or supplementary training of unemployed people.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	19.875	27.214	3.507	50.596
Priority 2	16.406	23.117	4.373	43.896
Priority 3	8.380	9.907	4.401	22.688
Technical assistance	2.139	2.530	-	4.669
Total	46.800	62.768	12.281	121.849

(ECU millions)

Useful addresses

Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap
Departement E.W.B.L.
Markiesstraat, 1
B-1000 Brussels

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 industrial basin of the Meuse and Vesdre valleys, an area covering 33 municipalities in the province of Liège, Wallonia, is eligible for assistance under Objective 2 for the period 1994-1996. It spans:

- the Meuse valley (the municipalities of Amay, Engis, Héron, Villers-le-Bouillet and Wanze in the Huy arrondissement, and Saint-Georges-sur-Meuse in the arrondissement of Waremme);
- the Vesdre valley (the municipalities of Dison, Pepinster and Verviers);
- at the centre of the basin, the arrondissement of Liège, including the Liège conurbation. Only the latter arrondissement was previously eligible for assistance. The programme covers a very densely spread population (677 inhabitants/km²) of 717,128, or 7.1% of the regional total.

Meuse-Vesdre (Liège)

Strategy

The manufacturing industry could be the mainspring of economic recovery, if activities dependent on the declining metal industry can be restructured and diversified, the agri-foodstuffs sector strengthened and specific measures undertaken to foster the development of SMEs. Tourism is another sector where support is required. The programme is expected to create 1,300 jobs a year in order to maintain local unemployment at its current level in relation to the national figure, or even 2,000 to stabilise it at 1992 levels.

Priorities

Priority 1

Revitalisation and diversification of the economy

1.1. and 1.2.

Aids for productive investment (direct creation of 1,140 jobs planned). Increase in venture capital for SMEs (approval of some 60 applications forecast).

1.3.1. to 1.3.5.

Advice and encouragement for the development of endogenous potential

Economic stimulation and information for SMEs (1,200 businesses). Management assistance (90 SMEs). Assistance for business creation through the Business and Innovation Centres (creation of some 50 SMEs). Training for company directors and development of SME potential (1,300 people: directors, managers, employees and jobseekers).

Improvement and establishment of training programmes to develop that potential.

1.4.4. to 1.4.3.

Development of business facilities

Facilities for industrial, craft and service parks (130 hectares). Construction and fitting-out of temporary business premises (14 buildings). Access to industrial sites and estates (15 locations).



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.5.1. and 1.5.2.

Promotion of trade on external markets
Image promotion for local businesses.
Internationalisation of SME activities.

Priority 2

Technological innovation

2.1. and 2.2.

Development of centres of excellence in R&D (to help businesses acquire the capacity to participate in Community programmes and international projects in the research field).
Cooperation between the business community and research centres.

2.3.1. to 2.3.5.

Measures to stimulate the development of new products and processes leading to new products

International partnerships: support for around 15 international R&D projects.

“ASSISTE”: financing for feasibility studies, etc.

“STIMULE”: aid programme for the development of new products and processes
COPROTECH: refundable advances for R&D programmes

ACQUITECH: incentives for technology transfers from abroad

2.4.1. and 2.4.2.

Skills development for innovative sectors
Skills training (1,576 trainees). Infrastructural support for the training programme.

2.5.

Human resource development in the university and research centres

Priority 3

The attractiveness of the local area

3.1. to 3.3.

Rehabilitation and redevelopment of derelict industrial sites (120 hectares). Purification plant on the river Vesdre. Completion of airport facilities.

3.4.1. to 3.4.3.

Development of tourist potential

Development of tourist sites along the Meuse in Liège (some 20 sites). Industrial archaeology (around 10 sites). Completion of work already in progress.

3.5.1. and 3.5.2.

Skills development in the field of tourism and environmental protection

Skills training. Aid for business creation and for improvements in training provision.

Priority 4

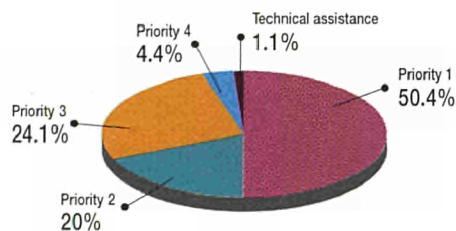
Specific support for employment growth

4.1. to 4.4.

Business creation: training (205 people), recruitment aids and assistance for SME start-ups (commercial and other sectors). Aids for integration via voluntary associations, mutual societies and cooperatives. Careers guidance and support. Continuing training and support for employment-training partnerships.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	44.567	60.931	84.104	189.602
Priority 2	17.655	19.037	3.983	40.674
Priority 3	21.334	51.954	-	73.288
Priority 4	3.938	4.623	-	8.562
Technical assistance	1.006	1.051	-	2.057
Total	88.500	137.596	88.087	314.183

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

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Eligible regions

The region of Turnhout is a rural area in the east of the Province of Antwerp (Flanders). It has a favourable location, in that it is situated between the growth centres of Antwerp and Brussels, the Dutch cities of Breda, Tilburg and Eindhoven but it is also close to the Objective 2 region of Limburg. During the new programming period, the following 12 municipalities will be covered: Balen, Geel, Grobbendonk, Herentals, Herenhout, Kasterlee, Laakdal, Meerhout, Mol, Olen, Turnhout and Westerlo.

The population of the region in 1993 was 235,076 in an area of 682 km². In 1992, 17,482 people in the region were unemployed.

Unemployment is one of the region's biggest weaknesses. Its other problems can be summed up as follows:

- low labour market participation
- relatively few highly-qualified individuals, whereas demand for these individuals is increasing
- limited transport infrastructure (especially the lack of a north-south axis, which is a major problem for the competitive position of the region)
- road transport congestion
- over-representation of sensitive industrial sectors
- export-orientation is well below that of Flanders as a whole.

Turnhout

Strategy

The overall development strategy for the region is to improve employment prospects and to raise the standard of living of the regional population through the optimum use of available development opportunities, yet without compromising the quality of the residential environment. This aim can be translated into a number of operational aims:

- to increase the competitive strength of regional industry;
- to improve the attractiveness of the region to external investment;
- to increase the quality of human capital with a view to improving the match between labour market supply and demand;
- to protect and improve the regional environment.

Priorities

Priority 1:

Supporting the industrial sector

To promote an active policy aimed at increasing the growth potential of existing industry, especially of SMEs, and at attracting inward investment from outside the region.

1.1.

Infrastructure and business accommodation

Access roads to industrial sites; construction of infrastructure on industrial sites; telematics infrastructure; security provisions.

1.2.

Technology and innovation

Organisation of thematic workshops; carrying out SWOT analyses; encouraging cooperation and the transfer of know-how.

1.3.

Support for SMEs

Organising targeted information meetings; consultancy services.



□ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.4.

Advice, supervision, training and reintegration activities

Training programmes for managers; training of workers in the industrial sector; careers advice; retraining or supplementary training of unemployed people.

Priority 2:

Support for the tertiary sector, notably commercial services, transport and logistics, telematics and tourism

To maximise the positive growth potential for the tertiary sector in the region.

2.1.

Infrastructure and business accommodation

Access to sites; demolition, rebuilding and conversion; infrastructure work on business sites (sewage, telematics, utilities).

2.2.

Technology and innovation

Organisation of thematic workshops; carrying out SWOT analyses; encouraging cooperation and the transfer of know-how.

2.3.

Support for SMEs, notably in the commercial services, transport and logistics and tourist sectors

Organising targeted information meetings; consultancy services.

2.4.

Advice, supervision, training and reintegration activities

Training programmes for managers; training of workers in the transport and distribution sector; careers advice; retraining or supplementary training of unemployed people.

Priority 3:

Improving and protecting the environment

The Kempen region has many attractive natural features; this is a positive asset in attracting new investment and in promoting tourism.

3.1.

Decontamination of polluted industrial premises and essential infrastructure provisions

Soil decontamination operations, including water purification stations for industry on these sites; expansion of the environmental knowledge infrastructure.

3.2.

Recycling and other innovative treatment methods for industrial waste, plus environmental research and development

Supporting regional industry to process waste innovatively; exchanging results.

3.3.

Promoting the application of environmentally-friendly production processes by SMEs

Organising targeted information meetings; consultancy services.

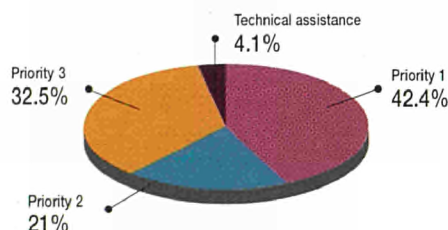
3.4.

Environmental training

Training programmes for managers in SMEs; training of workers in the environmental sector; careers advice; retraining or supplementary training of unemployed people; improving the match between labour market supply and demand.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	9.921	14.123	1.316	25.360
Priority 2	4.912	6.472	1.259	12.643
Priority 3	7.613	8.907	1.473	17.993
Technical assistance	0.954	1.110	-	2.064
Total	23.400	30.612	4.048	58.060

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful address

Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap
Administratie Economie
Markiesstraat, 1
B-1000 Brussel

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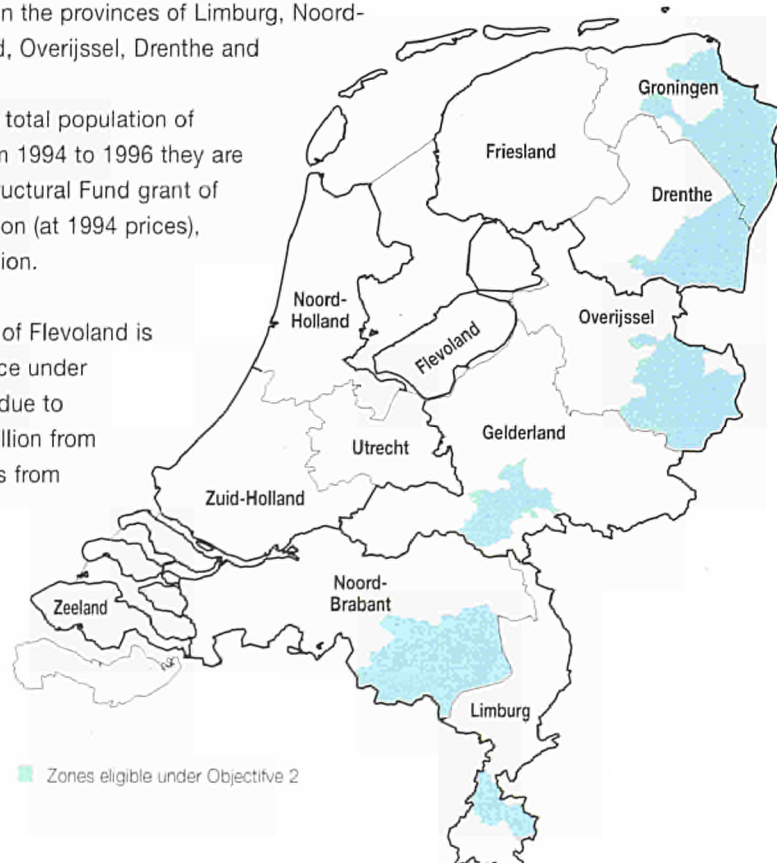


Netherlands

In the Netherlands, five areas are eligible for assistance under Objective 2, in the provinces of Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Gelderland, Overijssel, Drenthe and Groningen.

These areas have a total population of 2.6 million, and from 1994 to 1996 they are due to receive a Structural Fund grant of some ECU 300 million (at 1994 prices), or nearly FI 650 million.

The entire province of Flevoland is eligible for assistance under Objective 1, and is due to receive ECU 150 million from the Structural Funds from 1994 to 1999.



Eligible regions

The Arnhem-Nijmegen Objective 2 region lies along the Dutch-German border. The region's 700,000 inhabitants make it the largest population concentration in the country outside the Randstad. The region covers 12 municipalities: Arnhem, Westervoort, Duiven, Zevenaar, Heteren, Bemmelen, Huissen, Elst, Valburg, Nijmegen, Beuningen and Wijchen.

In 1992, almost 33,000 people in the region - almost 80% of them in Arnhem or Nijmegen - were registered as unemployed. Although unemployment has fallen slightly since 1989, it is still unacceptably high compared with the national and European averages. The situation is worst in the two central cities of Arnhem and Nijmegen, which have unemployment levels of 14% and 16% respectively - the highest in the Netherlands.

The region of Arnhem-Nijmegen suffers from high unemployment and a limited industrial base. Many industrial employment opportunities disappeared during the 1960s and 1970s.

Arnhem-Nijmegen

Strategy

The aim is to exploit the strategic location of the region (including in international terms) on major transport axes both for freight and for passengers, and to use this as a basis for further development. Subsidiary development aims are to:

- strengthen the economic structure and more specifically the growth in employment;
- create a competitive business location climate;
- improve the labour market.

Priorities

Priority 1

EuroTradePort

To contribute to the growth of employment in the transport and distribution sectors and in the commercial services sector.

1.1.

Multi-modal transport region

Establishing an industrial estate at Bijsterhuizen specifically geared to transport, distribution and logistics; the realisation of a Logistic Foothold Centre and the construction of business sites along the A12 (between Arnhem and Duiven).

1.2.

Rail Business Centre

Ten strategic office locations (funding for feasibility studies, site purchasing, access, improving local and municipal utilities).

1.3.

Revitalisation of industrial sites

Redevelopment of the 'Kop van Weert' port and industrial area in Nijmegen; revitalisation of the Westervoortsedijk/Het Broek industrial estate in Arnhem.



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.4.

Strengthening industry in the EuroTradePort

Collective activities and SME consultancy services (e.g. advising companies on the benefits of 'value added logistics' in transport and distribution).

1.5.

Investing in human capital for the transport and distribution sector and the commercial services sector

Training for management posts or retraining of existing personnel; upgrading qualifications through supplementary training; development of flexible practical training centres.

Priority 2

Strengthening the industrial and technological base

Encouraging cooperation between regional industries in various areas in order to develop new products.

2.1.

Business accommodation

Establishing accommodation in the Mercator Technology and Science Park (Nijmegen), HBO-Bedrijfscentrum (Arnhem) and Bedrijfscentrum Simon Stevin (Arnhem); Stichting Keten Bedrijfscentra action programme.

2.2.

Strengthening the industrial structure and knowledge infrastructure

Business clusters (e.g. Industrial Collaboration Project among SMEs in the electro-plating industry); quality promotion and innovation stimulation (e.g. Medical Technology in Central Gelderland Project, to encourage the commercial application of medical technology); regional capital; new commercial activities (e.g. encouraging new entrepreneurship; acquisition of new companies); internationalisation (e.g. joint export trips); transfer of knowledge (Specialists in SMEs Project).

2.3.

Investing in human capital: industry

Improving success rates for young industrial entrepreneurs through brief supplementary training schemes; improving in-service and practical training.

Priority 3

Tourism

To provide a complete range varying from urban tourism (attractions, events, culture, conferences) to nature and landscape and active recreation. Priority will be given to improving the quality of existing facilities and companies.

3.1.

Strengthening city centre attractions

The further expansion of the tourism infrastructure around e.g. the Openlucht Museum and Burgers Zoo; promoting Arnhem and Nijmegen as shopping towns.

3.2.

Strengthening commerce in the tourism sector

Collective activities and consultancy services for SMEs (promotional activities aimed at growth markets, information meetings and workshops).

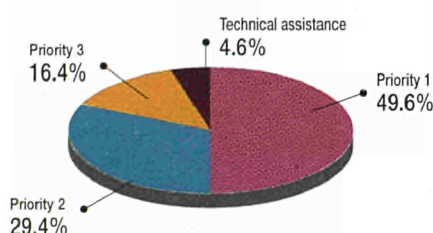
3.3.

Investing in human capital: tourism

Improving employment opportunities in the hotel, restaurant and catering industry (flexible training centres, improving in-service and practical training).

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	27.77	56.93	5.75	90.45
Priority 2	16.49	17.75	12.56	46.80
Priority 3	9.19	15.27	4.54	29.00
Technical assistance	2.55	2.82	-	5.37
Total	56.00	92.77	22.85	171.62

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful address

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Euowerk ERDF
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Euowerk ESF
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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 Groningen-Drenthe Objective 2 region is situated on the Dutch-German border and covers the centers of the COROP regions of eastern Groningen, Delfzijl and its surrounding area and south-eastern Drenthe as well as the municipalities of Groningen, Hoogezand-Sappemeer and Hogeveen (a total area of 2,296 km²). In 1992, the area had a population of 606,000. Overall employment in the region has grown by 6% since 1988, bringing the rate of growth to just over the national average. However, in 1993 the rate of registered unemployment was 16.1% (twice as high as the national average).

This structural unemployment is the region's biggest problem. Another is its small-scale business structure, with over 99% of companies employing under 100 workers. Levels of training are also relatively low, as is net participation rate. Business investment by companies in the region has declined sharply in recent years. On the other hand, the Groningen-Drenthe region has a number of strengths, notably a good basic infrastructure and ports with adequate industrial land. The region's proximity to Scandinavia, northern Germany and eastern Europe is also becoming increasingly important.

Groningen-Drenthe

Strategy

The strategy is to promote the socio-economic development of the region, notably by creating additional employment and increasing the gross regional product per head of the population, without damaging the environment, through the following operational aims:

- improving regional employment prospects;
- improving and optimising the match between labour market supply and demand;
- increasing the competitive strength of regional industry, especially in transport and distribution, through improvements in infrastructure, the stimulation of indigenous potential and investment attraction;
- improving the tourism product in the region through the professionalisation of the tourism industry and the improvement of infrastructure while preserving the countryside;
- protecting and improving the environment in the region and thereby improving the region's image as an attractive investment and residential environment.

Priorities

Priority 1

Strengthening industry and commercial services

To stimulate and support initiatives in industrial sectors where Groningen-Drenthe enjoys comparative advantages over other regions, thereby positively influencing employment in the region. The development of a good business location climate, a good infrastructure and attractive business sites.

1.1.

Business accommodation

- Restructuring specific business sites: e.g. in Coevorden, Schoonebeek and Groningen.
- Creation of specific business locations: logistical sites near e.g. Hogeveen, Veendam; process industry sites e.g. Delfzijl; offshore supply sites: Eemshaven.



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.2.

Opening up areas with economic potential

Improving the N37 road from Hogeveen to Emmen to connect it to the European transport axes (Transeuropean road network outline plan); developing the area around the Noorderdierenpark; further development of the greenhouse industry; improving road access to the Eemsmondhavens (industrial-maritime complex); telecommunications facilities.

1.3.

Strengthening SMEs

- Branch-oriented approach: technological innovation, internationalisation, quality promotion.
- Subsidy schemes, e.g. for R&D, technology in the northern Netherlands.

1.4.

Knowledge infrastructure

- Establishment of a Branch Technology Development Centre.
- Establishment of a Development Centre for Telematics.
- Establishment of an environmental transfer point.

1.5.

Promotion

Stimulating commerce and employment in the region through a coordinated approach to promotional and acquisition activities in a dozen industrial areas.

1.6.

Environment, energy, waste recycling

Feasibility studies; advice on applying environmental technology; disposal of electrical and electronic appliances; activities using residue heat from power stations.

1.7.

Human resources for industry

Research and training (e.g. study on training needs in the construction industry; Northern Netherlands Quality Initiative such as briefing companies on quality assurance); advice and training; strengthening the training infrastructure (e.g. European Training Centre for Machine Technology; training course in logistics); strengthening middle management (e.g. knowledge pool).

Priority 2

Tourism

To further increase the number of overnight stays in Drenthe, where tourism is better developed than in Groningen, by 3% per year. To increase Groningen's share in national tourism spending from 1.5% in 1992 to 2.5% by the year 2000.

2.1.

Tourism infrastructure and tourist attractions

Improving cultural attractions; improving the waterways network (e.g. creating a uniform system for the manning of bridges and locks); expanding the tourism infrastructure for the Emmen Theme Park.

2.2.

Promotion and cooperation

Strengthening the regional VVV tourism organisation; setting up the Oldambt development company to manage the creation of a new 'flooded' nature reserve.

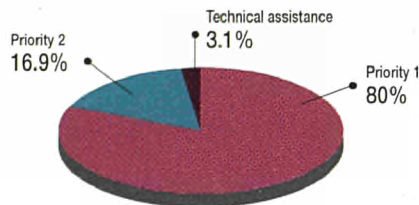
2.3.

Professionalisation of the tourism sector

Research and Information; advice and training.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	60.83	116.61	40.38	217.82
Priority 2	12.81	13.63	3.76	30.20
Technical assistance	2.36	2.36	-	4.72
Total	76.00	132.60	44.14	252.74

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful address

Programma Secretariaat
Doelstelling 2
Damsport 1
Postbus 424
NL-9700 AK Groningen
Tel.: + 31 50 5214498

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 Twente Objective 2 region lies along the Dutch-German border and includes the municipalities of Almelo, Ambt Delden, Borne, Diepenheim, Enschede, Goor, Haaksbergen, Den Ham, Hengelo, Losser, Markelo, Oldenzaal, Stad Delden, Tubbergen, Vriezenveen, Weerslo and Wierden. The area covered is 1,181 km² (3.5% of the surface area of the Netherlands). In 1993, the region had a population of 505,153. Although registered unemployment in Twente fell during the years leading up to 1992, it rose again sharply in 1993, and unemployment in the region is consistently above the national average.

The area's major problems include high unemployment and over-reliance on the industrial sector, a weak service sector and low levels of training. However, these are offset by the progress that has been achieved in the development of business accommodation, Twente's favourable geographical location, its traditional industrial basis and its good tourism prospects.

Twente

Strategy

The development strategy for Twente is to create positive economic growth, particularly in terms of new jobs and a higher gross regional product, in a socially responsible way, by:

- improving regional employment prospects;
- improving and optimising the match between labour market supply and demand;
- increasing the competitive strength of regional industry, especially in transport and distribution and industry and business services;
- improving the quality of output of the tourism sector in the region;
- protecting and improving the environment.

Priorities

Priority 1

Twente as a transport and distribution region

To increase employment in these sectors and to remove the disparity between regional and national employment levels by the year 2000.

1.1.

Creation of a multi-modal transport zone

- Three road and rail projects:
 - a) Opening up a number of important industrial estates in the region to the arterial roads linking the Randstad with the Ruhr Valley.
 - b) Construction of a station at Drienerloo to create access to the Business & Science Park.
 - c) Upgrading the Almelo-Mariënberg railway line.
- Telecommunications:

Construction of a cable infrastructure at the Business & Science Park; establishment of a Telematics Expertise Centre.



Zones eligible under Objective 2

- Transport and distribution facilities:

Building of a road-rail transport terminal; further expansion of the logistical facilities around Twente airport; development of a free trade zone with Public Warehousing, including specific customs facilities.

1.2

Innovative entrepreneurship in transport and distribution

Information meetings and workshops on logistics, telematics, value-added logistics, etc; setting up pilot and demonstration projects in these areas; helping SMEs to introduce environmentally-friendly transport methods.

1.3.

Human resource development for the transport and distribution sector

Training management and employees in the T&D sector; job selection and information activities, training for unemployed in T&D sector.

1.4.

Promoting Twente as a logistical intersection

Promotion and publicity; network formation with other European transport zones.

Priority 2

Twente as an industrial region

To stimulate and support initiatives in industrial sectors where Twente enjoys comparative advantages over other regions.

2.1.

Business accommodation

Development of new industrial estates; redevelopment of old industrial estates; development of business parks and centres aimed at certain sectors of industry / services.

2.2.

Technology and knowledge infrastructure

Developing small technology institutes on the Business & Science Park; developing expertise centres for e.g. mechatronics, telematics, electronic services; pilot project for distance learning.

2.3.

Industrial entrepreneurship

Expansion of an existing waste prevention project; branch-oriented logistical projects to tie in with existing initiatives by the Twente Logistical Foundation; support new enterprises; quality management projects; networking projects.

2.4.

Human resources for industry

Management training for SMEs in the industrial and services sector; worker training; training of unemployed for vacancies in industries / services.

2.5.

Promotion and international cooperation

International Umbrella Project: e.g. international fact-finding trips, projects to stimulate

international cooperation; Twente Promotion Foundation: business seminars, meetings and promotional material.

Priority 3

Twente as a tourism region

To increase the quality of tourism activities in Twente and lengthen the season. Increase spending by tourists.

3.1.

Tourism infrastructure

Development of the Haaksbergen-Hengelo-Enschede area through the construction of a Museum District Railway; new yacht harbour in Almelo; creation of a national steam museum in Haaksbergen; tourist development of the Diekman area in Enschede.

3.2.

Professionalisation of the tourism sector

Training in human resource management, planning, marketing, sales, etc; training of unemployed people for vacancies.

3.3.

Promotion, cooperation and strengthening the region's competitive position for tourism

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	16.96	50.64	10.08	77.68
Priority 2	34.74	41.21	29.19	105.14
Priority 3	4.84	5.26	1.50	11.60
Technical assistance	1.46	1.60	-	3.06
Total	58.00	98.71	40.77	197.48

(ECU millions)

Useful address

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EFRO Programma
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RBA Twente - ESF
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Tel.: +31 74 2557151

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Objective 2

Eligible regions

The Objective 2 region of South Limburg lies in the south-east of the Netherlands in the area that borders Belgium and Germany. It covers parts of the labour market area of Heerlen/Sittard, and more particularly the municipalities of Beek, Born, Brunssum, Geleen, Heerlen, Kerkrade, Landgraaf, Nuth, Schinnen, Sittard and Stein. In 1994, the region had a population of 388,665 on a surface area of 290 km².

A total of 9,000 jobs disappeared in the years preceding 1993. At the end of 1993, the number of registered unemployed people in the new Objective 2 region numbered 17,552, equivalent to 9.3% of the labour force. The percentage of unemployment in the region is therefore well above the national average.

South Limburg has a complex economic structure: it is a former mining area which has undergone considerable redevelopment, but it is also a region with great potential to strengthen its economic position in the Euregio. The region's main weakness lies in its high unemployment. Another problem is the sensitivity of its industry to economic cycles. Despite its internationally favourable location, there is limited cohesion between industrial companies.

South Limburg

Strategy

The overall aim for the socio-economic development of South Limburg is to create employment and to improve the standard of living in the region without compromising the quality of the environment. This general aim is supported by a number of operational aims:

- to improve employment prospects for the region's working population;
- to increase the competitive strength of SMEs in the Objective 2 region;
- to improve and optimise the match between labour market supply and demand;
- to protect and improve the environment in the region, thereby improving the region's image as an attractive investment and residential environment.
- to achieve further diversification of the regional economic structure.

Priorities

Priority 1

Industry and technology

To expand the number of jobs and industrial sites in the industrial sector, to increase the share of exports in the turnover of SMEs and to increase annual industrial R&D output.

1.1.

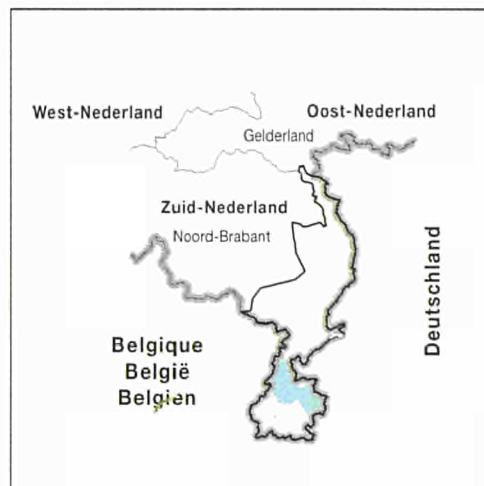
Business accommodation

Development of new and redevelopment of older industrial sites; business accommodation; access to business sites; improving and expanding utilities (including telecommunications).

1.2.

New entrepreneurship and business initiatives

Advice to SMEs (product development, management support); cooperation projects (joint projects aimed at improving the quality and intensity of entrepreneurship in the region); support to business relocations.



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.3.

Environment

- Promoting environmental management within companies to help companies meet new environmental requirements;
- Encouraging environmental technology as a new opportunity for industry in the region;
- Projects aimed at encouraging the processing of (industrial) waste and tackling existing pollution that is hampering the development of the region.

1.4.

Training for the industrial and industry-oriented sector

Training of management and employees in SMEs; training of unemployed people for vacancies.

Priority 2

Transport and logistics

To increase container transshipment, promote integrated cycle management and quality assurance processes in the transport and logistics sector and to develop industrial sites for transport and logistical companies.

2.1.

Logistics facilities

Further upgrading and promoting the development of the most promising facilities

(notably industrial sites) linked to the multi-modal terminal at Born, Maastricht Airport and other logistical services in the region.

2.2.

Business-oriented measures in transport and logistics

Strengthening cooperation between T&L companies; introduction and dissemination of new modern T&L concepts.

2.3.

Training in transport and logistics

Training of workers in T&L sector; training of unemployed for vacancies in T&L sector.

Priority 3

Development of know-how

To promote and develop cooperative associations to improve the match between education and the labour market and to increase the participation rate of people with jobs in training schemes.

3.1.

Knowledge infrastructure

Expanding the existing high-grade training infrastructure for new technologies and production processes.

3.2.

Experimental training projects and supervision

Improving training policy; forward-looking studies on the outlook for the labour market in the region; improving the quality of job-search

among employment services.

Priority 4

Tourism

To attract more overnight stays and day-trip tourism to the former mining area, thereby relieving some of the pressure on the strongly tourist-oriented Heuvelland.

4.1.

Tourism infrastructure

Support for projects promoting cooperation between tourism facilities and companies; joint promotion of recreational facilities; actions to attract new facilities improving access to tourism facilities.

4.2.

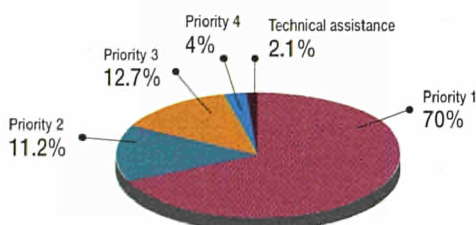
Professionalisation of the tourism sector

Training of management and employees in the tourism sector.

Technical assistance

Training of the unemployed for vacancies in the tourism sector.

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	30.08	45.84	17.44	93.36
Priority 2	4.83	8.67	4.06	17.56
Priority 3	5.46	7.69	-	13.15
Priority 4	1.73	1.75	0.60	4.08
Technical assistance	0.90	1.23	-	2.13
Total	43.00	65.18	22.10	130.28

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful address

Secretariaat Europese
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voor Zuid-Limburg
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Tel.: +31 43 3281111

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B-1049 Brussels

Eligible regions

The region of south-east Brabant (area 1,370 km²) is located between the European economic poles of the Randstad/Holland, the Ruhr Valley, central Germany, Brussels and Antwerp. It includes the municipalities of Aarle-Rixtel, Asten, Bakel en Milheeze, Beek en Donk, Bergeyk, Best, Bladel en Netersel, Budel, Deurne, Eersel, Eindhoven, Geldrop, Gemert, Heeze, Helmond, Hoogeloon, Leende, Lieshout, Luyksgestel, Maarheeze, Mierlo, Nuenen, Oirschot, Reusel, Riethoven, Someren, Son en Breugel, Valkenswaard, Veldhoven, Vessem, Waalre en Westerhoven.

The population is 666,404. At the end of 1993, the number of registered unemployed was 38,500 (11% of the labour force, compared with around 8% for the Netherlands as a whole). Forecasts predict that by 1998, unemployment will have risen to 15% of the labour force if current policies remain unchanged. This growing unemployment is made up of women, the long-term unemployed, minorities and young people.

The region's main weakness is its dependence on a small number of electronics and automobile plants. This is particularly worrying now that they are undergoing difficulties throughout Europe. Worldwide competition has forced the Philips company in Eindhoven to shed thousands of jobs, and in 1993, DAF was forced to axe half its jobs. Falling employment prospects are a serious threat to the region, as is growing unemployment. This has created a jobless 'underclass'.

South-East Brabant

Strategy

The strategy is to achieve a positive economic development involving a large measure of new regional employment. This overall aim is divided into the following operational aims:

- to increase gross regional product;
- to increase employment in the region;
- to increase the competitive strength of the local commercial sector;
- to improve and optimise the match between labour market supply and demand;
- to protect and improve the regional environment and thereby improve the image of south-east Brabant as an attractive investment and residential environment.

Priorities

Priority 1

Strengthening the industrial fabric

To encourage industry to operate according to international price and quality requirements by exploiting modern technologies and modern approaches to business (co-makership).

1.1.

Improving business accommodation

Development of new and improvement of existing industrial sites, including specific business parks with a regional function (minimum size 10 acres).

1.2.

Strengthening industrial cooperation

Small-scale projects for cooperation (e.g. joint participation in fairs); individual consultancy support; large-scale cooperation projects; strategic projects (e.g. the 'Knowledge-intensive Industrial Clustering' project encouraging synergy between suppliers); individual support for investments.



○ Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.3.

Technology and training centres

Equipping classrooms; purchasing teaching equipment in the field of technological training in order to satisfy the demand of local businesses.

1.4.

Developing human capital

Training workers in SMEs; training schemes for SMEs; training the unemployed; improving the training infrastructure.

1.5.

Social reintegration and the transfer of knowledge

Termination of qualitative frictions in the labour market and optimizing the use of existing human capital e.g. employing jobless people in the construction industry; transfer of knowledge to new enterprises.

Priority 2

Tourism and locational climate

Developing the region's day tourism potential to improve its attractiveness as a place to stay. Attracting and investing in day-trip facilities in urban and rural areas. Projects aimed at improving the locational climate.

2.1.

Tourism projects

Improving tourist routes (cycle, walking routes); specific facilities to increase the attractiveness of nature reserves to visitors. Projects improving the accessibility of tourism facilities by public transport; development of new attractions; cooperation between several tourism partners.

2.2.

Attractiveness and locational climate

Redevelopment of older urban business sites into new public functions. Creation of jobs in museums, entertainment, workshops, training.

2.3.

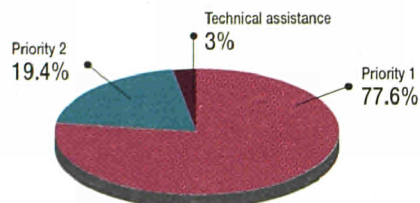
Development of human capital

Developing skills which improve the output of

the tourism sector and promote a customer-friendly attitude; developing opportunities for the unemployed.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	52.00	60.00	23.00	135.00
Priority 2	13.00	17.50	2.50	33.00
Technical assistance	2.00	2.00	-	4.00
Total	67.00	79.50	25.50	172.00

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful address

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Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The Objective 2 area of Luxembourg is in the south-west of the country, with a population of 133,000. From 1994 to 1996 this area is due to receive a Structural Fund grant of some ECU 7 million (at 1994 prices), or roughly FLUX 280 million.



■ Zones eligible under Objective 2

Eligible regions

The Objective 2 area of Luxembourg for the period 1994-1996 covers the whole canton of Esch-sur-Alzette (14 municipalities) and five municipalities in the neighbouring canton of Capellen: Bascharage, Clemency, Dippach, Garnich and Mamer; the municipalities in the north of the canton are no longer eligible for assistance. The area is highly urbanised: a population of 133,000, or 34.6% of the national total is concentrated in just 13.2% of the surface area of Luxembourg, and the population density is 389 inhabitants per km².

The area is part of a crossborder cooperation project, the EPD (European Development Pole), with neighbouring regions of Belgium and France that have been similarly hard hit by the decline of the iron and steel industry.

Esch-sur-Alzette —

Strategy

The programme is continuing the conversion strategy already begun, which is designed to buttress industrial activity in the south of the country, taking account of the shift from traditional iron and steel activities to the electrical sector and avoiding the concentration of business development and jobs both in the tertiary and financial sectors and in the capital. Measures will focus especially on the rehabilitation of disused industrial sites, environmental protection, human resources and products with a high added value.

Priorities

Priority 1

Support for the industrial sector

The key aim is to meet the high demand for business parks for SMEs.

1.1.

Development of industrial parks

1.1.1. Development of the regional industrial estate (ZARE) to house 15 to 20 businesses and create 300 to 400 jobs.

1.1.2. Development of the "Pafewé" area (a disused slag heap) to house four businesses and create 300 jobs.

1.2.

Measures to encourage productive investment

1.2.1. "EDP supplement" scheme to stimulate productive investment on the central EDP site at Rodange.

1.3.

Measures to encourage business innovation

1.3.1. Support for R&D (materials analysis using leading-edge technology).
1.3.2. Technical and scientific assistance (including technology transfer between research centres and businesses).



Zones eligible under Objective 2

1.4.

Human resources and training

1.4.1. Training and support in the industrial sector: continuing training and intensive advanced-level training placements; 1,135 people are targeted.

Priority 2

Other sectors

(agriculture not included)

The non-industrial sectors have their own contribution to revitalise the local economy and meeting local demand in a range of areas.

2.1.

Infrastructure development

2.1.1. Redevelopment of a disused abattoir in Esch as a crossborder arts centre.

2.2.

Tourist infrastructure

2.2.1. Refurbishment of the disused station at Clemency for use as an activity centre.
2.2.2. Architectural restoration of the "Schungfabrik" in Tétange.

Capellen

2.3.

Human resources and training

2.3.1. Training and support in sectors outside the industrial, publicly financed and financial spheres; 1,533 people are targeted.

Priority 3

Environmental protection

3.1.

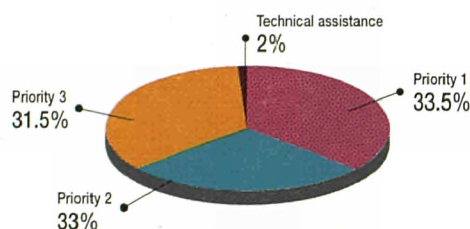
Recovery of derelict industrial sites

3.1.1. Treatment of industrial waste at Ronnebieg.

3.1.2. Construction of storage facilities for specific types of industrial waste at Mondercange.

Technical assistance

Breakdown of the Structural Fund contribution



Priorities	Structural Fund contribution	National/public funding	Private funding	Total
Priority 1	2.341	3.238	3.021	8.600
Priority 2	2.314	2.826	0.183	5.322
Priority 3	2.207	3.476	0.781	6.464
Technical assistance	0.139	0.149	-	0.288
Total	7.000	9.690	3.985	20.675

(ECU millions)

Objective 2

Useful addresses

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Tel.: + 352 478 41 64

The full text of the SPD is available from the relevant regional authority or from the European Commission, DG XVI documentation service
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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 six 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.

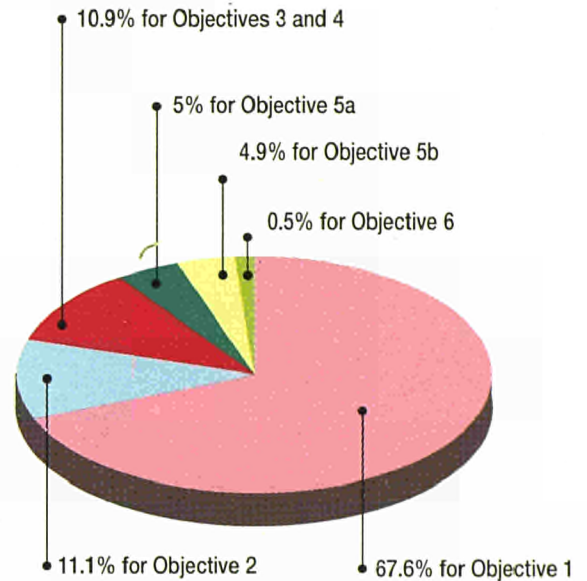
Objective 6

Development of underpopulated regions in Sweden and Finland. This priority Objective took effect following the accession of three new member States (Austria, Finland and Sweden) on 1 January 1994.

Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 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 more than ECU 150 billion.

- 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 (FIFG)



"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.

