



The Greens | EFA
in the European Parliament

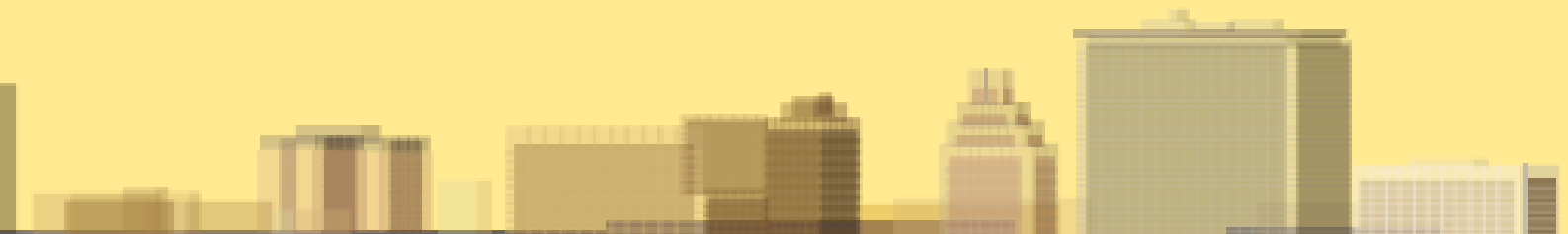
MdEP Heide Rühle



European Funding for Local Authorities

New Programmes 2007 to 2013

„Greening the Streets“
Greens/EFA Enlarged Bureau Meeting
Barcelona, 9-11 November 2006





Dear participants,

as an addition to the local greens meeting "Greening the Streets" in Barcelona, I would like to give you a summary about EU funding opportunities which will be relevant for your work at local level during the next few years. The document provides you with an overview of structural funds and EU programmes which will start next year under the new 2007-2013 financial framework.

The funding opportunities are listed in thematic chapters: besides structural aid and loans you will find programmes in the areas of environment, innovation, culture, active citizenship, and justice. The final chapter introduces the main features of external aid in the new budgetary cycle.

Each programme description contains information about objectives, activities and eligible applicants. In the section "additional information" you find links to the programme proposals of the European Commission which you may take a look at for further details. Please note, however, that changes in the programmes can still occur in the process of final adoption.

Moreover, the document provides you with relevant contact points in your Member State at the end of each programme. If the contact information for your country has changed or is not yet available please consult the European Commission's website.

I hope that this document will give you an insight in the new EU funding period. It is meant to contribute to the development of innovative projects in towns and regions – and hopefully it will make it easier for you to receive funding from the European Union.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heide Rühle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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1. Structural Aid and Loans

Structural Funds

Objectives and Eligible Regions

The EU's objective is to strengthen the economic and social cohesion in the European Union – however, some regions in the European Union are still poorer than others. The structural funds represent the EU's cohesion instruments in order to reduce the gap in economic development: Between 2007 and 2013, the EU will invest EUR 308 billion through these instruments to support regional growth agendas and to stimulate job creation.

The financial support which a regions can receive through structural funds depends on its economic development: the poorer a region is the more financial support is available. All regions will be classified on the basis

Based on their Gross Domestic Product per head, all regions will be classified according to the objectives "convergence", "Regional competitiveness and employment" and "European Territorial Cooperation", which determines the funding available. Financial support is provided through three funds - The European Fund for Regional Development, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund - depending on the objective by which the region is covered.

The "Convergence" Objective

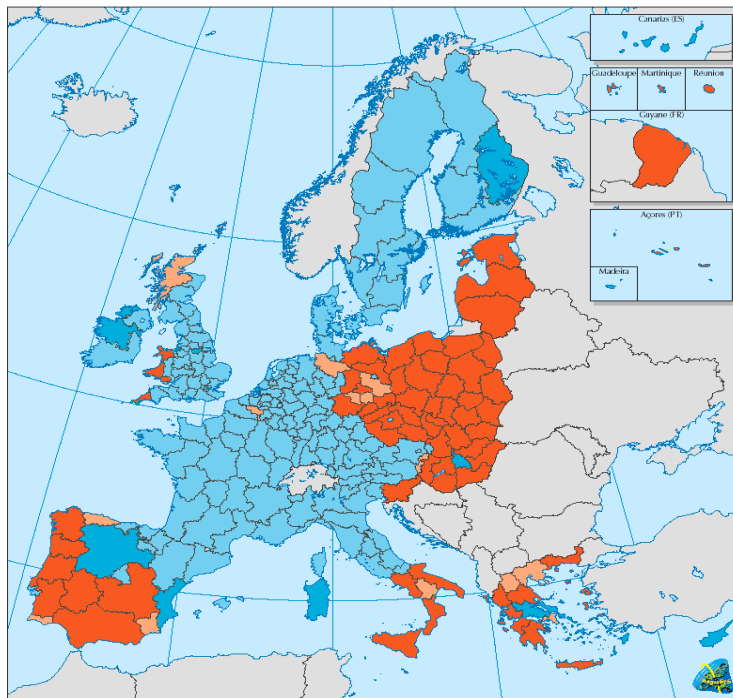
The least-developed regions in the EU are covered by a convergence objective: they have less than 75% of Europe's average income. In an EU-27, this will apply to 84 regions within 17 Member states. Furthermore, the "convergence" objective concerns another 6 regions which are eligible on a "phasing out" basis: their GDP is only slightly above the threshold, due to the "statistical effect" linked to the reduction in the Community average following EU enlargement; these regions, therefore, seem to be richer than they really are.

81.5 % of the total cash will go to these regions to promote growth-enhancing conditions and factors leading to real convergence for the poorest regions. The funding will be taken from the European Fund for Regional Development, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund.

The "Regional Competitiveness and Employment" Objective

All regions which do not classify for the Convergence objective are covered by a Regional competitiveness and employment objective which aims at strengthening regions' competitiveness and attractiveness, as well as employment. In an EU-27, a total of 168 regions will be eligible. Within these, 13 regions represent so-called "phasing-in" areas which no longer satisfy the regional eligibility criteria of the Convergence objective and are therefore subject to special financial allocations due to their former status as "Objective 1" regions.

The amount of EUR 49.1 billion – of which EUR 10.4 billion is for the "phasing-in" regions – represents just below 16 % of the total allocation. Regions in 19 Member States are concerned with this objective. The approach is two-fold: First, development programmes will help regions to anticipate and promote economic change through innovation and the promotion of the knowledge society, entrepreneurship, the protection of the environment, and the improvement of their accessibility. Second, more and better jobs will be supported by adapting the workforce and by investing in human resources.



Areas with the Regional competitiveness and employment objective will be funded through the European Fund for Regional Development and the European Social Fund.

EU 25: Convergence and Competitiveness objective

- Convergence Regions
- Phasing-out Regions
- Phasing-in Regions
- Competitiveness and Employment Regions

Source:
European Commission, DG Regional Policy

“European Territorial Co-operation” objective

Furthermore, regions having land or sea frontiers are covered by a European territorial cooperation objective and will therefore receive additional funding. The European Territorial Co-operation objective will strengthen cross-border co-operation through joint local and regional initiatives, trans-national co-operation aiming at integrated territorial development, and inter-regional co-operation and exchange of experience.

EUR 7.75 billion (2.5 % of the total) available for this objective is split as follows: EUR 5.57 billion for cross-border, EUR 1.58 billion for transnational and EUR 392 million for inter-regional co-operation. The European Fund for Regional Development will provide the financial support for regions eligible under the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective.

Additional information

- A General Regulation which defines common principles, rules and standards for the implementation of the three cohesion instruments, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/general/ce_1083\(2006\)_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/general/ce_1083(2006)_en.pdf) and Corrigendum
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/general/ce_1083\(2006\)_corr_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/general/ce_1083(2006)_corr_en.pdf)
- Regions map on convergence and competitiveness objectives 2007-2013
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/graph/maps/pdf/pib20012002.pdf

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to reduce regional disparities across the EU. Therefore, will support programmes addressing regional development, economic change, enhanced competitiveness and territorial co-operation throughout the EU. Funding

priorities include research, innovation, environmental protection and risk prevention, while infrastructure investment retains an important role, especially in the least-developed regions.

Actions under the Convergence objective

Under the Convergence objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on supporting sustainable integrated regional and local economic development and employment by mobilising and strengthening endogenous capacity through operational programmes aimed at the modernisation and diversification of economic structures and at the creation and safeguarding of sustainable jobs. This shall be achieved primarily through the following priorities, the precise policy mix depending on the specificities of each Member State:

- research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship, including strengthening research and technological development capacities, and their integration into the European Research Area, including infrastructures; aid to R&TD, notably in SMEs, and to technology transfer; improvement of links between SMEs, tertiary education institutions, research institutions and research and technology centres; development of business networks; public-private partnerships and clusters; support for the provision of business and technology services to groups of SMEs; and fostering of entrepreneurship and innovation funding for SMEs through financial engineering instruments;
- information society, including development of electronic communications infrastructure, local content, services and applications, improvement of secure access to and development of on-line public services; aid and services to SMEs to adopt and effectively use information and communication technologies (ICTs) or to exploit new ideas;
- local development initiatives and aid for structures providing neighbourhood services to create new jobs,
- environment, including investments connected with water supply and water and waste management; waste-water treatment and air quality; prevention, control and fight against desertification; integrated pollution prevention and control; aid to mitigate the effects of climate change; rehabilitation of the physical environment, including contaminated sites and land and brownfield redevelopment; promotion of biodiversity and nature protection, including investments in NATURA 2000 sites; aid to SMEs to promote sustainable production patterns through the introduction of cost-effective environmental management systems and the adoption and use of pollution-prevention technologies;
- prevention of risks, including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks;
- tourism, including promotion of natural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism; protection and enhancement of natural heritage in support of socio-economic development; aid to improve the supply of tourism services through new higher added-value services and to encourage new, more sustainable patterns of tourism;
- investments in culture, including protection, promotion and preservation of cultural heritage; development of cultural infrastructure in support of socio-economic development, sustainable tourism and improved regional attractiveness; and aid to improve the supply of cultural services through new higher added-value services;
- transport investments, including improvement of trans-European networks and links to the TEN-T network; integrated strategies for clean transport which contribute to improving the access to and quality of passenger and goods services, to achieving a more balanced modal split, to promoting intermodal systems and to reducing environmental impacts;
- energy investments, including in improvements to trans-European networks which contribute to improving security of supply, the integration of environmental considerations, the improvement of energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies;

- education investments, including in vocational training, which contribute to increasing attractiveness and quality of life;
- investments in health and social infrastructure which contribute to regional and local development and increasing the quality of life.

Actions under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective

Under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance in the context of sustainable development strategies, while promoting employment, primarily on the following three priorities:

- innovation and the knowledge economy, including through the creation and strengthening of efficient regional innovation economies, systemic relations between the private and public sectors, universities and technology centres which take into account local needs, and in particular:
 - enhancing regional R&TD and innovation capacities directly linked to regional economic development objectives by supporting industry or technology-specific competence centres, promoting industrial R&TD, SMEs and technology transfer, developing technology forecasting and international benchmarking of policies to promote innovation and supporting inter-firm collaboration and joint R&TD and innovation policies;
 - stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship in all sectors of the regional and local economy by supporting the introduction of new or improved products, processes and services onto the market by SMEs,
 - supporting business networks and clusters, improving access to finance by SMEs, promoting cooperation
 - networks between enterprises and appropriate tertiary education and research institutions, facilitating SMEs' access to business support services and supporting the integration of cleaner and innovative technologies in SMEs;
 - promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms by appropriate tertiary education and research institutions and existing firms;
 - creating financial engineering instruments and incubation facilities that are conducive to the research and technological development capacity of SMEs and to encouraging entrepreneurship and the formation of new businesses, especially knowledge-intensive SMEs;
- environment and risk prevention, and in particular:
 - stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of the physical environment, including contaminated, desertified and brownfield sites and land;
 - promoting the development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and investments in NATURA 2000 sites, where this contributes to sustainable economic development and/or diversification of rural areas;
 - stimulating energy efficiency and renewable energy production and the development of efficient energy management systems;
 - promoting clean and sustainable public transport, particularly in urban areas;
 - developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural risks (e.g. desertification, droughts, fires and floods) and technological risks;
 - protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage in support of socio-economic development and the promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism;

- access to transport and telecommunication services of general economic interest, and in particular:
 - strengthening secondary transport networks by improving links to TEN-T networks, regional railway hubs, airports and ports or multimodal platforms, providing radial links to main railway lines and promoting regional and local inland waterways and short-sea shipping;
 - promoting access to, take up, and efficient use of ICTs by SMEs by supporting access to networks, the establishment of public Internet access points, equipment, and the development of services and applications, including, in particular, the development of action plans for very small and craft enterprises.

Actions under the European territorial cooperation objective

Under the European territorial cooperation objective, the ERDF shall focus its assistance on the following priorities:

- the development of cross-border economic, social and environmental activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, and primarily:
 - by encouraging entrepreneurship, in particular the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade;
 - by encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of natural and cultural resources, as well as the prevention of natural and technological risks;
 - by supporting links between urban and rural areas;
 - by reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services, and cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities;
 - by developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures, in particular in sectors such as health, culture, tourism and education.
- the establishment and development of transnational cooperation, including bilateral cooperation between maritime regions not covered under point 1, through the financing of networks and of actions conducive to integrated territorial development, concentrating primarily on the following priority areas:
 - innovation: the creation and development of scientific and technological networks, and the enhancement of regional R&TD and innovation capacities, where these make a direct contribution to the balanced economic development of transnational areas. Actions may include: the establishment of networks between appropriate tertiary education and research institutions and SMEs; links to improve access to scientific knowledge and technology transfer between R&TD facilities and international centres of RTD excellence; twinning of technology transfer institutions; and development of joint financial engineering instruments directed at supporting R&TD in SMEs;
 - environment: water management, energy efficiency, risk prevention and environmental protection activities with a clear transnational dimension. Actions may include: protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands; fire, drought and flood prevention; the promotion of maritime security and protection against natural and technological risks; and protection and enhancement of the natural heritage in support of socio-economic development and sustainable tourism;
 - accessibility: activities to improve access to and quality of transport and telecommunication services where these have a clear transnational dimension. Actions may include: investments in cross-border sections of trans-European

networks; improved local and regional access to national and transnational networks; enhanced interoperability of national and regional systems; and promotion of advanced information and communication technologies;

- sustainable urban development: strengthening polycentric development at transnational, national and regional level, with a clear transnational impact. Actions may include: the creation and improvement of urban networks and urban-rural links; strategies to tackle common urban-rural issues; preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage, and the strategic integration of development zones on a transnational basis.
- reinforcement of the effectiveness of regional policy by promoting:
 - interregional cooperation focusing on innovation and the knowledge economy and environment and risk prevention in the sense of Article 5(1) and (2);
 - exchanges of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of best practice including on sustainable urban development as referred to in Article 8; and
 - actions involving studies, data collection, and the observation and analysis of development trends in the Community.

Additional information

- Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/feder/ce_1080\(2006\)_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/feder/ce_1080(2006)_en.pdf)

Contacts

Please see the contacts on page 14.

European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) will support activities to prevent and fight unemployment in the EU and to help people to reintegrate in the labour market. In particular, these activities will address disadvantaged groups of society such as unemployed women, migrants, people with disabilities. More precisely, the ESF will focus on four key areas: increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises, enhancing access to employment and participation in the labour market, reinforcing social inclusion by combating discrimination and facilitating access to the labour market for disadvantaged people, promoting partnership for reform in the fields of employment and inclusion.

Actions within the framework of the Convergence and Regional competitiveness and employment objectives:

- increasing adaptability of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs
 - lifelong learning and increased investment in human resources by enterprises, especially SMEs, and workers, through the development and implementation of systems and strategies, including apprenticeships, which ensure improved access to training by, in particular, low-skilled and older workers, the development of qualifications and competences, the dissemination of information and communication technologies, elearning, eco-friendly technologies and man-

agement skills, and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation and business start-ups;

- the design and dissemination of innovative and more productive forms of work organisation, including better health and safety at work, the identification of future occupational and skills requirements, and the development of specific employment, training and support services, including outplacement, for workers in the context of company and sector restructuring;
- enhancing access to employment and the sustainable inclusion in the labour market
 - the modernisation and strengthening of labour market institutions, in particular employment services and
 - other relevant initiatives in the context of the strategies of the European Union and the Member States for full employment;
 - the implementation of active and preventive measures ensuring the early identification of needs with individual action plans and personalised support, such as tailored training, job search, outplacement and mobility, self-employment and business creation, including cooperative enterprises, incentives to encourage participation in the labour market, flexible measures to keep older workers in employment longer, and measures to reconcile work and private life, such as facilitating access to childcare and care for dependent persons;
 - mainstreaming and specific action to improve access to employment, increase the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment and reduce genderbased segregation in the labour market, including by addressing the root causes, direct and indirect, of gender pay gaps;
 - specific action to increase the participation of migrants in employment and thereby strengthen their social integration and to facilitate geographic and occupational mobility of workers and integration of crossborder labour markets, including through guidance, language training and validation of competences and acquired skills;
- reinforcing the social inclusion of disadvantaged people and combating all forms of discrimination in the labour market
 - pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people, such as people experiencing social exclusion, early school leavers, minorities, people with disabilities and people providing care for dependent persons, through employability measures, including in the field of the social economy, access to vocational education and training, and accompanying actions and relevant support, community and care services that improve employment opportunities;
 - acceptance of diversity in the workplace and the combating of discrimination in accessing and progressing in the labour market, including through awareness-raising, the involvement of local communities and enterprises and the promotion of local employment initiatives;
- enhancing human capital
 - the design and introduction of reforms in education and training systems in order to develop employability, the improvement of the labour market relevance of initial and vocational education and training and the continual updating of the skills of training personnel with a view to innovation and a knowledge-based economy;
 - networking activities between higher education institutions, research and technological centres and enterprises;

- promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through networking of relevant stakeholders,

Actions within the framework of the Convergence objective

- expanding and improving investment in human capital
 - the implementation of reforms in education and training systems, especially with a view to raising people's responsiveness to the needs of a knowledge-based society and lifelong learning;
 - increased participation in education and training throughout the life-cycle, including through actions aiming to achieve a reduction in early school leaving and in gender-based segregation of subjects and increased access to and quality of initial, vocational and tertiary education and training;
 - the development of human potential in research and innovation, notably through post-graduate studies and the training of researchers;
- strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local level
 - mechanisms to improve good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation, including through studies, statistics and expert advice, support for interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies;
 - capacity building in the delivery of policies and programmes in the relevant fields, including with regard to the enforcement of legislation, especially through continuous managerial and staff training and specific support to key services, inspectorates and socio-economic actors including social and environmental partners, relevant non-governmental organisations and representative professional organisations.

Additional information

- Regulation on the European Social Fund (ESF)
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/fse/ce_1081\(2006\)_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/fse/ce_1081(2006)_en.pdf)

Contacts

Please see the contacts on page 14.

Cohesion Fund

The Cohesion Fund contributes to interventions in the field of the environment and trans-European transport networks. It applies to Member States with a Gross National Income (GNI) of less than 90 % of the Community average, which means it covers the new Member States as well as Greece and Portugal. Spain will be eligible for the Cohesion Fund on a transitional basis. In the new period, the Fund will contribute alongside the ERDF to multi-annual investment programmes managed in a decentralised way, rather than being subject to individual project approval by the Commission.

Additional information

- Regulation on Cohesion Fund
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/cohesion/ce_1084\(2006\)_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/cohesion/ce_1084(2006)_en.pdf)

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<http://www.build.gov.sk>

Strategic guidelines on cohesion

The Strategic Guidelines set the political priorities for the investments to be made in the help national and regional authorities modernise their economies and connect their programming with the EU-wide drive to create more growth and quality jobs.

The programmes supported by cohesion policy should seek to target resources on the following three priorities:

- improving the attractiveness of Member States, regions and cities by improving accessibility, ensuring adequate quality and level of services, and preserving the environment;
- encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and the growth of the knowledge economy by research and innovation capacities, including new information and communication technologies; and
- creating more and better jobs by attracting more people into employment or entrepreneurial activity, improving adaptability of workers and enterprises and increasing investment in human capital.

Furthermore, the following principles are supposed to play a key role in cohesion policy:

- focus on knowledge, research and innovation, and human capital.
- sustainable development: Member States and regions should boost synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions
- equality between men and women at all stages of the preparation and implementation of programmes and projects. This may be done through specific actions to promote equality, as well as by taking careful account of how other projects and the management of the Funds may affect men and women. F
- to prevent any discrimination on the basis of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. In particular, accessibility for disabled persons is one of the criteria to respect in defining operations cofinanced by the Funds and to take into account during the various stages of implementation.

Additional information

- Community Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion policy
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/1180706_en.pdf
- Commission publication "Cohesion policy: the 2007 watershed"
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/reg2007_en.pdf

New Regional Policy Instruments and Financial Engineering

Three new regional policy instruments for 2007-2013 will help Member States and regions to establish sound and efficient management of the funds and to make better use of financial engineering instruments. A closer co-operation between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other financial institutions will strengthen capacity building at the level of national and regional institutions.

The aim for the new initiatives is to support public authorities and enterprises when they face problems with regard to co-financing. For local authorities, JESSICA will be the support to finance project in urban areas.

- JASPERS (Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions) seeks to develop co-operation between the European Commission, the EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in order to pool expertise and to assist Member States and regions in the preparation of major projects;
- JEREMIE (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises) is an initiative of the European Commission, together with the EIB and the European Investment Fund, in order to increase access to finance for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the regions of the EU;

- JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) is an initiative of the European Commission in co-operation with the EIB and the Council of Europe Development Bank to promote sustainable investment in urban areas.

Its objective is to provide Member States and managing authorities a tailored solution to financing projects for urban renewal and development, using an appropriate combination of grants and loans, or other financial products as appropriate.

Under the JESSICA initiative, operational programmes and the managing authorities will be able to:

- provide funding for a wide variety of public-private partnerships, or other urban development projects that are capable of repaying in the long-term the resources invested in it, in total or in part;
- avail themselves of a more simple and more flexible management of funds for urban development;
- achieve greater leverage from scarce grant resources for urban development, by attracting contributions from international financial institutions, banks, the private sector, etc.

Additional information

Website on Jaspers http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jaspers_en.htm

Website on Jeremie http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie_en.htm

Website on Jessica http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jessica_en.htm

Contacts EFRE/ESF

Additional contacts and links to the web pages containing national operational programmes are available here: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm

JEREMIE, JASPERS, JESSICA

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Loans for Local Authorities

European Investment Bank (EIB)

Local Authorities have the opportunity to receive loans at favourable conditions from the European Institutions. Applicants have to take note that

- such loans are financial support, not grants from regular European Union funding sources,
- these loans exist independently from the new financial perspective 2007-2013

The European Investment Bank grants favorable loans to small and medium-sized enterprises and local authorities. She finances for instance projects contributing to the creation of employment, investment in infrastructures or projects in telecommunications or environmental protection. For such programmes, funding is available as global loans that can be applied for at financial institutes in charge of local community financing (up to € 25 Mio.). The European Investment Bank offers its financial instruments to local authorities in the following areas (also see Jessica, Jeremie and Jaspers in conjunction with the EFRE above):

- Innovation-2010-Initiative (i2i)
 - (a) Following the goals of the Lisbon strategy, the initiative supports the creation of a knowledge economy. In doing so, it follows a long-term strategy and integrated approach covering all phases of research and development. Three areas are particularly important:
 - i. Vocational Training, also covering life-long learning for instance in the industry, in the services sector, the integration of research programmes in higher education, digital competencies and e-learning, and the production and dissemination of new knowledge through new media.
 - ii. Research and Development as well as innovative investments by private actors for example in pan-European research projects, financing of public and international research facilities, support of private initiatives launched by SMEs and actions in the framework of the FP 6.
 - iii. Creation and dissemination of information and communication technologies (ICT) in relation to its hardware, content or applications.

Although this programme primarily targets SMES, local authorities can also apply.

- EIB and the Environment: the EIB also supports the environmental policy of the EU and spends approximately 1/3 of its financial resources on related projects, for example in the following fields:
 - (a) Combatting climate change including through renewable energies, the protection of the environment and health;
 - (b) Preservation of natural diversity
 - (c) Sustainable resource usage and processing of waste
 - (d) Improvements of urban living quality for instance through public transportation or urban refurbishment

Again, although this programme primarily targets SMES, local authorities can also apply.

Contacts

- The European Investment Bank: www.eib.org
- Supported financial institutions: <http://www.eib.org/Attachments/lending>
- More information on i2i: <http://www.eib.org/site/index.asp?designation=i2i>

2. Environment

Life+

LIFE+ will support the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme, and specifically contribute to

- achieving a quality of the environment where the levels of pollution do not give rise to harmful effects on human health and the environment,
- stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- protecting, preserving, restoring and facilitating the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting desertification and the loss of biodiversity,
- promoting better management of natural resources and waste, and encouraging a shift to more sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- developing strategic approaches to policy development, implementation and integration, including improving environmental governance and raising awareness.

Local authorities in member states, newly acceded and acceding states, candidate countries and selected partner countries can benefit from Life+ by receiving funds for actions aiming to develop or preserve Natura 2000 reservations or by developing programmes with a European dimension that aim directly at safeguarding flora or fauna. However, Life+ intends to bridge the gap between research and development in the environmental fields. Therefore, investments in existing infrastructure or its setup will not be supported.

What is the aim of the programme?

LIFE+ will have three components.

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity will:

- to contribute to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity, in particular Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, including at local and regional level, and to support the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;
- to contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Community nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;
- to support the design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for the monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on them, in particular in relation to the achievement of the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;
- to provide support for better environmental governance, by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGOs, in consultations on, and the implementation of, nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.

LIFE+ Implementation and Governance will:

- contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative policy approaches and instruments,
- contribute to consolidating the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policy and legislation,
- support the design and implementation of approaches to monitoring and assessment of the state of the environment and the drivers, pressures and responses that impact on it;
- facilitate the implementation of Community environment policy, with a particular emphasis on implementation at local and regional level,
- provide support for better environmental governance, broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of non-governmental organisations, in policy consultation and implementation;

LIFE+ Information and Communication will:

- disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues,
- provide support for accompanying measures (information, communication actions and campaigns, conferences, etc).

What activities are planned?

The Programme shall finance actions in the following fields:

- climate change: the European Climate Change Programme (and any successor)
- nature and bio-diversity: The NATURA 2000 network (complementary to but not overlapping with rural development and cohesion policy instruments) such as innovative approaches to site management and planning and management costs for certain sites, including new sites or those not covered by either structural or rural development fund provisions; the reversal of the decline in bio-diversity by 2010 and monitoring of forests and environmental inter-actions in the Community, as well as forest fire prevention measures.
- environment and health: including the Environment and Health Action plan, the Water Framework Directive, Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) and the Marine, Soil, Urban and Pesticides Thematic Strategies.
- sustainable use of resources: the resources and waste prevention and recycling thematic strategies, sustainable production and consumption strategies.
- strategic approaches to policy development, implementation and enforcement: including environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment;
- ex-post evaluation of Community environmental policy measures.

The following types of activities may be covered by the LIFE +:

- certain operational activities of NGOs that are primarily active in protecting and enhancing the environment at European level
- developing and maintaining networks and computer systems directly linked to the implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation
- studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building

- monitoring
- capacity building assistance
- training, workshops and meetings
- networking
- best practice platforms
- awareness raising campaigns
- information and communication actions
- demonstration of policy approaches and instruments.
- specifically for the nature and biodiversity component:
 - site and species management and site planning, including the improvement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network;
 - the monitoring of conservation status, including setting up procedures and structures for such monitoring;
 - the development and implementation of species and habitats conservation action plans;
 - the extension of the Natura 2000 network in marine areas;
 - the purchase of land under certain circumstances.

Who can participate?

The LIFE+ programme shall be open to public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, in particular:

- National, regional and local authorities
- Specialised bodies foreseen in the EU legislation
- International organisations, for actions in the Member States and countries
- Non-governmental organisations.

The programmes financed through LIFE+ shall be open to the participation of the following countries, provided that supplementary appropriations are received:

- the EFTA States which are members of the EEA, in accordance with the provisions of the EEA agreement
- the candidate countries which have applied to become Members of the European Union, as well as to the western Balkan countries included in the Stabilisation and Association process.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0621en01.pdf

Contacts

For general information on the programme, please refer to <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/home.htm>.

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3. Innovation, Research & Development

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

The The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) shall contribute to the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the Community as an advanced knowledge society. It will bring together into a common framework specific Community support programmes and relevant parts of other Community programmes in fields critical to boosting European productivity, innovation capacity and sustainable growth, whilst simultaneously addressing complementary environmental concerns. One specific programme under CIP will be the ICT Policy Support Programme. This programme will build on the aims of the e-TEN, Modinis and e-Content programmes in line with the new integrated strategy i2010 - European Information Society 2010.

The Framework Programme shall have the following objectives:

- to foster the competitiveness of enterprises and in particular Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs);
- to promote innovation including eco-innovation;
- to accelerate the development of a competitive, innovative and inclusive Information Society;
- to promote energy efficiency and new and renewable energy sources in all sectors including transport.

What is the aim of the programme?

The objectives of the Framework Programme shall be pursued through the implementation of the following specific programmes:

- the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme;
- the ICT policy support Programme;
- the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme.

What activities are planned?

The measures for the implementation of the work programmes shall be, in particular:

- Community financial instruments for SMEs;
- networks bringing together a variety of stakeholders;
- pilot projects, market replication, projects and other measures to support the take-up of innovation;
- policy analyses, development and coordination with participating countries;
- information sharing, dissemination and awareness raising;
- support to joint actions of Member States or regions;

- procurement based on technical specifications elaborated in cooperation with the Member States;
- twinning between authorities at national and regional level.

Who can participate?

The Framework Programme shall be open to the participation of:

- EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement;
- candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of these countries in Community programmes established in the respective Framework Agreement and Association Council Decisions;
- countries of the Western Balkans, in accordance with the provisions to be determined with those countries following the establishment of framework agreements concerning their participation in Community programmes;
- other third countries, when agreements so allow.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/docs/com121_en.pdf

Contacts

As the programme has not yet been formally adopted, all correspondence should be directed at:

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The Framework Programme 7

The framework programme serves two main strategic objectives: to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of industry, and to encourage its international competitiveness, while promoting research activities in support of other EU policies.

FP7, which will be launched in 2007, builds on the achievements of its predecessor towards the creation of ERA and wants to carry it further towards the development of the knowledge economy and society in Europe. Building on the work of the past years, FP7 includes among its novelties a scheme targeting directly all European regions.

Local authorities in member states, newly acceded and acceding states, candidate countries and selected partner countries can participate in the FP7 as there are no restrictions other than the availability of a "legal personality" status. They may benefit...

What activities are planned?

FP7 will be organised in four main 'specific programmes' each with a clear objective and title.

- **Cooperation:** The Cooperation programme represents the core of FP7 and will support transnational collaborative projects on a broad list of areas.
- **Ideas:** The Ideas programme will stimulate excellence and creativity in basic research through the creation of a new European Research Council.
- **People:** The aim is to support researcher training and career development through further enhanced Marie Curie scheme, promoting public-private career paths and mobility.
- **Capacities:** The objective of this action is to support research infrastructures, research for the benefit of SMEs and the research potential of European regions (Regions of Knowledge) as well as to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential (Convergence regions) of the enlarged EU and build an effective and democratic European knowledge society.

Example: Regions of Knowledge

Introduced in the 2003 Community budget as a 'pilot-project' by the European Parliament, it aimed at supporting experimental actions at regional level in order to develop 'Regions of Knowledge' (RoK) in the areas of technological development, cooperation between universities, and research at a regional level and to stimulate the integration of regions in Europe.

The action's main aim was to demonstrate the central role of knowledge in driving regional development and how regional actors can effectively participate in formulating their regions' future. Another objective was to increase collaboration on a transnational/transregional basis to enable learning on research policies between European regions and the identification of models and activities that can be implemented in different regions.

FP7, under the Capacities programme, will, for the first time, contain elements aimed at supporting research activities tailor-made for Europe's regions. It will include an extended 'RoK' initiative for developing research-driven clusters.

This new scheme will target transnational collaboration of R & D intensive regional clusters. The actions undertaken in this area will enable European regions to strengthen their capacity for investing in and carrying out research activities, while maximising their potential for a successful involvement of their operators in European research projects.

These activities will be implemented in close relationship with the EU's regional policy and the Competitiveness and innovation programme (CIP).

For more information on regional actions under FP7, please visit:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities.htm#3>

Who can participate?

Participants in FP6 have to be 'legal entities', for example research institutes, universities, public and private companies, or physical persons (individual people).

CORDIS provides a step-by-step guide on how to design a project, choose participants and submit the application. The guide is available here:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/stepbystep/who.htm>

CORDIS Regional Gateway: http://cordis.europa.eu/regions/home_en.html

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IDABC (Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Business and Citizens)

The objective of the IDABC programme is to identify, support and promote the development and establishment of pan-European eGovernment services and the underlying interoperable telematic networks supporting the Member States and the Community in the implementation, within their respective areas of competence, of Community policies and activities, achieving substantial benefits for public administrations, businesses and citizens.

By using state-of-the-art information and communication technologies, developing common solutions and services and by finally, providing a platform for the exchange of good practice between public administrations, IDABC contributes to the eEurope objective of modernising the European public sector. The eEurope 2005 Action Plan was launched at the Seville European Council in June 2002 and endorsed by the Council of Ministers in the eEurope Resolution of January 2003. It aims to develop modern public services and a dynamic environment for e-business through widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices and a secure information infrastructure. National public sector policy-makers are represented in the IDABC programme's management committee and in many expert groups. This makes of the programme a unique forum for the coordination of national e-government policies.

Local authorities in member states, newly acceded and acceding states, candidate countries and selected partner countries can benefit from IDABC by receiving funding for the development of concepts, the implementation of procedures and the exchange of "best practice" with partners in the field of enhancing public services through information and communication technologies. These services must be aimed at introducing technologies of eGovernment into local public services.

What are the aims of the programme?

The programme aims to

- enable the efficient, effective and secure interchange of information between public administrations at all appropriate levels, as well as between such administrations and the Community institutions or other entities as appropriate;
- extend the benefits of the interchange of information in order to facilitate the delivery of services to businesses and citizens taking into account their needs;
- support the Community decision-making process and facilitate communication between the Community institutions by developing the related strategic framework at the pan-European level;
- achieve interoperability, both within and across different policy areas and, where appropriate, with businesses and citizens, notably on the basis of a European Interoperability Framework;
- contribute to the efforts of Member State public administrations and the Community in terms of streamlined operations, prompter implementation, security, efficiency, transparency, service culture and responsiveness;
- promote the spread of good practice and encourage the development of innovative telematic solutions in public administrations.

What activities are planned?

To achieve its objectives, IDABC issues recommendations, develops solutions and provides services that enable national and European administrations to communicate electronically while offering modern public services to businesses and citizens in Europe. The programme also provides financing to projects addressing European policy requirements, thus improving cooperation between administrations across Europe.

Additionally, the Community will, in cooperation with the Member States, implement projects of common interest specified in an annual rolling work programme. Projects of common interest shall, whenever possible, make use of the horizontal pan-European eGovernment and infrastructure services and contribute to the further development of these services. The Community also, in cooperation with the Member States and to support projects of common interest, undertakes horizontal measures as specified in the work programme.

The concrete actions for implementation are published in the yearly work programme (see below).

Additional Information

IDABC is a Community programme managed by the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry Directorate General.

Financial offers for the IDABC programme are made via calls for tenders published on the Directorate Generals website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/callForTenders>

The IDABC work programme 2005-2009 is published here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/5101/3>

Contacts

Enquiries concerning participation in the IDABC programme should be directed at the European Commission's services at idabc@ec.europa.eu. More information is also available at <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/chapter/3>.

Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T)

In contributing to the implementation and development of the Internal Market, as well as reinforcing economic and social cohesion, the construction of the trans-European transport network is a major element in economic competitiveness and a balanced and sustainable development of the European Union.

This development requires the interconnection and interoperability of national networks as well as the access to them. The trans-European transport network shall be established gradually by 2010 by integrating land, sea and air transport infrastructure networks throughout the Community.

However, as networks of this size naturally exceed public funding resources, the European Union is trying to get greater private-sector involvement in the funding of the network, by encouraging public-private partnerships (PPPs). The advantage of this kind of structure is that it makes for a better spread of the risk, lower borrowing costs, particularly at project launch, and a transparent management structure. Above all, it encourages the private sector to sign

up for the public service aspect of projects and the public sector to be better aware of which business services can help to make a project profitable.

PPPs are seen as particularly necessary for priority projects which are experiencing difficulties. One of these is the planned high-speed train and combined train link between Munich and Verona via the Brenner Pass (project cost € 22 billion), especially the tunnel part of it which is the most expensive.

Local authorities are thus integral partners of TEN-T more than of Marco Polo which is directed at commercial undertakings. Public bodies are thus able to by receive funding for the development of solutions that contribute to the construction of the trans-European transport network in all sectors, e.g. road, rail, sea, air etc. They can participate as a cooperation partner in a consortium of actors from different EU member states as outlined below.

What are the aims of the programme?

The network shall:

- ensure the sustainable mobility of persons and goods within an area without internal frontiers under the best possible social and safety conditions, while helping to achieve the Community's objectives, particularly in regard to the environment and competition, and contribute to strengthening economic and social cohesion;
- offer users high-quality infrastructure on acceptable economic terms;
- include all modes of transport, taking account of their comparative advantages;
- allow the optimal use of existing capacities;
- be, insofar as possible, interoperable within modes of transport and encourage inter-modality between the different modes of transport;
- be, insofar as possible, economically viable
- cover the whole territory of the Member States of the Community so as to facilitate access in general, link island, landlocked and peripheral regions to the central regions and interlink without bottlenecks the major conurbations and regions of the Community;
- be capable of being connected to the networks of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean countries, while at the same time promoting interoperability and access to these networks, insofar as this proves to be in the Community's interest.

The trans-European network shall comprise transport infrastructure, traffic management systems and positioning and navigation systems.

The transport infrastructure shall comprise road, rail and inland waterway networks, the sea-ports, and inland waterway ports and other interconnection points.

The traffic management systems and the positioning and navigation systems shall include the necessary technical installations and information and telecommunications systems to ensure harmonious operation of the network and efficient traffic management.

What activities are planned?

The broad lines of Community measures shall cover:

- the drawing up and revision of the network outline plans;
- the identification of projects of common interest;
- the adaptation of the existing network;

- the promotion of network interoperability;
- the optimum combination of modes of transport, inter alia, by creating interconnection centres, which in the case of freight should be located, insofar as possible, away from urban centres, in order to render possible the effective operation of intermodality;
- the pursuit of consistency and complementarity of financial aid in line with the rules applicable to each financial instrument;
- research and development;
- cooperation with third countries concerned by development of the network and the conclusion of suitable agreements with them;
- incentives for Member States and international organizations to further the objectives pursued by the Community;
- promotion of continuous cooperation between interested parties;

Additional Information

More Information on the TEN-T programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm

The proposal by the European Commission:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31996D1692:EN:HTML>

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Enquiries concerning participation in the IDABC programme should be directed directly at the European Commission's Executive Agency at

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/contact/index_en.htm.

More information is also available at http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm.

4. Culture

Culture 2007

The programme intends to enhance the cultural area common to Europeans through the development of cultural cooperation between the creators, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

Local authorities in member states, newly acceded and acceding states, candidate countries and selected partner countries can benefit from Culture 2007 funding by participating in a trans-national project that must include at least three partners from three different states.

What is the aim of the programme?

- to promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector;
- to encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products;
- to encourage intercultural dialogue.

What activities are planned?

- Support for cultural actions
- Cooperation focal points
- Cooperation measures
- Special measures
 - Support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture and actions supported for the preservation and commemoration of the main sites and archives associated with the deportations, symbolised by the memorials which have been raised on the sites of the former camps and other large-scale martyrdom and extermination sites, and for keeping alive the memory of the victims at these sites.
- Support for analyses and the collection and dissemination of information in the field of cultural cooperation.

Who can participate?

- EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, in accordance with the provisions of the EEA agreement;
- candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy for entry to the EU, in accordance with the general principles and with the general conditions and procedures for the participation of these countries in the Community programmes established respectively in the framework agreement and in the decisions of the Association Councils;

- the countries of the Western Balkans in accordance with the procedures defined with these countries following the framework agreements to be drawn up concerning their participation in Community programmes.

The programme shall also be open to cooperation with other third countries which have concluded association or cooperation agreements with the European Community which include cultural clauses, on the basis of supplementary appropriations and specific procedures to be laid down.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0469en01.pdf

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More information is also available at http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/culture2000/contact/s/national_pts_en.html.

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5. Active Citizenship & Anti-Discrimination

Citizens for Europe

The programme “Citizens for Europe” intends to give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe. It is supposed to contribute to a European identity, based on common values, history and culture and to enhance mutual understanding between European citizens.

For local authorities, action 1 will be particularly relevant since it includes town-twinning activities.

What is the aim of the programme?

- Bring together people from local communities across Europe to share and exchange experiences, opinions and values, to learn from history and to build for the future;
- Foster action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship through cooperation between civil society organisations at European level;
- Make the idea of Europe more tangible for its citizens by promoting and celebrating Europe's values and achievements, while preserving the memory of its past;
- Encourage the balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations from all Member States, contributing to intercultural dialogue and bringing to the fore both Europe's diversity and unity, with particular attention to the activities with Member States that have recently joined the European Union.

What activities are planned?

Action 1: Active citizens for Europe

- Town twinning: This measure is aimed at activities that involve or promote direct exchanges between European citizens through their participation in town-twinning activities, including conferences or seminars on subjects of common interest, along with related publications, organised in the context of town-twinning activities.
- Citizens' projects and support measures: Under this measure, a variety of projects of transnational and cross-sectoral dimension, directly involving citizens, will be supported. In order to improve citizen's projects, it is also necessary to develop support measures to exchange best practices, to pool experiences between stakeholders at local and regional levels, and to develop new skills.

Action 2: Active civil society in Europe

- Structural support for European public policy research organisations (think-tanks): This measure is aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of those organisations, which are representative, provide real European added value, can bring about important multiplier effects and are able to cooperate with other beneficiaries.

- Structural support for organisations of civil society at European level: This measure will provide them with the capacity and stability to act as transnational catalysts for their members and for civil society at European level.
- Support for projects initiated by civil society organisations: Civil society organisations, such as NGOs, trade unions, federations, think-tanks, etc., can, through debate, publications, advocacy and other concrete transnational projects, involve citizens or represent their interests.

Action 3: Together for Europe

- High-visibility events: This measure will support events organised by or in cooperation with the European Commission which are substantial in scale and scope, strike a significant chord with the peoples of Europe, help to increase their sense of belonging to the same community etc.
- Studies: In order to get a better understanding of active citizenship at European level, the Commission will carry out studies, surveys and opinion polls.
- Information and dissemination tools: The focus on citizens and the variety of initiatives in the field of active citizenship call for comprehensive information on the various activities of the programme, on other European actions related to citizenship and on other relevant initiatives to be provided through an Internet portal and other tools.

Who can participate?

The programme shall be open to all stakeholders promoting active European citizenship, in particular to local communities, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizen's groups and other civil society organisations such as NGOs, platforms, networks, associations and federations, trade unions.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/activecitizenship/new_programme/new_programme06042005_en.pdf

Contacts

The Executive Agency for Culture, Education and Audiovisual serves as the contact point for all enquiries regarding the programme. Please choose one of the following addresses:

Write an email to the following address: eacea-p7@ec.europa.eu or use the general telephone number: +32 (0)2.299.11.11

You may also use the hot line for Town Twinning: +32 (0)2.295.26.85 (Between 09:30 — 12:30 from Tuesday to Thursday) or send a fax to ++32 (0)2.296.23.89.

Youth in Action

The programme intends to contribute to young people's active citizenship and feeling of belonging to Europe. It also wishes to contribute to young people's education, in the broad sense, thus pursuing the objectives of the Lisbon process, and develop their sense of solidarity and mutual understanding, contributing to social cohesion in the Union and to peace.

What is the aim of the programme?

- promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular
- develop solidarity among young people, in particular in order to reinforce social cohesion in the Union
- foster mutual understanding between peoples through young people
- contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field
- promote European cooperation in youth policies

What activities are planned?

1) Youth for Europe

- The aim of this action is to support exchanges of young people in order to increase their mobility, to support youth initiatives and projects and activities concerning participation in democratic life, in order to develop young people's citizenship and mutual understanding.

2) European Voluntary Service

- The aim of this action is to step up young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union.

3) Youth of the World

- The aim of this action is to support projects with the partner countries, in particular exchanges of young people and youth workers, and to support initiatives that reinforce young people's mutual understanding, sense of solidarity and the development of cooperation in the field of youth and civil society in these countries.

4) Youth workers and support systems

- The aim of this action is to support bodies active at European level in the field of youth, in particular the operation of youth NGOs, their networking, the exchange, training and networking of youth workers, encouraging innovation and quality, providing young people with information and developing the structures and activities needed for the programme to meet these goals.

5) Support for policy cooperation

- The aim of this action is to organise dialogue between the various actors in the field of youth, in particular the young people themselves, youth workers and policymakers, to contribute to the development of policy cooperation in the youth field and to take the necessary steps and establish the networks necessary to better understand youth.

Who can participate?

The programme is intended for young people, groups of young people, youth workers, youth organisations and other partners working in the field of youth. The programme is intended for young people aged between 13 and 30.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0471en01.pdf

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ROMANIA

The implementation of the YOUTH
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under construction. For multilateral
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welcomed, but they cannot host.
Applications from Romanian NGOs for
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PROGRESS

The title of the programme stands for "Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity". It incorporates four specific Community Action Programmes currently supporting the implementation of the social policy agenda as well as a number of budget lines in relation to working conditions. The programme is divided into 5 sections: employment, social protection and inclusion, working conditions, antidiscrimination and diversity, and gender equality.

PROGRESS shall specifically finance

- Activities to support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy
- Activities to support the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion
- Activities to support the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work.
- Activities to support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in EU policies
- Activities to support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promote gender mainstreaming in EU policies

What is the aim of the programme?

- to improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States (and in other participating countries) through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies.
- to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators in the areas covered by the programme.
- to support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policies objectives in the Member States and assessing their impact.
- to promote networking, mutual learning, and identification and dissemination of good practice at EU level.
- to enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and the general public about the EU policies pursued under each of the 5 sections.
- to boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote and support EU policies.

What activities are planned?

The Programme shall finance the following types of actions:

- Analytical activities
 - Collection, development and dissemination of data and statistics
 - Development and dissemination of common methodologies and indicators/benchmarks
 - Carrying-out of studies, analysis and surveys and dissemination of their results
 - Carrying-out of evaluations and impact assessments and dissemination of their results

- Elaboration and publication of guides and reports
- Mutual learning, Awareness and Dissemination activities
 - Identification of best practices and organisation of peer review by means of meetings/workshops/seminars at EU or national level
 - Organisation of Presidency conferences/seminars
 - Organisation of conferences/seminars in support of the development and implementation of EC law and policy objectives
 - Organisation of media campaigns and events
 - Compilation and publication of materials to disseminate information as well as results of the programme
- Support to main actors
 - Support to running costs of key EU networks
 - Organisation of working groups of national officials to monitor the implementation of EU law
 - Funding of training seminars addressed to legal practitioners, key officials and other relevant actors
 - Networking among specialised bodies at EU level
 - Funding of experts' networks
 - Funding of EU level observatories
 - Exchange of personnel between national administrations
 - Cooperation with international institutions

Who can participate?

- Member States;
- Public employment services;
- Local and regional authorities;
- Specialised bodies foreseen under EU legislation;
- Social partners;
- Non-governmental organisations organised at EU level;
- Universities and research institutes;
- Experts in evaluation
- National statistical offices;
- Media

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0488en01.pdf

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Integrated Programme for Lifelong Learning: GRUNDTVIG, LEONARDO DA VINCI, COMENIUS, ERASMUS

The Integrated Programme will comprise four specific programmes: Comenius, for general education activities concerning schools up to and including upper secondary level; Erasmus, for education and advanced training activities at higher education level; Leonardo da Vinci, for all other aspects of vocational education and training; and Grundtvig for adult education. In addition, the proposal incorporates a "transversal" programme incorporating four key activities, to cover horizontal policy issues, and to make specific provision for language learning and ICT-related activity where these fall outside the specific programmes; and for a more substantial dissemination activity; and a Jean Monnet programme to support action related to European integration and European institutions and associations in education and training.

What is the aim of the programme?

In general, the programme will address:

- the mobility of people in lifelong learning in Europe;
- bilateral and multilateral partnerships;
- multilateral projects designed to improve national education and training systems;
- unilateral and national projects;
- multilateral projects and networks;
- observation and analysis of policies and systems in the field of lifelong learning, the establishment of reference material, including surveys, statistics, analyses and indicators, action to support transparency and recognition of qualifications and prior learning, and action to support cooperation in quality assurance;

- operating grants to support certain operational and administrative costs of organisations active in the field covered by the Integrated Programme;
- other initiatives in line with the objectives of the Integrated Programme ('Accompanying Measures').

The individual programmes focus on these aims in different ways, targeting different groups of the European population:

- the Comenius programme addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing such education;
- the Erasmus programme addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education and vocational education and training at tertiary level, whatever the length of their course or qualification may be and including doctoral studies, and the institutions and organisations providing such education and training;
- the Leonardo da Vinci programme, which shall address the teaching and learning needs of all those in vocational education and training including initial and continuing vocational training, other than advanced vocational education and training at tertiary level, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
- the Grundtvig programme, which shall address the teaching and learning needs of those in all forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.
- the transversal programme shall comprise the following four key activities:
 - policy cooperation in lifelong learning within the Community;
 - promotion of language learning;
 - development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning;
 - dissemination and exploitation of results of actions supported under the programme and previous related programmes, and exchange of good practice.
- the Jean Monnet programme shall support institutions and activities in the field of European integration. It shall comprise the following three key activities:
 - the Jean Monnet Action;
 - operating grants to support specified institutions dealing with issues relating to European integration;
 - operating grants to support other European institutions and associations in the fields of education and training

The integrated programme particularly will aim to address some important horizontal issues by:

- promoting an awareness of the importance of cultural diversity and multiculturalism;
- making provision for learners with special needs;
- promoting an awareness for sustainable economic development;
- promoting equality between men and women and combating all discrimination;

Activities: The Individual Programmes

The individual programmes will focus on the following activities:

- the Comenius programme:
 - to develop understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures and its value;
 - to help young people acquire the basic life-skills and competences necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship;
- the Erasmus programme:
 - to support the realisation of a European Higher Education Area;
 - to reinforce the contribution of higher education and advanced vocational education to the process of innovation;
- the Leonardo da Vinci programme:
 - to facilitate adaptation to labour market changes and to the evolution of skills needs;
- the Grundtvig programme:
 - to respond to the educational challenge of an ageing population in Europe;
 - to help provide adults with alternative pathways to improving their knowledge and competences;
- the transversal programme:
 - to promote European cooperation in fields covering two or more sectoral programmes;
 - to promote the convergence of Member States' education and training systems;
- the Jean Monnet programme:
 - to stimulate teaching, research and reflection activities in the field of European integration studies;
 - to support the existence of an appropriate range of institutions and associations focusing on issues relating to European integration and on education and training in a European perspective.

Who can participate?

The Integrated Programme is aimed in particular at:

- pupils, students, trainees and adult learners;
- staff involved in any aspect of lifelong learning;
- people in the labour market;
- learning providers;
- the persons and bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of lifelong learning at local, regional and national level;
- enterprises, social partners and their organisations at all levels, including trade organisations and chambers of commerce and industry;
- bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services relating to any aspect of lifelong learning;
- associations working in the field of lifelong learning, including students', trainees', pupils', teachers', parents' and adult learners' associations;

- research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues;
- non profit organisations, voluntary bodies, non-governmental organisations ("NGOs").

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004_0474en01.pdf

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6. Justice and Home Affairs

General Programme „Fundamental Rights and Justice“

In order to contribute to the EU as an area of freedom, security and justice the European Commission has proposed to establish the General programme for “Fundamental Rights and Justice”. The programme aims to support the respect for fundamental rights in the EU and to combat anti-semitism, facism and xenophobia. The fight against violence and drugs in the EU is another objective of the programme. Finally, it is meant to promote judicial cooperation in the areas of civil and commercial as well as criminal matters. Each of these objectives are represented by one programme, of which three will be described here in more detail.

Please note that the programmes “Daphne” and “Drugs prevention and information” are listed as two programmes: In the first proposal, the European Commission presented “Daphne” and “Drugs prevention and information” under a common programme. However, the proposal ha been criticized out of the concern that the Daphne programme might loose visibility, if combined with measures related to drug addiction, under a single instrument. This resulted in the split of the two programmes without modifications to content, whether the legal basis, explanatory memorandum, recitals, or the articles of the proposals for decision.

Daphne

The Daphne programme aims to citizens against violence and to attain a high level of health protection, well being and social cohesion. Thus, the programme will contribute to the setting up of an area of freedom, security and justice.

What is the aim of the programme?

- To prevent and combat all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain against children, young people and women by taking preventive measures and by providing support for victims and groups at risk by the following means:
 - to assist and encourage NGOs and other organisations active in protecting against and preventing violence, and assisting victims;
 - to develop and implement awareness-raising actions targeting specific audiences, to design materials to supplement those already available, or to adapt and use the existing materials in other geographical areas or for other target groups;
 - to disseminate the results obtained under the two Daphne programmes including their adaptation, transfer and use by other beneficiaries or in other geographical areas;
 - to identify and enhance actions contributing to positive treatment of people at risk of violence, namely to follow an approach that encourages respect for them and promotes their well-being and self-fulfilment.

- To promote transnational actions to
 - set up multidisciplinary networks;
 - ensure the expansion of the knowledge base, the exchange of information and the identification and dissemination of good practice, including through training, study visits and staff exchange;
 - raise awareness of violence among targeted audiences such as specific professions to improve understanding thereof, to promote the adoption of zero tolerance towards violence and to encouraging support for victims and the reporting of violence to the competent authorities;
 - study phenomena related to violence, to explore and address the root causes of violence at all levels of society;

What activities are planned?

- specific actions taken by the Commission, such as studies and research, opinion polls and surveys, formulation of indicators and common methodologies, collection, development and dissemination of data and statistics, seminars, conferences and experts meetings, organisation of public campaigns and events, development and maintenance of websites, preparation and dissemination of information materials, support to and animation of networks of national experts, analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities; or
- specific transnational projects of Community interest presented by at least three Member States under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes; or
- support to the activities of non-governmental organisations or other entities pursuing an aim of general European interest regarding the general objectives of the programme under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes.
- an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with the permanent work programme of the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children which pursues an aim of general European interest in the field of children's rights and protection.

Who can participate?

Access to this programme shall be open to public or private organisations and institutions (local authorities at the competent level, university departments and research centres) working to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women or to protect against such violence or to provide support for victims or to implement targeted actions to promote rejection of such violence or to encourage attitude and behaviour change towards vulnerable groups and victims of violence.

The following countries may participate in the actions of the programme:

- the EFTA States that are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement;
- the candidate countries associated to the EU, as well as the western Balkan countries included in the stabilisation and association process in accordance with the conditions laid down in the association agreements or their additional protocols relating to participation in Community programmes concluded or to be concluded with those countries;
- projects may associate candidate countries not participating in this programme where this would contribute to their preparation for accession, or other third countries not participating in this programme where this serves the aim of the projects.

Target groups

The programme is destined for all groups that directly or indirectly deal with violence.

With regard to the fight against violence, the main target groups are the victims of violence and groups at risk of violence. Other target groups are, inter alia, teachers and educational staff, police and social workers, local and national authorities, medical and paramedical staff, judicial staff, NGO, trade unions and religious communities. It is also relevant to think about treatment programmes for victims on the one hand and for perpetrators on the other, with the aim of preventing violence.

Additional information and contacts

Amended proposal [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52006PC0230\(01\):EN:HTML](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52006PC0230(01):EN:HTML)

Website DG Justice and Home Affairs on funding
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

Commission website on Daphne
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

Drugs Prevention and Information

The “Drugs prevention and information” programme is supposed to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug related harms. Thus, the programme will contribute to the setting up of an area of freedom, security and justice.

What is the aim of the programme?

- To promote transnational actions to
 - set up multidisciplinary networks;
 - ensure the expansion of the knowledge base, the exchange of information and the identification and dissemination of good practice, including through training, study visits and staff exchange;
 - raise awareness of the health and social problems caused by the drug use and to encourage an open dialogue with a view to promoting a better understanding of the drug phenomenon.
- To involve civil society in the implementation and development of the European Union's Drugs Strategy and Action plans.
- To monitor, implement and evaluate the implementation of specific actions under the Drugs Action Plans 2005–2008 and 2009–2012.

What activities are planned?

- specific actions taken by the Commission, such as studies and research, opinion polls and surveys, formulation of indicators and common methodologies, collection, development and dissemination of data and statistics, seminars, conferences and experts meetings, organisation of public campaigns and events, development and maintenance of websites, preparation and dissemination of information materials, support to

and animation of networks of national experts, analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities; or

- specific transnational projects of Community interest presented by at least three Member States under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes; or
- support to the activities of non-governmental organisations or other entities pursuing an aim of general European interest regarding the general objectives of the programme under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes.

Who can participate?

Access to this programme shall be open to public or private organisations and institutions (local authorities at the relevant level, university departments and research centres) working to inform on and prevent drugs use.

The following countries, hereinafter referred to as "participating countries" may participate in the actions of the programme:

- the EFTA States that are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement;
- the candidate countries associated to the EU, as well as the western Balkan countries included in the stabilisation and association process in accordance with the conditions laid down in the association agreements or their additional protocols relating to participation in Community programmes concluded or to be concluded with those countries;
- projects may associate candidate countries not participating in this programme where this would contribute to their preparation for accession, or other third countries not participating in this programme where this serves the aim of the projects.

Target groups

The programme is destined for all groups that directly or indirectly deal with the drugs phenomena.

With regard to drugs, youth, vulnerable groups and problematic neighbourhoods are groups at risk and should be identified as target groups. Other target groups are, inter alia, teachers and educational staff, social workers, local and national authorities, medical and paramedical staff, judicial staff, NGO, trade unions and religious communities.

Additional information and contacts

Amended proposal

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52006PC0230\(01\):EN:HTML](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52006PC0230(01):EN:HTML)

Website DG Justice and Home Affairs on funding

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

The general aim of this programme is to promote the development of a European society based on respect for fundamental rights. It also aims to strengthen civil society and to encourage an open, transparent and regular dialogue with it in respect of fundamental rights. Furthermore, it strives to fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism.

What is the aim of the programme?

- To promote the Charter of Fundamental Rights and to inform all persons of their rights including those derived from the EU citizenship in order to encourage European Union citizens to participate actively in the democratic life of the Union.
- To assess regularly the situation of fundamental rights in the EU and its Member States, within the scope of application of Community law, using the Charter of Fundamental Rights as the guiding document and to obtain opinions on specific questions related to fundamental rights within this scope when necessary.
- To explain the consequences of the insertion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the Constitution and of the European Union's accession to the European Convention of Human Rights.
- To support NGO and other bodies from civil society to enhance their capability to participate actively in the promotion of fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy.
- To promote peace and fundamental rights namely through an interfaith and multicultural dialogue at EU level.

What activities are planned?

- specific actions taken by the Commission, such as, studies and research, opinion polls and surveys, formulation of indicators and common methodologies, collection, development and dissemination of data and statistics, seminars, conferences and expert meetings, organisation of public campaigns and events; development and maintenance of websites, preparation and dissemination of information material, support for and management of networks of national experts, analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities;
- specific transnational projects of Community interest presented by at least three Member States under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes;
- support to the activities of non-governmental organisations or other entities pursuing an aim of general European interest in accordance with the general objectives of the programme under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes.
- an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with the permanent work programme of the Association of the Council of States and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union which pursues an objective of general European interest by promoting exchanges of views and experience on matters concerning the jurisprudence, organisation and functioning of its members in the performance of their judicial and/or advisory functions, particularly with regard to Community Law.

Who can participate?

Access to this programme shall be open to institutions and public or private organisations, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organisations, national, regional and local authorities, international organisations and other not-for-profit organisations established in the European Union.

The programme is targeted at EU citizens, third countries nationals residing legally within the EU territory and civil society associations, among other groups active in promoting the objectives of this programme.

Additional information

Proposal of the European Commission

http://www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0122en01.pdf

Funding website European Commission, DG Justice and Home Affairs

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

General Programme “Solidarity and the Management of Migration Flows”

In order to tackle migration, one major topic in EU policy, the European Commission has proposed a framework programme. It will establish financial solidarity mechanisms (Funds) covering four areas: 1) controls and surveillance of external borders ('integrated border management') and visa policy, 2) return of third country nationals illegally residing in the EU; 3) integration of legally residing third country nationals; and 4) asylum (building upon the existing European Refugee Fund³).

The European Fund for Integration of Third-Country Nationals

The general objective of the Fund is to support the efforts of Member States in enabling third-country nationals of different cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to settle and take actively part in all aspects of European societies as regards admission procedures, basic introduction programmes and activities, participation in civic and political life and respect for diversity and civic citizenship.

The fund is part of the framework programme on Solidarity and the Management of Migration Flows which targets areas such as third-country nationals, refugees, return management and external borders.

What is the aim of the programme?

The Fund shall contribute to the following specific objectives:

- Facilitation of the organization and implementation of admission procedures for migrants;
- Contribution to the organisation and implementation of introduction programmes and activities for third-country nationals aiming at introducing newly arrived third-country nationals to the host society and enabling them to acquire basic knowledge about the host society's language, history, institutions, socio economic features, cultural life and the fundamental norms and values,
- Increase of civic, cultural and political participation of third-country nationals in the host society and improve dialogue between groups of third-country nationals, the government and civil society, in order to promote their active citizenship and recognition of fundamental values;
- Strengthening of the capacity of Member States' service providers to interact with third-country nationals and the organizations representing migrants and to answer in a better

way the needs of different groups of third country nationals, including women and children;

- Strengthening of the ability of the host society to adjust to increasing diversity by targeting integration actions at the host population, thus emphasizing the two way process required for successful integration, taking into account the developments in the area of diversity management;
- Increase of the capacity of Member States to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies for third country nationals.

What activities are planned?

The Fund shall support actions in Member States which correspond to the objectives above:

- Objective 1: Facilitation of the organization and implementation of admission procedures for migrants, for example:
 - o facilitate the development by Member States of admission procedures by supporting consultation processes with relevant stakeholders and expert advice or information exchanges on approaches which target specific nationalities or categories of third country nationals;
 - o prepare third-country nationals admitted for their integration into host society in a better way by supporting pre-travel measures.
- Objective 2: Contribution to the organisation and implementation of introduction programmes and activities for third-country nationals
 - o develop and improve the quality of introduction programmes and activities for newly arrived third-country nationals at local and regional level, with a particular emphasis on civic orientation;
 - o reinforce the capacity of introduction programmes and activities to reach out to particular groups, such as dependants of persons subject to admission procedures, children, women, elderly, illiterate or third-country nationals with disabilities, taking into account their specific needs in light of criteria set for successfully completing introduction programmes;
 - o increase the flexibility of introduction programmes and activities related to civic orientation, in particular through part time courses, fast track modules, distance or E-learning systems or similar models, enabling third-country nationals to follow the programmes while at the same time working or studying;
 - o develop and implement introduction programmes or activities related to civic orientation, targeting at young third-country nationals, in particular "late arrivals", with specific social and cultural problems related to identity issues and prevention of delinquency, including mentoring and "role-model" programmes.
- Objective 3: Increase of civic, cultural and political participation of third-country nationals
 - o contribute to the development of inter-faith and religious dialogue platforms between communities (horizontal) and between communities and policy and decision-making authorities (vertical) aiming at respect for civic citizenship and at diversity;
 - o increase third-country nationals' civic participation and their role as active citizens by facilitating their participation in mainstream (volunteer) organisations or by supporting the development at local or regional level of special volunteering programs, internship schemes and capacity building;

- contribute to enhanced civic participation of particular groups of third-country nationals, such as dependants of persons selected for admission programmes, children, women, elderly, illiterate or persons with disabilities;
 - support within the political decision making process of the Member States the development of national, regional and local advisory platforms for consultation of third-country nationals and exchange of information between all stakeholders;
 - increase third-country nationals' participation in local elections and democratic processes by supporting awareness raising and information campaigns and capacity building programmes designed thereto;
 - contribute to the elaboration and improvement of national preparatory citizenship and naturalisation programmes.
- Objective 4: Strengthening of the capacity of Member States' service providers, for example:
 - develop and update comprehensive information tools, such as manuals, websites, registers of staff diversity skills;
 - build sustainable organisational structures for integration and diversity management and to develop modes of co-operation between different governmental stakeholders enabling officials to swiftly gain information about experiences and practices elsewhere and, where possible, to pool resources;
 - reinforce the capacity to coordinate national integration strategies for third country nationals at national level across different levels of government.
 - Objective 5: Strengthening of the ability of the host society to adjust to increasing diversity
 - promote knowledge within the host society of the contents and consequences of the introduction programmes, activities and admission programmes and interaction thereon with public and private service providers, employers, including SME, educational and other institutions;
 - increase the acceptance of migration and admission programmes in the host society through awareness raising campaigns;
 - contribute to the organisation and promotion of intercultural popular events reaching out to specific target groups or the public at large in so far as such events foresee intercultural dialogue and exchanges of view on the multicultural society;
 - promote the dialogue and exchanges between (youth) organisations of different cultures;
 - increase advocacy of integration issues;
 - increase involvement of third-country nationals in the development of society's responses to migration phenomena;
 - increase the role of private bodies in promoting and managing diversity.
 - Objective 6: Increase of the capacity of Member States to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies
 - enhance the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics on integration of third country nationals and integration policies for third country nationals;
 - contribute to the evaluation of immigration and integration policies for third country nationals by supporting national impact assessments, consultation

mechanisms of stakeholders such as employers and educational institutions, evaluation mechanisms and monitoring measures;

- develop indicators and benchmarking for measuring progress at national level;
- develop high quality tests and evaluation schemes for compulsory integration programmes;
- contribute to the evaluation of admission procedures or introduction programmes by supporting representative surveys among third-country nationals having benefited from the programmes and relevant stakeholders, such as enterprises, non-governmental organisations and regional or local authorities.

Who can participate?

The fund is targeted at regional and local administrations, as well as non-governmental organisations in the fields of migration and human rights.

Additional information

Proposal of the European Commission

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0123en01.pdf

European Refugee Fund

The general objective of the Fund shall be to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving refugees and displaced persons, taking account of Community legislation in these matters by co-financing the actions provided for by this Decision.

As the current phase of the ERF runs into 2010, the European Commission proposed to prolong its duration until the end of the financial perspectives, i.e. 2013. In operational terms, this will translate into the implementation of a third multiannual programme (2011-2013). However, as the Member States are currently beginning under ERF II the implementation of the first strategic multiannual programme, which runs from 2005 to the end of 2007, it is proposed that the date of entry into force of this proposal is at the beginning of the first year of the second multiannual programme, that is on 1 January 2008.

What activities are planned?

- As regards reception conditions and asylum procedures, eligible actions shall include the following:
 - accommodation infrastructure or services;
 - provision of material aid and medical or psychological care;
 - social assistance, information or help with administrative formalities;
 - legal aid and language assistance;
 - education, language training and other initiatives which are consistent with the status of the person;

- the provision of support services such as translation and training to help improve reception conditions and the efficiency and quality of asylum procedures;
- information for local communities who will be interacting with those being received in the host country.
- As regards integration, eligible actions shall include the following:
 - advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, integration into the labour market, medical, psychological and social care;
 - actions enabling recipients to adapt to the society of the Member State in socio-cultural terms, and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 - actions to promote durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life;
 - measures focusing on education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and diplomas;
 - actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable these persons to provide for themselves;
 - actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between these persons and the receiving society, including actions which promote the involvement of key partners such as the general public, local authorities, refugee associations, voluntary groups, social partners and the broader civil society;
 - measures to support the acquisition of skills by these persons, including language training;
 - actions that promote both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to these persons' dealings with public institutions.
- As regards actions relating to voluntary return, the following, in particular, shall be eligible for support from the Fund:
 - information and advisory services concerning voluntary return initiatives or programmes;
 - information on the situation in the country or region of origin or former habitual residence;
 - general or vocational training and help with reintegration;
 - action by communities of origin resident in the European Union to facilitate the voluntary return of the persons referred to in this Decision;
 - actions which facilitate the organisation and implementation of national voluntary return programmes.

At the Commission's initiative, up to 7% of the Fund's available resources may be used to finance transnational actions or actions of interest to the Community as a whole ("Community actions") concerning asylum policy and measures applicable to the target groups.

To be eligible for funding, Community actions shall in particular:

- further Community cooperation in implementing Community law and good practices;
- support the setting-up of transnational cooperation networks and pilot

- projects based on transnational partnerships between bodies located in two or more Member States designed to stimulate innovation, facilitate exchanges of experience and good practice and improve the quality of return policy;
- support transnational awareness-raising campaigns;
- support studies, dissemination and exchange of information on best practices and all other aspects of the Fund, including on the use of state of the art technology;
- support pilot projects and studies exploring the possibility of new forms of Community cooperation and Community law in this area;
- support development of statistical tools, methods and common indicators.

The Fund shall also finance measures to help the Member States, such measures being separate from, and in addition to, the actions referred to above.

Eligible emergency measures shall concern the following types of action:

- reception and accommodation;
- provision of means of subsistence, including food and clothing;
- medical, psychological or other assistance;
- staff and administration costs linked to the reception of persons concerned and implementation of measures;
- logistical and transport costs.

Additional information

Proposal of the European Commission

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0123en01.pdf

General Programme “Security and Safeguarding Liberties”

Programme “Prevention of and Fight against Crime” (2007-2013)

This programme shall contribute to a high level of security for citizens by preventing and combating crime, organised or otherwise, in particular terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking, corruption and fraud. The three following themes are at the core of the programme: law enforcement; crime prevention and criminology, and protection of witnesses and victims.

What is the aim of the programme?

- to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among law enforcement agencies, other national authorities and related Union bodies;
- to stimulate, promote and develop horizontal methods and tools necessary for strategically preventing and fighting crime, such as public-private partnerships, best practices in crime prevention, comparable statistics and applied criminology, and

- to promote and develop best practices for the protection of crime victims and witnesses.

What activities are planned?

The programme does not deal with judicial cooperation. However, it may cover actions aiming at cooperation among judicial authorities and law enforcement authorities.

- Projects initiated and managed by the Commission with a European dimension;
 - Transnational projects, which must involve partners in at least two Member States, or at least one Member State and an applicant country;
 - National projects within Member States, which
 - prepare transnational projects and/or Union actions ("starter measures"),
 - complement transnational projects and/or Union ("complementary measures")
 - contribute to developing innovative methods and/or technologies with a potential for transferability to actions on Union level, or develop such methods or technologies with a view to transferring them to other Member States and/or applicant countries, or
 - contribute otherwise considerably to developing Union policy on preventing and/or combating crime;
- Operating grants for non-governmental organisations pursuing on a non-profit basis objectives of this programme on a European dimension.

In particular, financial support may be provided for

- actions on operational cooperation and coordination (strengthening networking, mutual confidence and understanding, exchange and dissemination of information, experience and best practices)
- analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities,
- development and transfer of technology and methodology,
- training, exchange of staff and experts, and
- awareness and dissemination activities.

Who can participate?

The programme is destined for law enforcement agencies, other public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including local, regional and national authorities, social partners, universities, statistical offices, media, non-governmental organisations, publicprivate partnerships and relevant international bodies.

As regards transnational projects, third countries and international organisations may participate as partners but are not permitted to submit projects.

Additional Information

Proposal of the European Commission

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0124en01.pdf

7. External Aid

TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument)

TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the Institution Building unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission. In operation since 1996, TAIEX provides centrally managed short-term technical assistance in the field of approximation, application and enforcement of legislation. Its services are complementary to the several alternative assistance programmes the European Commission offers to new Member States, acceding states, candidate countries, the countries of the Western Balkans and those countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as Russia.

Local authorities in member states, newly acceded and acceding states, candidate countries and selected partner countries can benefit from TAIEX by receiving funding for approximation of legislation to EU regulations (Acquis Communautaire).

What are the aims of the instrument?

The role of TAIEX is that of a catalyst, channelling requests for assistance as well as that of a facilitator acting as a broker between the concerned institutions and European Union Member States for the delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise to address problems at short notice.

TAIEX is demand driven in that most of the assistance provided is in response to requests from the beneficiary Countries, the Commission Services and Member States.

TAIEX' main tasks are:

- To provide technical assistance and advice on the transposition of the Acquis Communautaire into the national legislation of beneficiary countries and on the subsequent administration, implementation and enforcement of such legislation.
- To provide technical training and peer assistance to the officials of the administrations of the 10 Member States, who remain beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance.
- To provide programmed technical assistance to the countries of the Western Balkans.
- To be an information broker by gathering and making available information on the Community Acquis.
- To provide database tools for facilitating and monitoring the approximation progress as well as to identify further technical assistance needs.

What activities are planned?

The services currently provided by TAIEX are:

- Experts sent to a beneficiary country to advise on legislative acts and interpretation of the acquis, or to provide guidance on administrative arrangements for its implementation and enforcement.
- Study visits providing opportunities for officials of beneficiary countries to understand how Member States deal with practical issues related to the implementation and enforcement of the acquis and issues related to the interaction with stakeholders.

- Seminars and Workshops to present and explain issues related to the acquis to a wider audience. Such assistance can be focussed on the needs of an individual country or of a group of countries facing similar challenges. The multi-country format also provides a valuable opportunity to network and to exchange experience between beneficiary countries.
- Training to provide necessary technical skills to inspectors in administrations.
- Monitoring and analysis of progress through Peer Reviews which inter-alia help to refine strategies and targeting of further assistance.
- Database and information products providing an efficient and cost effective means of supplying and receiving uniform information on the acquis including the monitoring of the alignment of national legislation.
- Translation – guidance on the organisation of the translation of the acquis by beneficiary countries but also, as necessary, translation of documents for beneficiary countries or Commission services.

Who can participate?

The beneficiaries of TAIEX assistance includes those sectors, both public and private, who have a role to play in the beneficiary countries in the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU legislation. The main target groups are:

- civil servants working in public administrations;
- civil servants working in administrations at sub-national level and in associations of local authorities;
- Members of Parliaments and civil servants working in Parliaments and Legislative Councils;
- professional and commercial associations representing social partners, as well as representatives of trade unions and employers' associations;
- the Judiciary and Law Enforcement authorities;
- interpreters, revisers and translators of legislative texts.

The TAIEX mandate to provide assistance covers the following groups of beneficiary countries:

- Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia
- Bulgaria, Romania
- Republic of Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey
- Turkish Cypriot Community in the northern part of Cyprus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Albania, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999)
- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia

Additional Information

<http://taieux.cec.eu.int/>

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Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

Areas of assistance

Both candidate countries and potential candidate countries shall be supported in the following areas:

- strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as the rule of law, including its enforcement;
- the promotion and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and enhanced respect for minority rights, the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination;
- public administration reform, including the establishment of a system enabling decentralisation of assistance management to the beneficiary
- economic reform;
- the development of civil society;
- social inclusion;
- reconciliation, confidence-building measures and reconstruction;
- regional and cross-border cooperation.

In addition, candidate countries will receive assistance for

- the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire*;
- support for the policy development as well as preparation for the implementation and management of the Community's common agricultural and cohesion policies.

Potential candidate countries receive the following support

- progressive alignment with the *acquis communautaire*;
- social, economic and territorial development including, *inter alia*, infrastructure and investment related activities, in particular in the areas of regional, human resources and rural development.

Programme components

Assistance shall be programmed and implemented according to the following components:

- Transition Assistance and Institution Building;
- Cross-Border Cooperation;
- Regional Development;
- Human Resources Development;
- Rural Development.

Eligible countries

IPA distinguishes between candidate countries and potential candidate countries with regard to objectives and funding measures.

Candidate countries include

- Croatia
- Turkey
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Potential candidate countries include

- Albania
- Bosnia
- Montenegro
- Serbia, including Kosovo (1)

Contact

DG Enlargement http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/who_does_what/index_en.htm

More information available at

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/ipa/index_en.htm

Proposal of the European Commission

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_210/l_21020060731en00820093.pdf

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

Community assistance under the Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument shall promote enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration between the European Union and the partner countries and, in particular, the implementation of partnership and cooperation agreements, association agreements or other existing and future agreements.

What is the aim of the instrument?

Community assistance shall be used to support measures which pursue one or more of the following objectives:

- promoting political dialogue and reform;
- promoting legislative and regulatory approximation in all relevant areas and in particular to encourage the progressive participation of partner countries in the internal market and the intensification of trade;
- strengthening of national institutions and bodies responsible for the elaboration and the effective implementation of policies in areas covered in association agreements, partnership and cooperation agreement and other future comparable agreements;
- promoting sustainable development;

- promoting environmental protection and good management of natural resources;
- supporting policies aimed at poverty reduction;
- supporting policies to promote social development and gender equality, employment and social protection including social dialogues, and respect for trade union rights and core labour standards;
- supporting policies to promote health, education and training;
- promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting the democratisation process, including through electoral observation and assistance;
- fostering the development of civil society;
- promoting the development of a market economy, including measures to support the private sector, encourage investment and promote global trade;
- promoting cooperation in the energy, telecommunication and transport sectors including on interconnections, the networks and their operations, the security and safety of international transport and energy operations, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and clean transport;
- providing support to actions aimed at increasing food safety for the citizens, in particular in the sanitary and phytosanitary domains;
- ensuring efficient and secure border management;
- promoting cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs, including on issues such as asylum and migration and the fight against and prevention of terrorism and organised crime, including its financing, money laundering and tax fraud;
- supporting administrative cooperation to improve transparency and the exchange of information in the area of taxation in order to combat tax avoidance and evasion;
- promoting participation in Community research and innovation activities;
- promoting cooperation between the Member States and partner countries in higher education and mobility of teachers, researchers and students; (s) promoting understanding between cultures, people-to-people contacts, cooperation between civil societies and exchanges of young people;
- supporting participation of partner countries in Community programmes and agencies;
- supporting crossborder cooperation to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental development in border regions;
- promoting regional cooperation and integration;
- providing support in post-crisis situations, including support to refugees and displaced persons, and assisting in conflict prevention and disaster preparedness;
- encouraging communication and promoting exchange among the partners on the measures and activities financed under the programmes;
- addressing common thematic challenges in fields of mutual concern and any other objectives consistent with the scope of this Regulation.

Type of programmes

Community assistance shall be provided by means of:

- country or multicountry programmes, covering assistance to one partner country or addressing regional and subregional cooperation between two or more partner countries, in which Member States may participate;

- thematic programmes, addressing one or more specific challenges which are common to several partner countries and which may be relevant to one or more Member States;
- crossborder cooperation programmes, covering cooperation between one or more Member States and one or more partner countries, taking place in regions adjacent to their shared part of the external border of the European Community.

Community assistance may be provided under this Regulation to transregional cooperation involving partner countries and Member States in the context of thematic programmes and multicountry programmes addressing regional and subregional cooperation.

Eligible countries

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Who can participate?

The following shall be eligible for funding for the purposes of implementing action programmes, joint crossborder cooperation programmes and special measures:

- partner countries and regions and their institutions;
- decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as regions, departments, provinces and municipalities;
- joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions and the Community;
- international organisations, including regional organisations, UN bodies, departments and missions, international financial institutions and development banks, in so far as they contribute to the objectives of this Regulation;
- Community institutions and bodies, but only for the purposes of implementing support measures of the type referred to in Article 16;
- European Union agencies;
- the following entities and bodies of the Member States, partner countries and regions and any other third country complying with the rules on access to the Community's external assistance referred to in Article 21, in so far as they contribute to the objectives of this Regulation:
 - public or parastatal bodies, local authorities or administrations and consortia thereof;
 - companies, firms and other private organisations and businesses;
 - financial institutions that grant, promote and finance private investment in partner countries and regions;
 - non-state actors as defined below;
 - natural persons;
- the following non-state actors:
 - non-governmental organisations;
 - organisations representing indigenous peoples;
 - local citizens' groups and traders' associations;
 - cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests;

- local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional co-operation and integration;
 - consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations;
 - universities;
 - churches and religious associations and communities;
 - the media;
 - any non-governmental associations and independent foundations likely to contribute to development;
- any body or actor necessary to achieve the objectives of this Regulation.

Proposal of the European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/com04_628_en.pdf

Contacts

General questions: enp-info@ec.europa.eu

Relevant contacts in DG External Relations at
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/contact_en.htm

Instrument for Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation (DCECI)

What is the aim of the instrument?

The measures shall relate to:

- human and social development, including health and population issues;
- promoting gender equality;
- rural development, food aid and food security;
- urban development;
- environmental protection;
- sustainable development of natural resources;
- infrastructure (particularly transport, water, power, environmental and telecommunications infrastructure), including the management systems and safety and security of power and transport infrastructure and operations, and energy saving measures;
- the private sector, productive sectors and economic infrastructure;
- trade and investment;
- jobs, social cohesion and social protection;
- upholding fundamental social rights, including core labour standards;
- customs and tax;
- macroeconomic and structural reform;

- sectoral reform;
- basic, secondary and higher education, and vocational training;
- research, cooperation on and development of scientific and technical capacity; and scientific mobility;
- cultural cooperation and academic and cultural exchanges;
- mutual understanding between the Community and the partner countries and regions;
- developing civil society, dialogue with non-government actors, particularly associations, non-governmental organisations, the media and the social partners;
- support for institutions aimed, for instance, at promoting good governance, strengthening the rule of law, building up the capacity of administrations and local authorities, making public services more effective and aligning institutional and regulatory frameworks;
- policy dialogue;
- promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, and support for the process of democratisation including electoral assistance and election observers;
- regional cooperation and integration, including cooperation between industrial partners;
- crossborder cooperation;
- justice, plus judicial, police, tax, financial and customs cooperation;
- all aspects of asylum and (legal or illegal) migration including border controls, readmission and return, and international protection;
- aid for refugees, and displaced or uprooted persons;
- conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- the transition from emergency aid to rehabilitation and long-term development, reconstruction and post-emergency rehabilitation;
- preventing natural disasters;
- any other area appropriate for achieving the of the instrument.

Types of financing

Financing for the implementation of action programmes and special measures may in particular take the following forms:

- projects and programmes;
- sectoral or general budget support if the partner country's management of public spending is sufficiently transparent, reliable and effective, and where it has put in place properly formulated sectoral or macroeconomic policies approved by its principal donors, including, where relevant, the international financial institutions;
- sectoral support;
- in exceptional cases, sectoral and general import programmes, which may take the form of (a) sectoral import programmes in kind, (b) sectoral import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance imports for the sector in question or (c) general import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance general imports of a wide range of products;
- funds made available to the European Investment Bank or other financial intermediaries on the basis of Commission programmes for the purpose of providing loans (in parti-

cular to support investment in and development of the private sector), risk capital (in the form of subordinated or conditional loans) or other temporary minority holdings in business capital, and contributions to guarantee funds;

- interest-rate subsidies, especially for environment-related loans;
- debt-relief programmes;
- grants to finance projects
- grants to finance the operating costs of entities
- funding for twinning programmes between public institutions, national public bodies or private-law entities entrusted with public service tasks of a Member State and those of a partner country or region;
- contributions to international funds, such as those managed by international or regional organisations;
- contributions to national funds set up by partner countries and regions to attract joint financing from a number of donors, or contributions to funds set up by one or more donors for the purpose of the joint implementation of projects;
- capital investments in international financial institutions and regional development banks;
- human and material resources required for effective administration and supervision of projects and programmes by partner countries and regions.

Eligible countries

All the world's countries, territories and regions are eligible, except

- the Member States of the Community;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the Community
- the countries eligible for the pre-accession instrument (Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey);
- the countries eligible for the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

Who can participate?

- partner countries and regions, and their institutions;
- decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as regions, departments, provinces and municipalities;
- joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the Community;
- international organisations, including regional organisations, UN bodies, departments and missions, international financial institutions and development banks, in so far as they contribute to the objectives of this Regulation;
- Community institutions and bodies, but only for the purposes of implementing support measures of the type referred to in Article 11;
- European Union agencies;
- The following entities and bodies of the Member States, partner countries and regions and any other third country complying with the rules on access to the Community's external assistance, insofar as they are helping to achieve the objectives of this Regulation:

- public or parastatal bodies, local authorities and consortia thereof;
- companies, firms and other private organisations and businesses;
- financial institutions that grant, promote and finance private investment in partner countries and regions;
- natural persons.
- non-state actors:

The non-state actors eligible for financial support under this Regulation include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations likely to contribute to development or the external dimension of internal policies.

Additional information

Proposal of the European Commission

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0629en01.pdf

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