

## REPORT

*- Exchange of knowledge about use of structural funds*

# SCIENCE LINK

*Comparing regional  
Operation Programmes*



**WP 6 SCIENCE LINK as part of the Baltic Science Link Flagship project**

6.2 Financing / Permanent BSR Network of regional development facilitator and activation of regional authorities

# CONTENT

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>DENMARK</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	8
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	8
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	9
<b>ESTONIA</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	22
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	22
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	26
<b>FINLAND</b> .....	<b>30</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	31
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	31
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	39
<b>GERMANY</b> .....	<b>46</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	47
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	47
REGIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	48
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	63
<b>LATVIA</b> .....	<b>90</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	91
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	91
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	94

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<b>LITHUANIA .....</b>	<b>97</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	98
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	98
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	101
 <b>POLAND .....</b>	 <b>104</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	105
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	105
REGIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	114
CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION.....	127
 <b>SWEDEN .....</b>	 <b>132</b>
Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013 .....	133
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES .....	133
 <b>SUMMARY .....</b>	 <b>149</b>

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## INTRODUCTION

In an open global economy, competitiveness relies on the capacity of businesses to create high value added goods and services. A move towards innovation-based sustainable growth is therefore at the heart of the EU's response to globalization.

Research and innovation can also offer solutions to overcome the great challenges that face our continent and the rest of the world, challenges such as energy security, climate change, environmental degradation, the exclusion of vulnerable groups, the ageing population, global health threats, and demographic developments.

Research and high-tech activities are highly concentrated in the core regions of the EU. Approximately half of total research expenditure goes to 30 regions out of 254. Disparities between regions in business research expenditure are even wider.

The European Union possesses five key funding opportunities to support research and innovation: the Research Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund within the Cohesion policy; the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund within the Rural development policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

The Structural Funds play a substantial role to help all regions build research and innovation capacities corresponding to their situation and priorities. Over the years, European Structural Funds have contributed successfully to economic growth and competitiveness of regions, individuals and businesses.

Between 2000 and 2006, approximately € 13 billion – around 6% of the EU Structural Funds – have been spent on research infrastructures and networks, innovative business start-ups and the modernisation of SMEs.

The 2007-2013 programming period focus even more clearly on farsighted and strategic projects and co-operation between regions, authorities, organizations and businesses. The Structural Funds provide strategic investments in the future – investments that stimulate more and better jobs.

Innovation is one of the key aspects in applying Structural Funds.

Regions and Member States can use the Structural Funds in a flexible manner to help meet their specific needs and exploit the synergies with the Framework Programme and other Community instruments.

A broad range of research and innovation related actions may be funded, such as regional and transregional clusters, poles of excellence, technology transfer, business support services and actions to develop human capital and to help workers and enterprises anticipate and adapt to economic change.

The eight EU countries that make up the Baltic Sea Region (Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) face several common challenges. It includes a number of priority areas to save the sea, connect the region and increase prosperity – each accompanied by concrete flagship projects as well as by clearly identified targets and indicators. Joint actions helps to mobilise all relevant EU funding and policies and coordinate the actions of the European Union, EU countries, regions, pan-Baltic organisations, financing institutions and non-governmental bodies to promote a more balanced development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The report consists of eight chapters describing operational programmes in each Baltic Sea Region countries.





# DENMARK

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Innovation And Knowledge'



The programme covers the whole country.

##### ***1. The European Commission approved the operational programme on June 26 2007***

Peripheral areas are to receive at least the same share of funding during this programming period as they did in 2000-2006, i.e., approximately one third. European Community and Member State assistance amounts to 509.577.240 EUR for 2007-2013. Of this, the ERDF Operational programme investment is 254.788.620 EUR, approx. 90% for Lisbon Agenda (growth and jobs) objectives.

##### ***2. Aim of support***

The Strategy's core targets refer to four "Growth Drivers" seen as crucial to promoting growth. They are listed below, together with the aspects to be addressed during this programming period:

##### **➤ *Human resources:***

- a) targeting supplementary training to meet needs of enterprises
- b) improving availability of research-based supplementary training
- c) improving executive management education
- d) assisting enterprises in planning training

##### **➤ *Innovation:***

- a) promoting interaction between academia and business/industry community
- b) recruiting better qualified staff to enterprises

##### **➤ *Use of New technology (ICT):***

- a) promoting use of websites for advanced services (e.g. digital products, customer service)
- b) promoting e-learning in enterprises
- c) promoting wider use of ICT, geographically and in all age groups

##### **➤ *Entrepreneurship:***

- a) promoting sound growth
- b) encouraging spin-offs from academia



c) creating more incubators, to catch up with performance seen in eg. Finland, US, UK and Sweden.

The Structural Fund contribution is intended to complement the global Danish growth policy and overall national policy, with due consideration to the Lisbon strategy, EU legislation and Danish legislation, notably the Danish Law on Business Development. Funds will be deployed only where there is a lack of national funding, and where such intervention is crucial to improving regional competitiveness.

### **3. Priorities**

- ERDF OP
- ESF OP
- REDS Northern Jutland Region
- REDS Mid-Jutland Region
- REDS South of Denmark Region
- REDS Zealand Region
- REDS Capital area Region
- REDS Bornholm

The ERDF programme will focus on three of the Growth Drivers identified above, with Innovation given priority. Funding will be divided as follows: Innovation 30%, Use of New Technology 20%, Entrepreneurship 20%, with the balance for technical assistance.

### **4. Managing Authority**

Danish Authority for Enterprise and Construction

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Syddanmark - Schleswig-K.E.R.N.'**



#### **Denmark, Germany**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 20 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Programme for Denmark and Germany that will run between 2007 and 2013. The programme provides Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the Danish region of Syddanmark and for parts of Schleswig- Holstein in Germany.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €69 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €44 million, which represents approximately 0.5% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### ***1. Purpose and aim of the programme***

By harnessing regional resources, the Programme aims to help the cross-border area become an active player in the global market-place. The focus is on improving the area's attractiveness and further strengthening the cross-border cooperation that was developed in previous programming periods.

### ***2. Expected impact of the investment***

The Programme aims to improve regional competitiveness and nurture a sustainable environment. Its activities should make the cross-border area a more attractive location for enterprises and enhance the quality of life of local residents. The development of cross-border transport connections and the creation of new businesses and services are key programme goals.

### ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured around the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Reinforcement and consolidation of the region's knowledge-based economy [approximately 46.4% of the total budget]**

Activities supported in this priority include: economic cooperation and enterprise creation; the development and introduction of new technologies; cooperation in research and education; tourism development; and new initiatives in the health care sector.

- **Priority 2: Development of framework conditions in the area [approximately 23.3% of the total budget]**

The aim is to develop human resources and create a sustainable environment. Subjects that are high on the programme agenda include: sustainable energy use, transport and logistics, and the development of housing that reflects demographic need.

- **Priority 3: Day-to-day cooperation and functional integration in the border region [approximately 23.3% of the total budget]**

This priority seeks to support cultural and linguistic cooperation as well as initiatives to bring the region's young people closer together. In addition, the axis promotes cross-border employment and education, public transport and administrative cooperation.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 7.0% of the total budget]**

Technical assistance is available for Programme management, including information and communication activities.

### ***4. Managing Authority***

Joint Technical Secretariat

Entwicklungsagentur Nord GmbH

## Operational Programme 'North Sea Region'



**Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom**

### **Transnational Cooperation Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 3 October 2007, the European Commission approved a transnational cooperation Operational Programme between Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom (with participation from Norway). The “North Sea Region” Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €274 million.

Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €134 million, which represents approximately % of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

The North Sea Region Programme runs from 2007 to 2013 and will provide Community support to 38 NUTS II areas in the participating EU Member States (along with all of Norway). The Programme covers a population of about 60 million people and an area of 664 000 km.

#### ***1. Purpose and aim of the programme***

The Programme's main aim is to make the North Sea region a better place to live, work and invest in. It seeks to make a measurable difference by:

- increasing the overall level of innovation taking place across the region;
- enhancing the quality of the environment: and
- developing sustainable and competitive communities.

North Sea Region 2007-13 promises to deliver a long-term strategic approach to transnational cooperation. It will provide a catalyst for cooperative projects that can support investments in infrastructure that are of transnational relevance. An additional aim is to encourage cross-fertilisation between projects that address similar issues, and that provide complementarity with other programmes – be they European, national or regional in make-up.

The Programme will also pool resources to provide critical mass while tackling transnational issues that are of genuine importance to the area.

#### ***2. Expected impact of the investment***

North Sea Region 2007-13 will support actions and investments which offer clear added value to the area. The emphasis will be on stimulating transnational cooperation that can provide concrete benefits. Projects that were approved under previous programmes will not simply be able to extend their activities under the new programme.

The focus will be on supporting innovative and tangible transnational initiatives. Efforts will be made to engage with key actors that were not involved in partnerships forged under the previous INTERREG programmes. A series of indicators will be harnessed to monitor and quantify the programme's performance and level of accomplishment.

### **3. Priorities**

The Programme is structured around the following priority axes:

- **Priority axis 1: Building on our capacity for innovation [approximately 20.9% of total funding]**

This priority aims to boost innovation at all policy levels and in all sectors. The goal is to encourage a transnational partnership approach between business, industry, researchers, universities and public bodies which can be harnessed to promote innovation in line with the EU's Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.

By strengthening the capacities of clusters and networks across business and society, innovation-based projects will create favourable environments for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), business development and economic growth. Increased adoption and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) will play a key role in increasing the region's innovative capacity.

- **Priority axis 2: Promoting the sustainable management of our environment [approximately 28.5% of total funding]**

Transnational cooperation will concentrate on the development of preventative and responsive measures that address acute and chronic marine pollution. Actions will also focus on integrated coastal zone management, and how best to look after the sea and its marine ecosystems.

The priority also addresses the risk climate change poses to society and the environment. Efforts will be undertaken to improve environmentally responsible energy production practices, which will contribute to a lower carbon economy.

- **Priority axis 3: Improving accessibility in the North Sea region [approximately 28.5% of total funding]**

This priority aims to improve accessibility throughout the North Sea region in order to deliver economic and social benefits. Public and private partnerships will be encouraged to develop and implement transnational concepts for an efficient transport system. Work here should address common technological, financial, planning and administrative constraints.

Providing support for innovation in transport and cargo logistics will help to address the region's accessibility issues. Projects that promote the development of multi-modal transport corridors and seek to improve transport monitoring systems are also likely to receive Programme support.

- **Priority axis 4: Promoting sustainable and competitive communities [approximately 17.1% of total funding]**

This priority aims to strengthen urban and rural areas in a way that will create conditions to build up innovative capacities and generate jobs and growth. Transnational cooperation will concentrate on those geographic areas that are suffering from economic and population decline, and subsequent social pressures. Projects will have to tackle issues like service delivery, integration of immigrant labour and economic restructuring. Axis four also focuses on promoting efficient energy consumption.

- **Priority axis 5: Technical assistance [approximately 5.0% of total funding]**

Technical assistance is available to help implement the programme. Financial support can cover administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority

The North Sea Programme

### **Operational Programme 'North Sea Region'**



#### **Denmark, Sweden, Norway**

#### **Transnational Cooperation Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 27 March 2008, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Programme for Sweden, Denmark and Norway for the period 2007-13. The programme builds on the work of the Interreg IIIA Öresund Operational Programme, which ran as a partnership between Denmark and Sweden in 2000-2006. A number of new coastal regions have been added to the new programme – these run along the entire Danish east coast, the Swedish west coast and the south coast of Norway. The Programme is sub-divided into two sub-programmes: one covers Öresund, the other Kattegat-Skagerrak.

The Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation objective and has a total budget of around €223 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development fund (ERDF) comes to about €112 million, which represents approximately 1.3% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13. In addition to the ERDF allocation and contributions from Denmark and Sweden, Norway provides its own funding to the Programme.

#### **1. Purpose and aim of the programme**

The programme's vision is to create a region which is attractive and competitive, and characterised by knowledge-based cooperation and sustainable development. These values are to be found in the goals set down for each sub-programme. Öresund aims to become Europe's most attractive and competitive region, while Kattegatt-Skagerrak sets itself the goal of being an innovative and functional border region that offers a high quality of life.

The programme's broad objectives are to:

- Increase sustainable economic growth and contribute to the EU's regional development objectives;
- Develop a physically and organisationally homogeneous region by stimulating cooperation and common use of resources;
- Increase integration by improving the mobility of people and businesses.

## **2. Expected impact of the investment**

Thanks to the success of two previous regional programming periods, the Öresund region has some significant urban areas and a lot of experience in forging Cross-border Cooperation. The current programme builds on previous activities and is expected to further strengthen Cross-border Cooperation.

Kattegat-Skagerrak is a larger and more rural and maritime region. It includes coastal regions in the three participating countries that are newly eligible for funding. Work has developed from a more basic starting point than in the Öresund region. A series of indicators, applicable to the programme's priorities, are used to evaluate the programme's output and results.

## **3. Priorities**

The Operational Programme is structured according to the following priority axes:

- **Priority 1: Promote sustainable economic growth [approximately 44.7% of total funding, not including the Norwegian contribution]**

The aim is to improve conditions for growth and sustainable competitiveness based on the region's existing strengths. Programme-backed projects focus on stimulating growth promoting activities in the areas of trade, research and education, as well as in the wider economy.

For example, projects could be developed to:

- produce common innovation strategies;
  - improve guidance services for small and medium-size enterprises;
  - encourage the joint development and marketing of regional events;
  - foster cooperation between clusters and research institutes; and
  - encourage cooperation on sustainable tourism.
- **Priority 2: Tying the region together [approximately 32.9% of total funding, not including the Norwegian contribution]**

This priority focuses on creating a physically and organisationally homogeneous region, while making it easier to cooperate and share resources.

This may entail developing projects that could:

- develop information systems, products and services for road users and other travellers;
  - develop a safer and more sustainable transport system;
  - encourage cooperation between the region's health services; and
  - develop greater cooperation on maritime safety issues.
- **Priority 3: Promote everyday integration [approximately 16.4% of total funding, not including the Norwegian contribution]**

The aim here is to eliminate barriers and devise ways to encourage and improve contacts across borders for people, businesses and organisations. Common training programmes could be established and labour market borders eliminated. Other projects could look at ways in which the partner countries could mutually recognise diplomas and degrees.



Cooperation between tourist organisations, schools and cultural institutions etc, are encouraged as a way of further cementing ties across traditional borders.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 6.0% of total funding, not including the Norwegian contribution]**

Technical assistance is provided to support management, evaluation and monitoring activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Joint Technical Secretariat for sub-programme Kattegatt-Skagerrak

### **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

On 21 December 2007, the European Commission approved a co-operation programme between Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden, with the participation of Belarus, Norway and the Russian Federation. The Programme covers the period 2007-2013 and is entitled "Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007- 2013".

The Programme involves EU support from two sources: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for EU Member State participation; and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for Belarus and the Russian Federation. Norway is providing its own funding. The total budget of the Programme (including Norway's funding of €12 million) is €293 million, with EU assistance amounting to some €231 million (€208 million through the ERDF and €23 million through the ENPI).

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overarching strategic objective of the Baltic Sea Region Programme is to strengthen the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorially integrated Baltic Sea Region (BSR) by connecting potentials across borders. The BSR is expected to become a better place for investing, working and living in. The Programme will thus incorporate the EU's Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies in an effort to boost knowledge-based socio-economic competitiveness of the region and continue enhancing territorial cohesion. The Programme also addresses the strategic objectives of the EU's external relations in view of multilateral co-operation with EU neighbours.

The Programme looks to facilitate investments and actions aimed at improving the territorial potential of the region, to close the existing wide gaps in the level of socio-economic development between different areas in the region, and to resolve issues of common concern for all countries around the Baltic Sea.

#### **2. Expected impact of investments**

A series of indicators will be used to measure the Programme's achievements. The following are a few examples:

- the number of politicians directly involved in project activities;
- the amount of public/private investments made with Programme funding within the project lifetime;
- the number of tools, methods and model solutions developed and tested in order to achieve the results;
- the number of approved projects focusing on challenges related to different areas, e.g. 10 projects for climate change by 2013;
- the number of established transnational co-operative structures based on official agreements (networks, platforms, councils).

### 3. *Priorities*

The Programme is based on five priority axes (the funding percentages below are based on ERDF + ENPI amounts, i.e. excluding Norway's own contribution):

- **Priority 1: Fostering innovations across the Baltic Sea Region [approximately 27.4% of total funding]**

This priority is focused on core innovations in the field of natural and technical science and on nontechnical innovations. Actions will target the performance of innovation sources and their links with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), transnational transfers of technology and knowledge, and the ability of different population groups to generate and acquire knowledge. The priority will also support actions aimed at broader socio-economic development at regional level, notably in relation to co-operation with Belarus and the Russian Federation.

- **Priority 2: Improving internal and external accessibility [approximately 18.5% of total funding]**

The focus here is on promoting and providing joint transnational solutions in the field of transport and information & communication technology (ICT). Further integration of existing strategic development zones along transnational transport corridors in the BSR will also be promoted. The creation of new transnational links is another goal under this priority.

- **Priority 3: Management of the Baltic Sea as a common resource [approximately 27.0% of total funding]**

This priority addresses environmental pollution in the Baltic Sea. It supports operations aimed at limiting pollution inputs and impacts in the marine environment area. Special emphasis is being placed on maritime safety. The priority also promotes the economic management of open sea areas by means of best available technologies and practices. Attention will focus on the integrated development of offshore and coastal areas in the BSR in the context of climate change.

- **Priority 4: Promoting attractive and competitive cities and regions [approximately 20.0% of total funding]**

This priority promotes co-operation among metropolitan regions, cities and rural areas in an effort to enhance their attractiveness for citizens and investors. It features action programmes and policies which aim to make cities and regions more competitive engines for economic development, to strengthen urban / rural partnerships, and to support the viable economic transformation of smaller and less densely populated



settlements. A special ENPI feature under this priority is joint actions on social issues within regional and city development, as well as governance and capacity building in the public sector, exclusively promoted in co-operation projects with Belarus and the Russian Federation.

- **Priority 5: Technical assistance [approximately 7.1% of total funding]**

There is provision for technical assistance for implementation of the Programme. Financial support is also available and covers administration, monitoring and control, as well as information and communication activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein

Joint Technical Secretariat Rostock

### **Operational Programme 'South Baltic'**



#### **Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden**

On 20 December 2007, the European Commission approved a South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme for the period 2007-13. The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €75 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €61 million, which represents approximately 0.7% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

The Programme covers the following areas:

- Poland - Szczeciński, Koszaliński, Słupski, Gdański and Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot sub-regions;
- Sweden - Kalmar, Blekinge and Skåne counties;
- Germany - Greifswald, Rostock, Stralsund, Wismar, Bad Doberan, Nordvorpommern, Nordwestmecklenburg, Ostvorpommern, Rügen and Uecker-Randow (sub-regions of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern);
- Denmark - the regional municipality of Bornholms;
- Lithuania - Klaipėdos county. Other regions in the countries can take part in the projects as adjacent areas, receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall objective of the Operational Programme is to strengthen the sustainable development of the South Baltic area through joint actions designed to increase its competitiveness and enhance integration among people and institutions.

The Programme covers a geographically large area of border regions of five EU Member States. Economic and social disparities between the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 and old Member States, are major challenges in terms of the competitiveness of the South Baltic area, its economic and social integration and its overall sustainable development. There is a need to improve cross-border structures throughout the area in an effort to foster interaction between local communities and governing institutions.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

Favourable conditions for growth and job creation over national borders represent one of the key expected impacts of the investments. Residents, tourists and investors in the South Baltic area will also benefit from efforts designed to safeguard the social, cultural and natural environment. Specific results include the generation of public and private investments through at least 14 projects, improved quality and interoperability of transport connections and services as a result of some five projects, and better institutional capacity in managing the Baltic Sea environment through a dozen or so targeted projects.

## ***3. Priorities***

The Programme focuses on the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Economic Competitiveness [approximately 36.8% of total funding]**

This priority aims to encourage actions that promote the integration of economic and labour markets in the area, cooperation in technical and higher education, transfer of knowledge and know-how between public and private actors and better transport connections.

- **Priority 2: Attractiveness and Common Identity [approximately 56.7% of total funding]**

This priority aims to support the management of both environmental threats and actions designed to promote sustainable economic use of natural resources and cultural heritage, with particular attention paid to tourism, the development of renewable energy sources and energy savings, and local initiatives encouraging people-to-people contacts.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance [approximately 6.5% of total funding]**

The aim here is to provide support to the participating countries for implementation of the Programme.

## ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Regional Development

Territorial Cooperation Department

## **Operational Programme 'Fehmarnbelt Region'**



**Denmark, Germany**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 21 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Denmark and Germany for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the region of Sjælland in Denmark and parts of Schleswig-Holstein in Germany.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €31 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €23 million, which represents approximately 0.3% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall aim of the Programme is to turn the Baltic Sea space into a functional maritime region, thereby improving the attractiveness and the economic position of the Programme area along the Hamburg-Copenhagen/Malmö axis throughout the area in an effort to foster interaction between local communities and governing institutions.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The following list represents some of the expected impacts of the Programme's investments:

- better links to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and improved international performance of innovation sources;
- improved transnational transfer of technology and knowledge;
- wider public basis for generating and using innovation;
- improved capacity and interoperability of different transport and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) networks;
- improved institutional capacity and effectiveness in water management;
- greater sustainable economic potential of marine resources;
- improved capacity when dealing with hazards and risks;
- pooled resources of metropolitan regions, cities and rural areas to enhance the Baltic Sea region's competitiveness and cohesion;
- increased regional identity and recognition.

### ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured around the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Economy, Innovation, Maritime Affairs and the Environment** [approximately 45.6% of total funding]

Activities supported under this priority include encouraging entrepreneurial initiatives, promoting the region as a business location, product development, developing the innovative capacity of enterprises, improving the health sector and maritime branches, boosting tourism and preserving cultural heritage. Environmental

sustainability will also be supported through financing actions designed to protect nature and promote the use of renewable energies.

- **Priority 2: Cross-border Structures and Human Resources** [approximately 45.6% of total funding]

This priority focuses on strengthening regional identity, developing cooperation for language training opportunities and the cross-border labour market, as well as improving public transport across the border.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance** [approximately 8.8% of total funding]

Technical assistance is provided for managing the Programme and includes information and communication activities.

#### ***4. Managing Authority***

Sjælland Region

Regional Development and International Relations Department



# ESTONIA

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Development Of Living Environment'



#### **Programme co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) under the Convergence**

The European Commission approved on 10 October 2007 (modified 08/06/2011) a major development programme in Estonia for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Development of Living Environment". It involves European Union support for Estonia within the framework of Convergence objective. The total budget of the programme is around EUR 1.8 billion and Community investment through the ERDF and CF amounts to EUR 1.5 billion (approximately 47 % of the total EU money invested in Estonia under Cohesion policy 2007-2013).

##### ***1. Aim of support***

The programme aims at improving the quality of life in Estonia in environmental and social terms. Therefore, the OP lays basis for long-term sustained growth of Estonia.

Major investments will be directed into fulfilling EU directives on water, wastewater and solid waste management. Furthermore, environmental protection will be improved by dedicating resources to environmental education and constant monitoring. Estonia will be better equipped to fight environmental emergencies, such as forest fires and accidents at sea – particularly with oil tankers.

The OP will also improve infrastructure for services in a large number of local communities, thus solving important social issues hindering economic development. In addition, there will be major improvements in vocational training infrastructure, boarding schools infrastructure, schools for students with special educational needs etc.

Support will be given to the modernisation and optimisation of the hospitals networks in order to provide better and more accessible services. Better living, learning and working conditions will also be provided for children and for adults with special psychiatric needs living in welfare institutions.

##### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

55 000 persons will be provided with new public drinking water and sewerage systems. The improvement of environmental conditions will lead to nine river ecosystems being cleaned to promote spawning fish migration.

All environmentally inadequate industrial and domestic waste dumps will be closed down.

An almost five-fold increase is foreseen for the generation of energy from renewable sources. The share of bio fuels in transport is expected to rise to 8%.

It is expected that at least 120 000 people will benefit directly from new infrastructure provided in local communities, based on the needs of these communities. 1500 students with special needs will be able to study in a fully modernised environment, and 90% of studying facilities in vocational education centres will be modernised.

### **3. Priorities**

The programme will be implemented through six main priorities and technical assistance.

- **Priority 1: Development of water and waste management infrastructure**

Supply of drinking water will be improved, water protection infrastructures will be provided. Waste management will focus on decontaminating oil shale waste dumps and constructing new environmentally sound industrial and municipal waste landfills as well as closing and rehabilitating old environmentally hazardous landfills.

- **Priority 2: Development of infrastructures and support systems for sustainable use of the environment**

Within this priority the following actions are foreseen: development of environmental education infrastructure, improvement of environmental monitoring and supervision, preservation of biological diversity and improvement of preparedness for environmental emergencies.

- **Priority 3: Development of energy sector**

Energy efficiency and environmental performance of energy use will be improved through supporting broader use of renewable energy and energy saving in distribution networks and by final consumers, including the housing sector.

- **Priority 4: Integral and balanced development of regions**

Development of local public services to improve living conditions in rural regions, alleviation of urban problems and strengthening of regional competitiveness. Promoting cooperation between rural regions and towns.

- **Priority 5: Development of educational infrastructure**

Actions foreseen are: modernisation of vocational education facilities, provision of schools intended for children with special educational needs, open youth centres, information and counselling centres and hobby schools.

- **Priority 6: Development of health and welfare infrastructure**

Acute and nursing care hospitals and state welfare institutions for children and for people with special psychiatric needs will be modernised.

- **Priority 7: Horizontal Technical Assistance:**

Measures common for all programmes to ensure the proper management of the funds, such as monitoring of assistance, evaluation, training of officials, support for project preparation and management, publicity measures etc.

- **Priority 8: Technical assistance:**

Support for specific measures relating to the implementation of the programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia

### **Operational Programme 'Development Of Economic Environment'**



#### **Programme co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) under the Convergence objective**

The European Commission approved on 10 October 2007 a major development programme in Estonia for the period 2007-2013, entitled the Operational Programme (OP) "Development of Economic Environment", modified on 8 June 2011. This programme involves European Union support for Estonia within the framework of Convergence objective. The total budget of the programme is around EUR 1.8 billion and the Community assistance through the ERDF and CF amounts to EUR 1.5 billion (approximately 42 % of the total EU money invested in Estonia under Cohesion policy 2007-2013). The objectives of the OP are complemented by investments from the Human Resources development programme supported by the European Social Fund (approximately 11.5 % of the total funds).

#### **1. Aim of support**

Estonia has made significant progress in economic development during last 15 years and particularly after its accession to the EU in 2004. Estonia has attracted much foreign investment, modernised the productive environment and is among the leaders in the use of IT solutions in society.

The OP for Economic Environment aims at further improving the environment where economic competitiveness and productivity of enterprises can increase. This will lead to better and more sustainable transport infrastructure reaching all the regions and Trans-European networks (TEN) connecting Estonia with neighbouring countries and the central part of Europe, improvement of public transport networks, enhancement of the research and development system in the country, raising the growth capacity of enterprises and supporting the development of information society.

The programme will support a wide range of economic activities, from technology-intensive industries to tourism and development of creative industries (design, architecture etc.). Economy and enterprises will mainly benefit from investments improving the environment (better knowledge creation in universities, better transport network, improved public services), but there will not be direct financial support to companies.

#### **2. The expected impact of the investment**

77.69% of the investment available has been "earmarked" for Lisbon-related expenditure. The OP aims at permanently increasing the GDP growth rate in Estonia.



Major infrastructure projects will be undertaken to improve the flow of traffic in and around Tallinn. Regional centres will receive better links with Trans-European Networks. The programme aims at maintaining the competitiveness of public transport in Estonia at least on the current level, especially by providing sustainable electric transport in and around Tallinn.

The programme aims to double the productivity of labour force by 2015, to increase the number of exporters by 30%, to increase investments of enterprises in the research and development (R&D) sector from 1.6% of GDP to 2.6%. 800 scientists will benefit from modernised scientific equipment, 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> of research space will be upgraded.

The number of tourists visiting Estonia is expected to grow by 75%.

### **3. Priorities**

The programme will be implemented through five main priorities and technical assistance:

- **Priority 1: Innovation and growth capacity of enterprises**

Investment is foreseen for the development and productivity growth of enterprises from all sectors of the economy by increasing their research and development and innovation capacity; development of tourism and creative industries.

- **Priority 2: Improving the competitiveness of Estonian R&D through the research programmes and modernisation of higher education and R&D institutions**

Investment is granted for the development of thematic R&D programmes targeted at long-term economic development focusing on the areas where Estonia has strong scientific potential, as well as for the development of centres of excellence, infrastructure and equipment of R&D and higher education institutions. Better international cooperation is envisaged.

- **Priority 3: Transport investments of strategic importance**

Provision of the infrastructure needed to ensure international flow of goods on Trans-European Networks and clean and efficient means of public transportation for the capital, Tallinn.

- **Priority 4: Development of regional transport infrastructure**

Improvement of the accessibility of Estonian regions is foreseen. Secondary road network will be improved, regional ports and airports will be upgraded.

- **Priority 5: Development of information society**

Accessibility of the IT network will be improved, especially for people with special needs. The transparency of decision procedures in municipal and central government level, will be improved, giving people the possibility to participate in the process. Quality of e-services in the public sector will be improved.

- **Priority 6: Horizontal Technical Assistance**

These measures will ensure the proper management of the funds, such as monitoring of assistance, evaluation, training of officials, support for project preparation and management, communication and information activities.

- **Priority 7: Technical assistance**

Support for specific measures relating to the implementation of the programme.

#### ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Estonia - Latvia'**



#### **Estonia, Latvia**

On 21 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Programme between Estonia and Latvia for the period 2007-13. The Programme provides Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the regions of Lääne-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti, Kurzeme, Riga, Pieriga and Vidzeme along the Estonian-Latvian border. Other regions of both countries can take part in projects as adjacent areas, receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €51 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €38 million, which represents approximately 0.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007 13.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The aims of the Programme are to promote entrepreneurship, match the skills of the unemployed with those required in the labour market, and upgrade transport links across the region. The Programme also promotes sustainable development and economic competitiveness in the region covered, by taking an integrated and cross-border approach to economic, social and environmental development in ways that involve and benefit local people and communities.

#### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The investments made should result in better physical connectivity, enhanced joint management of public services and resources, higher numbers of business start-ups and tourism products, and more active local while citizens from the region should benefit from increased knowledge through joint education and training activities.

#### ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- ***Priority 1: Increased Cohesion of the Programme Area*** [approximately 43.0% of total funding]

This priority aims to ensure better physical cohesion and integration of the Programme area by reducing isolation and increasing internal and external connectivity. Support is also targeted at enhancing the joint

- **Priority 2: Higher Competitiveness of the Programme Area** [approximately 36.2% of total funding]

This priority axis focuses on improving the environment for conducting business activities, with account taken of structural changes in the economy and the labour market. Support also targets business start-ups and development, help to increase the attractiveness of the Programme area and enhance employable skills and human resources.

- **Priority 3: Active, Sustainable and Integrated Communities** [approximately 8.3% of total funding]

The focus here is on boosting the attractiveness of the Programme area, making it a valued living and working environment. Support is also targeted at improving the sustainability of the area by promoting the vitality of local communities and supporting cross-border social and cultural interactions through activities at grassroots level.

- **Priority 4: Technical Assistance** [approximately 12.5% of total funding]

Technical assistance is provided for implementing the Programme. Financial support is also available to cover administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Estonian Ministry of the Interior

### **Operational Programme 'Central Baltic'**



#### **Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden**

On 21 December 2007, the European Commission approved the Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme "Central Baltic Interreg IV A" for the period 2007-2013. This Programme involves Community support for certain regions of Estonia, Finland (incl. Åland), Latvia and Sweden under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective.

The total budget of the Programme is approximately €133 million and includes Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of some €102 million. This represents approximately 1.2% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

#### **1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment**

The Central Baltic Programme aims at creating a globally recognised, dynamic, sustainable and competitive region which is attractive for businesses and visitors and where people want to live, work and invest. The Programme will tap into the potential available for making the Central Baltic area a place for growth and innovation, working together for a better environment, optimising internal and external accessibility,

investing in its residents' overall wellbeing and security, addressing new socio-economic challenges, facilitating cultural cooperation, and strengthening the area's common identity.

## **2. *The expected impact of the investment***

The following are some of the expected results of the Programme's investments:

- raised environmental awareness through the participation of 250 men/women in education or information activities;
- increased cooperation concerning spatial planning and environmental management through 50 new environmental actions;
- reduced risk or effects of accidents in the Gulf of Finland through 5 actions;
- 10 000 people benefiting from improved sustainable infrastructure;
- 8000 people taking part in education or information activities;
- enhanced innovation and competitiveness through 75 new joint actions carried out by networks;
- improved internal and external accessibility through 5 small-scale investments totalling €2.5 million;
- 4 new or further developed methods for boosting employment.

## **3. *Priority axes***

- ***Priority 1: Safe and Healthy Environment*** [approximately 27.1% of total funding]

This priority focuses on protecting and improving the common environment of the Central Baltic area and places special emphasis on protecting the Baltic Sea itself. It also focuses on supporting sustainable environmental development in the area.

- ***Priority 2: Economically Competitive and Innovative Region*** [approximately 39.8% of total funding]

This priority focuses on enhancing the overall economic development and competitiveness of the area. Emphasis will be put on innovation, the development of connections to facilitate cross-border cooperation and better flows of goods and people, improvements in how the labour force is used and development of the tourism sector.

- ***Priority 3: Attractive and Dynamic Societies*** [approximately 23.9% of total funding]

This priority addresses the health, wellbeing and security of the population as well as cooperation for strengthening cultural exchange and cohesion in the area covered. The aim is to create a region with equal opportunities for different groups of the population and support their active participation in society.

- ***Priority 4: Technical Assistance*** [approximately 9.2% of total funding]

Technical assistance will be provided for implementation of the Programme. Financial support is also available and covers administration, monitoring, publicity and control.

## **4. *Managing Authority***

Regional Council of Southwest Finland

### Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden,  
Belarus, Norway, Russia**

DPROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER



# FINLAND

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Northern Finland'



#### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The European Commission approved on 27 September 2007 a regional operational programme for Northern Finland region for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Pohjois-Suomen EAKR-toimenpideohjelma" within the framework of the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective. The programme covers the regions of Central Ostrobothnia, Lapland, and Northern Ostrobothnia with a population of approximately 634,500 at the end of 2005.

The total budget of the programme is around EUR 1.1 billion and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to EUR 311.3 million, which accounts for approximately 18 % of the total Structural Fund money invested in Finland during programming period 2007-2013. Due to its permanent handicap caused by sparse population and remoteness, the Northern Finland region benefits from a special allocation for sparsely populated areas of EUR 35 per inhabitant per year from the ERDF, totalling EUR 173 million during the programming period. The special allocation amount is included in the total amount of ERDF investment to the programme.

#### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

Northern Finland is the northernmost and one of the most sparsely populated areas in the European Union. The main challenges of the region stem from its peripherality, harsh climatic conditions and sparse and rapidly ageing population. However, the interesting geopolitical location with long external borders with Norway and Russia offer possibilities for more efficient exploitation of Northwest Russian oil, gas and mineral reserves in the future. Northern Finland also has an important processing and knowledge cluster for metal and steel industry and the region is becoming one of the most important regions for extractive industry in Europe. In addition, Northern Finland is an important leisure location that is specialised in nature-based experience production for European tourists.

During 2000-06 Northern Finland benefited from Structural Funds support of over EUR 335 million within the Northern Finland Objective 1 programme, with the help of which more than 11,000 new jobs were created, nearly 18,000 jobs were maintained, and nearly 1,800 new companies were created by the end of year 2006.

The new EU programme for 2007-13 aims to build on the success of the previous programme and the objective of the Regional competitiveness and employment programme for Northern Finland is to enhance

the region's national and international competitiveness as a response to the ongoing restructuring in its population and sources of livelihood. The strategy for the programme has four main priorities: innovative competitiveness, enterprise growth, accessibility and regional attractiveness factors.

## **2. Expected impact**

The programme aims to create 11,000 new jobs and 1,500 new enterprises. The aim is to use 25% of the financial framework to research and development projects creating 1,000 new R&D jobs. 76.2% of the investment available has been earmarked for Lisbon-related expenditure, which is above the Community objective of 75% for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions.

## **3. Priorities**

The programme will be implemented through three main priorities and a technical assistance priority.

### **Priority 1: Promotion of business activity**

This priority aims at developing productivity, creating more jobs and safeguarding existing jobs through supporting entrepreneurship and growth of enterprises and through improving access to business services and finance.

### **Priority 2: Promotion of innovation activity and networking, and reinforcing knowledge structures**

This priority aims to activate expert networks with strong links to the national and international development projects of enterprises, universities, research institutes as well as regional businesses, and to support the creation and development of centres of excellence for key sectors.

### **Priority 3: Improving regional accessibility and operational environments**

Long distances, a sparse population, a vulnerable environment and cold climate pose challenges to increasing the competitiveness of enterprises and quality of life. This priority aims to improve the accessibility and attractiveness of the region for businesses, employees and tourist by improving logistics and transport connections, services, environment and tourist attractions.

### **Priority 4: Technical assistance**

This Priority will provide support for programme management and implementation, including technical support, communications and publicity, research and evaluation actions.

## **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

## **Operational Programme 'Western Finland'**



**Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**



The European Commission approved on 27 September 2007 a regional operational programme for Western Finland region for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Länsi-Suomen EAKR-toimenpideohjelma" within the framework of the Competitiveness and employment objective. The programme covers the regions of Southern Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, Pirkanmaa, Ostrobothnia and Satakunta with a population of approximately 1,33 million at the end of 2005.

The total budget of the programme is around EUR 398.4 million and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to EUR 159.4 million, which accounts for approximately 9 % of the total amount invested in Finland during programming period 2007-2013.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

Western Finland is based on strong urban centres and the surrounding rural areas with their own sub regional centres. The main strengths of the urban areas include basic industry and processing, an entrepreneurial tradition, high quality education system and good communication networks. Internationally renowned technology skills are also characteristic of some urban areas. On the other hand, Western Finland plays an important role in Finland's agricultural production. The coastal area of the Gulf of Bothnia is important to the whole of Finland in terms of marine connections. The main challenges of the region stem from its higher than average unemployment rate, regional differences in demographic trends and in some sectors also lack of skilled labour. Metal and technology industry, mechanical wood processing and forest, energy and food industry clusters are well developed in the region. Also the maritime cluster is strong. Sometimes areas are very dependent on these clusters and this can be also seen as a challenge in the globalising operating environment.

During 2000-06 Western Finland benefited from Structural Fund support of over EUR 297 million within the Western Finland Objective 2 programme, with the help of which more than 24,000 new jobs were created, over 31,000 jobs were maintained, and nearly 4,500 new companies were created by the end of year 2006.

The new EU programme for 2007-13 aims to build on the success of the previous programme and the objective of the Competitiveness and employment programme for Western Finland is strengthening of balanced and sustainable regional development and the development of innovation and knowledge structures in key sectors.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims to create 9,800 new jobs and 2,000 new enterprises. The aim is to use 12,5% of the financial envelope to research and development projects creating 150 new R&D jobs. 80.4% of the investment available has been earmarked for Lisbon-related expenditure, which is above the Community objective of 75% for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions.

### ***3. Priorities***

The programme will be implemented through four main priorities plus a Technical Assistance priority.

- **Priority 1: Promotion of business activity**

This priority aims at developing productivity, creating more jobs and safeguarding existing jobs through supporting entrepreneurship and growth of enterprises and through improving access to business services and finance.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of innovation activity and networking, and reinforcing knowledge structures**

This priority aims to activate expert networks with strong links to the national and international development projects of enterprises, universities, research institutes as well as regional businesses, and to support the creation and development of centres of excellence for key sectors.

- **Priority 3: Improving regional accessibility and operational environments**

This priority will concentrate on three central areas: a). Improvement of regional accessibility and level of well being; b). Support for tourism and related business operating environments; and c) Environmental risk management and supporting nature diversity.

- **Priority 4: Development of larger urban areas**

This priority will focus on developing knowledge-intensive sectors and the service sector and nurturing creativity, promoting the community spirit and improving the competitiveness of the large urban areas of Western Finland.

- **Priority 5: Technical assistance**

This priority will provide support for programme management and implementation, including technical support, communications and publicity, research and evaluation actions.

#### **4. Managing authority**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

## **Operational Programme 'Åland Islands'**



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The European Commission approved on the 9 October 2007 a regional operational programme for Åland Islands NUTSII region for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Operativt program för Europeiska regionala utvecklingsfonden på Åland" within the framework of the Competitiveness and employment objective. The programme covers the NUTSIII region of Ahvenanmaa with a population of approximately 26.700 inhabitants at the end of 2005.

The total budget of the programme is around EUR 6.25 million and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to EUR 3.125 million.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The region of Åland Islands is characterised by its location and its' autonomous status from Finland. Åland is an archipelago, which consists of over 6.700 islands, between Finland and Sweden. Due to its location it

has a long tradition in marine and shipping sector, which still is one of the main industrial sectors together with service sector. The main challenges of the region stem from its' ageing population and lack of higher education opportunities and structural problems relating to decline of agricultural jobs and regional development disparities between the main city of Mariehamn and the rest of the archipelago. The dependence on only few sectors (like marine and shipping) is a challenge. The environmental risks and the situation of the Baltic Sea are considered very important as the archipelago and its' environment are very vulnerable and as tourism, which heavily relies on the nature, is also important sector in Åland Islands.

During 2000-06 Åland Islands benefited from Structural Fund support of nearly EUR 4.8 million within the Åland Islands Objective 2 programme, with the help of which more than 200 new jobs were created, over 130 jobs were maintained, and nearly 30 new companies were created by the end of year 2006.

The new EU programme for 2007-13 aims to build on the success of the previous programme and the objective of the Competitiveness and employment programme for Åland Islands is to increase productivity (level of refinement of products is of major importance) and knowledge level in production processes and products. All this will be accomplished within the framework of sustainable development, to create conditions for a stable industry activity, safeguarded employment and good sources of income in the region. In addition, through interregional projects can archipelago and islands specific issues be lifted up.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims to improve the competitiveness in 50 existing enterprises and create 10 new enterprises. 30 new jobs will be created and 10 new products will be developed. 96% of the investment available has been earmarked for Lisbon-related expenditure, which is above the Community objective of 75% for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions.

## ***3. Priorities***

The programme will be implemented through one main priority plus a Technical Assistance priority.

### **• Priority 1: Business and innovation**

This Priority aims at developing productivity, creating more jobs and safeguarding existing jobs through supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and growth of enterprises by developing new products and that the added value among existed products is increased. Know-how and the technology level will be increased through skills transfer and investment on increased international contacts.

### **• Priority 2: Technical assistance**

This Priority will provide support for programme management and implementation, including technical support, communications and publicity, research and evaluation actions.

## ***4. Managing Authority***

Government of Åland

Department for Trade and Industry

## Operational Programme 'Eastern Finland'



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The European Commission approved on 28 September 2007 a regional operational programme for Eastern Finland region for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Itä-Suomen EAKR-toimenpideohjelma" within the framework of the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective. The programme covers the regions of Southern Savo, Kainuu, North Karelia, and Northern Savo with a population of approximately 664,000 at the end of 2005.

The total budget of the programme is around EUR 1.5 billion and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to EUR 365.6 million, which accounts for approximately 21 % of the total amount invested in Finland during programming period 2007-2013. Eastern Finland has a "phasing-in" status, which means a strongly diminishing financing profile over the years 2007-13. Due to its permanent handicap caused by sparse population and remoteness, the region benefits from a special allocation for sparsely populated areas of EUR 35 per inhabitant per year from the ERDF, totalling EUR 186 million during the programming period. The special allocation amount is included in the total amount of ERDF investment for the programme.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

Eastern Finland is a peripheral and very sparsely populated area. Declining population and a high unemployment rate have been Eastern Finland's key challenges for years. Also, its population is ageing very fast. Slower economic growth than elsewhere in Finland weakens the potential to develop the area and improve its competitiveness. The strengths of Eastern Finland are its nature and natural resources and their utilisation, as well as the expertise of its universities, polytechnics, research institutes and high-technology enterprises.

During 2000-06 Eastern Finland benefited from Structural Funds support of over EUR 650 million within the Eastern Finland Objective 1 programme, with the help of which 27,000 new jobs were created, 41,000 jobs were maintained, and nearly 6,000 new companies were created by the end of 2006.

The new EU programme for 2007-13 aims to build on the success of the previous programme and to continue alleviating the negative effects caused by the regional challenges and developing the competitiveness of the region based on its strengths by promoting the competitiveness of enterprises, by developing well-functioning innovation systems, and by improving the accessibility and attractiveness of the region. The vision is to make Eastern Finland a globally competitive and open environment for knowledge, entrepreneurship and living.

#### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims to create over 13,000 new jobs and over 2,000 new enterprises. The aim is to use 35% of the financial framework to research and development projects creating 800 new R&D jobs. 86% of the investment available has been earmarked for Lisbon-related expenditure, which is well above the Community objective of 75% for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions.

### **3. Priorities**

The programme will be implemented through three main priorities and a technical assistance priority.

- **Priority 1: Promotion of business activity**

This priority aims at developing productivity, creating more jobs and safeguarding existing jobs through supporting entrepreneurship and growth of enterprises and through improving access to business services and finance.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of innovation activity and networking, and reinforcing knowledge structures**

This priority aims to activate expert networks with strong links to the national and international development projects of enterprises, universities, research institutes as well as regional businesses, and to support the creation and development of centres of excellence for key sectors.

- **Priority 3: Improving regional accessibility and operational environments**

Long distances, a sparse population, a vulnerable environment and cold climate pose challenges to increasing the competitiveness of enterprises and quality of life. This priority aims to improve the accessibility and attractiveness of the region for businesses, employees and tourist by improving logistics and transport connections, services, environment and tourist attractions.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance**

This priority will provide support for programme management and implementation, including technical support, communications and publicity, research and evaluation actions.

### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

## **Operational Programme 'Southern Finland'**



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The European Commission approved on 27 September 2007 a regional operational programme for Southern Finland region for the period 2007-2013, entitled "Etelä-Suomen EAKR-toimenpideohjelman" within the framework of the Competitiveness and employment objective. The programme covers the regions of Southwest Finland, Häme, Päijät-Häme, Kymenlaakso, Uusimaa, East Uusimaa and South Karelia with a population of approximately 2.60 million at the end of 2005.

The total budget of the programme is around EUR 345.2 million and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to EUR 138.1 million, which accounts for approximately 8 % of the total Structural Fund money invested in Finland during programming period 2007-2013.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The area of Southern Finland is at the cutting edge of development in Finland, forming the main artery for Finnish exports and imports. Strong sectors in Southern Finland include the information and communication technology, biotechnology and environmental technology, services, the metals, paper and wood product industry, oil refining and the chemical industry and agriculture and the food industry. Southern Finland is mainly an area of strong population growth, but several municipalities in this area also suffer from migration loss.

The region can be characterised as an entity with dense network of service centres, high level and relatively good availability of social welfare and health services and mainly functional transport network. Two main urban centres are also located in the programme area, namely Helsinki Metropolitan region and Turku region. Southern Finland is the most important node for international traffic and forms a key link to connections to Russia. Mismatch between labour supply and demand, the rapid ageing of the population and provision of services in changing demographic situation are the main challenges of the area. The protection of the Baltic Sea and management of environmental risks are also challenges.

During 2000-06 Southern Finland benefited from Structural Fund support of over EUR 228 million within the Southern Finland Objective 2 programme, with the help of which more than 13,500 new jobs were created, over 13,700 jobs were maintained, and nearly 2,300 new companies were created by the end of year 2006.

The new EU programme for 2007-13 aims to build on the success of the previous programme and the objective of the Competitiveness and employment programme for Southern Finland is to strengthen international competitiveness, increase specialised knowledge, build and maintain strong networks and centres and create efficient and competitive community structure.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims to create 4,200 new jobs and 920 new enterprises. The aim is to use 15,5% of the financial framework to research and development projects creating 290 new R&D jobs. 81.6% of the investment available has been earmarked for Lisbon-related expenditure, which is above the Community objective of 75% for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions.

### ***3. Priorities***

The programme will be implemented through five main priorities plus a Technical Assistance priority.

- **Priority 1: Promotion of business activity**

This priority aims at developing productivity, creating more jobs and safeguarding existing jobs through supporting entrepreneurship and growth of enterprises and through improving access to business services and finance.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of innovation activity and networking, and reinforcing knowledge structures**

This priority aims to activate expert networks with strong links to the national and international development projects of enterprises, universities, research institutes as well as regional businesses, and to support the creation and development of centres of excellence for key sectors.



- **Priority 3: Improving regional accessibility and operational environments**

This priority will concentrate on three central areas of emphasis concerning regional competitiveness: a) Improvement of logistics connections, including ICT connections; b) Environmental risk management and improvement of tourism operating conditions; and c) Accessibility and development of services and applications.

- **Priority 4: Development of larger urban areas**

The priority will provide support to promote the attractiveness, sense of community and social cohesion of towns and creating a pleasant and safe urban environment.

- **Priority 5: Thematic development at regional level**

The aim of thematic targeting is to develop knowledge clusters in the area through broad, interregional umbrella projects. The themes are associated with the development of clusters, networks or sectors and pilot actions to provide and ensure various services, for example.

- **Priority 6: Technical assistance**

This priority will provide support for programme management and implementation, including technical support, communications and publicity, research and evaluation actions.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Central Baltic'**



**Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'Botnia - Atlantica'**



**Finland, Sweden, Norway**

## **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 29 November 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Finland, Sweden and Norway for the period 2007-13. The total budget of the Programme is approximately €61 million and includes Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of some €30.5 million. This represents approximately 0.35% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

The Programme covers the regions of Keski- Pohjanmaa, Pohjanmaa and Satakunta in Finland, and Västerbottens län, Västernorrlands län and a small part of Gävleborgs län in Sweden. The participating region in Norway is Nordland fylke.

In addition to the ERDF allocation and the national contributions from Sweden and Finland, Norway provides its own, parallel funding to the Programme. The region of Etelä-Pohjanmaa in Finland and the remaining parts of Gävleborgs län in Sweden can participate in the projects as adjacent areas receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The programme area, with its maritime border between Sweden and Finland and its mountainous border between Norway and Sweden, is characterised by disparities in terms of infrastructure quality, differing population patterns and a predominately negative population development. The overall objective of the Programme is to strengthen the east-west dimension and contribute to increased integration and cooperation for stronger economic growth and sustainable development.

Two Programme strategies will address the needs and common challenges identified in the cross-border region:

- development of communication, the natural and cultural environment, and people-to-people contacts, in an effort to increase regional cohesion;
- cross-border cooperation designed to strengthen innovation and technology, and improve the skills and competitiveness of industry and the community.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The adopted Programme is the third in a consecutive series of cross-border cooperation programmes between Finland, Sweden and Norway. As such, the investments are expected to result in continued cross-border activities between the participating countries, further strengthening of the links created in the previous programming periods and a new level of cross-border cooperation. There should also be better coordination of environmental protection, cooperation between higher education institutions, cross border trade, cross-border healthcare, and coordination of maritime safety and emergency services.

Both the Programme authorities and external evaluators will conduct analyses which are important instruments for measuring the results. A series of indicators, applicable to each of the Programme priorities, will be used for this purpose.

### ***3. Priorities***



- **Priority 1: Structures for Collaboration** [approximately 42.5% of total funding]

The objectives of this priority are to strengthen cohesion between the regions by joint cross-border development of communication, the natural and cultural environment and cultural ties. Activities focusing on environment, communication and cohesion are financed under this priority.

- **Priority 2: Growth through Collaboration** [approximately 51.5% of total funding]

The aims under this priority are to strengthen innovation and improve skills and competitiveness within the industry and community. Activities focusing on skills, industry and the community are financed under this priority.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance** [approximately 6% of total funding]

The overall objective of this priority is to support the management, evaluation and monitoring of the Programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten (Länsstyrelsen i Norrbotten)

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'North'**



#### **Finland, Sweden, Norway**

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 12 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Finland, Sweden and Norway for the period 2007-2013. The total budget of the Programme is approximately €57 million and includes Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of some €34 million. This represents approximately 0.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

In addition to the ERDF allocation and the national contributions from Sweden and Finland, Norway provides its own, parallel funding to the Programme. The Programme covers the regions of Lappi, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa and Keski-Pohjanmaa in Finland and Norrbottens län and parts of Västerbottens län in Sweden. Participating regions in Norway are Finnmarks fylke, Troms fylke and Nordlands fylke. The remaining part of the region of Västerbottens län in Sweden can participate in the projects as an adjacent area, receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding.

One of the Programme's priority axes, Sápmi, covers additional regions in Sweden and Norway (Västerbottens län and a small part of Dalarnas län in Sweden, and Nord-Trøndelag fylke, Sør-Trøndelag fylke and a part of Hedmark fylke in Norway).

The Sami people are an ethnic and cultural minority group inhabiting Sápmi, the Sami region stretching across four countries. There are about 79 000 Sami people in total (50 000 in Norway, 20 000 in Sweden,

7000 in Finland and 2000 in Russia). The Sami-populated regions in Russia can take part in the projects, receiving a maximum 10% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Sápmi priority.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Programme area is characterised by its sparsely populated regions, aging population and average population density of 3.5 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The geographical location, cold climate and long distances make heavy demands on infrastructure and communications, while the vast labour market regions result in additional costs in terms of maintaining a good level of service.

The overall objective of the Programme is to strengthen the competitiveness and cohesion of the region. For the Sápmi sub-Programme, the aim is to develop Sami cultural life and industry by making use of their resources in an ecological and sustainable way. The Programme strategy addresses the needs and common challenges identified in the cross-border region by developing methods and structures that facilitate cooperation between the regions.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The adopted Programme is the third in a consecutive series of cross-border cooperation programmes in the northernmost part of Scandinavia. For this new period, it is the only cross-border programme that addresses specific issues faced by the Sami population.

The expected impacts of the investment include further development of the links created in the previous programming periods as well as cross-border cooperation brought to a new level. New actors and expertise combined with the extended Programme area should result in opportunities for new innovative solutions. A series of indicators applicable to each of the Programme priorities will be used to evaluate the output and results of the Programme.

### ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Development of the Economy** [approximately 26.7% of total funding]

The aim of this priority is to ensure that the region's industry has a higher number of enterprises with increased turnover in new and traditional businesses by 2013. This will be achieved through the development of new products and services, the creation of networks and business-to-business relations and the expansion of markets within strategic areas.

- **Priority 2: Research, Development and Education** [approximately 27.1% of total funding]

The aims under this priority are for the region's higher education institutions to develop cooperation within strategic areas, for research institutions to develop joint research environments for industry research and innovation activities, and for industry, public actors and research and education institutions to increase their knowledge of mechanisms used for successful entrepreneurship and innovative environments.

- **Priority 3: Regional Functionality and Identity** [approximately 27.1% of total funding]

The aim under this priority is to strengthen cohesion through more cross-border connections and contacts. This is expected to facilitate the transfer of information and the movement of people, services and goods, in addition to developing relations for long-term cooperation.

- **Priority 4: Sápmi – Unbounded Development** [approximately 11.8% of total funding]

This priority covers a larger geographical area than the rest of the Programme and includes participation from Russian partners. The aim is to strengthen Sami culture and industry by creating opportunities for broader and better structured business cooperation.

- **Priority 5: Technical Assistance** [approximately 7.2% of total funding]

The overall objective of this priority is to support the management, evaluation and monitoring of the Programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten (Länsstyrelsen i Norrbotten)

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'Northern Periphery'**



**Ireland, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 28 September, The European Commission approved a Transnational Cooperation Programme between Ireland, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, with the participation of the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway for the 2007-2013 period.

The "Northern Periphery 2007-2013" Programme involves Community support for the following regions within the European Territorial Co operation Objective framework:

Ireland: "Border, Midland and Western" (only the regions Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Galway and Mayo), "Southern and Eastern" (only the regions Clare, Limerick, Cork and Kerry);

Finland: "Itä-Suomi", "Pohjois-Suomi" and "Länsi- Suomi" (only the region Keski-Suomi);

Sweden: Mellersta Norrland and Övre Norrland;

United Kingdom: "North Eastern Scotland" (only the region "North East Moray"), "South Western Scotland" (only the region "Dumfries & Galloway"), "Highlands and Islands" and "Northern Ireland" (with the exception of the regions "Belfast" and "Outer Belfast").

The total budget of the programme is around €59 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €35 million. The four non-Member States finance their own participation and provide another €10 million to the Programme in "ERDF equivalent funding".

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The Northern Periphery Programme applies to an area of great diversity that boasts considerable natural, cultural and human resources. Regions across the Programme area share similar opportunities and are faced with similar obstacles to development. The strategy for cooperation is based on a closer association in order to meet the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies.

The Programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern margins of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. This will be achieved through transnational collaboration in the fields of innovation, business competitiveness, accessibility, sustainable development, natural resources and cultural heritage.

## **2. Priorities**

The "Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013" contains four thematic fields of intervention for the transnational strand of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective:

- promoting competitiveness by developing the capacity for innovation and networking in rural and peripheral areas;
- facilitating development in the Programme area through the use of advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) as well as advanced transport systems;
- strengthening synergies between environmental protection and economic growth;
- contributing to a more sustainable development by improving urban-rural relations and by safeguarding regional heritage.

The following priorities represent the structure of the "Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013":

- **Priority 1: Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas** [approximately 56.4% of total amount of funding]

Specific objectives of this priority include:

- exchange of best practice and creation of cooperative networks between research institutions and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). This will increase the capacity for innovation, facilitate the development of systems for innovation and strengthen competitiveness;
- creating transnational cooperation networks and transferring knowledge as a means to create and develop new innovative products;
- cooperation and exchange of best practice between SMEs;
- using ICT as a means for developing the Northern Periphery;
- building on past experiences and networks to further enhance the development of road transport and other forms of public and private transport;
- short sea shipping and intermodality, which is a comparative advantage for the Northern Periphery, taking into account the fact that there are many maritime and coastal regions situated in the area;
- building the capacity to prevent and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

- **Priority 2: Sustainable development of natural resources** [approximately 37.6% of total amount of funding]

Specific objectives of this priority include:

- efficient and sustainable management and use of resources;

- analysing the possible implications of climate change and means of reducing them;
- developing small-scale renewable energy solutions;
- urban-rural partnerships;
- cooperation and networks between private, public and voluntary sectors;
- promoting the natural and cultural heritage in a way that benefits the development of sustainable industries.

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance** [approximately 6.0% of total amount of funding]

The Programme will employ technical assistance during its implementation. Financial assistance will cover administration, monitoring and control.

### ***3. Managing Authority***

Northern Periphery Programme

Joint Programme Secretariat

## **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden,  
Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER



# GERMANY

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Transport infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany'



Germany

**For the 2007-2013 programming period of the European Regional Development Fund ('Convergence' objective)**

On 7 December 2007, the European Commission approved the ERDF Federal Transport Operational Programme for the 2007-2013 programming period. This programme involves Community support for the regions of the Federal Republic of Germany under the "Convergence" objective. The programme's total budget is around €2.33 billion and the Community contribution through the ERDF amounts to around €1.52 billion. This represents approximately 5.8% of the total EU funding allocated to Germany under the cohesion policy for 2007-2013.

#### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The primary goal of the programme is the improvement of supraregional transport infrastructure as a factor for sustainable regional development. The ERDF programme is to co-finance the further development and improvement of the Trans-European Transport Network and other major supraregional transport connections, better links to important business locations, the strengthening of gateway functions and a shift to more environmentally friendly modes of transport, along with improvements in efficiency.

#### *2. Expected impact*

The programme aims to achieve, among other things:

- the new construction, extension and modernisation of 80 km of Trans-European Network (TEN) railway lines;
- the new construction and extension of 115 km of motorways;
- the new construction and extension of 75 km of federal roads;
- the extension of 3 km of TEN waterways and railway transport management and logistics;
- support for highways and waterways.

#### *3. Priorities*

In order to achieve the main objectives as set out under point 4, the ERDF Federal Transport Operational Programme 2007-2013 has been divided into the following priorities:



- **Priority 1: Improving the railway infrastructure of federal railway routes and connections to other modes of transport** [approx. 47% of total ERDF funding]

The ERDF support is to be focused on the following areas:

- new construction of high-speed lines;
- further development of port hinterland connections;
- extension and modernisation of other conventional TEN lines;
- railway infrastructure for conurbation traffic;
- optimisation of network nodes and redevelopment of railway infrastructures and transport management and logistics chains.

In comparison to the transport infrastructure OP 2000–2006, this priority's share of ERDF funding is set to increase from 40.9% to 47%, even though less funding is available for the OP 2007-2013 than was available for the OP 2000-2006 (€1.52 billion compared with €1.66 billion).

- **Priority 2: Infrastructure investments and transport management for federal trunk roads** [approx. 46% of total ERDF funding]

This priority is structured in such a way as to allow a broad approach to potentially suitable types of project, thereby allowing support to be provided for the new construction and extension of motorways, the new construction and expansion of effective connections in border regions, the new construction of feeder roads, the extension of transregional stretches of road through bypasses, and traffic management and control.

- **Priority 3: Elimination of bottlenecks in federal waterways** [approx. 6% of total ERDF funding]

The transport OP takes up the strategic approach of the Integrated European Action Programme for Inland Waterways Transport – NAIADES, particularly with regard to the elimination of bottlenecks in the European inland waterways network, taking account of the joint agreements with neighbouring countries. Under this priority, support is to be provided for the elimination of bottlenecks at locks and freight lifts, the expansion of federal waterways and traffic management and information systems. In comparison to the transport infrastructure OP 2000–2006, this priority's share of ERDF funding is set to increase from 0.5% to 6%.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance** [approx. 1% of total ERDF funding]

Funds are also earmarked for technical assistance for implementing the programme. Preparation, administration, support, assessment, information and monitoring measures amounting to around €15 million will be supported.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung

## **REGIONAL PROGRAMMES**



## Operational Programme 'Lower Saxony' (excluding Lüneburg)



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

In accordance with the Lisbon Strategy, the primary goal of the support is to strengthen regional competitiveness and to create and secure permanent jobs through economic growth.

The development strategy for Lower Saxony (excluding Lüneburg) attaches particular importance to achieving the political objectives of Lisbon and Gothenburg. Funding is granted on the basis of a clear list of quality criteria. The regions Braunschweig, Hannover und Weser-Ems will benefit from the support.

As in the Lüneburg region, competitiveness, in particular that of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), is to be increased, innovativeness in universities, businesses and society boosted, and potential for tourism enhanced. In contrast to Lüneburg, however, improving basic infrastructures is not such an issue here, since these are already well developed.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

The programme seeks, among other things, to create 2 400 jobs and safeguard 3 500, fund 300 new cooperation projects between the scientific and business communities and support 270 projects relating to integrated urban development schemes.

### *3. Priorities*

In order to achieve the main objectives of the programme set out under 5, the Operational Programme has been divided into the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Industrial competitiveness and employment, in particular with regard to SMEs [approx. 31.3% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 2: Innovative capacity and knowledge society [approx. 24.4% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 3: Specific infrastructures for sustainable growth [approx. 25.5% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 4: Environment and sustainable urban development [approx. 15.7% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance [approx. 3.1% of total ERDF funding]**

## Operational Programme for Lüneburg (Lower Saxony)



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

In accordance with the Lisbon Strategy, the primary goal of the support is to strengthen regional competitiveness and to create and secure permanent jobs through economic growth.

The objectives set out at Lisbon and Göteborg are reflected in the development strategy of the Lüneburg convergence region. The ERDF programme for Lower Saxony is also designed to stimulate equality of opportunity and environmental protection, and to boost sustainable urban development. Furthermore, development measures will also take into account the challenges posed by demographic change.

The aims of the operational programme are to improve competitiveness, particularly of SMEs, foster innovation in universities, business and society and enhance tourism potential in order to improve competitiveness.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme seeks, among other things, to create 1 700 jobs and safeguard 2 500, fund 35 new cooperation projects between the scientific and business communities and support 230 projects relating to integrated urban development schemes.

## ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Industrial competitiveness and employment, in particular with regard to SMEs**
- **Priority 2: Capacity for innovation and knowledge society potential**
- **Priority 3: Specific infrastructures for sustainable growth**
- **Priority 4: Environment and sustainable urban development**
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance**

# **Operational Programme 'Bremen'**



## ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the programme is to further develop living and working conditions within the region and to strengthen competitiveness, sustainable growth and employment.

The Bundesland Bremen consists in two municipalities, Bremen and Bremerhaven at a distance of approximately 50 km. Both cities have a great importance for the regional job market and form at the same time the economics, science and training centre of the region. The city of Bremen extends along the river Weser on a surface of 327 km<sup>2</sup> and has approximately 545 000 inhabitants. The city of Bremerhaven extends on a surface of about 79 km<sup>2</sup> and has approximately 117 000 inhabitants. The operational programme shall promote competitiveness and employment; develop the innovative potential and promote sustainable urban and rural development. Through these objectives, Bremen will substantially contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon strategy objectives and Gothenburg's objectives of sustainability.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims inter alia at creating and maintaining up to 5000 jobs. It's indicative share of Lisbon-relevant categories of expenditure amounts to 69%.

### **3. Priorities**

- **Priority 1: Promote growth, innovation and knowledge**
- **Priority 2: Activate urban living spaces and markets**
- **Priority 3: Technical assistance**
- 

## **Operational Programme 'North Rhine-Westphalia'**



**Germany**

### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall objective of the programme is the improvement of the competitiveness and adaptability of the economy and the creation of employment. On the one hand, this shall be achieved by promoting innovation and by tapping the specific strengths in the whole region. On the other hand, structurally disadvantaged areas are to be specifically supported to attain convergence.

The strategic objectives of the Operational Programme are to strengthen the entrepreneurial basis, to promote innovation and the development of a knowledge-based economy and to support a sustainable urban and regional development. "Equal opportunity for women and men and non-discrimination" and "Sustainable and ecological-friendly development" are integrated as horizontal objectives.

### **2. Expected impact of investments**

The programme will ensure the creation of 80 000-100 000 new jobs, of which 32 000-44 000 will be created for women. The programme will also trigger a total investment of EUR 5 billion (which is almost four times the Community assistance).

### **3. Priorities**

- **Priority 1: Strengthening the entrepreneurial basis**
- **Priority 2: Innovation and knowledge-based economy**
- **Priority 3: Sustainable urban and regional development**
- **Priority 4: Technical assistance**

## **Operational Programme 'Thüringen'**



**Germany**

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

With local GDP per capita of 73% of the EU average, the aim is to support sustainable economic growth in the region by boosting innovation, research and technological development, encouraging capital investments, promoting attractive regions and guaranteeing environmental sustainability. This will contribute to generating wealth, reducing regional disparities and increasing the quality of life for people in the region. This approach will also help Thüringen strengthen its economic competitiveness and encourage the continuous transition towards a knowledge based economy. Finally, the Programme will substantially contribute towards achieving the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

In the area of research and development (R&D), the operational Programme is expected to include about 1080 projects, 200 of which will support cooperation between enterprises and research institutions, with another 70 directly contributing to the improvement of research infrastructure. It is expected that private investments of about €2.3 billion will be generated, in turn creating an estimated 7000 new jobs. About 300 ha of urban areas are expected to receive a boost, with investments targeting improved attractiveness and better regional accessibility. In terms of environmental protection, an area of about 200 ha is planned to be rehabilitated, with an additional 210 000 inhabitants being connected to wastewater treatment systems.

### ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Education, Research and Development, Innovation [approximately 31.1% of total funding]**
- **Priority 2: Increased Competitiveness of the Economy [approximately 37.8% of total funding]**
- **Priority 3: Sustainable Regional and Urban Development [approximately 14.6% of total funding]**
- **Priority 4: Protection and Improvement of the Environment [approximately 15.2% of total funding]**
- **Priority 5: Technical Assistance [approximately 1.3% of total funding]**

## **Operational Programme 'Rhineland-Palatinate'**



### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the Programme is to develop living and working conditions further in the region and to strengthen competitiveness, sustainable growth and employment within the border and structurally weaker areas in particular.

With three neighbouring countries (i.e. France, Luxembourg and Belgium), Rhineland-Palatinate is a crossroads region between different languages and cultures. The Bundesland Rhineland-Palatinate, which has around 4 million inhabitants, is a centre for the chemical industry and viniculture, an important timber producer and an automobile industry supplier. It is furthermore home to specialised sectors such as the precious stone, ceramic and shoe industries. The Operational Programme will promote competitiveness and

employment, develop innovative potential and promote sustainable urban and rural development. Through these objectives, Rhineland-Palatinate will contribute substantially to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy objectives and to the Gothenburg objectives of sustainability.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme aims to create and maintain 5000 jobs, to promote business start-ups and to promote innovation and knowledge. As the programme allocates some 84% of its total budget toward growth and jobs it is an important tool for realising the objectives of the revised Lisbon Strategy.

### ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Helping companies to create more and better jobs [approximately 37.0% of total funding]**
- **Priority 2: Promotion of knowledge and innovation for growth [approximately 40.9% of total funding]**
- **Priority 3: Promotion of the local and regional development to increase regional investment appeal and employment base [approximately 21.1% of total funding]**
- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 1.0% of total funding]**

## **Operational Programme 'Saxony'**



**Germany**

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The primary goal of the programme is the sustainable development of Saxony through an improvement in the prerequisites for environmentally friendly economic and employment growth. Safeguarding and enhancing the competitiveness of the economy in Saxony is a significant part of ERDF support, given a per capita GDP figure of only 73,54% of the EU-25 average over the years 2000-2002, shortcomings in the availability of capital and the intense international competition to attract companies. Over the 2007-2013 period, investment will focus more heavily on innovation.

Saxony's development strategy for using ERDF funding reflects the objectives set out at Lisbon and Göteborg. The ERDF programme for Saxony is also designed to stimulate equality of opportunity, to ensure non-discrimination and to boost durable urban development. Development measures will also take into account the challenges posed by demographic change.

The operational programme seeks to stimulate and support innovative forces within the economy and society, to modernise the education and training infrastructure, to enhance the competitive position of Saxony's economy, to expand the transport infrastructure to cope with the needs placed upon it and to improve the infrastructure of Saxony in terms of the quality it can offer as a location for enterprises.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

Among other goals, the programme seeks to create 24 760 jobs (including 760 in the field of R&D) and to safeguard a further 26 570 (including 7 170 R&D jobs), to support 1 036 company led R&D projects and to assist 15 urban districts as part of an integrated urban development plan for durable development.

### **3. Priorities**

- **Priority axis 1: Strengthening innovation, science and research**
- **Priority axis 2: Improvements in education and training infrastructure**
- **Priority axis 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of manufacturing industry**
- **Priority axis 4: Improving the transport infrastructure**
- **Priority axis 5: Expansion and improvement of the infrastructure to permit durable economic growth**
- **Priority axis 6: Technical assistance**

## **Operational Programme 'Hessen'**



### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The primary aim of the programme is to create and safeguard sustainable, competitive and well-paid jobs by enhancing the competitiveness of businesses in Hessen.

The ERDF programme for Hessen 2007-13 should help stimulate businesses' innovation capacity and improve the infrastructures required for business competitiveness. This should help achieve one of the goals of the Lisbon strategy, by enhancing competitiveness and employment in Hessen and in the wider economic area of the European Union as a whole.

The operational programme seeks to facilitate knowledge-based and innovation-led development in businesses, strengthen the enterprise base in Hessen by promoting business start-ups and growth, and reduce regional disparities by exploiting endogenous regional development potential.

### **2. Expected impact of investments**

Among other goals, the programme seeks to create or revitalise 1 500 training posts in 50 non-State vocational training establishments; promote 7 cluster initiatives and innovation-oriented cooperation networks; create or safeguard 1 050 full-time jobs by assisting 95 businesses with venture-capital and loan funds; and promote 8 700 business and business start-up advisory services.

### **3. Priorities**

- **Priority axis 1: Innovation and knowledge-based economy**
- **Priority axis 2: Start-up development and promotion of business competitiveness and employment, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises**

- **Priority axis 3: Expansion of specific development potential and reduction of regional disparities**
- **Priority axis 4: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Saxony-Anhalt'



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

In accordance with the Lisbon Strategy, the primary goals of the programme are convergence through sustainable development, in particular by boosting growth, and the improvement of employment prospects.

With the aid of the 2007-2013 ERDF programme, research and development and businesses' capacity for innovation are to be strengthened, with emphasis being placed on the transfer of knowledge between universities and businesses. Increasing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in particular and the targeted expansion of the economic infrastructure are aimed at enhancing employment prospects.

Urban projects aimed at contributing to enhancing potential for economic development and combating social and ecological degradation are planned. At the same time, investment in educational and social infrastructures is intended to contribute to integrated urban development. Finally, investment in certain infrastructures is designed to boost environmental protection and increase risk prevention. Special attention is to be given to equal opportunities and to the challenges presented by demographic change when implementing all these measures.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

Over 400 projects promoting innovation and around 370 research and development projects are to be implemented under the programme, resulting in the funding of 600 research posts, inter alia. There are over 1 000 projects promoting direct investment, creating almost 59 000 jobs, and approximately 4 500 projects for advising small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. Around 260 projects with an investment volume of just under €280 million are planned for the expansion of the economic infrastructure. Through the 155 planned urban measures, €560 million is to be used to fund urban renovation and invested in the modernisation of schools which demonstrate improved teaching strategies. At the same time, a wide range of projects concerning the rational use of energy and the use of renewable energy sources are to be supported.

Overall, it is expected that this support will result in an annual increase of Saxony-Anhalt's GDP by 0.7-1.0% and a rise of 8 000 people per year in gainful employment.

### *3. Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Innovation, research and development [approx. 25.6% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 2: Increasing the competitiveness of the economy [approx. 33% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 3: Improving the economic infrastructure [approx. 13.4% of total ERDF funding]**



- **Priority 4: Sustainable urban development, including educational infrastructures [approx. 13.6% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 5: Environmental protection and risk prevention [approx. 10.4% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 6: Technical assistance [approx. 4% of total ERDF funding]**

## Operational Programme 'Bavaria'



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The overall objective of the programme is to develop further living and working conditions within the region and to strengthen competitiveness, sustainable growth and employment, in particular in the border and structurally weaker areas.

With a GDP per capita at 137.9 % of EU average, Bavaria, a whole belongs to the regions well above the EU-average. However, in view of globalisation and significant changes within the EU internal market after the 2004 enlargement, Bavaria, a former EU external border region which also comprises large rural areas, needs to aim its support for continuous transition towards a knowledge-based economy and strengthening of its competitive structures through active participation on wider markets. The operational programme shall promote competitiveness and employment of small and medium-sized enterprises; develop the innovative potential; support certain infrastructures in the border area, and promote sustainable urban and rural development. Through these objectives, Bavaria will substantially contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon strategy objectives and the Gothenburg objectives of sustainability.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

The programme aims inter alia at creating and/or maintaining up to 56,000 jobs, involving more than 2,400 small and medium-sized enterprises, and 236 newly-developed projects, products, processes or services. It's indicative share of Lisbon-relevant categories of expenditure amounts to 59%.

### *3. Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Innovation and knowledge-based economy**
- **Priority 2: Promotion of competitiveness and employment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**
- **Priority 3: Sustainable urban development**
- **Priority 4: Risk precaution and resource protection**
- **Priority 5: Sustainable economic development of the border areas**
- **Priority 6: Technical assistance**



## Operational Programme 'Brandenburg'



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

In accordance with the Lisbon Strategy, the primary goal of the support is to strengthen regional competitiveness and to create and secure permanent jobs through economic growth.

The Brandenburg ERDF programme 2007-2013 will help to strengthen the innovation capabilities of businesses and to further expand the technology and education infrastructure. Equal opportunities and environmental protection are also to be promoted and support given to sustainable urban development. Special attention is to be given to the challenge presented by demographic trends when implementing the support measures.

The operational programme seeks to enhance competitive and innovative capabilities, and particularly those of SMEs. Investment in research and development will contribute to raising the profile of Brandenburg as a business location.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

Among other things, the programme aims to support some 150 technology-based new enterprises, to promote 650 projects on the rational use of energy and renewable energy sources, and to create around 7 500 jobs by stimulating productive investment. In addition, the programme plans to co-finance around 60 projects involving cooperation between science and business and to invest some EUR 40 million in information and communication technologies in the field of "e-government".

### *3. Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Promoting investment and innovation processes in enterprises**
- **Priority 2: Developing infrastructure geared to innovation, technology and education**
- **Priority 3: Business, tourism and transport infrastructures**
- **Priority 4: The environment and urban development**
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Schleswig-Holstein'



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

Raising regional competitiveness and employment levels is the overriding objective and central pillar of all ERDF measures in Schleswig-Holstein. This objective is pursued by setting six strategic objectives which take account of the horizontal objectives of environment and equal opportunities. These six strategic

objectives resulted from the SWOT study and have been given form in the shape of specific objectives. This system of targets was converted into a structural programme with four priority axes in terms of content.

- Strategic objective 1 — Improving the acquisition of knowledge and knowledge transfer, primarily from universities and non-university research establishments in tandem with greater knowledge utilisation to raise the innovative strength and speed of innovation in Schleswig-Holstein's economy.
- Strategic objective 2 — Making Schleswig-Holstein's economy more dynamic (modernisation and expansion of companies' capital resources, targeting exports, establishment of new firms and the strengthening of human capital).
- Strategic objective 3 — Consolidation of existing and developing structure clusters and networks as the motors of dynamic economic development and with the aim of boosting firms' competitiveness.
- Strategic objective 4 — Upgrading of facilities at regional locations.
- Strategic objective 5 — Enhancing the role of the municipalities in support of social and economic change.
- Strategic objective 6 — Developing the potential for boosting tourism and cultural activities.

## **2. *Expected impact of investments***

The ERDF Operational Programme is intended to increase public and private R&D expenditure in terms of Schleswig-Holstein's GDP and bring it up to 3% by 2013. Support for the R&D activities under the programme is provided, in particular, by the projects targeting the promotion of skills centres, joint projects (scientific-economic) innovation support, technology and founder centres, scientific-economic networks, in-house innovation and regional cluster management. The aim is also to increase to 34% the percentage of employees in the knowledge-intensive sectors.

With a view to managing the structural change and increasing the competitiveness of the economy and consequently to securing and raising employment levels, it is of decisive importance that the economic and production structures are modernised and extended. Schleswig-Holstein's economy is to be rendered more dynamic by modernising and extending the capital resources of entrepreneurial stock, by establishing new firms and by targeting exports. Gross capital investment in Schleswig-Holstein is to be raised to the average for Germany by 2013. Existing and developing cluster and network structures in Schleswig-Holstein are to be used to increase productivity further in the relevant sectors of Schleswig-Holstein's economy.

The municipalities are to be given a greater role in support of social and economic change and as the centres for greater regional development. This will include the large and medium-sized metropolitan areas in Schleswig-Holstein in their function as growth centres to generate above-average employment levels and become more relevant to Schleswig-Holstein's population growth overall.

Tourism will target primarily the rural regions that are weak in terms of their infrastructure.

## **3. *Priorities***

- **Priority axis 1: Boosting knowledge and innovation**

- **Priority axis 2: Increasing firms' competitiveness and strengthening the entrepreneurial base**
- **Priority axis 3: Developing infrastructure conducive to business and measures for sustainable development**
- **Priority axis 4: Developing specific regional potential**
- **Priority axis 5: Technical assistance and specific programme for project-related studies/expert opinions**

## Operational Programme 'Hamburg'



**Germany**

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

Hamburg has identified four strategic objectives for the Operational Programme.

1) 'Reinforcing Hamburg as a location for application-oriented research and development', 2) 'Increasing the competitiveness of the Hamburg economy', 3) 'Consolidating existing and developing cluster structures and networks', and 4) 'Integrated development of individual city areas'. The overall goal of the ERDF programme is to 'consolidate the position of Hamburg as an innovation-oriented city and enhance its international attractiveness for investors and workers' in conjunction with the image of Hamburg as a 'growing city'.

With a per capita GDP of 195.2% of the EU average (2004), Hamburg is one of the more prosperous regions of the European Union. It is, however, conscious of the challenges set by demographic change, structural change and globalisation. On the basis of a socio-economic analysis, a set of growth factors have been identified for promotion under the programme. They include, in particular, targeted investment support for business start-ups and SMEs in technological and scientific areas, promotion of investment in protection of the environment and in higher energy productivity, strengthening of existing and planned clusters, taking particular account of the industrial application of advanced and high technology, and also support for local economies in developing the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises in selected city areas. Through these objectives, Hamburg will make a noticeable contribution to the achievement of the Lisbon strategy objectives and the Gothenburg objectives of sustainability.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

The programme aims, in particular, to create up to 1 000 jobs, promote and advise around 2 200 businesses and give support to approximately 100 new projects and ideas. It's indicative share of Lisbon-relevant categories of expenditure amounts to 80%.

### *3. Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Innovation and knowledge-based economy**
- **Priority 2: Integrated and sustainable urban development**

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Saarland'



### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The primary goal of the programme is to improve regional competitiveness and employment in the Saarland. The objective is to strengthen and diversify the Saarland's economy, to enhance its competitiveness through innovation and make the region more appealing by improving the profile of its location and business environment.

The Saarland's development strategy for using ERDF funding reflects the objectives set out in Lisbon and Gothenburg. The ERDF programme for the Saarland is also designed to stimulate equal opportunities, to ensure non-discrimination and to boost sustainable and environmentally-friendly development.

The operational programme seeks to reinforce the enterprise base through growth-oriented measures, to stimulate structural change through knowledge-based business, innovation and development of specific strengths, and to support sustainable urban and regional development and the protection of resources.

### *2. Expected impact of investments*

Among other goals, the programme seeks to create more than 2 400 new jobs, to provide further qualifications for approximately 5 000 persons and to assist some 750 000 people as part of integrated urban development projects for sustainable development.

### *3. Priorities*

- **Priority axis 1: Promoting competitiveness through growth and entrepreneurial measures to reinforce the enterprise base**
- **Priority axis 2: Stimulating structural change through knowledge-based business, innovation and development of specific strengths**
- **Priority axis 3: Sustainable urban and regional development and resources protection**
- **Priority axis 4: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Mecklenburg-Vorpommern'



### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The primary objective of the programme is a sustainable increase in economic growth in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, by improving companies' innovativeness, entrepreneurial competitiveness and the attractiveness of the region as a place to do business.

Safeguarding and enhancing the competitiveness of the economy in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is an important part of ERDF support, given a per capita GDP figure of only 72.56% of the EU-25 average over the years 2000-2002, the shortfall in the availability of capital and the intense international competition to attract companies. Over the 2007-2013 period, investment will focus more heavily on innovation.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's development strategy for using ERDF funding reflects the objectives set out at Lisbon and Göteborg. The ERDF programme is also designed to stimulate equality of opportunity, to ensure non-discrimination and to boost sustainable urban development. Furthermore, development measures will also take into account the challenges posed by demographic change.

The aims of the operational programme are to strengthen and support innovation in business and society, make the regional economy more competitive and flexible, create a dynamic environment for investment and employment and make the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region more attractive as a location for business.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The aims include creating 9 160 jobs (of which 1 160 in research and development), safeguarding 22 640 jobs and promoting 15 business/research cooperation projects.

## ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Promoting innovation, research and development, education and training**
- **Priority 2: Increasing the competitiveness and flexibility of SMEs in particular**
- **Priority 3: Improving the investment framework conditions for SMEs in particular**
- **Priority 4: Development and extension of infrastructure for sustainable growth**
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance**

# **Operational Programme 'Berlin'**



## ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The main objective of the programme is to improve the international competitiveness of the city and its enterprises. The aid awarded under the ERDF programme will reinforce the capacity for innovation and adaptability and the productivity of private industry, and thus create jobs. In addition, knowledge and creativity will be used as the engine for economic and social development. To ensure this happens, the ERDF will focus on promoting the capacity for innovation and the knowledge-based economy. A further aim is to tap new potential through social integration and improvements to the situation of the environment.

The development strategy of the Land of Berlin with regard to the use of ERDF funds reflects the goals of Lisbon and Göteborg. The ERDF programme also aims to promote equal opportunities, guarantee non-discrimination and support sustainable development.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The programme intends, in particular, to create 11 200 jobs and provide support for 1 080 business start-ups and 550 R&D projects.

## ***3. Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Promotion of business competitiveness and start-ups**
- **Priority 2: Innovation and knowledge-based economy**
- **Priority 3: Integrated urban development**
- **Priority 4: The environment**
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance**

# **Operational Programme 'Baden-Württemberg'**



## ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

In accordance with the Lisbon Strategy, the primary goal of the support is to strengthen regional competitiveness and to create and secure permanent jobs through economic growth.

The Baden-Württemberg ERDF programme is intended to consistently boost the *Land's* competitiveness and innovativeness through an integrated approach, in order to guarantee and build on employment and sustainable development in accordance with the Lisbon/Göteborg Strategy. Equal opportunities and environmental protection are also to be promoted and support given to sustainable urban and municipal development. Special attention is to be given to the challenge presented by demographic trends when implementing the support measures.

The operational programme seeks to enhance competitive and innovative capabilities, and particularly those of SMEs. Investment in research and networks and development of clusters are aimed at further raising the profile of Baden-Württemberg as a business location.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

Among other things, the programme aims to grant direct investment aid to some 385 new SMEs and to support around 120 projects in the area of research and technological development with the participation of several businesses and/or research institutions. In addition, the programme plans to support around 845 projects relating to environmentally friendly products or production processes. Particular attention is to be paid to resource protection and risk avoidance with a view to mitigating the effects of climate change. Moreover, around 20% of the budget has been reserved for four cities selected by Baden-Württemberg, namely: Mannheim, Pforzheim, Heilbronn and Villingen-Schwenningen. The ERDF funds are intended to

contribute to strengthening the cities as business locations and increasing employment as part of an integrated urban development plan for sustainable development.

### **3. Priorities**

- **Priority 1: Innovation, knowledge-based economy and clusters [approx. 45.6% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 2: Sustainable urban and municipal development [approx. 27.4% of total ERDF funds]**
- **Priority 3: Resource protection and risk prevention [approx. 23.5% of total ERDF funding]**
- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approx. 3.5% of total ERDF funding]**

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Alpine Space'**



**Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, Switzerland**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 20 September 2007, the European Commission approved a transnational cooperation programme between Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Slovenia (with participation from Liechtenstein and Switzerland) for the period 2007-13. The Alpine Space Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €130 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €98 million, which represents approximately 1.1% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### ***1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment***

The Programme aims to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the cooperation area by developing joint actions in fields where transnational cooperation is more effective and is also required for sustainable solutions.

#### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

A series of indicators, applicable to each of the Programme priorities, has been developed by the countries taking part and will allow progress to be evaluated over the course of the Programme's implementation.



Concrete results will be measured in terms of enterprise creation, employment rates, pollution levels, environment awareness levels, public investment generated, and so on. More than 150 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Research and Technological Development (R&TD) centres, 30 environmental authorities and NGOs, and 10 transport authorities/mobility operators are expected to be involved in and benefit from the project activities. The Programme will also see more than 25 quality-oriented projects carried out.

### **3. Priority axes**

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Competitiveness and Attractiveness of the Alpine Space [approximately 32.6% of total funding]**

The main objectives are:

- Strengthening the innovation capabilities of SMEs, promoting their development and fostering cooperation between R&TD centres and SMEs;
- Enhancing development options based on traditional sectors and cultural heritage; and
- Strengthening the role of urban areas as drivers of sustainable development and the development of peripheral areas.

- **Priority 2: Accessibility and Connectivity [approximately 27.9% of total funding]**

The main objectives are:

- Securing fair access to public services, transport, information and communication;
- Enhancing connectivity to lay the foundations for a knowledge-driven information society;
- Promoting sustainable and innovative mobility models focused on environmental, human health and equality related issues; and
- Mitigating the negative impacts of traffic flows crossing the Alps.

- **Priority 3: Environment and Risk Prevention [approximately 32.6% of total funding]**

The main objectives are:

- Enhancing cooperation on environmental protection issues;
- Stimulating integrated approaches to conservation, planning and management of natural resources and cultural landscape;
- Stimulating the development of resource efficiency with respect to water, energy, land use, raw materials and other natural resources;
- Coping with the effects of climate change; and
- Forecasting, predicting, mitigating and managing the impacts of natural and technological hazards.

- **Priority 4: Technical Assistance [approximately 6.9% of total funding]**



This priority offers support for managing the Programme and covers information and communication activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Government Office of the Land Salzburg

### **Operational Programme 'Germany (Bavaria) - Austria'**



#### **Germany, Austria**

#### **Cross-border cooperation programme co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The European Commission approved on 18 September 2007 a cross-border cooperation programme between Germany/Bavaria and Austria for the period 2007-2013. This programme involves Community support for the regions of Freyung-Grafenau and Passau as well as kreisfreie Stadt Passau (Niederbayern), Landkreise Rottal-Inn, Altötting, Traunstein, Berchtesgadener Land, Rosenheim, Miesbach, Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen and Garmisch-Partenkirchen as well as die kreisfreie Stadt Rosenheim (Oberbayern), Ostallgäu, Oberallgäu and Lindau (Bodensee) as well as die kreisfreien Städte Kaufbeuren und Kempten (Allgäu) (Schwaben) in Germany and Innviertel and Mühlviertel (Land Oberösterreich), Pinzgau-Pongau as well as Salzburg and Umgebung (Land Salzburg), Außerfern, Tiroler Oberland, Innsbruck and Tiroler Unterland (Land Tirol); Rheintal-Bodensee and Bludenz-Bregenzerwald (Land Vorarlberg) in Austria along the German-Austrian border. Other regions of both countries can participate in the projects as adjacent areas receiving a maximum of 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the programme.

The total budget of the programme is € 72.1 million and Community investment through the ERDF amounts to € 54.1 million.

##### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall objective of the programme is to promote sustainable development and economic competitiveness of the German-Austrian border region through an integrated and cross-border approach to economic, social and environmental development in ways which involve and benefit local people and communities.

The programme area is characterised by GDP growth several times higher than the EU-25 average. Nevertheless, the socio-economic differences between the urban centres and rural areas are striking. There is a clear need to further develop common co-operation and communication structures.

##### **2. The expected impact of the investment**

The programme is intended to support entrepreneurship, innovation initiatives, and further development of the cross-border labour market as well as improving the attractiveness of the region.

##### **3. Priorities**

The programme focuses on the following priorities for co-operation in the geographic area concerned:

- **Priority 1: Knowledge-based and competitive society through innovation and co-operation (€ 25 million)**

The aim of this priority is to 1) support entrepreneurship through a better framework for the economy 2) support innovation activity and cooperation in the regional and local tourism and leisure economy through development of new and better products, processes and services and 3) to further develop of cross-border labour market and strengthen human resources through qualification and lifelong learning.

- **Priority 2: More attractive living space through sustainable regional development (€ 26 million)**

The aim of this priority is to 1) develop cross-border space through networks and cooperation structures 2) preserve natural and cultural resources through environment and nature protection and 3) improve accessibility.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance (€ 3 million)**

The aim of this priority is to help the participating countries to implement the programme as effectively as possible and to communicate the projects.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung

Abteilung Raumordnung - Überörtliche Raumordnung

### **Operational Programme 'Alpenrhein - Bodensee - Hochrhein'**



**Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland**

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 26 September 2007, the European Commission approved a cross-border cooperation programme (INTERREG IVC) between Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein for the 2007-13 period

The INTERREG IVC Programme "Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein" involves Community support to the following regions:

- Bodenseekreis, Konstanz, Schwarzwald-Baar-Kreis und Waldshut (Baden-Württemberg), Landkreis Lindau (Bodensee), Landkreis Oberallgäu and the kreisfreie Stadt Kempten (Allgäu) (Bayern) in Germany
- das Land Vorarlberg in Austria, which is composed of the NUTS-III areas Bludenz-Bregenzer Wald and Rheintal-Bodenseegebiet (situated along the German-Austrian-Swiss-Liechtenstein border).

Other regions in the countries mentioned above can participate in projects as adjacent areas receiving a maximum of 20% of the funding allocated to the Programme. The Operational Programme falls within the European Territorial Cooperation Objective framework and has a total budget of around € 39.8 million.

Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to around € 23.9 million.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the programme is to promote sustainable development and economic competitiveness of the border region through an integrated and cross-border approach to economic, social and environmental development in ways that involve and benefit local people and communities.

The programme area is characterised by GDP growth several times higher than the EU-25 average. However, its particularity, which lies in the fact that member states and non-member states share common frontiers and common lake basins, thus creating two enclaves, does constitute a challenge.

Consequently, there is a clear need to develop regional competitiveness and innovation further and to improve the quality of the programme area as well as to improve the protection of resources.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The aim of the programme is to support regional competitiveness and innovation as well as to improve the quality of the programme area and the way resources will be protected.

### ***3. Priorities***

The programme focuses on the following priorities for co-operation in the geographic area concerned:

- **Priority 1: Regional competitiveness and innovation [approximately 47% of total funding]**

Specific objectives of this priority include:

- transferring innovation and know how
- networking and co-operation
- mobilising human capital.

- **Priority 2: Quality of the Programme area and protection of its resources [approximately 47% of total funding]**

Specific objectives of this priority include:

- increasing public appeal to the area
- maintaining and improving the infrastructure;
- preserving natural resources and cultural heritage, as well protecting against natural disasters.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance [approximately 6% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to help the participating countries to implement the programme as effectively as possible.

### ***4. Managing Authority***

Regierungspräsidium Tübingen

## Operational Programme 'INTERREG IV Upper Rhine'



**Germany, France, Switzerland**

**Programme within the European territorial cooperation objective co financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 24 October 2007, the European Commission approved the "Operational Programme INTERREG IV - Upper Rhine" for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European territorial cooperation objective in Germany and France, with cooperation from Switzerland. The total cost of the programme is approximately 132 million euro, plus the financial participation from Switzerland. The maximum ERDF contribution to the operational programme is 67 million euro, representing approximately 0.8% of Community contributions in Germany, France and Switzerland under the cohesion policy for 2007-2013.

The programme involves western Baden-Württemberg and southern Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany, together with Alsace in France. On the Swiss side, the cantons of Basel-Stadt (Basle-City), Basel-Land (Basle-Country), Jura, Solothurn and Aargau are involved.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The cross-border cooperation strategy for the Upper Rhine area for 2007-2013 is aimed at using cross-border potential and removing the obstacles linked to the border, so that the area develops in an integrated manner, taking account of sustainable development in the social and environmental field, while offering its inhabitants a diversified and attractive living environment.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

Implementation of this cross-border cooperation programme should enable, in particular:

- access to many institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as to more effective research, development and innovation (R&D&I);
- the creation of a number of new tourist products;
- the protection of approximately 1 000 km<sup>2</sup> of cross-border natural areas;
- development of the use of renewable energy;
- the creation of an additional 10 or more cross-border links for individual or public transport;
- initial or continuing training for over 20 000 people.

### ***3. Priorities***

The operational programme has four priorities:

- **Priority 1: Joint use of the potential of the Upper Rhine area [approximately 28% of total investment]**

This priority aims to improve the economic competitiveness of the Upper Rhine area by supporting applied research and technology transfer, SMEs and the development of the Upper Rhine area as a tourist destination.

- **Priority 2: Making the Upper Rhine area an integrated region in terms of training, work and habitat [approximately 28% of total investment]**

There are four main objectives under this priority:

- promoting cross-border networks in education and training by encouraging bilingualism;
- promoting cross-border mobility of workers;
- encouraging cooperation by cultural and social institutions;
- strengthening cooperation by public services.

- **Priority 3: Ensuring sustainable development of the Upper Rhine area [approximately 40% of total investment]**

The aim here is to encourage measures to protect and improve the quality of natural resources and promote their sustainable use; also to encourage the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and promote the development and cross-border use of transport systems.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 4% of total investment]**

This priority will provide support for the implementation of an effective management, monitoring and control system to evaluate the programme and projects, as well as to provide communication and publicise the programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Secrétariat technique conjoint

### **Operational Programme 'Euregio Maas-Rhein'**



**Belgium, Germany, Netherlands**

**Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European territorial cooperation objective**

On 18 September 2007, the European Commission approved the Operational Programme (OP) INTERREG IV-A "Euregio Maas-Rhein" for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European territorial cooperation objective in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The total allocation for the programme amounts to 144.8 million Euros. The maximum contribution from the ERDF to the operational programme amounts to 72.4 million Euros, i.e. a co-financing rate 50%. It covers the provinces of Liège and Limburg in Belgium, the Aachen region and the districts of Bitburg-Prüm and Daun in Germany and the south and centre of the Dutch province of Limburg. The districts of Huy-Waremme and Leuven (B) and Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant (NL) may also take part in the programme as adjacent areas and benefit from up to 20% of the ERDF contribution.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The cross-border co-operation strategy for Euregio Maas-Rhein for 2007-2013 aims to promote sustainable regional development in economic, spatial and social terms where borders are no longer an obstacle. This involves strengthening its image as an innovative region in which social cohesion and environmental protection are incorporated into the development and job-creation process.

### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The implementation of this cross-border co-operation programme should lead to the creation of several business clusters, the establishment of a number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in high-technology sectors, the development of public/private research, the protection of some 30 hectares of cross-border natural areas, the creation of new and sustainable transport routes and services, the development of the use of renewable energies, the creation of up to a dozen new cross-border health care services and the development of several new tourism products and cultural events.

### ***3. Priorities***

There are four strands to the Operational Programme:

- **Strengthening the economic structure, the promotion of knowledge, innovation, and the creation of more and better quality jobs**

This priority seeks to improve the economic competitiveness of the Euregio Maas-Rhein by developing business competitiveness, promoting technology and innovation, promoting cooperation between academic establishments and businesses, strengthening the tourism sector and supporting the development of the labour market.

- **Nature and the environment, energy, natural resources and mobility**

There are three main objectives in this priority area: nature and landscape conservation, the promotion of sustainable forms of mobility and the production and promotion of renewable energy.

- **Quality of life**

The aims here are to improve health care services by developing cross-border services, to promote cultural diversity, to improve the quality of life and to strengthen cooperation in the field of public security.

- **Technical assistance**

This strand will provide support for the introduction of an effective management, monitoring and control system, for the evaluation of the programme and its projects and for communication and publicity actions relating to the programme.

### ***4. Managing Authority***

Stichting Euregio Maas-Rhein

## Operational Programme 'North West Europe (NWE)'



**Belgium, Germany, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 26 September 2007, the European Commission approved a European Territorial Cooperation Programme for transnational cooperation between Belgium, Germany, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom with the participation of Switzerland for the period 2007-2013.

The Transnational Territorial Cooperation Programme “North West Europe” (NWE) involves Community support for 93 NUTS II areas in the participating countries, within the European Territorial Cooperation Objective framework. The Programme affects a population of about 180 million people (2003) living in the eligible area of 845 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The total budget of the Programme is around €696 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to around €355 million.

### *1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment*

The main goal of the Operational Programme is to capitalise on the cooperation between key actors and to address territorial issues across the North West Europe area. The Programme seeks to contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region, thereby equally promoting regionally balanced and sustainable development.

The Programme is a unique in that it offers a cross-sectoral approach to territorial development, which promotes close cooperation with universities, non-governmental organisations, public authorities, and the private sector to secure contribution towards economic and social cohesion and EU competitiveness. The Transnational Cooperation Programme offers the advantage of establishing links between actions at regional, national, cross-border and interregional levels. These efforts increasingly complement activities, policies and programmes in the participating countries.

To guarantee the visibility of cooperation, concrete Operational Programme achievements are indispensable. Currently, the new approach of transnational cooperation will focus on:

- a long-term, strategic approach
- the catalyst effect of cooperation projects for subsequent infrastructure investments that offer transnational relevance
- cross-fertilisation between projects that both address similar issues and complement other programmes
- overcoming transnational issues of interest to the area.

### *2. The expected impact of the investment*



Transnational territorial cooperation has a long history in North West Europe. The Community Initiative INTERREG IIC (1997-1999) and INTERREG IIIB North West Europe Programme (2000–2006) are the predecessors of the present Programme. These Programmes mainly focused on ‘soft actions’ such as studies, experience exchanges, best practice exchanges, joint territorial strategies and seminars.

The Transnational Territorial Cooperation Programme for North West Europe (2007-2013) will support actions and investments with a clear benefit for the transnational cooperation area. Studies and research that are unable to provide the basis for concrete actions will no longer receive funding. Likewise, previously approved Programme projects will no longer have the ability simply to extend their activities into the context of new Programmes. Rather, innovative and tangible initiatives will drive funding.

Key actors that were never involved in INTERREG partnerships will gain new attention and focus. By engaging actors that have never participated in similar programmes will serve to expand cooperation networks established under earlier Cooperation Programmes. The transnational cooperation projects can make an important contribution toward increasing the awareness for territorial issues of transnational concern. Funding will thus serve as a catalyst for future infrastructure investments of transnational relevance, which may have not otherwise received sufficient attention.

A series of indicators will monitor and quantify programme performance – at project and programme level – and the level of accomplishment of its objectives and priorities.

### **3. Priority axes**

Specific objectives of the Transnational Cooperation Operational Programme "North West Europe 2007-2013" include:

- innovation
- environment
- accessibility
- sustainable urban development.

- **Priority 1: Developing the NWE knowledge-based economy by capitalising on our capacity for innovation [approximately 25.7% of total funding]**

Key objectives under this priority are:

- to promote entrepreneurship and facilitate the transfer of innovations and knowledge into products, processes and services that strengthen the competitiveness of the programme area
- to strengthen and to develop new and existing growth clusters as well as small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) networks
- to use and to improve territorial cooperation that strengthens the institutional and territorial framework for innovation as well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge within the programme area.

- **Priority 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and of natural and technological risks [approximately 25.0% of total funding]**

Key objectives under the priority are:



- to promote an innovative and sustainable approach to natural resource management, including water, landscapes, biodiversity, energy and waste management
- to promote an innovative approach to risk management and risk prevention in the context of climate change. This applies in particular to water management (effects of the high concentration of human activities in coastal areas and river valleys, impacts of sea level rise on coastal areas and flood risk, the marine environment etc.)
- to promote a transnational and spatial approach that both improves soil, water and air quality by minimising greenhouse gas emissions and reduces noise pollution.
- **Priority 3: Improving connectivity in NWE by promoting intelligent and sustainable transport and ICT solutions [approximately 25.7% of total funding]**

Specific objectives of this priority are:

- to manage transport growth through optimisation of existing transport infrastructure capacity for both passenger and freight transport
- to support effective and innovative actions and efficient systems on land, water and in the air
- to develop innovative approaches for information and communication technology (ICT) use that improves connectivity. These approaches will include those aimed at reducing the need for physical mobility through virtual activity for both passenger and freight transport.
- **Priority 4: Promoting strong and prosperous communities at transnational level [approximately 19.7% of total funding]**

Specific objectives of this priority are:

- to promote transnational actions that enhance the economic and social performance of cities, towns and rural areas
- to identify and develop collective actions that improve the environmental quality and attraction of towns and cities (including the sustainable use of the cultural heritage sites, tourism and innovative energy practices)
- to promote transnational responses to the impacts of demographic change and migration in the programme area.
- **Priority 5: Technical assistance [approximately 4.1% of total funding]**

The Programme will employ technical assistance during implementation. Technical assistance will include administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Direction Europe, Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de Calais

## Operational Programme 'Germany (Saxony) - Czech Republic'



### Czech Republic, Germany

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 20 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Germany and the Czech Republic for the period 2007-13. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the following regions along the German-Czech border:

Vogtlandkreis, Aue-Schwarzenberg, Annaberg, Mittlerer Erzgebirgskreis, Freiberg, Weißeritzkreis, Sächsische Schweiz, Bautzen and Löbau-Zittau as well as kreisfreie Stadt Plauen in Germany;

Karlovarský kraj (with the counties of Karlovy Vary, Sokolov and Cheb), Ústecký kraj (with the counties of Chomutov, Most, Teplice, Louny, Litoměřice, Ústí nad Labem und Děčín) as well as Liberecký kraj (with the counties of Česká Lipa, Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou and Semily) in the Czech Republic.

Other regions of both countries can participate in the projects as adjacent areas receiving a maximum of 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme. The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €241 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €207 million, which represents approximately 2.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the Programme is to promote sustainable development and economic competitiveness of the German-Czech border region through an integrated, cross-border approach to economic, social, and environmental development that involves and benefits local residents and their communities.

The Programme area is characterised by undeveloped, cross-border infrastructure, common spatial planning, per capita income differences between bordering regions and a willingness for mutual cooperation, which is a good basis for on-going development.

#### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The Operational Programme aims to support:

- social development;
- entrepreneurship;
- tourism;
- improvement of the nature and environmental protection.

#### ***3. Priorities***

The Programme focuses on the following co-operation priorities:

- **Priority 1: Development of the social frameworks in the eligible area [approximately 46.6% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is:

- to improve the infrastructure;
- to cooperate in human resources, social development;
- to improve catastrophe prevention; and
- to develop small project funds.

- **Priority 2: Economy and tourism development [approximately 30.0% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is:

- to develop cross-border cooperation in economy and cross-border structures; and
- to cooperate and to develop economic, cross-border, tourism structures.

- **Priority 3: Improvement of Nature and Environmental situation [approximately 17.4% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is:

- to cooperate in climate change, nature protection, landscape protection and waste management; and
- to cooperate in flood protection, water management and water construction projects.

- **Priority 4: Technical Assistance [approximately 6.0% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to help the participating countries to implement the Programme as effectively as possible.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Saxony State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor

### **Operational Programme 'Syddanmark - Schleswig-K.E.R.N.'**



**Denmark, Germany**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Operational Programme 'North Sea Region'



**Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Operational Programme 'Czech Republic - Germany'



**Czech Republic, Germany**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 19 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between the Czech Republic and Germany for the period 2007-13. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific German and Czech regions that lie along their common border: the German regions of Cham, Freyung-Grafenau, Hof, Neustadt an der Waldnaab, Regen, Schwandorf, Tirschenreuth and Wunsiedel im Fichtelgebirge, die kreisfreie Städte Hof and Weiden, Amberg-Sulzbach, Bayreuth, Deggendorf, Kronach, Kulmbach, Passau, Regensburg, Straubing-Bogen, die kreisfreie Städte Amberg, Bayreuth, Passau, Regensburg and Straubing and Czech regions Plzeňský kraj, Karlovarský kraj and Jihočeský kraj.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €136 million. Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to some €116 million, which represents approximately 1.3% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the Operational Programme is to increase and step up cooperation in this cross-border region and to support economic growth, human resources and networking, and space and environmental development.

The cross-border area is characterised by large economic disparities between the German and Czech regions and between cities and rural areas, as well as by high unemployment rates. However, there are some noticeable advantages in the region, namely its strategic location (in central Europe), its stable industrial sectors and traditions, its good quality education and the increasing cooperation between all levels of educational institutions.

The Programme area lies in a very attractive environment with great potential for tourism development. One of the biggest national parks in Europe, Šumava on the Czech side and Bayerische Wald on the German side, is located at the heart of the Programme area. Investments should target efforts designed to fully develop the area's potential.

## **2. Expected impact of investments**

The Operational Programme's investments should result in improved accessibility and a fully developed tourism potential, with both environmental and risk prevention issues taken into account. The Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs objectives should also be achieved, including technology transfer, cooperation between universities and research centres, improving accessibility to the labour market and integrating socially excluded people. A considerable amount of funding will be spent on people-to-people projects, with the expected result being increased trust among the people and the removal of barriers between the border regions.

## **3. Priorities**

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priority axes:

- **Priority 1: Economic Development, Human Resources and Networks [approximately 62.5% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to improve competitiveness in all economic areas including tourism, by supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and better quality products and services, and by reducing barriers to exchanging information. Further aims include boosting the attractiveness of a successful labour market and lifelong learning by improving social integration and supporting culture, healthcare, social care, civic protection, risk prevention and network developments.

- **Priority 2: Space and Environment Development [approximately 37.5% of total funding]**

The aim under this priority is to ensure a quality environment through environmental protection measures and to achieve balanced development in the Czech-German cross-border area using a spatial planning tool. Further aims include supporting rural development, improving the region's accessibility and producing better quality information and communication systems.

## **4. Managing Authority**

Bavarian State Ministry for Economics, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology

Referat II/7

## **Operational Programme 'Grande Région'**



**Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg**

**Programme for Cross-border Cooperation under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 12 December 2007, the European Commission approved the operational programme for cross-border cooperation for the "*Grande Région*" for 2007-2013.

This operational programme is part of the "European territorial cooperation" objective, and its total budget is around 212 million euros. The assistance provided by the European Union under the European Regional

Development Fund (ERDF) is 106 million euros, which represents around 1.2% of Community assistance to Belgium, Germany, France and Luxembourg.

The programme relates to Wallonia and the German-speaking Community in Belgium, Lorraine in France, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland in Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It also has 18 adjacent zones eligible to benefit from up to 20% of the ERDF contribution.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The aims of the actions developed in the context of this programme are to:

- make the “Grande Région” more attractive;
- encourage innovation and economic development, thus leading to the creation of better-quality jobs;
- improve the range and potential of training structures.

This programme is also the concrete implementation for the “Grande Région” of the EU's strategic guidelines for 2007-2013.

### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

The “Grande Région” enjoys a favourable geographical position. This Programme for Cross-border Cooperation, in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, should help to improve the competitiveness of this cross-border region and those living there, with a particular focus on the creation of added value and jobs. It should also boost the sustainable planning and development of the region, with particular emphasis on better management of mobility and the environment, better exploitation of cultural resources and greater social cohesion in the “Grande Région”.

### ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme has four priorities:

#### **• Priority 1: Economy [around 44% of total investment]**

This priority aims to support innovation, research and development (R&D), joint activities to develop the economic fabric, entrepreneurship, economic infrastructures, tourism and the cross-border labour market, in order to contribute to economic development and employment in the *Grande Région*.

#### **• Priority 2: Spatial planning [around 25% of total investment]**

The aim here is to promote sustainable territorial development in order to make the “Grande Région” a well-structured, attractive and dynamic area with a high level of environmental protection.

Three main objectives underpin this priority area:

- support for spatial planning policies;
- improving mobility;
- integrated use and protection of the environment.

#### **• Priority 3: Human resources [around 25% of total investment]**

This priority aims to:

- develop the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge;
- exploit cultural resources;
- strengthen social cohesion in the “*Grande Région*”.

In particular, this will involve supporting cooperation activities in education, initial training, vocational training and higher education. Cooperation in the areas of health care and personal services will also be supported. Furthermore, the programme will promote cross-border activities and projects with a cultural dimension.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [around 6% of total investment]**

This priority will provide support for the implementation of an effective management, monitoring and control system to evaluate the programme and its projects and handle its communication and publicity.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Autorité de gestion INTERREG IV Grande Région

### **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 'Netherlands - Germany'**



**Germany, Netherlands**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 3 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between the Netherlands and Germany for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the following regions along the Dutch-German border:

Achterhoek, Arnhem/Nijmegen, Delfzijl en omgeving, Midden Limburg, Noord Friesland, Noord Limburg, Noord Overijssel, Noordoost, Noord Brabant, Oost Groningen, Overig Groningen, Twente and Zuidoost Drenthe in the Netherlands;



Landkreis Aurich, Kreis Borken, Kreisfreie Stadt Emden, Landkreis Emsland, Landkreis Grafschaft Bentheim, Kreis Kleve, Kreisfreie Stadt Krefeld, Landkreis Leer, Kreisfreie Stadt Mönchengladbach, Kreis Steinfurt, Kreis Viersen and Kreis Wesel in Germany.

The areas Landkreis Ammerland, Landkreis Cloppenburg, Kreis Coesfeld, Kreisfreie Stadt Duisburg, Landkreis Friesland, Kreisfreie Stadt Münster, Landkreis Osnabrück, Kreisfreie Stadt Osnabrück, Rhein Kreis Neuss, Kreis Warendorf and Landkreis Wittmund in Germany and Flevoland, Noord Drenthe, Veluwe, Zuidwest Drenthe, Zuidoost Friesland, Zuidwest Gelderland as well as Zuidwest Overijssel in the Netherlands can participate in the projects as adjacent areas receiving a maximum of 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €294 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund amounts to some €139 million, which represents approximately 1.6% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

### ***1. Purpose and aim of the programme***

The Programme focuses on different areas, such as "Business, Technology and Innovation", "Infrastructure and Environment" and "Social Integration" and aims to make necessary improvements and changes to benefit the programme areas.

Under the heading of "Business, Technology and Innovation" the Programme will examine the following topics:

- Technology and knowledge transfer;
- Economic networks and industries.

Infrastructure facilities and the environmental conditions are important factors for the Programme area. While infrastructure, per se, offers the so-called "hard" location factor, the state of nature and landscape offer the "soft" factors. Accordingly, under the "Infrastructure and Environment" heading, the Programme will focus on both "infrastructural offers" as well as nature, landscape and the environment.

The final focus area is "Social Integration", as the social life of the citizens in the border area is of particular importance, for example in the field of public health and consumer protection services, cross-border labour market situations as well as education and culture.

### ***2. Expected impact of the investment***

As a result of the earlier INTERREG programs, participants on both sides of the border have extensive experience in the development and implementation of cross-border projects. In some cases, the programs have already removed "barriers" along the borders. For this reason, the objectives of the Germany-Netherlands INTERREG IVA 2007-2013 Programme are to:

- continue successful cooperation and thus to secure continuity;
- develop initiatives that provide the cross-border cooperation with new impulses.

Above all else, the Operational Programme strives toward ensuring that the German-Dutch programme area develops into an integrated European region, for which current frontiers no longer represent in any way a

barrier to trade and social exchange. In this way, the area along the border should grow together and become a single, competitive region within Europe. The objective of INTERREG IVA is to achieve sustainable, future-oriented, overall development within the German-Dutch border area. Various economic, ecological and social criteria will play a role.

The Programme will also make use of so-called “Major Projects” that stretch across the whole (or at least across a large part of the) programme area. These strategic initiatives promise synergies and improvement in the quality of the projects within the overall programme region. The “Major Projects” should have not only an impact on the German-Dutch border area, but they should also generate added value of national importance.

### **3. Priorities**

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Business, technology and innovation [approximately 58.0% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to improve the capacity for innovation. Economic cooperation and networking aims should also be further strengthened. Moreover, the qualification of employees play an important role, since their know-how and skills are important for the innovative capacity of firms in the programme area. The priority contains three fields of action:

- Promoting technology and knowledge transfer between research institutes and the companies;
- Promoting economic networks; as well as
- Promoting cross-border cooperation of companies and promotion of qualifications to improve the innovation potential of companies.

- **Priority 2: Sustainable regional development [approximately 18.0% of total funding]**

This priority deals with sustainable regional development. It contains three fields of actions:

- Promoting renewable energy and the development of energy saving technologies;
- Promoting cross border development of infrastructural possibilities; and
- Promoting cross-border nature and landscape protection as well as environmental protection.

- **Priority 3: Integration and society [approximately 18.0% of total funding]**

Health industry and consumer protection are central themes in the everyday lives for the citizens. The Programme has a third priority which addresses different issues under these headings. In health care, national borders are clearly visible due to the various national systems. In terms of consumer protection, one example of valuable cross-border cooperation could be mentioned – the control of animal diseases. In this priority attention will also be paid to improving education and training opportunities for cross border employees.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 6.0% of total funding]**

There is also provision for technical assistance to implement the Programme. Financial support is available also to cover administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie, Bauen, Wohnen und Verkehr des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

## Operational Programme 'Central Europe'



**Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia**

### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 3 December 2007, the European Commission approved a European territorial cooperation programme covering the period 2007-2013. The programme is called “Central Europe” and is aimed at transnational cooperation between eight Member States. The Member States involved are the Czech Republic, Germany (territories in the East and South), Italy (territories in the North-East), Hungary, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. The Ukraine (western part) will also take part in the programme, providing its own resources as well as a contribution from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Initiative.

The total budget for the Programme is just over €298 million, with Community assistance under the ERDF amounting to some €246 million. This represents approximately 2.8% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

#### ***1. Purpose and aim of the programme***

The adopted Programme is new within the framework of transnational cooperation, however most of the partners have already cooperated through the INTERREG IIIB programme "CADSES", which has been split into two separate programmes for 2007-2013: "Central Europe" and "South-East Europe".

The overall goal of the Programme is to strengthen territorial cohesion, promote internal integration and enhance the competitiveness of Central Europe. This broad overall aim has the following two strategic objectives:

- Improving the competitiveness of Central Europe by strengthening innovation and accessibility structures;
- Improving territorial development in a balanced and sustainable way by enhancing the quality of the environment and developing attractive cities and regions.

#### ***2. Expected impact of the investment***

A series of indicators, applicable to each of the Programme priorities, will be used to evaluate the impact of the Programme on competitiveness, the environment, accessibility, identity of the region, quality of life in cities and regions, etc.

It is expected that the Programme will make a significant contribution towards increasing the overall territorial cohesion of the area, by providing opportunities for public and private operators to seek joint solutions to common problems which go beyond regional and national borders.

#### ***3. Priorities***

The overall aim and the two strategic objectives have been translated into five thematic priorities, which each target different sectors of socio-economic players active in the area. These priorities are:

- **Priority 1: Facilitating innovation across Central Europe [approximately 20% of total funding]**

The main objective of this priority is to create, across the entire Programme area, a favourable framework for innovation and entrepreneurship. The area's potential in this field is significant, however variations inside the Central Europe area are extremely wide. The partners aim to support projects that foster cooperation at all points along the innovation chain.

- **Priority 2: Improving accessibility of and within Central Europe [approximately 26% of total funding]**

Central Europe is characterised by varied levels of accessibility, ranging from very accessible regions to less accessible large rural and peripheral areas. This priority will provide support for key players in transport to work together to define priorities that need to be addressed in an effort to increase interconnectivity and interoperability in Central Europe. As the Programme does not have sufficient funds to invest in large infrastructure projects, the partners will be encouraged to prepare concrete investment plans which should be submitted to other national or European financing sources. The priority will also aim at sustainability, and as such, carbon-neutral solutions will be encouraged.

- **Priority 3: Using our environment responsibly [approximately 26% of total funding]**

The region covered by the Programme is characterised by high-risk areas in terms of natural disasters such as floods or human-caused accidents. There is also a very rich natural and cultural heritage which needs to be jointly protected and managed. This priority will provide funding for projects in the field of risk management and prevention, management of resources, energy efficiency, etc.

- **Priority 4: Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and regions [approximately 22% of total funding]**

Quality of life in Central Europe can be improved through strengthening the capacity of regions and cities in terms of spatial planning and town planning. As a result, exchanges of best practices and common solutions will be promoted in order to improve spatial planning at local and regional levels. Another important aspect of this priority is to look at capitalising on the wealth of existing cultural resources.

- **Priority 5: Technical assistance [approximately 6% of total funding]**

Technical assistance is provided for implementing the Programme. Financial support is also available and covers administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

City of Vienna

Department for EU Strategy and Economic Development

## Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany'



### Germany, Poland

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 25 March 2008, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Poland (Lubuskie) and Germany (Brandenburg) for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the following regions along the Polish-German border:

- Gorzowski und Zielonogórski in Poland;
- Märkisch-Oderland, Oder-Spree, Spree-Neiße and die kreisfreie Städte Frankfurt (Oder) as well as Cottbus in Germany.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €146 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €125 million, which represents approximately 1.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the Programme is to promote sustainable development and economic competitiveness of the German-Polish border region through an integrated, cross-border approach to economic and social development that involves and benefits local residents and their communities.

The Programme area is characterised by an undeveloped cross-border infrastructure, common spatial planning, per capita income differences between bordering regions and a willingness for mutual cooperation, which is a good basis for ongoing development.

#### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The Programme aims to support:

- local infrastructure;
- economic links and cooperation within the economy and the scientific community;
- further developing of human resources;
- cross-border cooperation; and
- improving of the environmental situation.

#### ***3. Priorities***

The Programme focuses on the following co-operation priorities:

- **Priority 1: Infrastructure support and improvement of the environmental situation [approximately 57.6% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to improve:

- local infrastructure
- the environmental situation;
- culture heritage;
- natural disaster prevention; and
- regional development, regional planning and regional administration cooperation.

- **Priority 2: Support of economic links and cooperation within the scientific community [approximately 9.8 % of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to develop:

- economic support;
- local and regional marketing; and
- network support and cooperation for Research and Development.

- **Priority 3: Support of further development of human resources and cross-border cooperation [approximately 28.4 % of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to develop:

- support projects in a field of education and labour;
- small project funds.

- **Priority axis 4: Technical Assistance [approximately 4.19 % of total funding]**

This priority aims to help the participating countries to implement the Programme as effectively as possible.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Regional Development

Territorial Cooperation Department

### **Operational Programme 'South Baltic'**



**Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Operational Programme 'Fehmarnbelt Region'



**Denmark, Germany**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany (Saxony)'



**Germany, Poland**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 21 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Poland and Germany for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific German and Polish regions that lie along their common border: the German regions of Niederschlesischer Oberlausitzkreis, Löbau – Zittau and Kreisfreie Stadt Görlitz, along with two Polish sub-regions, Jeleniogórsko-Wałbrzyski and Zielonogórski, which respectively form part of the voievodships of Lower Silesia and Lubuskie. Other regions may take part in projects as an adjacent area, i.e. receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €124 million. Community funding through the ERDF amounts to some €105 million, which represents approximately 1.2% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The overall objective is to promote the sustainable development and economic competitiveness of the German-Polish border region. This will be achieved by pursuing an integrated, cross-border approach to economic and social development, which involves and benefits local people and their communities.

The Programme area is characterised by an undeveloped cross-border infrastructure, common spatial planning issues and differences in per capita income between the bordering regions. Fortunately, there is a willingness to work together on these and other issues.

### *2. The expected impact of the investment*

The Programme aims to support the development of social frameworks, entrepreneurship, tourism and action to protect and improve the environment.

### *3. Priorities*

The Operational Programme is structured around the following priorities:



- **Priority 1: Cross-border development [approximately 47.3% of the total budget]**

The aim of this priority is to improve the economy and science base, boost tourism and spa facilities, develop transport and communications, care for the environment and improve spatial and regional planning.

- **Priority 2: Cross-border social integration [approximately 46.7% of the total budget]**

Boosting social integration across the border will be achieved by supporting actions in the following areas: education and qualifications; art and culture; social infrastructure; public security; and partner cooperation. Money will also be set aside to create a small project fund.

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance [approximately 6% of the total budget]**

Technical assistance is available to help implement the Programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Saxony State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor

## **Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany'**



### **Germany, Poland**

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 28 March 2008, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Poland and Germany for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the following regions along the Polish-German border:

- Zachodniopomorskie in Poland;
- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Brandenburg in Germany.

The Operational Programme will provide Community support to ten NUTS III border areas, plus three NUTS III adjacent areas. This takes in about 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> of German territory, which includes about one million people. On the Polish side, the Programme covers about 22 900 km<sup>2</sup> and about 1.7 million people. The Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €156 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund amounts to some €133 million, which represents approximately 1.5% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The Programme aims to contribute to the equal and balanced development of the cross-border area by strengthening links between citizens, businesses and institutions. A series of indicators will be used to evaluate the Programme's impact and its effect on the population. They will also be able to measure how

effective the Programme has been in developing cooperative activities, and gauge how well cooperative projects have been managed.

## ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

Previous structural Programmes helped to generate cooperation between partners from both countries. This should continue as the focus shifts to developing even more effective approaches to territorial integration. Programme interventions should also provide better cooperation and joint management of infrastructure, equipment and services.

## ***3. Priorities***

The Programme is structured around the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Promotion of infrastructure for cross-border cooperation and environmental action [approximately 42.0% of total funding]**

Cross-border transport infrastructure (including road, rail, waterway and maritime modes) must be improved. The missing North-South link “OST-Westswie” will be a key Programme focus, as will the need to develop cross-border residential and tourist areas.

The needs of local people and the economy must be taken into account when developing cross-border technical and tourist infrastructure. Projects in this area will comply with European and national requirements that are contained in the “Natura 2000” Programme. This border region also has special ecological significance, therefore protection and preservation of the landscape will be given top priority.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of cross-border economic ties and strengthening cooperation between industry and science [approximately 22.6% of total funding]**

Starting from a very low level, cross-border economic relations have developed significantly in recent years. However, cooperation must be developed further: this should happen through development of cross-border networks which could work closely with the region’s research and education communities. Such activity will boost innovation and help create new jobs and products. The Programme will give special priority to developing cross-border offers and marketing strategies.

- **Priority 3: Cross-border development of human resources and support for cross-border cooperation in areas such as health, culture and education [approximately 29.7% of total funding]**

The local economy needs more skilled workers – this issue is likely to play a key role in the future development of the Programme area. Cross-border cooperation between schools and universities must be strengthened. In addition, new approaches must be implemented to improve vocational education.

Work must continue to break down language barriers and promote cultural understanding. Meetings and other activities, which include people from both sides of the border, have proved particularly successful. The Programme will therefore continue promote cultural and social exchanges between different social groups and age ranges.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 5.7% of total funding]**

Technical assistance will be provided to help implement the Programme. Financial support is available to cover administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

#### ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Tourismus Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Abteilung 2 Referat 250, Europäische territoriale Zusammenarbeit INTERREG



# LATVIA

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Infrastructure And Services'



Programme under the Convergence Objective, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund.

The European Commission approved on 24 September 2007 a development programme in Latvia for the period 2007-2013, entitled the Operational Programme (OP) "Entrepreneurship and Innovation". This programme involves Community support for the whole country within the framework of the "Convergence" objective. The total budget of the programme is around € 1.08 billion and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to € 736.7 million (approximately 16 % of the total EU money invested in Latvia under Cohesion policy 2007-2013).

#### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Programme aims to promote the accessibility and attractiveness of the country for both entrepreneurs and citizens in Latvia, and ensure sustainable development and progress towards a knowledge-based economy. Efforts will also focus on providing quality education as well as a quality working and living environment. In terms of economic development, the Programme aims to ensure sufficient infrastructure and public services combined with a competitive business environment.

#### *2. Expected impact of investments*

The investments are expected to result in continued Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 6-8% annually, an unemployment rate reduced to below 6% and an employment rate increased to more than 70%. Other impacts expected include reduced energy consumption, improved education, enhanced research, better health and transport infrastructure, and increased productivity of public and private institutions.

#### *3. Priorities*

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Infrastructure for Strengthening Human Capital** [approximately 15.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on providing modern and high quality services in the fields of education, employment, social services and health care by targeting support at improving infrastructure and equipment.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of Territorial Accessibility** [approximately 14.9% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on accessibility in different parts of the country as well as services provided to citizens. It will also develop information and communication technologies (ICT), including the introduction of electronic administration and improvements to regional transport connections.

- **Priority 3: Development of a Transport Network of European Significance and Promotion of Sustainable Transport** [approximately 25.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the Cohesion Fund and focuses on enhancing accessibility to the country by improving the transport infrastructure and promoting the development of an environmentally-friendly transport system.

- **Priority 4: Quality Living and Business Environment** [approximately 11.3% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and focuses on establishing suitable conditions for business activity and improving quality of life indicators in different parts of the country. This will be achieved by investing in environmental infrastructure and services, the preservation of natural and historical heritage and the development of tourism products.

- **Priority 5: Promotion of Environmental Infrastructure and Environmentally-Friendly Energy** [approximately 24.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the Cohesion Fund and is focused on establishing environmentally-friendly conditions for development. This will be achieved by improving the environmental infrastructure and increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources through the supply of centralised heat supply services.

- **Priority 6: Polycentric Development** [approximately 7.7% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on promoting the potential of cities/towns as a driving force of regional development.

- **Priority 7: Technical Assistance for Implementation of the ERDF** [approximately 1.7% of total funding]

This priority is co-financed by the ERDF and will ensure that all fund management functions are provided.

- **Priority 8: Technical Assistance for Implementation of the CF** [approximately 0.4% of total funding]

This priority is co-financed by the ERDF and will ensure that all fund management functions are provided.

#### ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

### **Operational Programme 'Entrepreneurship And Innovation'**

Programme under the Convergence objective, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

On 10 December 2007, the European Commission approved a development programme entitled "Infrastructure and Services" for Latvia for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves Community support for the entire country under the Convergence Objective. The total budget of the Programme is approximately €3.8 billion and includes Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund amounting to some €3.2 billion (approximately 70% of the total EU money invested in Latvia under Cohesion Policy 2007-2013).

### ***1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment***

The Operational Programme aims to contribute to improved innovation and the use of knowledge, high value-added production, and enhanced export capacity among the existing enterprises, as well as to encourage the formation of new knowledge-based and technology intensive enterprises. It will help to fight inflation as it aims directly at increasing the productivity of the Latvian economy. It aims to reach a considerable progress in science, innovation and entrepreneurship that will further contribute to country's performance in terms of growth and jobs. The programme will promote the creation of new enterprises and will foster the development of existing companies, in particular in areas outside the capital city of Rīga. To this end, enterprises will be offered a number of services aimed at providing the necessary knowledge, technologies and availability of funding. The programme is in line with the Lisbon objectives (The Lisbon Strategy aims to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive economy by 2010). Besides Research and Technology Development (RTD), the programme puts emphasis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and revolving funds.

### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

The programme will ensure the creation of around 50 jobs in the research area, 800 internationally acknowledged publications per year and 43 patent application registrations per year. The purpose is to improve funding of Research and Development in Latvia (It amounted to only 0.42 % of the GDP in 2004). It is expected to create 18 000m<sup>2</sup> incubator space and to support 82 economically active enterprises in the business incubators which will increase the turnover in supported enterprises by 20%.

### ***3. Priority axes***

The programme will be implemented through four main priorities including the Technical Assistance priority:

- **Priority 1: Science and Innovation (60% of the OP resources)**

Aims at strengthening the country's scientific and research potential, enhancing international competitiveness, as well as promoting the transfer of knowledge and its commercialisation. These objectives should be attained by investing in equipment of scientific and research centres, promoting research (improving equipments, creating new jobs, improving public interest in research). It will also focus on supporting the formation of a knowledge-based economy by promoting transfer of technologies to the national economy, attraction of a highly-qualified workforce and the manufacturing of new products.

- **Priority 2: Access to Finances (23% of the OP resources)**



Aims at promoting access to finances necessary for the business development. This objective should be attained by forming a system of financial instruments, which include guarantees, credits, venture capital, and other financial instruments.

- **Priority 3: Promotion of Entrepreneurship (14% of the OP resources)**

Aims at promoting economic activity and enhancing competitiveness by setting up new enterprises and strengthening existing enterprises. To attain this objective, business start-ups, as well as national and international competitiveness of the enterprises will be fostered.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance (3% of the OP resources)**

Supports the management of the programme and communication activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Estonia - Latvia'**



**Estonia, Latvia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 'Central Baltic'**



**Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## Operational Programme 'Latvia - Lithuania'



**Latvia, Lithuania**

On 17 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Latvia and Lithuania for the period 2007-13. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific Latvian and Lithuanian regions that lie along their common border: the Latvian regions of Kurzeme, Latgale and Zemgale and Lithuanian regions Klaipėdos, Šiaulių, Telšiai, Panevėžis and Utenos. The Kauno region of Lithuania may take part in projects as an adjacent area, i.e. receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €75.6 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €63.9 million, which represents approximately 0.7% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socio-economic development of the border region. This involves making it a competitive place for economic and business development and an attractive place for people to live in and visit.

The cooperation area covers Southern Latvia and Northern Lithuania, extending from the Baltic Sea in the west to the EU external border with Russia and Belarus in the east. The area has over three million inhabitants and is characterised by a depopulation trend and a relatively low-density population. The area is predominantly agricultural, but also includes forests as well as a significant stretch of the Baltic Sea coastline. The region is located on major transport routes (Via Baltica and Via Hansaetica), including several ice-free ports, and thus serves as a key corridor connecting north-south and east-west traffic.

Another feature of the area is the growing gap between urban and rural settlements in terms of living conditions and competitiveness. Investment is therefore needed for improving local infrastructure, living conditions, access to public services and management of environmental resources for local communities on both sides of the border. Tourism is also seen as offering major potential for development of the area.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The Programme is expected to improve business-related infrastructure, research and technology development (R&TD), human resources and education, joint public services, and environmental management, in addition to preserving and promoting European cultural–historical heritage and encouraging joint tourism development, cooperation between municipalities, people-to-people activities, youth work, and joint cultural events.

Indicators will be used to measure the impacts on new jobs, higher rates of employment, the creation of new business support infrastructures and new start-ups, higher levels of research and innovation, new tourist attractions, increased flows of tourists, better access to public services and joint initiatives by municipalities.

## ***3. Priorities***

The Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Encouragement of Socio-economic Development and Competitiveness of the Region [approximately 38.9% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to facilitate developments in business, the labour market and research and technology, and to improve internal and external accessibility of the border regions.

- **Priority 2: Attractive Living Environment and Development of Sustainable Communities [approximately 54.6% of total funding]**

This priority aims to enhance joint management of public services and natural resources, increase the attractiveness of the border regions, and develop active and sustainable communities.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance [approximately 6.5% of total funding]**

Under this priority, the aim is to provide support for effective implementation of the Operational Programme.

## ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia



# LITHUANIA

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES'



Programme under the Convergence Objective, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund.

The European Commission approved on 24 September 2007 a development programme in Latvia for the period 2007-2013, entitled the Operational Programme (OP) "Entrepreneurship and Innovation". This programme involves Community support for the whole country within the framework of the "Convergence" objective. The total budget of the programme is around € 1.08 billion and the Community assistance through the ERDF amounts to € 736.7 million (approximately 16 % of the total EU money invested in Latvia under Cohesion policy 2007-2013).

#### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Programme aims to promote the accessibility and attractiveness of the country for both entrepreneurs and citizens in Latvia, and ensure sustainable development and progress towards a knowledge-based economy. Efforts will also focus on providing quality education as well as a quality working and living environment. In terms of economic development, the Programme aims to ensure sufficient infrastructure and public services combined with a competitive business environment.

#### *2. Expected impact of investments*

The investments are expected to result in continued Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 6-8% annually, an unemployment rate reduced to below 6% and an employment rate increased to more than 70%. Other impacts expected include reduced energy consumption, improved education, enhanced research, better health and transport infrastructure, and increased productivity of public and private institutions.

#### *3. Priorities*

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Infrastructure for Strengthening Human Capital** [approximately 15.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on providing modern and high quality services in the fields of education, employment, social services and health care by targeting support at improving infrastructure and equipment.

- **Priority 2: Promotion of Territorial Accessibility** [approximately 14.9% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on accessibility in different parts of the country as well as services provided to citizens. It will also develop information and communication technologies (ICT), including the introduction of electronic administration and improvements to regional transport connections.

- **Priority 3: Development of a Transport Network of European Significance and Promotion of Sustainable Transport** [approximately 25.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the Cohesion Fund and focuses on enhancing accessibility to the country by improving the transport infrastructure and promoting the development of an environmentally-friendly transport system.

- **Priority 4: Quality Living and Business Environment** [approximately 11.3% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and focuses on establishing suitable conditions for business activity and improving quality of life indicators in different parts of the country. This will be achieved by investing in environmental infrastructure and services, the preservation of natural and historical heritage and the development of tourism products.

- **Priority 5: Promotion of Environmental Infrastructure and Environmentally-Friendly Energy** [approximately 24.0% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the Cohesion Fund and is focused on establishing environmentally-friendly conditions for development. This will be achieved by improving the environmental infrastructure and increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources through the supply of centralised heat supply services.

- **Priority 6: Polycentric Development** [approximately 7.7% of total funding]

This priority is financed by the ERDF and is focused on promoting the potential of cities/towns as a driving force of regional development.

- **Priority 7: Technical Assistance for Implementation of the ERDF** [approximately 1.7% of total funding]

This priority is co-financed by the ERDF and will ensure that all fund management functions are provided.

- **Priority 8: Technical Assistance for Implementation of the CF** [approximately 0.4% of total funding]

This priority is co-financed by the ERDF and will ensure that all fund management functions are provided.

#### ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

## **OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION'**

Programme under the Convergence objective, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

On 10 December 2007, the European Commission approved a development programme entitled "Infrastructure and Services" for Latvia for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves Community support for the entire country under the Convergence Objective. The total budget of the Programme is approximately €3.8 billion and includes Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund amounting to some €3.2 billion (approximately 70% of the total EU money invested in Latvia under Cohesion Policy 2007-2013).

### ***1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment***

The Operational Programme aims to contribute to improved innovation and the use of knowledge, high value-added production, and enhanced export capacity among the existing enterprises, as well as to encourage the formation of new knowledge-based and technology intensive enterprises. It will help to fight inflation as it aims directly at increasing the productivity of the Latvian economy. It aims to reach a considerable progress in science, innovation and entrepreneurship that will further contribute to country's performance in terms of growth and jobs. The programme will promote the creation of new enterprises and will foster the development of existing companies, in particular in areas outside the capital city of Rīga. To this end, enterprises will be offered a number of services aimed at providing the necessary knowledge, technologies and availability of funding. The programme is in line with the Lisbon objectives (The Lisbon Strategy aims to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive economy by 2010). Besides Research and Technology Development (RTD), the programme puts emphasis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and revolving funds.

### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

The programme will ensure the creation of around 50 jobs in the research area, 800 internationally acknowledged publications per year and 43 patent application registrations per year. The purpose is to improve funding of Research and Development in Latvia (It amounted to only 0.42 % of the GDP in 2004). It is expected to create 18 000m<sup>2</sup> incubator space and to support 82 economically active enterprises in the business incubators which will increase the turnover in supported enterprises by 20%.

### ***3. Priority axes***

The programme will be implemented through four main priorities including the Technical Assistance priority:

- **Priority 1: Science and Innovation (60% of the OP resources)**

Aims at strengthening the country's scientific and research potential, enhancing international competitiveness, as well as promoting the transfer of knowledge and its commercialisation. These objectives should be attained by investing in equipment of scientific and research centres, promoting research (improving equipments, creating new jobs, improving public interest in research). It will also focus on supporting the formation of a knowledge-based economy by promoting transfer of technologies to the national economy, attraction of a highly-qualified workforce and the manufacturing of new products.

- **Priority 2: Access to Finances (23% of the OP resources)**



Aims at promoting access to finances necessary for the business development. This objective should be attained by forming a system of financial instruments, which include guarantees, credits, venture capital, and other financial instruments.

- **Priority 3: Promotion of Entrepreneurship (14% of the OP resources)**

Aims at promoting economic activity and enhancing competitiveness by setting up new enterprises and strengthening existing enterprises. To attain this objective, business start-ups, as well as national and international competitiveness of the enterprises will be fostered.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance (3% of the OP resources)**

Supports the management of the programme and communication activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

## **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

### **Operational Programme 'Estonia - Latvia'**



**Estonia, Latvia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 'Central Baltic'**



**Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Latvia - Lithuania'



**Latvia, Lithuania**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Lithuania - Poland'



**Lithuania, Poland**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 20 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Lithuania and Poland for the period 2007-13. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific Lithuanian and Polish regions that lie along their common border: the Lithuanian regions of Marijampolės and Alytaus and Polish regions Białostocko-suwałski and Elcki. The regions of Tauragės, Kauno and Vilniaus (excluding Vilniaus Municipality) in Lithuania, and Łomżyński and Olsztyński in Poland, can take part in projects as adjacent areas, i.e. receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €84.3 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €71.7 million, which represents approximately 0.8% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

#### *1. Aim and purpose of the programme*

The overall objective of the Programme is to foster sustainable development in the border region through enhanced economic, social and territorial cohesion. The Programme investments seek to establish a region

which is competitive in a global economy as well as forward looking and attractive in terms of quality of life, social equality, the environment and communication links.

The cooperation area covers 104 km of common border in south-western Lithuania and north-eastern Poland. The region is home to 3.6 million people, with demographics showing an almost equal distribution between rural and urban areas. The border area is predominantly agricultural, however there has been recent dynamic growth in the service sector. Despite this, both the agricultural and industrial sectors still need investments for restructuring and modernisation. Even though the area has a number of international corridors (I (Via Baltica, Rail Baltica) and IX), it is poorly connected internally. Therefore investments are needed for developing border infrastructure such as local roads, border crossing points, communication and ICT networks, and an interconnected public transport system.

Given the potential offered by the region's natural resources, investments will also target tourism development - rivers and lakes for water activities, and forests and farmsteads for eco and agro-tourism.

## ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

The Programme is expected to enhance spatial integration and better accessibility in the border area and The impact of the investments will be measured using indicators, including the number of new infrastructure developments (e.g. roads), new transport and IT connections, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, new jobs and higher rates of employment, new business support infrastructure and start-ups, networks created, new tourist attractions, increased tourist flows, better access to public services and joint initiatives undertaken by municipalities.

## ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Competitiveness and Productivity Growth of the Cross-border Region [approximately 55% of total funding]**

This priority will support actions designed to create jobs, improve the competitiveness of the area and generate sustainable business development, without harming the environment. It covers investment and support for areas such as small-scale economic infrastructure, the business environment, tourism and cultural/historical heritage.

- **Priority 2: Cross-border Cohesion and Enhanced Overall Quality of the Cross-border Area [approximately 39% of total funding]**

This priority covers investment and support targeted at social and cultural networking and the living environment (where environmental protection will be a key focus).

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance [approximately 6% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to help the two countries implement the Programme as effectively as possible.

## ***4. Managing Authority***

Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania

Regional Policy Department



# POLAND

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'Innovative economy'



#### **Programme under the Convergence Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 1 October 2007, the European Commission approved an Operational Programme for Poland for the 2007-13 period. The “Innovative economy” Operational Programme falls within the Convergence Objective framework and has a total budget of around €9.71 billion. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €8.25 billion, which represents approximately 12.3% of the total EU investment earmarked for Poland under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

##### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

In the fields of support for enterprises, research and development (R&D) and information and communication technologies (ICT), the “Innovative economy” Operational Programme for 2007-2013 is the second large-scale, multi-annual program of its kind – after the sectoral Operational Programme “Improvement of the Competitiveness of Enterprises” (2004-06).

The programme will be an important tool for realising the objectives laid down in the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs – allocating nearly 95% of its budget toward those ends.

##### ***2. Expected impact***

The Programme aims to create 70 000 new jobs, 28 000 of which are for women. The Programme aims also to create 60 projects in the field of R&D. Estimates predict that some 1200 enterprises will likely benefit from services provided by specialized research laboratories that receive financial support. In Poland, the number of persons employed in R&D activity will likely increase from 123 431 to around 150 000.

##### ***3. Priorities***

Specific objectives of the Operational Programme include:

- improving enterprise innovativeness
- improving the scientific community’s competitiveness in Poland
- strengthening economic development through good science
- increasing the international market share of innovative products made in Poland
- creating permanent and better places to work

- boosting ICT usage in Poland's economy.

The "Innovative economy" Operational Programme is structured along the following priority axes:

- **Research and development of new technologies [approximately 13.4% of total funding]**

The objective of this priority axis seeks to broaden the role the scientific community plays in Poland's economy. Implementation of the economic development strategy, based on innovative enterprises, calls for closer cooperation between the scientific and business communities.

The R&D sector in Poland is not sufficiently equipped to provide adequate scientific support to local entrepreneurs operating in an increasingly competitive international environment. This shortfall maintains the technological gap between Poland's economy and the more innovative economies of the world, including those of other EU Member States. Therefore, to realise the contribution potential the scientific community holds for Poland's economy it is necessary to strengthen its R&D sector activity. Incentives that can persuade the business community to employ R&D produced in Poland and that can, simultaneously, encourage local scientists to pursue R&D activities that better satisfy the needs of local entrepreneurs will produce closer cooperation between each of these two communities.

- **R&D infrastructure [approximately 13.4% of total funding]**

This priority axis seeks to increase the competitiveness within the scientific community in Poland by modernising its IT infrastructure and consolidating the scientific research among the best scientific entities operating in Poland. Obsolete equipment often hampers advanced research in Poland. Inefficient use of its existing, yet scattered, R&D infrastructure leads also to below standard research. The displacement of specialised equipment also creates an inability to carry out large, often multidisciplinary projects, including those of an international scale.

In sum, there is an urgent need for investment in Poland's R&D infrastructure. Establishment of modern research centres, equipped with the most current technology, capable of taking up the most ambitious tasks in the R&D area, will make it possible to conduct high quality research. R&D infrastructure upgrades will also allow the scientific community in Poland to raise its technical staff training activity to international standards. Moreover, centres such as these will contribute to the implementation of more innovative technological solutions faster.

- **Capital for innovation [approximately 3.5% of total funding]**

The objective of this priority axis is to increase the number of enterprises using innovative solutions and to improve access to external financial resources that encourage innovative undertakings. Poland's economy is characterised by inadequate levels of innovation caused by insufficient levels of financial support offered by local entrepreneurs and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular. The main reason for this shortfall is the lack of adequate financial backing for investments of this calibre.

A diagnosis of the economic situation reveals that entrepreneurs are unwilling to invest in innovative projects characterised by risks that carry relatively high exposure over extended periods of time. This means that there is a serious gap between perceived cost/benefit risk- and time-horizons for available investment capital. Consequently, it is often impossible to acquire capital for endeavours that may carry higher risk; the consequences for which limit investment to short-term projects that yield relatively low value. This is notably the case for, otherwise, highly innovative SMEs that are nevertheless in their early stages of growth. Therefore, public intervention is justified in these cases, as public intervention can increase investments levels toward innovative solutions that offer the public both economic and technological benefits. Likewise,

due to the insufficient number of start-up innovative enterprises, it is necessary to introduce incentives that support the establishment of companies founded upon innovative ideas.

- **Investments in innovative undertakings [approximately 35.3% of total funding]**

This priority axis seeks to increase the level of competitiveness of enterprises through the application of new solutions. Currently, the main sources of competitive advantage of enterprises operating in Poland rely on low labour costs and a large domestic market. In terms of development trends and advanced globalisation, however, sustainable growth can only be guaranteed by enhancing competitive advantages based on innovative solutions. This means that enterprises that wish to face international competition should invest in the latest solutions that enable them to strengthen their competitive position in the market. This particularly includes the involvement of entrepreneurs toward pursuing activities in the field of R&D. Consequently, public intervention under this priority axis will focus on support for undertakings related to development, implementation and transfer of technologically and organisationally innovative solutions.

- **Diffusion of innovation [approximately 4.1% of total funding]**

The objective of this priority axis is to:

- provide entrepreneurs with high quality services and infrastructure aimed at strengthening and pursuing their innovative potential
- strengthen the competitive position of enterprises through the development of cooperative relationships.

Due to intense and constant cooperation between the producers and the beneficiaries of innovative solutions, the diffusion of innovation becomes possible. This cooperation often facilitates results that entities could never have otherwise attained on their own. Cooperation among entrepreneurs as well as between entrepreneurs and business support institutions (mainly scientific entities) creates conditions that facilitate:

- new technological and organisational solutions development and diffusion
- know-how exchanges
- resources utilisation improvement

- **Polish economy on the international market [approximately 4.2% of total funding]**

This priority axis seeks to improve the image of Poland as an attractive economic partner; as a place to develop good trade contacts; as well as an attractive place for investments; and economic activity and development of tourist services. The image of Poland on the international market is unsatisfactory, which means that public intervention is necessary. Public intervention will create synergies between the interacting areas of sales promotion on the Single European Market, while attracting new investments and the economic and tourist promotion of Poland. The system of investment and trade exchange service and support must still be strengthened.

- **Information society – establishment of electronic administration [approximately 8.1% of total funding]**

This priority axis aims at improving the conditions for undertaking economic activity through an increase of the accessibility of public administration information resources and digital public services. The position of Poland's economy on the international market, especially in the European Community, hinges on wide access to public information and electronic services provided to citizens and entrepreneurs through public



resources. Increasing the use of ICT by public administrations will make it possible to increase the effectiveness of their services. Increased public administration ICT usage will also have a positive effect on administrative costs in general. Solutions foreseen under this priority axis will help facilitate economic activity by removing barriers between business and public administration as well as by improving the possibility to use public information resources by entrepreneurs.

- **Information society – increasing the innovativeness of the economy [approximately 14.6% of total funding]**

This priority axis seeks to stimulate the development of the digital economy by supporting the creation of new and innovative e-services as well as innovative electronic solutions for business. This development support will reduce the technological, economic and mental resistance against the use of these kinds of services in society. The implementation of modern ICT creates the possibility to optimize the functioning of enterprises and directly affects innovativeness and competitiveness. ICT stimulates changes in an organization, influences business models in enterprises and boosts investments in human capital. An increase in the use of ICT in enterprises and related organizational changes exert an essential influence on the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Increasing the number of entities running their own businesses is crucial for the economic development of Poland. The support for enterprises of the SME sector includes providing broadband access to the Internet.

- **Technical assistance [approximately 3.4% of total funding]**

This priority axis seeks to ensure support for the management, implementation and monitoring processes of the Programme and to ensure that Community funds and national resources are used effectively and in compliance with the law. One of the conditions for absorption of Community funds is to provide appropriate administrative potential. This requires substantial financial outlays for providing efficient management, implementation, information, monitoring and evaluation of the „Innovative economy” Operational Programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Regional Development

Department for the Management of the Competitiveness and Innovativeness Programmes

### **Operational Programme 'Development of Eastern Poland'**



#### **Programme under the Convergence Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 2 October 2007, the European Commission approved the Operational Programme entitled “Development of Eastern Poland” for the period 2007-13. The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the Convergence Objective and has a total budget of around €2.7 billion. Community investment for five Polish regions (Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie) through the

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €2.3 billion. This represents approximately 3.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for Poland under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The purpose of the Operational Programme is to stimulate economic growth and overcome stagnation, which is marginalising Eastern Poland's regions. The strategic objective of the Programme is to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development in Eastern Poland, at the same time respecting the sustainable development policy.

The semi-national, semi-regional Programme is to be implemented at national level, however it will also address the needs of specific regions. The concept of the Programme is based on "flagship projects" which are beneficial to all five regions. The Programme will help to strengthen the impact of other programmes implemented in Eastern Poland by conducting separate activities to stimulate economic and social development. Due to its concentrated structure of intervention, the Programme will be an important tool for delivering the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. The Lisbon objectives will receive more than 43% of the Programme's total budget.

### ***2. Expected impact***

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection, the Programme is expected to deliver additional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 1.38% and up to 13610 new jobs annually. The Programme will also strengthen the economic potential of the region and generate long-term productivity gains in the five regions covered.

### ***3. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured according to the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Modern Economy [approximately 34.7% of total funding]**

This priority will focus on creating the long-term bases for innovative change in the economy of Eastern Poland. Existing tertiary institutions will be supported in the area of engineering and technical studies so as to provide a better knowledge base for innovation. Attention will also be paid to improving links between business and science sectors by supporting research facilities, business and technological parks, and cluster management. A portfolio of financial instruments such as seed capital will be designed with help from the European Investment Fund in order to meet the specific development needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This priority will also create cooperation networks between regions, including a common promotional campaign targeting investors.

- **Priority 2: Information Society Infrastructure [approximately 11.3% of total funding]**

This priority will aim at eliminating the "digital divide" of the regions by offering the possibility of broadband Internet access to all citizens and firms. In view of the peripheral location of these regions, a specialised training component will be provided to ensure that the opportunities offered by the Internet are used to their maximum.

- **Priority 3: Regional Growth Centres [approximately 19.9% of total funding]**

The five capital cities of the five Eastern regions will be provided with better public transport, including better connections from adjacent rural areas, in an effort to increase their attractiveness for citizens and

investors and to increase their economic spill-over effects. Investments in conferences/exhibition centres will be supported as part of encouraging local entrepreneurs and opening up market opportunities for them.

- **Priority 4: Transport Infrastructure [approximately 29.0% of total funding]**

This priority will open up the regions to national and European transport systems by investing in national and regional roads. The investments will be concentrated on seven identified corridors which link the regions to the main network.

- **Priority 5: Sustainable Tourism based on Natural Assets [approximately 2.1% of total funding]**

Eastern Poland's greatest assets are its protected natural areas and biodiversity. A system of cycling routes will be developed, offering unique attractions to tourists and enabling the region to build on its environmental potential and develop active tourism, one of the key economic drivers behind new jobs and growth. In addition, a promotional campaign and marketing plan will be developed to promote the region as an ideal place for living, working and leisure.

- **Priority 6: Technical Assistance [approximately 3.0% of total funding]**

This priority will support project development and implementation as well as the Programme's management, implementation, publicity and information.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Regional Development

## **Operational Programme 'Infrastructure and Environment'**



### **Programme under the Convergence Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 7 December 2007 the European Commission approved an operational programme in Poland for the period 2007-2013, entitled the "Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme". This programme involves Community support for Poland within the framework of the "Convergence" objective. The total budget of the programme is € 37.56 billion. The Community assistance amounts to € 22.18 billion from the Cohesion Fund and € 5.74 billion from the ERDF. It is the biggest Operational Programme in Poland (the EU contribution is approximately 41% of the total EU support for Poland under Cohesion policy 2007-2013). This is also the biggest-ever operational programme in the whole of the European Union.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

Development difficulties in Poland are to a great extent caused by the degradation or by the lack of infrastructure. In order to increase the country's competitiveness and to attract investors, these obstacles have to be overcome. The Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme will serve this objective by supporting the development of technical infrastructure, and simultaneously protecting and improving the

condition of the natural environment and health as well as preserving cultural identity and developing territorial cohesion. This programme is complementary to other regional programmes.

The Infrastructure and Environment Programme is also an important instrument for implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy (Lisbon-related expenditure constitutes over 66% of the EU contribution).

## **2. Expected impact**

In the area of transport, it is expected that 636 km of motorways and over 2219 km of expressways will be constructed, 1566 km of railway lines will be modernized and 8 main airports will be expanded. As regards environmental investments, 318 waste-water treatment plants should be built or modernized, 9 000 km of sewerage network will be constructed or reconstructed and 44 waste management plants will be modernised or constructed. The investments in the energy sector should result in 690 MW of additional capacity in energy plants using renewable energy sources. The oil and gas pipeline networks will be significantly expanded: 1000 km of gas transfer pipelines, 4900 km gas distribution pipelines and 450 km of oil pipelines will be built. Additionally, 600 km of electro-power transfer lines will be added to the network. As regards social infrastructure, the programme should result in e.g. the construction or renovation of 120 educational institutions, 31 cultural institutions, modernisation of 160 health care centres and the purchase of 600 ambulances.

## **3. Priorities**

### **• Priority 1: Water and sewage management – Cohesion Fund**

Development of water and sewage infrastructure to agglomerations above 15 thousand population equivalent. Support will also be provided to agglomerations between 2,000-15,000 population equivalent. In accordance with the objectives of the National Programme of Municipal Sewage Treatment, Poland should construct, expand or modernise sewage treatment plants in 318 agglomerations above 15,000 population equivalent. The expansion or modernisation of the sanitary sewage system network in 459 agglomerations, with a total length of 20 000 km, is also necessary.

### **• Priority 2: Waste management and the protection of the earth – Cohesion Fund**

Increasing economic benefits by reducing the amount of municipal waste disposal, the rehabilitation of degraded areas and the protection of sea coasts. As concerns waste management, investments related to the prevention and reduction of municipal waste production, the introduction of recycling technologies and technologies for the final neutralisation of municipal waste as well as the elimination of hazards resulting from waste disposal and the rehabilitation of degraded areas for environmental purposes.

### **• Priority 3: Resource management and counteracting environmental risks – Cohesion Fund**

Provide an appropriate amount of water resources for the population and the country's economy as well as to minimise the negative effects of natural disasters and serious accidents. Analysis of the environment sector shows an insufficient level of water retention as compared to the potential and a high risk concerning the poor condition of technical premises related to water retention and flood protection. The programme will renovate and modernise water management systems (for instance, construction of new small retention facilities and increasing natural retention in river valleys and marshy areas).

### **• Priority 4: Initiatives aimed at adjusting enterprises to the requirements of environmental protection – ERDF**

Reduce the negative effects of existing industrial activities on the environment and adjust enterprises to the requirements of Community law. Investment and non – investment (which do not require infrastructural investment) undertakings. For non- investment projects, support will be granted to projects which implement environmental management systems (e.g. carrying out necessary audits to obtain certificates) and for obtaining eco-labels for products. Support will be given to projects of middle and large enterprises which reduce the amount of pollution emitted into the atmosphere or discharged with sewage and the amount of waste production, as well as increasing the amount of recyclable waste.

- **Priority 5: Environment protection and the promotion of ecological habits – ERDF**

Reduce the degradation of the natural environment and the loss of resources for biodiversity. Active environmental protection on protected areas in Poland. Initiatives aimed at preserving endangered species and the genetic variety of flora, fauna and fungi, as well as restoring ecological corridors to a passable condition to enable the proper functioning of the Natura 2000 network. Initiatives concerning the promotion of social habits supporting environmental protection and the conservation of nature, including the preservation of biological variety, landscape conservation and the development of pro-ecological habits through widely understood ecological education.

- **Priority 6: TEN-T road and air transport network – Cohesion Fund**

Increase Poland's transport accessibility and improve interregional connections by developing the road and air TEN-T network; improving transport connections between the main cities of eastern Poland and other parts of the country by developing the road network in the eastern regions. Construction of sections of motorways and expressways connecting the biggest agglomerations, the construction of bypasses and the reconstruction of sections of other national roads included in the TEN-T network.

- **Priority 7: Environment-friendly transport – Cohesion Fund**

Increase the ratio of alternatives to road transport in the overall passenger and cargo transport picture (railway transport, sea transport, public transport in metropolitan areas, multimodal transport, inland waterways) This will result in a better balance of the transport system, decrease the negative effects of transport on the environment and limit traffic congestion.

- **Priority 8: Transport safety and national transport networks – ERDF**

Improving the safety level of roads will include, on the one hand, modernising the infrastructure of national roads (increasing capacity) or providing equipment to improve road safety and, on the other hand, changing the attitude and behaviour of all persons involved in road traffic. Intelligent Transport Systems will be developed . . Construction and modernisation of sea and river canals along with an extension of the existing infrastructure of inland waterways. .

- **Priority 9: Environment-friendly energy infrastructure and energy efficiency – Cohesion Fund**

Improve security of supply and limit the negative effects of climate change. Support from the Cohesion Fund will be granted for initiatives aimed at increasing the share of primary energy use in the energy sector (i.e. increasing the efficiency of production and decreasing losses in the process of transmission and distribution of energy). Investments will target decreasing the energy intensity of the public sector, as well as increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable sources, including biomass, wind, solar and geothermal energy.

- **Priority 10: Energy security, including the diversification of energy sources – ERDF**

Ensuring security of supply in the energy sector is a crucial target at EU and national level. This is why it will be possible in the 2007-2013 programming period to support, in the case of market failure, investments targeting better security of supply in the area of traditional energy sources. Investments increasing security of supply both in traditional and renewable energy sources. Therefore gas and oil transmission pipelines as well as gas reservoirs will be supported. Support will also be given to strategic cross border electricity connections. It will also be possible to develop the renewable energies industry.

- **Priority 11 Culture and cultural heritage – ERDF**

Use Poland's potential in culture and cultural heritage, renowned throughout Europe and the world, to increase the country's attractiveness. Achieving the detailed objectives of the priority means completing supra-regional projects as a part of protecting the cultural heritage. It will also mean building, expanding and redeveloping cultural infrastructure with supra-regional importance as well as art education. Projects devoted to the protection and restoration of monuments of supra-regional importance, including those on the UNESCO World Heritage List or recognised as Historic Monuments by the President of Poland. Renovation, restoration, regeneration and protection of objects included in the register of monuments, as well as complexes with their surroundings.

- **Priority 12 Health, safety and improvement of health protection system – ERDF**

Initiatives aimed at keeping the workforce in good health. Improving the health of society is intended to make sure that its basic capabilities are activated and better used, which leads to an increase in the number of economically active persons in the labour market. A significant part of increasing the health security of the Polish workforce is the developing of healthcare infrastructure, medical equipment supply standards and improving the efficiency of emergency actions in health-threatening situations. Achieving an integrated system of Emergency Medical Services with a common communications network, rescue procedures and medical equipment.

- **Priority 13 Higher education infrastructure – ERDF**

Develop modern academic centres that mainly educate specialists in new technologies. Projects to be supported shall contribute to the development of international cooperation between higher education institutions, including organising international studies as well as establishing contact networks and links between professionals in strategic fields. Comprehensive infrastructural investments (construction, reconstruction, modernisation, equipment) essential to conduct higher education, mainly in the sciences as well as research and development activity connected with teaching. The development of Information and Communication technologies (ICT) which will be used in the teaching process will also be supported.

- **Priority 14 Technical assistance – ERDF and Priority 15 Technical assistance – Cohesion Fund**

Efficient and effective use of resources from the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment. This will be achieved by providing support for programme management, information and promotion, and programme monitoring and evaluation.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry of Regional Development

Department for the Management Coordination of Infrastructural Programmes



## REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

### Operational Programme 'Lower Silesia'



#### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Dolnoslaskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goals are to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility, realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure a sustainable use of its environment. Consequently, the Dolnoslaskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 40% of its ERDF budget.

The Strategic Goal of the Programme is to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of Dolnoslaskie and to increase the region's competitiveness while respecting principles of sustainable development.

#### *Expected impact of investments*

The programme will ensure the creation of around 8 400 new jobs, of which 4 200 will be for women. 540 km of new sewerage pipelines will be constructed and 40 000 persons will get access to the waste water canalization. 250 000 persons will receive access to broadband Internet.

#### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Growth of competitiveness of Dolnoslaskie enterprises ("Enterprises and Innovation")**
- **Priority 2: Development of the information society in Dolnoslaskie ("Information Society")**
- **Priority 3: Development of transport infrastructure in Dolnoslaskie ("Transport")**
- **Priority 4: Improvement of the natural environment and improvement of ecological and flood safety in Dolnoslaskie ("Environment and Ecological Safety")**
- **Priority 5: Environmentally friendly energy infrastructure in the region ("Energy")**
- **Priority 6: Exploitation and promotion of the Dolnoslaskie tourism and cultural spa potential ("Tourism and Culture")**
- **Priority 7: Development and modernisation of education infrastructure in Dolnoslaskie ("Education")**
- **Priority 8: Modernisation of health infrastructure in Dolnoslaskie ("Health")**
- **Priority 9: Rehabilitation of degraded urban areas in Dolnoslaskie ("Towns")**
- **Priority 10 : Technical Assistance**



## Operational Programme 'Zachodniopomorskie'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Zachodniopomorskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is 40% of its total budget.

The Strategic Goal of the Programme is the development of the voivodship to promote greater economic competitiveness, spatial and social cohesion, and improvements in quality of life.

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to the macroeconomic modelling projection, the Regional Operational Programme for Zachodniopomorskie is expected to deliver additional GDP growth of 1.77% and over 4 500 new jobs. Over 1300 jobs will be created in SMEs.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Economy – Innovation – Technology**
- **Priority 2: Development of transport and energy infrastructure**
- **Priority 3: Development of the information society**
- **Priority 4: Infrastructure of environmental protection**
- **Priority 5: Tourism, culture and revitalisation**
- **Priority 6: Development of metropolitan functions**
- **Priority 7: Development of social infrastructure and health care**
- **Priority 8: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Greater Poland'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Wielkopolskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility and realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure the sustainable use of its environment. Consequently, the Wielkopolskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an

important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 40% of its ERDF budget.

#### ***Expected impact of investments***

The programme will ensure the creation of around 10 000 new jobs, of which 5800 will be for women. 250 km of new roads will be constructed and 750 km will be renovated. 500 000 persons will receive access to broadband internet.

#### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Competitiveness of enterprises**
- **Priority 2: Communication infrastructure**
- **Priority 3: Environment**
- **Priority 4: Revitalization of problem areas**
- **Priority 5: Infrastructure for human capital**
- **Priority 6: Tourism and cultural environment**
- **Priority 7: Technical assistance**

### **Operational Programme 'Warminsko-Mazurskie'**



#### ***Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Warminsko-Mazurskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion, accessibility and to release its economic, tourism and cultural potential while ensuring secure sustainable use of its environment. Consequently, the Warminsko-Mazurskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is 37% of its ERDF budget.

#### ***Expected impact of investments***

The programme will ensure the creation of more than 4700 new jobs, of which half will be for women. Over 765 small and medium size enterprises (SME) will be supported in the framework of the programme (including micro-enterprises and innovative ones). Around 300 000 persons will receive access to broadband internet (70 000 in rural areas). Regarding water and waste treatment, more than 40 000 people will benefit from being connected to 390 km of sewer systems and 19 000 to 110 km of water systems to be built with the support of the Programme. Accessibility to the region will be improved thanks to a regional airport, and the modernisation of 304 km of roads and 54 km of railways.

#### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Entrepreneurship**
- **Priority 2: Tourism**
- **Priority 3: Social infrastructure**
- **Priority 4: Development, restructuring and revitalization of towns**
- **Priority 5: Regional and local transport infrastructure**
- **Priority 6: Natural environment**
- **Priority 7: Information society infrastructure**
- **Priority 8: Technical assistance**

## **Operational Programme 'Podlaskie'**



### ***Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Podlaskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first-ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. The Podlaskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The allocation for Lisbon objectives in the Programme is more than 43.1% of its total budget.

The strategic goal of the Programme is to boost the rate of economic growth and the creation of new jobs outside agriculture with consideration for and preservation of region's natural and cultural heritage.

### ***Expected impact of investments***

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection, the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP growth of 2.88%, and to create around 14 000 new jobs.

### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Boost innovation, support entrepreneurship**
- **Priority 2: Development of transport infrastructure**
- **Priority 3: Development of culture and tourism**
- **Priority 4: Information Society**
- **Priority 5: Development of infrastructure for environment protection**
- **Priority 6: Social infrastructure development**
- **Priority 7: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Kujawsko-Pomorskie'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to increase the competitiveness of the voivodeship and the social, economic and spatial coherence of its area, respecting the rules of sustainable development.

### *Expected impact of investments*

Consequently, the Kujawsko-Pomorskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making the structural changes happen. According to a macroeconomic modeling projection the programme is expected to deliver an additional GDP/capita growth, that will reach a level of 55% of EU27 and over 8 000 new jobs in the target year 2013. It will be also an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the programme is almost 40% of its total budget.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Development of technical infrastructure**
- **Priority 2: Maintenance and rational utilization of environment**
- **Priority 3: Development of social infrastructure**
- **Priority 4: Development of the infrastructure of information society**
- **Priority 5: Increase of competitiveness of companies**
- **Priority 6: Support for the development of tourism**
- **Priority 7: Support for changes in the cities and areas requiring renovation**
- **Priority 8: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Mazovia'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy, 39% of its total budget will be devoted to Lisbon objectives. The Strategic Goal of the Programme is the "the improvement of the region's competitiveness and improvement of the social, economic, and territorial cohesion of the voivodship".

### ***Expected impact of investments***

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection regional funds are expected to raise the growth of the region's GDP per capita of 10% and to create around 7 000 new jobs. Around 1000 projects concerning direct investment aid to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) will be financed under the programme. More than 470 km of roads will be reconstructed or modernised. Around 15 000 persons will be connected to the water supply network and 40 000 to the sewerage network. 800 000 persons will receive access to broadband internet.

### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Creating conditions for development of innovation potential and entrepreneurship in Mazovia**
- **Priority 2: Accelerating the e-development of Mazovia**
- **Priority 3: Regional transport system**
- **Priority 4: Environment, prevention of threats, and energy**
- **Priority 5: Strengthening the role of cities in the development of the region**
- **Priority 6: Making use of nature and culture vales for development of tourism and recreation**
- **Priority 7: Creating and improving conditions for human capital development**
- **Priority 8: Technical assistance**

## **Operational Programme 'Opolskie'**



### ***Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Opolskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility and realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure the sustainable use of its environment. Consequently, the Opolskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is 43% of its ERDF budget.

### ***Expected impact of investments***

The programme will ensure the creation of around 2850 new jobs, of which half will be for women. Over 1000 small and medium enterprises (SME) will be supported in the framework of the programme (including micro-enterprises) and 200 will receive support in the framework of innovation and new technology incubation. Around 280 000 persons will receive access to broadband internet and more than 11 000 people will benefit from connecting to sewer systems. In addition 74 km of roads will be renovated.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Strengthening economic attractiveness of the region**
- **Priority 2: Information society**
- **Priority 3: Transport**
- **Priority 4: Environmental protection**
- **Priority 5: Social infrastructure and higher education**
- **Priority 6: Mobilisation of municipal and degraded areas**
- **Priority 7: Technical assistance**

## **Operational Programme 'Lubelskie'**



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Lubelskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures.

Consequently, the Lubelskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 40.34% of its total budget.

The Strategic Goal of the Programme is: "Increasing the competitiveness of the region leading to faster economic growth, and an increase in employment taking into consideration natural and cultural qualities of the Region"

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP of 2.2%. In addition around 7 400 new jobs will be created.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Entrepreneurship and innovation**
- **Priority 2: Economic infrastructure**
- **Priority 3: Attractiveness of urban areas and investment areas**
- **Priority 4: Information Society**
- **Priority 5: Transport**
- **Priority 6: Environment and clean energy**
- **Priority 7: Culture, tourism, and inter-regional co-operation**

- **Priority 8: Social Infrastructure**
- **Priority 9: Technical assistance.**

## Operational Programme 'Silesia'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Śląskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first-ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures.

The Śląskie programme will become the region's most important instrument for making structural change happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 40% of its total budget. The Strategic Goal of the Programme is: "The stimulation of rapid growth along with the strengthening of the social, economic and spatial cohesion of the region".

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection, the Regional Operational Programme for Śląskie is expected to deliver additional GDP of 2.91% and about 9 000 new jobs, of which 4 500 will be for women. Over 1 300 small and medium enterprises (SME) will be supported (including micro-enterprises), and over 400 will receive support in the framework of innovation.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Technical research and development (R&D), innovation and entrepreneurship**
- **Priority 2: Knowledge society**
- **Priority 3: Tourism**
- **Priority 4: Culture**
- **Priority 5: Environment**
- **Priority 6: Sustainable urban development**
- **Priority 7: Transport**
- **Priority 8: Educational infrastructure**
- **Priority 9: Health and recreation**
- **Priority 10: Technical assistance**



## Operational Programme 'Świętokrzyskie'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Świętokrzyskie Regional Operational Programme is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. The strategic goal of the Programme is to improve conditions for both developing a competitive regional economy and creating new jobs. It aims to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility, fully develop its unique economic and cultural potential, and ensure sustainable use of its environment.

The Regional Operational Programme will become a key instrument for structural change in the region. It will also be an important tool in the realisation of the objectives laid down in the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, as it allocates more than 32% of its total budget to this end.

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection, the Programme is expected to deliver an additional 2.1% of GDP in the Świętokrzyskie region, as well as some 3700 new jobs. Other expected impacts include the development of 250 hectares of industrial zones, financial support for about 1000 small and medium-sized enterprises, and the upgrading of some 450 kilometres of roads.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Business Development [approximately 18.0% of total funding]**
- **Priority 2: Supporting Innovation, Developing the Information Society and Increasing the Investment Potential of the Region [approximately 15.0% of total funding]**
- **Priority 3: Enhancing the Quality of the Regional Transport System [approximately 24.8% of total funding]**
- **Priority 4: Development of the Environmental Protection and Energy Infrastructure [approximately 14.0% of total funding]**
- **Priority 5: Improved Quality of Social Infrastructure and Investment in Cultural Heritage, Sport and Tourism [approximately 15.0% of total funding]**
- **Priority 6: Development of Cities and Revitalisation of Small Towns [approximately 10.2% of total funding]**
- **Priority 7: Technical Assistance [approximately 3.0% of total funding]**

## Operational Programme 'Lubuskie'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Lubuskie Regional Operational Programme for 2007-2013 is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual set of measures to encourage development.

The main goal of the Lubuskie Regional Operational Programme is to create opportunities to increase the competitiveness of the region and prevent the exclusion of certain areas (including rural areas). The Operational Programme will become the region's most important instrument for effecting structural changes and enhancing regional cohesion.

The programme will also be an important tool for achieving the objectives laid down in the revised Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, as it allocates some €164 million to this end, almost 28% of the total budget.

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection, the programme is expected to deliver an additional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 3.7% and over 3 220 new jobs. About 400 projects linked to direct investment aid for small and medium sized enterprises (SME) will be financed under the programme. An additional 10 000 people will receive access to broadband internet.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Development of infrastructure to enhance competitiveness of the region [33.4% of total funding]**
- **Priority 2: Stimulating investment growth in enterprises and strengthening innovation potential [22.8% of total funding]**
- **Priority 3: Protection and management of the resources of the natural environment [15.9% of total funding]**
- **Priority 4: Development and modernisation of social infrastructure/facilities [16.7% of total funding]**
- **Priority 5: Development and modernisation of tourism and culture infrastructure [8.1% of total funding]**
- **Priority axis 6: Technical assistance [3.0% of total funding]**

## **Operational Programme 'Podkarpackie'**

### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Podkarpackie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility and realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure a sustainable use of its environment.

Consequently, the Podkarpackie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 42% of its total budget.

The Strategic Goal of the Programme is "To increase domestic and international economic competitiveness and to improve the accessibility of Podkarpackie region".

#### ***Expected impact of investments***

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP in Podkarpackie region of 2.7% and almost 8000 new jobs.

#### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Competitive and Innovative Economy**
- **Priority 2: Technical Infrastructure**
- **Priority 3: Information Society**
- **Priority 4: Environment protection and risk prevention**
- **Priority 5: Public infrastructure**
- **Priority 6: Tourism and culture**
- **Priority 7: Intra-regional cohesion**
- **Priority 8: Technical assistance.**

### **Operational Programme 'Pomerania'**



#### ***Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Pomorskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goal is to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility and realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure a sustainable use of its environment.

Consequently, the Pomorskie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 47% of its total budget.

#### ***Expected impact of investments***

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP of 3.4% and over 7 000 new jobs. The unemployment rate should be brought down by 0.7 percentage points after its implementation.

#### ***Priorities***

- **Priority 1: Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development and innovation**
- **Priority 2: Knowledge society**
- **Priority 3: Urban and metropolitan functions**
- **Priority 4: Regional transport systems**
- **Priority 5: Environment and environment friendly energy**
- **Priority 6: Tourism and cultural heritage**
- **Priority 7: Health protection and emergency system**
- **Priority 8: Local basic infrastructure**
- **Priority 9: Local social infrastructure and civil initiatives**
- **Priority 10: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Lesser Poland'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Małopolskie Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 ERDF is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures.

The objective of the Programme is to create conditions facilitating economic growth and employment. In particular, this objective will be achieved through infrastructure investments enhancing competitiveness, facilitating the development of innovation and the information society, improving the quality of the natural and cultural environment.

Consequently, the Programme will become the region's most important instrument for making the structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is about EUR 460 million.

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP of 1.84% and over 9 000 new jobs. Over 1 000 projects concerning direct investment aid to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) will be financed under the programme.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Conditions for the development of the knowledge society**
- **Priority 2: Regional opportunity economy**
- **Priority 3: Tourism and culture industry**

- **Priority 4: Infrastructure for economic development**
- **Priority 5: Kraków Metropolitan Area**
- **Priority 6: Intra-regional cohesion**
- **Priority 7: Infrastructure for environmental protection**
- **Priority 8: Trans-regional co-operation**
- **Priority 9: Technical assistance**

## Operational Programme 'Łódzkie'



### *Aim and purpose of the programme*

The Łódzkie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Consequently, the Łódzkie ROP will become the region's most important instrument for making structural changes happen. It will also be an important tool for the delivery of the revised Lisbon Strategy. The Lisbon objectives allocation in the Programme is more than 37% of its total budget.

The Strategic Goal of the Programme is "the integration of the region with the European and global social and economic space as a central European development centre, favourable to living and economy, while aiming at the creation of its internal cohesion and maintenance of the variety of its areas".

### *Expected impact of investments*

According to a macroeconomic modelling projection the programme is expected to deliver additional GDP of 2.1%. It is expected that around 20 000 new jobs will be created, of which 10 000 will be for women and 2700 in rural areas. Around 2800 projects concerning direct investment aid to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) will be financed under the programme. 440 km of roads will be reconstructed or modernised. Around 6700 persons will be connected to the water supply network and 7500 to the sewerage network. 130 000 persons will receive access to broadband internet.

### *Priorities*

- **Priority 1: Transport**
- **Priority 2: Environmental protection, prevention of threats, and**
- **Priority 3: Economy, innovativeness, entrepreneurship**
- **Priority 4: Information society**
- **Priority 5: Social infrastructure**
- **Priority 6: Revitalisation of urban areas**
- **Priority 7: Technical assistance**

# CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

## Operational Programme 'Poland - Czech Republic'



### Czech Republic, Poland

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 11 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between the Czech Republic and Poland for the period 2007-13. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific Czech and Polish regions that lie along their common border: the Czech regions Liberecký kraj, Královéhradecký kraj, Pardubický kraj, Olomoucký kraj and Moravskoslezský kraj and Polish regions subregions Jeleniogórsko, Wałbrzyski, Opolski, Nyski, Rybnicki, and Bielski.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €259 million. Community funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €220 million, which represents approximately 2.5% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

#### ***1. The purpose and aim of the EU investment***

Employment and production levels have suffered in the region in recent years due to heavy industry and agricultural restructuring. However, services have been increasing their share in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creating a significant number of jobs. Tourism also offers considerable potential, while small to medium sized enterprises (SME) with their broad, dynamic base play a vital role in creating jobs and contributing to economic development and social stability. In terms of innovation, the basic preconditions are present, however there is poor use of foreign sources of financing as well as limited involvement of universities, research institutions and companies in international cooperation networks.

The Programme therefore aims to address these key issues and remove existing barriers that prevent the border area from being competitive and hinder integration of the area from the economic and social points of view. The Programme also seeks to increase the attractiveness of the cross-border area for both local and external investors, residents and visitors.

#### ***2. The expected impact of the investment***

The Programme is expected to result in greater cooperation networks among universities, research centres and SMEs, as well as enhanced information and communication technologies (ICT) and support services for SMEs. The investments should also see improved education and training systems and worker adaptability.

Other expected impacts include better local road connections, enhanced risk prevention and nature protection measures, and significant tourism development.

### **3. Priority axes**

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Strengthening of Accessibility, Environmental Protection and Risk Prevention [approximately 32% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to improve infrastructure, transport services, safety and the quality of the environment in the Czech - Polish border area.

- **Priority 2: Improvement of Conditions for Developing the Business Environment and Tourism [approximately 36% of total funding]**

This priority aims to increase the competitiveness of companies in the Czech - Polish border area, in addition to expanding tourism and increasing the knowledge and skills of citizens.

- **Priority 3: Support for Cooperation among Local Communities [approximately 26% of total funding]**

The aim of this priority is to strengthen cross-border relations among institutions providing public services and among citizens, in addition to stimulating local community development through support for the activities of local players.

- **Priority 4: Technical Assistance [approximately 6% of total funding]**

This priority covers management of the Programme, including information and communication activities.

### **4. Managing Authority**

Ministry for Regional Development

Department of European Territorial Cooperation

## **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER



### Operational Programme 'Central Europe'



**Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany'



**Germany, Poland**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'South Baltic'



**Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Poland - Slovakia'



**Poland, Slovakia**

**Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 20 December 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Poland and Slovakia for the period 2007-2013. The Programme involves providing Community support as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for specific Polish and Slovakian regions that lie along their common border: Bielsko-Bialski, Nowosądecki and Krośnieński-Przemyski, Žilinský kraj and Prešovský kraj. The areas of Oświęcimski Powiat, Pszczyński Powiat, Rzeszowski Powiat and Rzeszów Powiat Grodzki in Poland may take part in projects as an adjacent area, i.e. receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme.

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €185 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €157 million, which represents approximately 1.8% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-13.

### ***5. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The Programme area is characterised by low socio-economic development and difficulties in the labour market. The major weakness in the region is the lack of good quality transportation and communication infrastructure, which hinders cross-border cooperation and networking. Diversity of the natural environment and cultural and historical heritage is an asset, however these features need to be preserved and maintained.

The global objective of the Programme is to use a partnership approach to intensify Polish-Slovak cooperation and support the sustainable development of the border region with improvements to cross-border infrastructure, support for socio-economic, environmental and cultural development, and implementation of micro projects based on people-to-people actions.

### ***6. The expected impact of the investment***

The Programme is expected to enhance spatial integration and better accessibility in the border area and reduce the existing barriers in transportation, communication and environmental infrastructure. Through activities in the area of risk prevention, tourism and protection of cultural and natural heritage, the cross-border area should become more attractive for tourists and investors. There should also be an increase in partnership cooperation in areas such as labour market institutions, research centres, schools and other organisations. The following are examples of some of the expected impacts:

- 70 000 people to benefit from new / modernised communication infrastructure;
- 200 kilometres of new / modernised cross-border communication connections;
- 25 initiatives that contribute to protecting biodiversity;
- 350 tourist products;
- 90 renovated historical objects.

### ***7. Priorities***

The Operational Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Development of Cross-border Infrastructure [approximately 43% of total funding]**

This priority will focus mainly on improving cross-border infrastructure conditions oriented towards spatial integration, safety, better accessibility and attractiveness for inhabitants, investors and tourists.

- **Priority 2: Social and Economic Development [approximately 34% of total funding]**

With this priority, the Programme authorities are looking to promote partnership cooperation for sustainable socio-economic, environmental and cultural development of the Polish – Slovak border region.

- **Priority 3: Supporting Local Initiatives (micro projects) [approximately 17% of total funding]**

This priority aims to promote local initiatives and establish cross-border contacts through implementation of micro projects based on people-to-people actions.

- **Priority 4: Technical Assistance [approximately 6% of total funding]**

Technical assistance will be provided for implementing the Programme. Financial support is also available and will cover administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

**8. Managing Authority**

Saxony State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labor

### Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany (Saxony)'



**Germany, Poland**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Poland - Germany'



**Germany, Poland**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Lithuania - Poland'



**Lithuania, Poland**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER



# SWEDEN

## Regional Development Programmes 2007-2013

### NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

#### Operational Programme 'West Sweden'



Sweden

#### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 16 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for West Sweden region for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €165 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €64 million, which represents approximately 3.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

##### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The main goal of the Regional Operational Programme for West Sweden is to improve economic growth by creating new business operations and entrepreneurship. This goal will also create new jobs and facilitate sustainable urban development. The Programme seeks to:

- enhance knowledge-based innovations
- overcome problems in certain urban areas
- create coherence between urban and regional objectives.

##### ***2. Expected impact***

The Operational Programme will lay the foundation to create 3500 new jobs and encourage the creation of 1300 new businesses. About 4750 business enterprises have confirmed their participation in activities that generate economic growth. The Programme will introduce at least 20 investment projects that improve the attractiveness of lacklustre urban areas.

##### ***3. Priorities***

The following priority axes represent the structure of the Operational Programme “Regional Structural Funds Programme for West Sweden region”:

- entrepreneurship and innovative business
- cooperation initiatives and innovative environments
- sustainable urban development

- **Priority 1: Entrepreneurship and innovative business** [approximately 43.6% of total funding]

Specific objectives of this priority include:

- enhancing an entrepreneurial culture of potential entrepreneurs
- dissemination of ideas and inventions
- business operations
- business growth
- access to capital.

- **Priority 2: Cooperation initiatives and innovative environments** [approximately 38.2% of total funding]

The main goals of this priority are to enhance networks and clusters and to strengthen the development of innovation and competence.

- **Priority 3: Sustainable urban development** [approximately 15.6% of total funding]

The activities under this priority aim to regenerate problematic urban areas. Urban renewal will contribute to the coherence and integration of those urban areas in the whole region.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance** [approximately 3.1% of total funding]

The Programme will employ technical assistance during its implementation. The assistance will include administration, monitoring, evaluation and control support.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

## **Operational Programme 'Skåne-Blekinge'**



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 16 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Skåne-Blekinge in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €141 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €70 million, which represents approximately 3.7% of the total EU investment earmarked for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The main goal of the Regional Operational Programme for Skåne-Blekinge 2007-13 is to create more business operations, increase business expertise and knowledge-based innovations. The programme aims to increase accessibility, to enhance the use of information and communication technology (ICT), and to utilize the urban areas for potential economic growth.

## **2. Expected impact of investments**

The programme expects to deliver 1900 new jobs and 500 new business operations. Moreover, the Programme will organize 65 systems to facilitate business innovation. The Programme will focus on ICT solutions to create 55 new ICT-related services.

## **3. Priorities**

Specific objectives of the Regional Structural Funds Programme for Skåne-Blekinge include

- innovation and renewal
- accessibility
- special urban measures.

- **Priority 1: Innovation and renewal** [approximately 46.0% of total funding]

The objective of this priority is to boost innovation by creating more business operations, by increasing employment, and by strengthening innovative structures. These objectives will include clusters to improve the region's international competitiveness.

- **Priority 2: Accessibility** [approximately 25.0% of total funding]

This priority aims to improve the region's intra-regional, national and international accessibility. Enhanced accessibility will strengthen competitiveness and contribute to sustainable regional development.

- **Priority 3: Special urban measures** [approximately 25% of total funding]

This priority will take special urban measures to reinforce sustainable development that enhance economic growth in the whole region.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance** [approximately 4% of total funding]

The priority will use technical assistance to implement the Programme. Technical assistance will include administration, monitoring, evaluation and control.

## **4. Managing authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

Programme Manager



## Operational Programme 'Småland and the Islands'



**Sweden**

### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 9 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region Småland and the Islands (Jönköping, Kronoberg, Kalmar and Gotland) in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €168 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €67 million, which represents approximately 3.6% of the total EU investment earmarked for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

In the context of environmental protection, the Operational Programme aims to make use of the region's resources and thereby contribute to sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness. This will allow the region to increase its adaptability and its capacity to meet future challenges. Furthermore, the Programme foresees actions for interregional cooperation.

The programme seeks to create 1200 new businesses and 4200 new jobs and to create a well-coordinated system for public transports in the region. The main aim of the support is, however, to invest in measures that:

- increase access to employment, recreational activities, education, information and communication technology (ICT) and innovation
- renew the business sector in the region by providing measures for clusters and networks.

#### ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The Programme is expected to create 4200 new jobs and 1200 new businesses, divided equally between men and women. There will be 20 innovative research and development (R&D) projects for cooperation between industry, research institutions and the public sector. Another 10 projects will promote entrepreneurship, while 100 companies will participate in product development projects. In addition, 100 companies will work together on market enlargement and 56 projects will receive risk capital support. The Operational Programme aims to create five new transport and communications solutions to reduce commuting time and to increase cooperation between different modes of transport.

#### ***3. Priorities***

The Regional Operational Programme for Småland and the Islands is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Accessibility [approximately 32.0% of total funding]:**

The purpose of this priority is to strengthen regional competitiveness by developing a programme area with a well-developed reliable infrastructure in order to achieve regional enlargement and strengthening with a

minimum conceivable impact on the environment and on equal terms for men and women. The aim is to help achieve efficient communications (travel and infrastructure) for the business community and residents, taking into account the programme's horizontal criteria, with the goal of expanding the business sector by reducing the number of labour market regions. Another aim is to reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions per inhabitant by sectors through initiatives aimed at inter-modal solutions for passenger and freight traffic as well as initiatives related to the development and stimulation of new IT services and applications.

- **Priority 2: Innovation and entrepreneurship [approximately 64.0% of total funding]:**

This priority includes measures in the areas “Innovative environments and processes” and “Entrepreneurship”. The measures focus on renewal of the business sector and motivating people to start enterprises. The aim is to strengthen local and regional competitiveness by developing a programme area with competitive enterprises and strong entrepreneurship, to produce sustainable growth. The regional structural fund programme therefore wants to stimulate initiatives in which firms interact with the purpose of strengthening their competitiveness, supported by the public sector and universities/R&D.

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance [approximately 4.0% of total funding]:**

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

## **Operational Programme 'East Mid-Sweden'**



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 16 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Östra Mellansverige (Uppsala, Södermanland, Örebro, Västmanland and Östergötland) in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €229 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €81 million, which represents approximately 4.3% of the total EU investment for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall purpose of the Operational Programme is to expand the economy by increasing enterprises accessibility, encouraging business development, and growing the employment base. Furthermore the Programme addresses urban issues in Örebro, Västerås, Eskilstuna, Uppsala, Linköping and Norrköping, as well as actions for inter-regional cooperation.

The Programme focuses on networks and clusters and strengthens innovation and renewal. The Programme supports environments that stimulate development and competencies. In addition, the Programme seeks to support entrepreneurial culture by sharing ideas and inventions and by creating favourable conditions for accessibility to capital. The Programme also foresees measures to increase the number of commuters by 8% and to connect cities further to broadband networks.

## **2. Expected impact of investments**

The programme will create 2000 new businesses and 4000 new jobs, of which women will hold, at least, 40% and immigrants 15%. In addition, the Programme will create 25 new competence centres. The Programme will contribute to an 8% increase in those commuting to work. Therefore, the Programme will introduce a common ticket system for public transport. Likewise, the Programme will connect an additional 30 municipalities to high-speed fibre optic broadband and provide another 80 municipalities with a local fibre optic network.

## **3. Priorities**

The following priorities represent the structure of the Regional Operational Programme for East Mid-Sweden:

- **Priority 1: Innovative environments [approximately 28.8% of total funding]**

The purpose of this priority is to boost innovation in existing companies, stimulate the growth of new companies and attract expertise, capital and companies to the region. The priority is to nurture established and embryonic innovative environments. By developing infrastructure for innovation and skills supply, the initiatives will contribute to increased commercialisation of research results and to developing new products and services.

- **Priority 2: Entrepreneurship [approximately 48.0% of total funding]**

The objective of this priority is to create more new viable companies and more growing companies which together will boost the region's national and international competitiveness. The priority contains measures for supply of capital and makes reference to JEREMIE. The purpose of the priority is to implement activities which will improve the commercial climate, create a positive view of enterprise, seek to increase the number of new business start-ups, work with operations in the form of funding instruments/the provision of capital to companies, and provide support in the form of expertise to men and women and companies in both the private and the public sector to transform product/business ideas into commercial products.

- **Priority 3: Accessibility [approximately 19.2% of total funding]**

This priority is focused on improving links between transport and infrastructure, developing cooperation between different means of transport and ensuring businesses have access to a robust broadband network. The programme is to help to achieve coordinated public transport in the functional, polycentric region, i.e. public transport with uniform, shared systems for ticketing, fares and transport information. The programme will also help to ensure access to a functional, robust and future-proof IT infrastructure for businesses.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 4.0% of total funding]**

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

### **Operational Programme 'Stockholm'**



#### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 16 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Stockholm in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €94 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €38 million, which represents approximately 2.0% of the total EU investment for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

##### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall objective of the Operational Programme is to strengthen the international competitiveness of the Stockholm region. It will focus mainly on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and increased cooperation between the industrial sector, the research sector and the public sector. The Programme will support also entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation and increase the integration of immigrants.

The Programme aims to create 300 new businesses and 1300 new jobs for men and women. Another 3150 business will participate in defined project areas. The Programme will focus on improving knowledge development, increasing export and stimulating effective energy use. In addition, entrepreneurship and business development are focal point

##### **2. Expected impact of investments**

The Programme is expected to create 1300 new jobs and 300 new businesses. Some 400 businesses will participate in the development of (international) markets, product development or lowering energy consumption. Another 250 companies will cooperate with the aim to boost innovation, 250 companies will participate in projects on entrepreneurship and 45 cooperative business networks will be started. In addition, 2500 businesses will receive start-up advice and 100 companies will receive risk capital support.

All projects should include at least 40% women as participants.

##### **3. Priorities**

The Regional Operational Programme for Stockholm is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Development of innovative environments in the urban area [approximately 40.0% of total funding]**

The aim of the priority is to assist in knowledge development, commercialization of goods and services internally and for export, make use of the competence of the whole population, support energy and resource effectiveness. Clusters and innovation systems will be promoted and meeting places created for supporting innovation and development through advice and counselling and provision of risk capital. The prevention of discrimination is also an important issue.

- **Priority 2: Business development [approximately 32.0% of total funding]**

The aim of the priority is to provide information, training and counselling for SMEs and entrepreneurs, as well financial engineering and access to capital. In this context, both JEREMIE and JESSICA are seen as interesting possibilities. Another objective is to strengthen the co-operation between academy and industry.

- **Priority 3: Accessibility [approximately 24.0% of total funding]**

The aim is to improve the accessibility of the larger Stockholm region, assure housing and transportation to meet the population growth, improve co-operation with regions beyond the Stockholm region and improve co-ordination between different types of public and goods transportation.

- **Priority 4: Technical assistance [approximately 4.0% of total funding]**

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

## **Operational Programme 'North Sweden'**



### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 16 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Övre Norrland (Norrbottnen and Västerbotten) in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €485 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €243 million, which represents approximately 12.9% of the total EU investment for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The overall purpose of the Operational Programme is to contribute to a long-term sustainable economic growth by strengthening regional competitiveness and reinforcing the region's position as an innovative and successful area within Europe. The Programme aims to create 3000 new businesses and 8000 new jobs for men and women. It will focus on improving the conditions for entrepreneurship, new businesses, innovation

and will also develop a long-term sustainable transport system and IT-infrastructure. An important aspect of the Programme is to improve living conditions and attractiveness of the region. Furthermore, the Programme foresees actions for interregional cooperation.

## **2. *Expected impact of investments***

The Programme is expected to create 8000 new jobs and 3000 new businesses. Some 400 companies will participate in international cooperation and 15 projects will safeguard the environment and cultural heritage. Interventions will work also for a sustainable transport system for goods and people. Cold climate testing and space exploration are other areas expected to grow, together with the use of bio-fuel and other environmental techniques. The Programme provides for 50 projects connecting industry, research institutes and the public sector.

## **3. *Priorities***

The Regional Operational Programme for North Sweden is structured along the following priorities:

### **• Priority 1: Innovation and renewal [approximately 73.0% of total funding]**

The stimulation of entrepreneurship and business creation together with co-operation between the academia, industry and the public sector are at the heart of the priority which has four sub-priorities.

- Entrepreneurship and creation of new businesses. The emphasis will be on creating the right conditions for creativity, innovation and new businesses. A well functioning credit market is a prerequisite with possibilities for loan and equity financing.
- Innovative environment. The emphasis is to build on earlier success in cooperation between academia, industry and the public sector particular directed toward small and medium enterprises.
- International co-operation. Co-operation with international partners to benefit researchers and SMEs.
- Regional attractiveness. The emphasis is on development of activities based on nature, culture and cultural heritage.

### **• Priority 2: Accessibility [approximately 23.0% of total funding]**

The long term goal is to develop a sustainable transport system and a sustainable IT infrastructure. Key objectives are accessibility of work opportunities, services and culture. There are three sub-priorities.

- Co-operation between different modes of transport. For the region to be attractive there is a need of effective and environmentally sound transport systems and inter-modal transport solutions and terminals as well as finding new transport solutions with effective chains using different kinds of transport types
- Regional enlargement. The objective is to develop safe and effective passenger transport systems which can increase the acceptable commuting distance. Large railway projects along the coast are a high priority.
- Information and Communication technology – ICT. The objective is to secure a long term sustainable IT-infrastructure with good accessibility by providing competition neutral communication networks.



- **Priority 3: Technical assistance [approximately 4.0% of total funding]**

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

### **Operational Programme 'North Mid-Sweden'**



#### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 14 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Norra Mellansverige (Värmland, Dalarna and Gävleborg) in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a total budget of around €390 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €195 million, which represents approximately 10.3% of the total EU investment earmarked for Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

#### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The Operational Programme aims to create 3000 new businesses and 6000 new jobs, and to increase the employment rate from 77.9% to 79% for men, and from 73.5% to 75% for women; utilising 2004 baselines.

The Programme will focus on networks and clusters and will thus strengthen innovation and renewal. Likewise, the Programme will support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and environments that stimulate development and competencies. The Programme will implement measures to strengthen connections to important transport networks, such as railways and harbours. Similarly, the Programme will increase access to information and communication technologies (ICT) for SMEs. Furthermore, the Programme will anticipate action toward further inter-regional cooperation.

#### **2. Expected impact of investments**

The Programme expects to create 6000 new jobs and 3000 new businesses of which at least women will hold 40%, respectively. The Program will facilitate 50 projects of cooperation between industry and research institutions and 40 projects for renewable energy while the Programme will sponsor 30 projects that involve SME's that wish to sell products or services internationally. The Programme will support 20 projects in the context of "regional enlargement" and 25 other projects to improve cooperation between different transport modes and new transport solution development. The Programme will also facilitate an increase in broadband coverage from 70–90% to 99% of the population.

#### **3. Priorities**



The following priorities represent the structure of the Regional Operational Programme for North Mid-Sweden:

- **Priority 1: Business development** [approximately 67.8% of total funding]

The overall objective of this priority is increased competitiveness, increased dynamism and increased employment in the business sector. Other objectives of the priority are a growing service sector, improved collaboration between academy and business, a knowledge-driven growth, increased internationalization among SMEs and investments in renewable energy.

- **Priority 2: Accessibility** [approximately 28.2% of total funding].

The overall goal of this priority is to create a more competitive social structure for mobility and access with the utilisation of new technology that shortens and spans distances. Other objectives include the creation of a well developed broadband network, increased co-operation between transport types and increased accessibility/regional expansion.

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance** [approximately 4.0% of total funding]

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

### **Operational Programme 'Mid-North Sweden'**



#### **Programme under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 9 August 2007, the European Commission approved a Regional Operational Programme for the region of Mellersta Norrland (Jämtland and Västernorrland) in Sweden for the 2007-13 period. The Operational Programme falls within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective framework and has a budget of around €353 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €177 million, which represents approximately 9.3% of the total EU investment in Sweden under the Cohesion Policy for 2007-13.

##### **1. Aim and purpose of the programme**

The main goal of the Regional Operational Programme is to create 1400 new businesses per year, of which women will own 40%, as well as to create 4500 new jobs for both men and women. The Programme will establish ten (10) new strategic networks among businesses, and between businesses and research institutions. The Programme will focus on the renewal of industry, energy and the development of environmentally friendly projects. Another important aspect of the Programme is its focus on improving accessibility and the attractiveness of the region. Furthermore, the Programme anticipates action toward further interregional cooperation.

## **2. Expected impact of investments**

The Operational Programme will create 1400 new businesses and 5000 new jobs per year (with a minimum of 40% reserved for women). The Programme also anticipates that investments in the research and development (R&D) sector will double and that renewable energy production will double. The Programme will also provide support, financial or otherwise, to about 5000 businesses. The Programme will also work toward increasing by 5% the number of people who can reach the regional centre within 45 minutes. The Programme also works toward increasing by 5% the number of households that can access broadband networks. Toward these ends, the Programme will implement 5 new transport and communication solutions.

## **3. Priorities**

The following priority represents the structure of the Operational Programme for Regional Competitiveness and Employment for Mid-North Sweden:

- **Priority 1: Renewal of industry, energy and environment-driven development** [approximately 73.9% of total funding]

The focus of this priority is put on innovation and knowledge industry, energy and environment as areas for support and growth. Branch specific initiatives are foreseen in growth areas such as energy, environmental technology and tourism. Provision of risk capital is another support area.

- **Priority 2: Accessibility and attractiveness** [approximately 22.1% of total funding]

The aim of this priority is to contribute to unconventional goods and public transport solutions, a network of roads with sufficient quality, support for transfer of goods from road transport to railway, continued development of IT and broadband to areas which are not yet covered. Another objective is to increase the region's attractiveness by building on the availability for mountain, archipelago or small town living and by creating meeting places, cultural events and give support to in-migration, especially of foreign born.

- **Priority 3: Technical assistance** [approximately 4.0% of total funding]

The aim is to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programme, and the associated communication and publicity activities.

## **4. Managing Authority**

Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth)

# **CROSS-BORDER, TRANSNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

## **Operational Programme 'North Sea Region'**



**Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak'



Denmark, Sweden, Norway

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'Sweden - Norway'



Sweden, Norway

#### **Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

On 15 November 2007, the European Commission approved a Cross-border Cooperation Operational Programme between Sweden and Norway for the period 2007-2013. This is one of four cross-border programmes with Norwegian participation.

The Programme involves Community support for Swedish regions of Jämtlands län, Värmlands län, Dalarnas län and parts of Västra Götalands län and the Norwegian regions of Nord-Trøndelags fylke, Sør-Trøndelags fylke, Hedmarks fylke, Østfold fylke and Akershus fylke. The areas of Västernorrlands län, Gävleborgs län and Örebro län in Sweden, and Oppland fylke and Oslo kommun in Norway may take part in projects as an adjacent area, i.e. receiving a maximum 20% of the ERDF funding allocated to the Programme. The Programme area is divided into three sub-areas called, starting from the north, "Nordens Gröna Bälte", "Inre Skandinavien" and "Gränslöst samarbete".

The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective and has a total budget of around €68 million. Community assistance through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €37 million, which represents approximately 0.4% of the total EU investment earmarked for the European Territorial Cooperation Objective under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

#### ***1. Aim and purpose of the programme***

The overall objective of the Programme is to strengthen the attractiveness and competitiveness of the region through cross-border cooperation for the benefit of the local people and communities.

The Programme area is characterised by imbalances in infrastructure quality and population patterns and by a predominately negative population growth. Large parts of the area have a lower level of education than the

national average and the entrepreneurial spirit needs to be developed. The Programme therefore addresses these and other issues and also endeavours to promote better coordination of public resources.

Two Programme strategies address the needs and common challenges identified:

- cross-border cooperation will contribute to strengthening innovative capacity and developing skills and competitiveness within industry and the community. There will also be increased interaction between industry and different educational and research establishments;
- cross-border development in communication and the natural and cultural environments will enhance methods for rural and urban development and increase institutional and cultural cooperation, a sense of community spirit and social well-being in the region.

## ***2. Expected impact of investments***

The Programme is the third in a series of cross-border cooperation programmes between Sweden and Norway. Between 1996 and 1999 there were three separate Programmes, which for the 2000-2006 period were merged into one Programme with three sub-Programmes. The links created in previous programming periods are expected to be further developed, while cross-border cooperation should also be taken to a new level. A series of indicators applicable to each of the Programme priorities is used for evaluating specific Programme outputs and results.

## ***3. Priorities***

The Programme is structured along the following priorities:

- **Priority 1: Economic Growth [approximately 55.7% of total funding]**

The objectives of this priority are to strengthen the economy and the sustainable competitiveness of the border region by developing knowledge, establishing suitable conditions for trade and industry and integrating the economy. The priority is also expected to result in increased accessibility to and within the region, an integrated labour market with a competitive labour force, and an increased number of competitive enterprises with attractive working environments.

- **Priority 2: Attractive Living Environment [approximately 37.8% of total funding]**

The main objectives under this priority are to make use of the distinctive characteristics of the region and to create a region which is attractive to live in, set up business in and visit, all the while taking into account the well-being of the population. The priority is also expected to result in the following:

- improved usage, management and development of natural and cultural resources;
- improved cooperation to minimise negative impacts on the environment;
- increased quality of life;
- improved public services;
- developed methods and collaboration for local and urban development;
- enhanced collaboration for improving public health, preventing risks and increasing safety.

- **Priority 3: Technical Assistance [approximately 6.5% of total funding]**

The overall objective of this priority is to support the management, evaluation and monitoring of the Programme.

#### **4. Managing Authority**

The County Administrative Board of Jämtland (Länsstyrelsen i Jämtland)

### **Operational Programme 'Central Baltic'**



**Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'Botnia - Atlantica'**



**Finland, Sweden, Norway**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'North'**



**Finland, Sweden, Norway**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Operational Programme 2007-2013 'Northern Periphery'**



**Ireland, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



**Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Belarus, Norway, Russia**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

### Operational Programme 'South Baltic'



**Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden**

PROGRAMME DESCRIBED EARLIER

## SUMMARY

European Structural Funds are the main instrument for supporting social and economic cohesion across the European Union. They provide a mechanism for reducing disparities between regions while aiming to increase employment and economic growth across the European Union.

The level of support available to member states varies depending on the status of the area, with the most disadvantaged areas receiving greater levels of support.

Work is now underway on the design of the new Structural Funds programmes for 2014-20.

The regulations are currently going through a process of discussion and negotiation, both in the Council and the European Parliament, from which they may emerge with considerable changes. One aspect of particular interest is the call for strategic focus and greater 'coherence' between the activities of the five funds (the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development [EAFRD], the European Regional Development Fund [ERDF], the European Social Fund [ESF], the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund [EMFF]).

The Council and the European Parliament presents a set of common Thematic Objectives and key actions, derived principally from the Europe 2020 strategy, which all five of the EU development funds will pursue. It also specifies mechanisms for co-ordination among the funds (options for programming and administration), and some new fund implementation instruments to ensure coherence and consistency. The following are the Thematic Objectives set out by the Commission.

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies.
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector, and the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.
5. Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management.
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.



7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.
8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility.
9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.
10. Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning.
11. Enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring an efficient public administration.

The European Commission has fleshed out plans to use non-Horizon 2020 funds to boost research and innovation in the 2014-20 financial framework.

In a working document the Commission describes how different funds will be brought together under a so-called “Common Strategic Framework”, not to be confused with the original proposal for Horizon 2020. The Commission details how these funds could be distributed to finance research and innovation in regions and at national level to finance research alongside Horizon 2020, the next EU research funding programme.

The Commission says that its primary tools to fund research and innovation activities under the CSF will be the European Regional Development Fund and European agricultural funds for regional development.

The ERDF’s structural funds will focus on business innovation and the adoption of enabling technologies, through cooperation with academia and education. In addition, structural funds can be spent on research infrastructure and equipment, “with a clear focus on enhancing applied research” and cooperation with industry to attract business cash, the proposal states. Finally, structural funds will also go to activities that aim to speed up the market uptake of research, such as business advisory services, finance incubators, and pilot activities.

Meanwhile, the agricultural fund will support joint projects by farmers together with researchers and businesses, as part of the recently announced European Innovation Partnership on agriculture.

Research and innovation are the first of eleven priorities the Commission outlined in its proposal for cohesion policy in 2014-20.



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