

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

REGIONAL POLICY

Territorial co-operation, urban actions and outermost regions

Territorial co-operationBrussels,
D.1/MG D(2006)

**INFORMATION NOTE
TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF FUNDS**

Subject: Proposed funding profiles for ERDF Interregional Co-operation and Network Programmes 2007-2013

Background

Article 6 (3) of Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 on the European Regional Development Fund identifies the types of actions to be supported in the framework of interregional co-operation and exchange of experience programmes under the European Territorial Co-operation Objective in 2007-2013.

The negotiations in Council led to the identification of 4 specific programmes:

- Interregional Co-operation Programme;
- URBACT;
- ESPON;
- INTERACT.

Financial profiles per programme

In parallel, the negotiations on the financial perspectives provided EUR 392m (in 2004 prices) to support these programmes. Following discussions with the Member States, representatives of the 4 programmes, and after assessing the requirements and needs of the programmes, the Commission has envisaged the following breakdown among the programmes. (All figures below are in current prices, as these must be used when finalising the programme documents.)

Member States are asked to note in particular the ascending nature of the proposed yearly allocations for all the programmes which should assist considerably with the implementation of the programmes.

Interregional Co-operation Programme

Proposed profile:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
33,519,180	35,753,777	39,659,847	45,335,266	51,221,838	55,632,584	60,199,270	321,321,762

The aim of the Interregional Co-operation programme is to support co-operation among regional and local authorities across Europe (without geographic limits) in order to exchange experiences and best practice on Structural Funds-related topics. The programme will focus on the two key topics identified in the regulations: innovation and the knowledge economy, and environment and risk prevention.

The programming committee (involving all 25 Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, Norway and Switzerland) has already made significant progress in preparing the new programme, and a formal submission to the Commission is expected before the end of the year.

URBACT

Proposed profile:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
5,562,072	5,932,875	6,581,036	7,522,798	8,499,598	9,231,504	9,989,287	53,319,170

URBACT has been created to support urban networks in working together on issues of common interest in order to improve the urban dimension of regional policy. The preparation of this programme is also very advanced, and a formal submission is expected before the end of 2006.

ESPON

Proposed profile:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
3,550,259	3,786,941	4,200,661	4,801,786	5,425,275	5,892,450	6,376,140	34,033,512

ESPON is the “European Spatial Planning Observatory Network” and acts as a spatial planning observatory producing in-depth studies and reports on the key issues and policies and their impact on the European territory. The preparation of the new programme, involving all Member States, as well as a number of neighbouring countries, is proceeding well, with submission to the Commission due before the end of the year.

INTERACT

Proposed profile:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
3,550,259	3,786,941	4,200,662	4,801,786	5,425,275	5,892,449	6,376,140	34,033,512

The INTERACT programme acts as a support and advice service to the more than 80 European Territorial Co-operation programmes, improving programme and management quality to ensure a more effective use of co-operation funding. The programme preparation committee for the new period intends to submit the finalised version of the new programme before the end of November.

Conclusions

The Committee is asked to take note of the proposed profile of each of the 4 interregional and network programmes.