



Bollettino ufficiale della Regione Puglia n. 64 del 18/06/2003

DELIBERAZIONE DELLA GIUNTA REGIONALE 31 maggio 2003, n.733

Programma Interreg III-B Transnazionale (C.A.D.S.E.S.). Programma Interreg III-C Interregionale. Presa d'atto programmi operativi e complementi di programmazione.

Il Presidente della Giunta Regionale, on.le Dr. Raffaele Fitto, sulla base dell'istruttoria espletata dall'Ufficio Cooperazione P.V.S. confermata dal Capo di Gabinetto, riferisce:

La Comunicazione del 28/4/2000 della Commissione delle Comunità Europee ha stabilito gli orientamenti dell'Iniziativa comunitaria riguardante la cooperazione transeuropea volta ad incentivare uno sviluppo armonioso ed equilibrato del territorio comunitario- Interreg III.

La tipologia delle azioni di cooperazione che vi sono previste è ripartita in tre Sezioni.

Sezione A transfrontaliera

Sezione B transnazionale

Sezione C interregionale

Le occasioni di cooperazione offerte dalla Sezione A sono già state colte dalla Regione con la partecipazione a specifici programmi di partenariato transfrontaliero: Interreg II-A 1994/1999 e Interreg III-A 2000/2006 con l'Albania; Interreg II-A 1994/1999 e Interreg III-A 2000/2006 con la Grecia e Interreg III-A 2000/2006 Transfrontaliero Adriatico con le Regioni Adriatiche Italiane e con i Paesi adriatici orientali.

Le Sezioni B e C prevedono invece azioni di cooperazione su area geografica vasta: l'Ufficio Cooperazione con i PVS, responsabile dell'iniziativa INTERREG, ha partecipato alle attività dei Comitati di Gestione Nazionali, alle varie fasi di programmazione e di negoziato con l'Unione Europea.

Si propone ora che la Regione partecipi anche ai programmi delle Sezioni B e C, poiché questi:

1. consentono alle comunità regionali di beneficiare di utili confronti su molteplici campi di attività con molte altre comunità, stante la notevole dimensione geografica degli interventi
2. non prevedono, a differenza dei programmi transfrontalieri (Sezione A), una obbligatoria partecipazione finanziaria da parte delle Regioni con una quota di risorse proprie.
3. alla regione che, a qualsiasi titolo, è partner del progetto vengono accreditate quote parti dell'ammontare complessivo del progetto.

Le quote di cofinanziamento previste a carico delle Amministrazioni nazionali centrali sono infatti pari al 50% del costo di ciascun progetto e concorrono quindi a coprire, unitamente al contributo FESR, l'intera spesa di ciascun intervento. Per quanto riguarda l'Italia, con Deliberazione del 22 giugno 2000 il Comitato Interministeriale per la programmazione economica ha deciso che per i programmi Interreg della sezione B (transnazionale) la quota di cofinanziamento pubblico nazionale è a totale carico del fondo di rotazione ex lege n.183 del 1987.

Il quadro complessivo relativo alle due Sezioni è il seguente:

Sezione B

La cooperazione transnazionale si svolge fra autorità nazionali, regionali e locali ed ha come finalità la promozione di una maggiore integrazione territoriale tra ampi raggruppamenti di regioni europee, per realizzare uno sviluppo sostenibile, armonioso ed equilibrato nella Comunità e una migliore integrazione territoriale con i paesi candidati ed altri paesi terzi.

In particolare la Sezione B prevede cooperazione transnazionale diffusa su aree: Mediterraneo Occidentale, Spazio alpino, Atlantico, Europa sud-occidentale, Europa nord-occidentale, Mare del Nord, Mar Baltico, Regioni periferiche settentrionali, C.A.D.S.E.S., archi-med

C.A.D.S.E.S. (Central Adriatic Danubian and South-Eastern Space)

Le aree territoriali dichiarate eleggibili in C.A.D.S.E.S. sono:

Albania Tutto il Paese

Austria Tutto il Paese

Bosnia Herzegovina Tutto il Paese

Bulgaria Tutto il Paese

Croazia Tutto il Paese

Czech Republic Tutto il Paese

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Tutto il Paese

Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia (FYROM) Tutto il Paese

Greece Tutto il Paese

Hungary Tutto il Paese

Romania Tutto il Paese

Slovak Republic Tutto il Paese

Slovenia Tutto il Paese

Germany Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bayern Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt,
Berlin, Brandenburg, Thuringen

Italy Puglia, Molise Abruzzo, Marche, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Lombardia,

Trentino-Alto Adige, Umbria

Poland Tutto il Paese

Republic of Moldova Tutto il Paese

Ukraine Odesa oblast, Zakarpatska, Lviv oblast, Ternopol oblast, Ivano-Frankovsk oblast. Cernovci oblast

Le risorse FESR stanziati complessivamente per l'Italia-area CADSES, ammontano a 52,14424 Meuro, pari alla quota di cofinanziamento pubblico nazionale italiano.

Le autorità nazionali, in stretta collaborazione con le regioni interessate, hanno allestito il previsto Programma Operativo, allegato (A) al presente atto come parte integrante e sostanziale. Gli ambiti di cooperazione sono:

1. Sviluppo spaziale sostenibile, coesione economica e sociale, cooperazione urbana e questioni sociali.
2. Sistemi di trasporto efficienti e sostenibili ed accesso alla società dell'informazione.
3. Promozione e management del patrimonio naturale, culturale e paesaggistico
4. Protezione dell'ambiente, management delle acque e previsione dei rischi.

Il 27-12-01 tale Programma è stato approvato dalla Commissione Europea con Decisione C(2001) 4013 del 27/dicembre 2001: il Programma prevede la messa a punto di progetti che garantiscano una partnership sia nazionale che transnazionale; per ciascun progetto va individuato un Partner Capofila responsabile della presentazione, del coordinamento e della gestione dell'intero progetto.

Il 14 maggio 2002 l'apposito Comitato di Sorveglianza ha approvato il Complemento di Programmazione, allegato (B) al presente provvedimento come sua parte integrante.

Sezione C

La cooperazione interregionale (sezione C) è destinata a migliorare l'efficacia delle politiche e degli strumenti di sviluppo regionale e di coesione mediante la creazione di reti, in particolare nelle regioni in ritardo di sviluppo o in fase di riconversione.

L'intero territorio dell'Unione europea è ammesso a beneficiare della partecipazione finanziaria del FESR; la Commissione auspica la più ampia partecipazione da parte dei paesi terzi, in particolare quelli candidati all'adesione.

Per quanto attiene l'articolazione geografica del Programma il territorio comunitario è stato ripartito in quattro quadranti: Nord, Sud, Est, Ovest.

NORD

Danimarca Tutto il Paese

Svezia Tutto il Paese

Finlandia Tutto il Paese

Germania Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein

EST

Austria Tutto il Paese

Germania Bayern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Berlin, Brandenburg, Thüringen

Italia Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige, Emilia-Romagna, Puglia, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche

Grecia Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki, Kentriki Makedonia, Dytiki Makedonia, Thessalia, Ipeiros

OVEST

Francia Nord-Pas de Calais, Picardie, Haute-Normandie, Ile de France, Basse-Normandie, Centre, Champagne-Ardennes, Lorraine, Bourgogne, Alsace, Franche-Comtè, Bretagne, Pays de la Loire

Belgio Tutto il Paese

Netherlands Tutto il Paese

Lussemburgo Tutto il Paese

Germania Noedrhein-Westfalen, Hessen, Rheinland-Pfqlz, Saarland, Baden-Wurttemberg

Regno Unito Tutto il Paese (escluso Gibraitar)

Irlanda Tutto il Paese

SUD

Spagna Tutto il Paese

Portogallo Tutto il Paese

Francia Midi-Pyrennèes, Limousin, Auvergne, Aquitaine, Languedoc-Roussillon. Poitou-Charentes, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, Rhone-Alpes, Corse, Guyane, Guadalupe, Martinique, Reunion

Grecia Dytiki Ellada, Peloponnisos, Voreio Aigaio, Notio Aigaio, Kriti, Ionia Nisia, Stera Ellada, Attiki.

Italia Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria, Toscana, Umbria, Lazio, Campania, Sardegna, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicilia, Val d'Aosta

Regno Unito Gibraltar

La cooperazione nel quadro dei programmi INTERREG III C può svolgersi sulla base di tre tipi di operazioni:

1. Operazione Quadro Regionale(OQR): è rivolta alle Regioni affinché queste definiscano un approccio strategico comune allo scopo di promuovere lo scambio di esperienze e di apprendimento a lungo termine. Trattandosi di un tipologia inedita di cooperazione, nessuna regione può partecipare a più di due operazioni di questo tipo finché non sia stata effettuata la valutazione intermedia del programma. Per queste operazioni, il programma prevede, per la regione capofila di un progetto, la possibilità di individuare sul proprio territorio un soggetto Altro che abbia il ruolo di Leader partner e che assuma la funzione gestionale e finanziaria del progetto stesso. La quota di cofinanziamento nazionale può variare tra 500.000 e 5.000.000 di euro.

2. Singoli progetti di cooperazione interregionale: questi sono finalizzati allo scambio di esperienze che non si limitino ad un semplice trasferimento di conoscenze, ma che perseguano il raggiungimento di risultati concreti in grado di essere applicati nel seguito, autonomamente, da tutti i partners del progetto. La partecipazione FESR varia tra 200.000 e 1.000.000 di euro, cui andrà aggiunto la quota di cofinanziamento nazionale. Alla Regione capofila è assegnata una quota finanziaria non superiore al 40% del finanziamento totale del progetto salvo se si tratti di operazioni in regioni confinanti con i Paesi in adesione: in tal caso la partecipazione può essere più elevata

3. Reti: sono destinate a collegare territori dell'Unione europea e di Paesi terzi su uno dei temi promossi dalla Sezione C. La partecipazione FESR per le Reti, cui andrà aggiunto il cofinanziamento nazionale, varia tra 200.000 e 1.000.000 di a. Il totale del finanziamento è versato al capofila che lo gestisce

Nei finanziamenti dei progetti che saranno ritenuti idonei dall'apposito Comitato di Direzione , è compresa una quota destinata alla regione che è partner a qualsiasi titolo del progetto: non esiste dunque per le Regioni partecipanti un impegno finanziario, ma la partecipazione ai progetti implica la messa a disposizione di sole risorse umane.

Tutto ciò premesso e considerato, il Presidente della Giunta Regionale, propone:

di prendere atto del Programma Operativo (all. A) e del Complemento di Programmazione (all. B) relativi al programma Interreg III-B CADSES 2000/2006;

di prendere atto del programma Operativo (all. C) e del Complemento di Programmazione (all. D) relativi al programma Interreg III-C Interregionale 2000/2006;

di deliberare la partecipazione della Regione Puglia al programma Interreg III-B Cadses, Interreg III-B ArchiMed ed Interreg III-C interregionale;

di incaricare l' Ufficio Cooperazione PVS di:

o coordinare le varie iniziative finalizzate alla partecipazione della Regione Puglia ai detti programmi individuando al proprio interno funzioni e compiti di responsabilità.

o di individuare sul territorio regionale eventuali leader partner cui affidare il compito di capofila nella conduzione di uno specifico progetto, riservando, comunque, a questa Amministrazione il ruolo di indirizzo e controllo

o raccordare con i singoli Settori regionali competenti per materia, la definizione e la gestione dei singoli progetti.

COPERTURA FINANZIARIA

La partecipazione della Regione ai Programmi, non determina oneri finanziari diretti a carico del bilancio regionale.

Il Presidente della Giunta Regionale, sulla base delle risultanze istruttorie innanzi illustrate propone alla Giunta l'adozione del conseguente atto finale, che rientra nelle specifiche competenze della Giunta ai sensi dell'art. 4 comma 4 lett. D) della legge 7/97.

LA GIUNTA

udita la relazione e la conseguente proposta, del Presidente;

vista la dichiarazione posta in calce al presente provvedimento dal Funzionario Istruttore e dal Dirigente dell'Ufficio Cooperazione P.V.S e dal Capo di Gabinetto;

a voti unanimi e palesi espressi nelle forme di legge;

DELIBERA

di prendere atto del Programma Operativo (all. A) e del Complemento di Programmazione (all. B) relativi al programma Interreg III-B CADSES 2000/2006;

di prendere atto del programma Operativo (all. C) e del Complemento di Programmazione (all. D) relativi al programma Interreg III-C Interregionale 2000/2006;

di deliberare la partecipazione della Regione Puglia al programma Interreg III-B Cadses, Interreg III-B ArchiMed ed Interreg III-C interregionale;

di incaricare il Gabinetto del P.G.R. - Ufficio Cooperazione con i PVS, di:

o coordinare le varie iniziative finalizzate alla partecipazione della Regione Puglia ai detti programmi individuando al proprio interno funzioni e compiti di responsabilità.

o di individuare sul territorio regionale eventuali leader partner cui affidare il compito di capofila nella conduzione di uno specifico progetto, riservando, comunque, a questa Amministrazione il ruolo di indirizzo e controllo

o raccordare con i singoli Settori regionali competenti per materia, la definizione e la gestione dei singoli progetti

o di pubblicare il presente provvedimento sul BURP.

Il Segretario della Giunta Il Presidente della Giunta
Dr. Romano Donno Dr. Raffaele Fitto

Community Initiative Interreg III B (2000 - 2006)
for the

PROGRAMME COMPLEMENT

Draft

Approved by the Monitoring Committee

April 12th, 2002

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INTRODUCTION

The INTERREG III B Operational Programme for the Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South Eastern European Space (CADSES) has been approved by the European Commission on 27 December 2001.

The CADSES Operational Programme aims at achieving a higher territorial and economic integration within the cooperating area, promoting a more balanced and harmonious development of the European space. The co-operation area includes regions belonging to four Member States: Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy, and to fourteen other Non Member States: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Federal Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine.

The OP CADSES general and specific objectives are pursued through the development:

- of a joint strategy and programming in the fields of spatial development, social and economic cohesion, transport systems and information society, promotion of landscape, natural and cultural heritage, environment protection, resource management and risk prevention;
- of partnership and a "bottom up" and integrated approach;
- of complementarity with the mainstream interventions of the structural funds and
- of effective co-ordination with the Union's instruments for external policy.

The Programme Complement contains (a) a more concrete description of the measures implementing the corresponding priorities in the operational programme; (b) the definition of the types of final beneficiaries; (c) the financing plan specifying for each measure the financial allocation envisaged for the contribution of the ERDF and the other existing financial instruments and the amount of eligible public or equivalent funding and estimated private funding; (d) measures intended to publicise the operational programme in accordance with Article 46; (e) a description of arrangements for the computerised exchange of the data required to fulfil the management, monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Programme Complement also contains further specification on project selection criteria.

It is particularly relevant for prospective project applicants and their transnational and local partnerships. It is intended to assist both newcomers to INTERREG and those who have gained already experience during the INTERREG IIC programme and should always be used in parallel with the CIP and the applicants' packages and guidelines to be provided by the Joint Secretariat and by the CCPs in Athens and Vienna.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1.1 Responsible bodies and contact persons

Managing Authority

The Managing Authority is represented by:

Mrs. Cinzia Zincone

Ministry for Infrastructures and Transports

Interreg Division-Section CADSES MA

Via Nomentana 2

I-00161 Rome

Phone 0039 06.44124213

Fax 0039 06 44123300

e-mail: cinzia.zincone@mail.llpp.it

Paying Authority

The Paying Authority is represented by:

Mr. Claudio Gramaccioni

Ministry for Infrastructures and Transports

Autonomous Section PAs

Via Nomentana 2

I-00161 Rome

Phone 0039 06.44125101

Fax 0039 06 44123300

e-mail: carlo.grassini@mail.llpp.it

Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

The management of project application is carried out by the JTS. This includes calls for proposals, information and advice to applicants including preparation and making available of standardised forms for project applications, checking and assessment of applications, informing partners of decisions and to provide advice and assistance to transnational projects regarding implementation of activities and financial administration, including preparation of project documentation forms.

The JTS will have its office in Dresden, which will be located at:

Rathaus/ Town Hall

Postfach / P.O. Box 12 00 20

D - 01001 Dresden

Phone +49 351 488 1021 Fax +49 351 488 1025

Email : cadses@jts.dresden.de Homepage: <http://www.cadses.net>

CADSES contact points

CADSES Contact Points (CCP) serve as a first contact point for project applicants and assist to the project application and implementation process. They contribute to information and publicity within the respective country and support the National Committees in fulfilling their transnational tasks. CCP should be set up in each Partner State.

CADSES Contact Points in Athens and in Vienna fulfil additional tasks. They offer to assist to the CCPs of the participating countries on general project development including facilitating Interreg/PHARE and Interreg/CARDS co-operation between applicants of all participating countries.

Addresses of all CCP will be available on the INTERREG IIIB CADSES website.

National Committees (NC)

Each partner state should establish a National Committee (NC) in accordance with its institutional structure, in order to involve the regional and local authorities as well as the relevant sectoral authorities and institutions and social and economic partners according to Art. 8 of the general regulation, Nr. 7 of the INTERREG guidelines and Nr. 6.7 of the CIP. NC in CEE countries shall include representatives of national authorities responsible for EU funding, if appropriate.

The NC as integrated part of the transnational programme implementation have advisory and supporting status. They have an important role in carrying out the proactive approach e.g. through information,

support to project generation and development and to project assessment.

In the Non-Member States national authorities responsible for co-operation with CADSES programme will have to fulfil further tasks related to the specific criteria of the funding instrument they use for co-financing the CADSES programme. Launching the programme, assessing the projects, contracting the concerned project parts, approving payment claims, monitor the implementation, providing the necessary publicity measures will be ensured by the competent national bodies in line with the concerned national/EU regulations. These activities will be carried out in Non Member States in close co-operation with the JTS.

Information about the composition, the specific national tasks and contact addresses of NC will be provided on the CADSES website.

1.1.2 Financing instruments

INTERREG III B projects are financed both by ERDF-funds as well as national and other co-financing like semi-public and private funds and EU-funds for Non-Member-States (e.g. from the PHARE, TACIS, ISPA, CARDS and SAPARD programmes).

600.000 a (maximum 50 % ERDF from it) are provided to encourage project development in the framework of feasibility studies.

- ERDF: In general all project partners coming from the EU Member States Austria and Italy are entitled to 50% ERDF co-financing of the total eligible costs of the project. German and Greek partners coming from Objective 1 areas can apply for 75% ERDF co-financing of the total eligible costs.

- PHARE: Project partners from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia may apply for co-financing within the national PHARE programme. Allocation of national PHARE funds through specific grant schemes to the CADSES programme is based on national decisions and subject of endorsement by the EC. The PHARE project parts will be implemented in accordance with the Guidelines developed at national level on the bases of the programme complement and in line with the PHARE PRAG stipulations.

- TACIS: Ukrainian and Moldavian project partners may be eligible to apply for co-financing from the TACIS programme. In particular the TACIS CBC Small Project Facility and the TACIS CBC Micro Facility, which are directed to regional and local authorities seems appropriate to co-finance participation in the INTERREG III B programme.

- ISPA: Accession Countries may use funds from ISPA, mainly to co-finance projects related to alignment on Community infrastructure standards, particularly in the transport and environmental spheres.

- CARDS: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Serbia and Montenegro, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia might be able to use CARDS funding to co-finance the participation to CADSES projects aiming at fostering transnational co-operation, increasing social and sustainable economic development, raising the orientation to the market economy.

- SAPARD: Candidate Countries might be able to use SAPARD funds to co-finance CADSES projects dealing with the problems of the structural adjustment in agricultural sectors and rural areas.

1.1.3 Participation of Non-Member States

According to paragraph 6.9 of the Operational Programme, Non-Member States shall participate to the Programme either as full members - with the same right as Member States in the decision-making process - or as committee members, with a status of observers with the right to vote only when the decision to be taken refers to them.

Full membership will be granted to all countries of CADSES which fulfil the following criteria:

- submission of a letter of intent on the general acceptance of the goals and priorities of the Community Initiative Programme for CADSES with the nomination of the responsible persons/institutions;
- setting up the necessary national institutions for management of the programme: CADSES National structures have to be established and supplied with adequate human and financial resources, in order to fulfil the tasks identified in paragraph 6.7 of the Operational Programme;

- allocation of national or EU funds including funds allocated to TA. Efforts will have to be demonstrated to participate to joint projects. Contributions in kind will be considered.

The Monitoring Committee will check the fulfilment of the above mentioned conditions during the implementation of the Programme and will accordingly revise the membership status of the Non-Member States on an annual base.

1.2 From the project idea to the results

In the following the principles of project development, assessment and selection as well as of implementation, monitoring and auditing are depicted. Further details will be provided in the applicant's package published on the programme's website.

1.2.1 Project development

An overview of the project development process is given in Figure 1.

National project development

An important step in preparing a CADSES project is to address a CCP. The main task of the CCP is to provide project developers with first information about CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES objectives and requirements. Furthermore the CCPs will provide information and advice on potential national and regional public or private funds for CADSES projects as well as, in close cooperation with the National Committees, on setting up of project proposals that are in line with national spatial development policy issues and strategies.

Transnational partner search and project development.

The JTS in co-operation with the CCPs provides service to project applicants in finding suitable partners to the project consortium. In order to facilitate this work applicants are asked to fill in a project sheet that could be downloaded from the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES website.

As the Operational Programme states, CADSES Contact Points in Athens and in Vienna fulfil particular tasks. In Athens, CCP supports transnational project development mainly in the Stability Pact area including information and publicity related to these activities. In Vienna, CCP supports co-operation between EU and Non EU partners mainly outside the Stability Pact Area as well as between Non EU countries in the fields of transnational project development, supporting efforts to improve the regulatory EU framework for the participation of Non EU partners; including information and publicity related to these activities.

Appropriate project size and duration

Based on the experiences from the INTERREG IIC the following recommendations regarding project size and duration are proposed. They will continuously be evaluated in relation to project decision made by the Steering Committee and might be further specified and amended by the Monitoring Committee during the implementation period.

As an average project sizes with total costs of 500.000 - 5,0 MEURO are envisaged. Between 40 and 60 % of projects should have a total budget of above 1,5 Ma). For some measures, a few big projects might have a higher budget. In exceptional cases even small projects might be eligible, mainly in order to encourage co-operation between local and regional authorities.

As an average duration of project implementation the time-schedule should cover 2 - 3 years.

Setting up of project management and partnership

The organisation of project management must be based on clearly defined work packages and on a project action plan divided into logically and chronologically structured milestones connected to a corresponding expenditure plan. Detailed information and advice on how to best structure the projects concerning both thematic and financing aspects will be provided by the JTS and by a project manual available for download on the CADSES website.

Each project must involve at least two financing project partners from different Partner States. Projects including more than two Partner States and in particular those with project partners from Non-Member States will be given priority in the project selection. Detailed information on the selection criteria is

provided in sub-chapter 2.2.2. The project consortium should be comprised in a strategic manner well adapted to its purpose. The composition of the partnership and its various parts should reflect the strategic objectives of the project in that sense that it should be well adapted to fulfil the central objectives in an efficient and reliable way. The suitable number of partners in the consortium depends on the project and its thematic direction. However, efforts and costs for co-ordinating a network are growing with the number of involved partners. If it is necessary for the purpose of the project to have many partners involved, sub-units or umbrella groups could be established. Project partners contributing financially to the project and thus applying for ERDF co-funding must fit to the categories of final beneficiaries which are defined in chapter 2.

Final beneficiaries

The main objective of the Interreg III B programme is to develop transnational co-operation between national, regional and local authorities in order to achieve a higher degree of territorial integration in Europe. Consequently, final beneficiaries (defined in the general regulation on the Structural Funds as the bodies and public or private firms responsible for commissioning operations) are mostly public organisations and authorities. The list of possible project partners is indicative and does not exclude other organisations from participation in the programme. The following categories of final beneficiaries may be regarded as possible project partners for all the measures defined in the CADSES programme: (i) regional and local self-governments; (ii) national, regional and local administrations of CADSES area responsible for spatial and regional planning; (iii) national, regional and local organisations implementing policies in the fields of regional development, comprehensive urban and rural development, traffic and transport, technology and innovation, nature protection and environmental management, cultural and natural heritage management; (iv) semi-public institutions like regional development associations and promoters, innovation and development agencies, research institutes and universities; (v) regional and local associations of enterprises (e.g. chambers of commerce, unions); (vi) private institutions like economic and social partners, regional councils, foundations as well as private companies (e.g. infrastructure providing enterprises, NGO in the relevant fields); international organisations (e.g. euroregions); (vii) spatial and regional consulting firms.

Lead partner principle

The CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES is based on the lead partner principle. As the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES states, the partners of each project shall nominate a lead partner (LP) which takes the overall responsibility for the application procedure and the implementation of the entire project. The possibility to initiate projects and to act as a LP has to be open for all of the eligible organisations of the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES. Lead partners under private law have to provide sufficient guarantees equal to the amount of ERDF funds they are claiming for the whole project.

The different nature of the general financial responsibility of the different financial instruments to be used within the CADSES area makes it necessary to handle the different project parts in different ways. Therefore there are two different ways of applying the LP principle regarding his location inside or outside the EU.

1. Lead partner from EU member state

The responsibilities of a LP coming from a Member State include:

- The submission of the project application
- The co-ordination of the submission of the project application for the ERDF and other EU contribution
- The signature of the ERDF contract for the whole project
- Financial responsibility for the ERDF funds including liability to the MA for the total amount of the ERDF subsidy
- Transnational project management including public relation measures
- Collecting information about all project parts and monitoring and reporting about the progress of the whole project in the framework of the agreed monitoring system; request payments from PA on the basis of the subsidy contract

- Monitoring and reporting of financial flows for the whole project including ERDF funds
- Facilitating audit by all relevant national authorities

The responsibilities of a LP coming from a Member State do not include:

- Financial responsibility for other EU or national funds

2. Lead partner from Non member state ("functional LP")

In the case that the lead partner comes from a non member state (functional LP) an ERDF lead partner is needed to deal with ERDF funds.

The responsibilities of a LP coming from a Non-Member State are:

- The submission of the project application
- The co-ordination of the submission of the project application for the ERDF and other EU contribution
- The signature of the ERDF contract for the whole project together with the ERDF-LP
- Transnational project management including public relation measures
- Collecting information about all project parts and monitoring and reporting about the progress of the whole project in the framework of the agreed monitoring system
- Monitoring and reporting of financial flows for the whole project together with the ERDF-LP
- Facilitating audit by all relevant national authorities

The responsibilities of a LP coming from a Non-Member State do not include:

- Financial responsibilities for EU or national funds of other countries

The responsibilities of the ERDF-LP in a project with a "functional-LP" from a Non-Member State are:

- The signature of the ERDF contract for the whole project together with the LP
- Financial responsibility for the ERDF funds including liability to the MA for the total amount of the ERDF subsidy
- ERDF accounting and reporting; request payments from PA on the basis of the subsidy contract
- Facilitating audit by all relevant national authorities

The responsibilities of the ERDF-LP in a project with a "functional-LP" from a Non-Member State do not include:

- Financial responsibilities for other EU or national funds

The LP shall establish legal relations with the project partners in order to define clearly their co-operation, to secure the high quality and goal fulfilment of the project and to safeguard himself against his partners. Therefore it is recommended to draw up a signed contract between the various actors in the partnership and the LP. The commitments of the partners in the project consortiums might vary from project to project. The responsibilities and obligations of the various partners should be agreed upon internally in the partnership. The operational structuring and responsibility for the different work packages and for its administration is another important issue that has to be considered. It is moreover of greatest importance that the regular input to the progress reports and financial reports is guaranteed and that this information will be transferred in time by the participants in the partnership to the LP. The financial reports produced by the LP have to contain all certifications of expenditures given by the respective national authorities about expenses arisen so far that can be objectively and spatially imputed to the project or about costs that are to be considered similar according to EU-regulation. The LP shall collect the certifications in all involved partner states.

The LP guarantees that it is entitled to represent the partners participating in the project. The LP guarantees furthermore that it has complied with all the relevant legal and other requirements under the law which applies to it and to the project partners and that all necessary approvals have been obtained. The ERDF-LP is furthermore liable towards the MA for infringements by the project partners in the same way as for its own conduct. If the MA demands repayment of ERDF subsidy funds the LP is liable to the MA for the total amount of the subsidy.

Setting up of project budget

The CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES funding of all projects has to be co-financed by national funding

coming from project partners that fit to the categories of final beneficiaries. All project partners with financial commitments to the project have to sign the co-financing statement provided in the applicant's package. The signed co-financing statements of all partners have to be added to the project application. In general all project partners coming from the EU Member States Austria and Italy are entitled to 50% ERDF co-financing of the total eligible costs of the project. German and Greek partners coming from Objective 1 areas can apply for 75% ERDF co-financing of the total eligible costs.

ERDF assistance will be granted with reference to the following categories of eligible activities: (i) transnational studies and planning activities like development concepts project, programme and policy assessments, (like EIA, TIA, SEA); (ii) project management; (iii) establishment of new and extension and intensification of co-operation in existing transnational networks and associations of actors of spatial development policy, and network related activities (Staff exchange - joint training facilities and programmes); (iv) pilot actions, pilot and demonstration projects with transnational dimension (if the are based on transnational concepts or strategies); (v) exchange of know-how and experience between actors of spatial development policy (comparative analysis of instruments, methodologies, standards and concepts); (vi) feasibility studies for investments; (vii) financing of small scale complementary infrastructure investment (bottlenecks, interfaces), proposed by transnational strategic concepts; (viii) financing of small scale investment (e.g. information and innovation centres of transnational importance, ICT networks, part of buildings), proposed by transnational strategic concepts; (ix) financing of implementation structures proposed by transnational strategic concepts.

The applicant is also asked to carefully consider the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000 of 28 July 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards eligibility of expenditure of operations co-financed by the Structural Funds before setting up the project budget.

The project budget itself has to be divided in eight budget lines, which in turn are split up in the project's defined work packages. Project implementation must be built on a yearly budget breakdown where the total costs of each work package are given. The applicant should carefully consider the project budget and strive for a realistic and accurate estimation of costs for the different work-packages.

The budget lines to be filled are:

- 1 Project co-ordination (to be specified by applicant)
- 2 Personnel (including overhead costs)
- 3 Meetings, conferences and seminars
- 4 Travel and accommodation
5. Promotion and publications
- 6 External expertise and audit
- 7 Other (to be specified by applicant)
- 8 Small scale investment (to be specified by applicant)

Detailed information about these budget lines will be given in the applicant's package on the programme's website.

Setting up of a project application and submission

In the project application information will have to be given referring to project description, project partners structure and organisation, duration of the project, content of the project, territory concerned, measure, accordance of the projects objectives with those of the measure selected, links to other priorities/measures of the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES, reference to European and national spatial development policy issues, effects to integrated spatial development in the CADSES area, added value of the transnational approach, sectors concerned, effect on Community priorities, project output utilisation, actions for the publicity of project and the dissemination/communication of results. Moreover, the project action plan shall be submitted, together with the project financial table, the distribution of funding between partners, and the allocation of expenditure per year.

A practical information on filling in the application forms will be provided in the applicant's package

published on the programme's web site.

Calls for project proposals will be launched - indicatively - at least once a year by the JTS on behalf of the Steering Committee. Depending on the course of programme implementation and based on a decision of the MC the calls for project proposals might have a thematic main focus on priority level. However, calls for each measure will be published at least twice during programme implementation. In order to be considered in the selection procedure project applications have to be submitted within the designated period. The JTS informs the LP on the formal receipt of the project proposal. The submission of the project application before the deadline is not relevant for the decision making process of the SC. Detailed information about the actual and coming call will be provided on the programme's website.

Feasibility studies

Complex and large projects focusing on key issues of the programme need significant input in project preparation. Small scale start-up funding shall support the initial preparatory phase of such promising projects in order to enable them to submit well prepared and first rate quality applications. Project partners with corresponding project ideas will have the opportunity to submit an application for a feasibility study to promote project development. As a principle the allocation of small scale start-up funding for carrying out of feasibility studies is open to all INTERREG IIIB CADSES measures. Therefore an amount of 600.000 a (with a maximum ERDF contribution of 50%, which can be increased to 75% in Objective 1 regions) are provided. The application for feasibility studies has to fulfil the criteria defined by the SC..

Thereby the following specific criteria shall be applied:

- a project to be developed by the means of a feasibility study has to focus on strategic spatial development issues covering the whole CADSES cooperation area or large sub-areas. The SC will decide about the issues that should be investigated by feasibility studies;
- a feasibility study must be completed within 6 months;
- the total costs must not exceed the amount of 20.000 Euro, maximum 50 % from this from ERDF;
- in total, costs for feasibility studies should not exceed 0,5 % of the total budget of each priority;
- a feasibility study might have only one financing partner but must be carried out by at least two project partners in terms of content;
- the result has to be a project application ready for submission at the next open call for projects.

For feasibility studies a simplified application procedure and implementation rules are applied:

- two decision rounds will be held each year;
- applications can be submitted at any time to the JTS (there will be no public calls);
- the application form consists of max. 2 pages indicating project idea, envisaged partnership, content of the study, activities and budget;
- the SC sets a list of criteria for selection and assigns the JTS to evaluate project applications by following the given criteria. The Director of the JTS, supported by the Project Officers, selects applications to be approved by the SC;
- the carrying out of feasibility studies should start within three months after approval. Applications for feasibility studies will be accepted until 2004;
- one report on implementation concerning both activities and financing (including certified financial statements) has to be submitted to the JTS until one month after finalising of feasibility studies. If the report is faultless, and a project application is ready for submission, payment will be effected within one month to the projects by the PA.

1.2.2 Project assessment and selection

The project selection process actually comprises three phases:

- Phase 1: Project applications will be checked by the JTS according to the defined criteria, which allow the project to enter the next steps;
- Phase 2: Evaluation of the economic and organisational capacity of project partners and accordance with national policies is done by the CCPs \ National Committees and co-ordinated by the JTS;

- Phase 3: Synthesis of the pre-assessment by the JTS put forward to the SC.
Figure 2 gives an overview on the project assessment and selection procedure.

Minimum requirements (eligibility criteria) and priority criteria

The SC will select projects for funding, applying the criteria for project selection agreed by the Monitoring Committee. Project selection is based on: (a) minimum requirements as presented in the Operational Programme; (b) priority criteria for ranking of projects presented below.

Projects have to fulfil all minimum requirements otherwise they are rejected. The first evaluation (eligibility check) of project applications leaves no space for quality ranking. Minimum requirements are simply examined by attributing "fulfilled" or "not fulfilled".

Minimum requirements, as presented in the Operational Programme, are listed in the following table.

The priority criteria are used for the ranking of the projects.

Priority criteria for project selection are listed in the following table.

These criteria might be specified, completed and further developed by the SC and approved by MC during the implementation process.

In case of part of project proposals asking for support from PHARE or other EU sources preferably the same or similar minimum requirement and priority criteria will be used with due consideration of the regulations of the used financing instrument and priorities of the concerned country.

Decision on project approval

On the occasion of a SC meeting the SC decides on project approval on the basis of an eligibility assessment and a project ranking performed by the JTS. If some minor amendments are required for a formal approval the SC might decide primarily on an admissibility status of the project. The amended application must be submitted to the JTS within a given period to enter the second eligibility check. The SC might decide on the project approval on the basis of a written procedure. This allows a faster start up of project implementation in the case of minor failure for selection. The criteria for reaching an admissibility status will be specified, completed and further developed by the SC and approved by MC during the implementation process. In the case of project reject the Lead Partner and CCPs will be informed by the JTS on behalf of the SC.

Conclusion of the ERDF subsidy contract

Based on the formal project approval by the SC the MA concludes an ERDF subsidy contract in its own name with the ERDF-LP, meaning the final beneficiary as defined in No. 31 sentences 4 and 5 of the Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 28 April 2000 laying down guidelines for the INTERREG III Community Initiative. The MA will use an ERDF subsidy contract form approved by the MC. The subsidy from funds of the CIP INTERREG IIIB CADSES will be awarded to the LP exclusively for the project as described in the application approved by the SC, which is an integral part of the contract.

Project parts financed by PHARE (or other EU or national funds) will be contracted according to the concerned rules. The contracting procedure will be harmonised to the maximum possible extent.

1.2.3 Project implementation, monitoring and auditing

The project shall be started and implemented according to the action plan approved by the SC. The LP has to inform the MA and the JTS when the project has been implemented. All ERDF financial transactions of the programme will have to be completed before September 2008. Figure 3 gives an overview on the project implementation process.

Reporting obligations

The LP may only request payments by providing proof of progress as described in the work plan, which is part of the approved application. Therefore the LP has to present progress reports on the basis of a standardised form and covering the whole transnational project. The first progress report must be submitted to the JTS at the latest six months after the start of the project according to the approved work plan. Subsequently progress reports should be submitted every six months, accordingly to the work plan. The progress reports must have two parts: as part one a report on progress made on the implementation of planned activities referring to the action plan and as part two a financial report including a table indicating the reporting period and the corresponding expenditure relating to each budget line. A confirmation of expenditures, in English language, which has to be signed by an auditor, accountant or financial manager independent from the project activities, has to be added to the financial report. Costs for auditing are eligible.

The LP has to submit a final report to the JTS within three months after completion of the project. Independently from the regular reporting on the project progress the LP has to inform the MA and the JTS immediately if:

- the project costs are reduced,
- the project objectives, timing or financing plans on which this contract is based change,
- one of the disbursement conditions ceases to be fulfilled,
- Circumstances arise which entitle the MA to reduce or demand repayment of the subsidy wholly or in part.

CADSES projects should provide project websites in the Internet for project reporting and monitoring purposes. Detailed information on the reporting requirements for the progress and final reports including preparation advice will be provided in the reporting guidelines available for download on the CADSES website.

Thematic networks

The exchange of know-how and information between projects need specifically dedicated resources. Therefore thematic networks will be defined by the SC after the approval of the first round of projects and at one or two later stages. They have to focus around one or more specific issues and combine the issues of at least three or preferably more projects. The LP or another designated partner of the project should participate actively in the thematic networks. Corresponding travel costs for one meeting a year and preparation efforts in terms of working hours and material have to be covered by the project budget.

Requirements for transnational project co-ordination

The Lead Partner shall guarantee full-fledged project co-operation through a process of predefining minimum project co-operation conditions (e.g. every 6 months for the duration of the CADSES project, a minimum of one complete exchange of project materials between project-partners shall be exercised with a minimum 1 month given for all project partners for consultation on drafts before a consultative seminar is organised to decide on the next phase of the project).

Requirements for publicity

In public statements (reports, publications etc.), the LP assume the obligation to point out that the project was implemented through financial assistance from funds of INTERREG III B CADSES Programme in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 on information and publicity measures concerning assistance from the Structural Funds. Interreg IIIB CADSES projects must provide project websites on the Internet for the dissemination of their results. Final reports, publications, booklets of CADSES projects shall be prepared and presented at a transnational level, agreed by all participating partners.

Payment of ERDF funds

After the formal approval of the project by the SC the MA can grant an ERDF advance payment to the LP. The criteria for granting an advance payment will be specified, completed and further developed by the SC and approved by MC during the implementation process. Specific provisions regarding an advance payment are an integral part of the ERDF subsidy contract.

The ERDF funding requested will be forwarded retrospectively upon approval of the project progress report (consisting of an activity and a financial report) to the LP. The LP is responsible for the internal allocation of ERDF funds to his project partners as final beneficiaries of ERDF co-funding. The specific provisions for internal ERDF allocation shall be an integral part of the partnership contracts. After the final reports and documents are presented in due time and completely to the JTS and the JTS has proved that the documents are in proper form, the MA will be informed and instruct the PA to pay out the final amount to the LP. The last 5% of ERDF will only be paid out to the lead partner after programme closure.

Detection of irregularities and correction procedure

If irregularities are detected by the LP regarding the performance of his project partners, by the auditing authorities or by the JTS the MA has to be informed immediately. If the irregularities entitle the MA to withdraw from the subsidy contract the MA instructs the PA to organise the retransfer of ERDF-funds in full or in part. Detailed rules for the correction procedure will be specified, completed and further developed by the SC and approved by MC during the implementation process.

Financial auditing

In consultation with the MA and PA the Member States establish financial management and control arrangements in their countries as set out in Council Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001 and in such a way as to ensure that the MA and PA are able to fulfil the implementation of the CIP and to co-ordinate that Community Funds and national co-financing funds are used efficiently and correctly and that assistance is managed in accordance with all the applicable Community rules and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The Member States will provide the MA with a detailed description of the management and control systems they have installed.

Controls according to Art. 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) 438/2001 (hereinafter referred to as "first level controls") shall be fulfilled within the national framework, including controls of national and EU-funds, and therefore lie in the responsibility of each Member State.

Depending on the source of the national co-funding of a project, declarations of expenditure will be generally given by a public or private accountant, independent from the project implementation. If the co-funding stems from public funds, the declaration will be generally made by the responsible public co-funding authority, if the co-funding comes from private funds, the declaration of expenditure will be given by an accountant.

The certification of expenditure shall confirm the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the reality and eligibility of expenditure claimed and that national and community rules, especially Commission Regulation (EC) 1685/2000, have been respected.

The Member States will ensure that the national authority issuing the certification of expenditure is authorised to do so and independent from the project implementation. Furthermore, the Member States shall provide adequate information on national requirements for the first level control to any body responsible for giving guidance to project applicants (Joint Technical Secretariat, National Contact Point, etc.). The Lead Partner of a project communicates to the Managing Authority what are the bodies or institutions which exert controls on the expenditures of each project partner.

In case of irregularities found within a the first level control - system set up by any Member State, it is up to the MA and the respective Member State to adjust the system and to correct the irregularities.

Apart from the regular audit of independent auditors ensuring the proper use of ERDF funds at six-monthly level, sample checks on operations according to Chapter IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001 will be carried out at even intervals, spread over the years 2003 to 2008.

Sample checks on operations according to art. 10 of Commission regulation (EC) 438/2001 shall be carried out by an international auditing institution with branch offices in all Member States in order to secure common control-standards on basis of the European Commission audit manual and international auditing standards. This external auditor will be commissioned by the MA. It shall also be responsible for stating the programme closure declaration.

The basis for the selection of projects checked will be a risk analysis. Using a risk point system the following categories of risks will be taken into account:

- budget size (small, medium, large) of the project,
- number of project partners,
- participation of Non-Member States,
- cooperation of a functional LP from a Non-Member State and a ERDF LP from a Member State,
- LP in objective area 1 within the meaning of Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999,
- LP governed by private law.

If necessary the list of risks will be amended by the MC according to the development during the programme period.

Based on this risk analysis, a representative sample of approved projects will be selected every second year by the auditor , so that at the end of the programme implementation the following criteria will be fulfilled:

- at least one project is controlled from each of three different categories of budget size, to be defined after the first two applications rounds when there will be an overview of the budgets of the projects approved,
- at least one ERDF LP in each Member State,
- at least one project from the objective area 1 within the meaning of Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999,
- at least one project with a functional LP from a Non-Member State
- at least one project with a LP governed by private law,
- at least one project from each of the twelve measures within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the CIP INTERREG III B CADSES.

Selected projects will only be checked if at least 50 per cent of the approved eligible expenditure is spent and if this fact is reported to the JTS. To ensure that the sample checks on operations cover at least 5 per cent of the total eligible expenditure as stated in Article 10 (2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001, the accumulated budgets of the selected projects have to account for at least an amount of 10 per cent per selection period.

The JTS will support the checks on project level by providing necessary information particularly on the amount of budgets used, the project contact persons and addresses, a proposal for the checking period and the organisation of joint meetings of the responsible authorities in order to discuss various questions.

2. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES

2.1 General overview

This chapter contains the description of measures defined in the CADSES Operational Programme. In the first subchapter the categories of final beneficiaries for all measures are defined. The description of each measure has the same structure including: contents of the measure (reference to the summary description in the operational programme), general and specific objectives, types of eligible activities, quantification of objectives, categories of interventions, monitoring indicators and ex-ante evaluation.

Priorities and measures of INTERREG-CADSES programme

The description of measures is done in coherence with the summary description contained in the CIP but specific aspects are here highlighted and commented. The remaining sections of the sheets highlight the logical framework of the measure. The general and specific objectives of the measure are then identified; and the activities that are needed to achieve those objectives are described. Each activity is associated to one of the four types of actions defined by the OP (planning activities, like transnational studies and strategies; networking; pilot actions; information, training and awareness raising). As far as possible, a quantification of the assumed objectives is done in the following section of the sheet. Interventions are then classified by category, following the EU codification (see Annex to the PC). It has to be underlined that the codes shown for each measure are only indicative. In principle, projects which do not refer to listed codes will not be excluded. The programme indicators (output, results and impact) are identified - accordingly to the Commission rules and methods - in order to make possible the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. Finally, the ex ante evaluation of the measures is reported, in order to demonstrate - following the article 41 of Reg 1260 - the consistency of the measures with the aims of the corresponding priorities and the relevance of selected objectives.

2.2 Description of measures

Priority 1 - PROMOTING SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES AND ACTIONS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COHESION

Measure 1.1: Supporting joint strategies for spatial development and actions for implementation

3. DETAILED FINANCIAL PLAN

3.1 Financial allocation for each measure

Financial table at a measure level is shown in the following table.

3.2 National co-financing

Austria and Italy choose a ERDF co-financing rate of 50% for their whole territory regardless the objective 1 status of some of their regions. Germany and Greece choose the option of 75% of ERDF co-financing for their objective 1 regions (and 50% for the non objective 1 regions). Taking the population objective 1 region into account that leads to a co-financing rate for Greece of 75% and for Germany of 57%. For the whole CADSES the average ERDF co-financing rate is 55%.

4. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY PLAN

4.1 Aims

The overall aim of the CADSES communication strategy is to ensure transparency by constantly providing different kinds of stakeholders with adequate and high-quality information about the programme. An efficient communication of information should both increase the public awareness about the programme as well as providing the stakeholders with accurate and reliable information and data on the programme.

The communication strategy is based on the Community Initiative Programme for CADSES 2000 - 2006, which takes into consideration the experiences made during the Interreg II C programme period. Consequently, the strategy lays strong emphasis on homogenous self-representation and public relations of the Programme and maintains at the same time the necessary local, regional and national foundation. The strategy is set out in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1159/2000 of 30 May 2000 on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member states concerning assistance from the Structural Funds.

4.2 Target group

The target group of the programme is compound and manifold. This implies that the information communicated to different stakeholders has to be adjusted to various needs. Primarily information should be directed to potential as well as final beneficiaries becoming or being involved in actions taken within the programme. Information should also be provided for on a regular basis to relevant public authorities on national, regional and local level, in order to achieve a full coverage when it comes to further dissemination of information in the participating countries. Economic and social partners as well as non-governmental organisations are parties that also should be included in frequent communication activities.

4.3 Information and means of communication

Information about the programme will be spread through a variety of channels in order to reach the different stakeholders. A number of basic sources of information as well as some essential means of communicating this information serve as a basis for a constantly broad and a deep communication of programme-related information.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Core documents:

CADSES Community Initiative Programme (CIP): The Programme forms the basis for transnational spatial development co-operation in the Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space. It features an analysis of the region, outlines the joint transnational strategy, introduces the priorities and measures and provides information about administrative and financial procedures.

Programme Complement: The Programme Complement gives a detailed picture of the measures, their background and objectives, as well as expected outputs, results and impacts. In addition to this, the principles for assessment, evaluation and monitoring of the projects are depicted.

Publications related to the Programme:

Flyers and brochures: flyers and brochures giving general information about the programme and its objectives, implementation, activities and results are constantly produced in order to market the programme to the public. These intend to promote the programme and its funding opportunities and to generally encourage interest and participation in the programme. Production of flyers and brochures of general interest will be managed by the Secretariat, those of special interest (geographically and/or thematically) might also be produced by national and regional authorities involved in the programme management.

Newsletters: The secretariat will produce and publish a regular electronic newsletter, giving an overview of the latest news of the programme and an update on projects. The newsletter will be distributed by email at least two times a year to project owners and other parties interested in the progress of the programme. Stakeholders have the opportunity to subscribe to the newsletter on the programme's web site.

Applicant's package: The applicant's package includes, apart from the application form and the co-financing statement: a practical guide for filling in the form; a manual which describes the managing and monitoring system of the Programme; a preliminary guide to financing opportunities for Non Member applicants; a subsidy contract draft between the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner; a joint convention draft among the Lead and Project Partners; a list of contacts, referring to all the persons and institutions who are relevant - at a national and transnational level - for the project construction, financing and implementation; the list of the project selection criteria; a checklist which helps applicants to control the correctness and completeness of application. The entire applicant's package is published on the programme's web site.

Specific publications: in connection to e. g. seminars, conferences, speeches, exhibitions a wide range of information material will be produced in order to meet the needs of information at each specific occasion (conference packs, fact sheets, CD-ROMs ...).

Best practices reports: the secretariat will manage on behalf of the Managing Authority the production of

mid-term (2004) and ex-post (2007) reviews of projects. These reports should identify best practices and thus complement the regular programme evaluation. They will inform in a practical way national programme co-ordinators, project owners, the European Commission and other interested parties about concrete results of the Community Initiative.

Programme database

The Joint Technical Secretariat will develop a database for processing and storing information about the projects and subsequently also information about the various priorities and measures on programme level. The database will serve as the main source for both quantitative and qualitative data on projects and projects' achievement.

ESSENTIAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The CADSES web site

The web site serves as the main source for regular exchange of information to all parties having an interest in the programme. It will feature all kinds of relevant information and data on ongoing actions as well as facts and figures about the programme and its implementation (e.g. applicant's package, contact addresses, ongoing activities and calls for proposals, partner search facilities, programme schedule, information about projects, links to project web sites, other INTERREG programmes and relevant institutions and organisations acting in the CADSES Region). The web site will be established and constantly updated by the Secretariat. Contracts for creating the web site will be issued as soon as the secretariat is established. Some contents may be created at a later stage, but it is important to set up a structure at this initial stage. As a first step the site will be in English with links to important documents in other CADSES languages. Translation into official CADSES languages of other parts of the web site will be supplied during the progress of the programme, if possible.

Participation in external events

The programme is marketed at several occasions like conferences, seminars, exhibitions and fairs organised by organisations or networks active in the region. At these occasions information is given on funding opportunities and application procedures.

Information and partner-search forums

After the launch of the programme various information and partner search forums will take place in EU member states and non-member states marketing the programme to future applicants and potential project owners. These events will introduce the programme and its priorities and measures as well as application procedures. In co-operation with CADSES Contact Points and National Committees, information seminars will be held throughout the entire programme period. To avoid overlapping and double-work, the Secretariat in close co-operation with the CADSES Contact Points will schedule these seminars.

Lead partner seminars

The Managing Authority, supported by the secretariat, will organise seminars for project lead partners on management and administration of approved CADSES Interreg III B projects. Information on, among others, monitoring and reporting standards will be given, as well as information on the subsidy contract and other administrative, legal and practical matters of relevance concerning project management within the programme.

Internal information flow

In order to enable the flow of information between the various management units of the programme, i.e. between the Joint Technical Secretariat, the Managing and Paying Authority, the Monitoring and Steering Committee and the national committees, a two-monthly info letter and regular interim reports on progress of programme implementation will be produced and disseminated in English language by the Secretariat. Regular meetings and contacts between the different units and actors will moreover complete these reports.

Project promotion

The projects will be requested to organise within their own budget own publicity activities and to report

regularly on these activities to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will give guidance relating to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 on information and publicity measures.

Media

The Secretariat in close co-operation with the Managing Authority and the CADSES Contact Points will provide press releases and other kind of information to the media when issues of interest to the general public or to experts so arise. Particular attention will be given to professional magazines to make the programme known among the eligible circles.

4.4 Complementing activities

Information and publicity of a programme in a region of 18 countries, where a population of about 200 million speak more than 15 languages, additional publicity activities are needed especially in the field of political backing and for reaching a wider audience. Therefore, some complementary activities are planned, such as:

Political conferences

Several transnational conferences with high-profile political participation shall take place during the programming period in all participating EU member states and in other partner countries. These conferences aim at involving governments, EU, large donors and investors and the media in spatial development policies in the region.

Publications for a wider audience

As the programme proceeds, a video and road show should be developed to demonstrate the programme's successes to a wider audience. A proposal for a video is to be developed and a consultant to be employed when the secretariat is established. The video should be specifically developed for use at the CADSES political conferences and be aimed at governments, EU, large donors and investors and media. It should also be suitable for a general audience and could be distributed to local and regional authorities in the region.

CADSES Contact Points are responsible for gathering photographs of the CADSES co-operation area and its projects. If necessary, a professional photographer will be employed to take additional photographs of the region. A slide and presentation pack will be put together by the Secretariat and distributed to all CADSES Contact Points for use at meetings and conferences.

Specific publications

To inform the national audience about specific results of the co-operation, it might be necessary for CADSES Contact Points to produce own publications in national languages.

Public relations company

The Steering Committee might decide to delegate some of the tasks and activities mentioned under 4.3 and 4.4 to a PR company. In that case, the terms of reference should be drafted by the Secretariat. On behalf of the Managing Authority, the Secretariat shall also handle the necessary call for tenders. Final decision on terms of reference and selection of the agency lies with the Steering Committee.

4.5 Responsibilities

In accordance with the CADSES CIP, this plan will be implemented under the responsibility of the Steering Committee.

The Joint Technical Secretariat in Dresden will provide all interested parties and institutions with information on the programme and its actions. The secretariat could be contacted by phone, fax, email and via the CADSES web site. Meetings will provide additional opportunities to communicate with the Secretariat. With regard to project development in non-member states and in the Stability Pact area, the Secretariat will be supported by the CADSES Contact Points in Vienna and Athens. The Secretariat will also ensure a common layout of CADSES programme publications and the CADSES web site. The Secretariat will be in charge for the regular handling of publicity and communication activities, regularly supervised by the Managing Authority. The secretariat will report to the Steering Committee once a year on the progress of the Information and Publicity Plan. It will present on the same occasion an updated detailed plan (including a schedule for intended actions and events and a cost estimation) for approval

by the Steering Committee.

CADSES Contact Points will co-ordinate information and publicity within the country. They will support the secretariat e. g. by producing flyers and brochures of special interest or by organising translations into national language of important publications.

4.6 Indicative budget

The activities mentioned in this plan will be financed through the technical assistance budget. The terms of reference for the Joint Technical Secretariat and the working plan of the Managing Authority will refer to this Information and Publicity Plan and will designate the tasks mentioned above and allocate the necessary funds to the respective bodies. The indicative total budget foreseen is 1.5 M a or 12,5 % of the TA budget.

However, in context of CADSES co-operation, technical assistance has to accomplish further important tasks. Therefore the CIP sets aside up to 2 % of the total CADSES budget for tasks related to the specific conditions and additional information needs in this region. These funds may cover in particular the activities mentioned under 4.4 above.

5. DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTERISED EXCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN THE MANAGING AUTHORITY AND THE COMMISSION

The OP monitoring system is built up around a common Information System, which allows for the data collection and monitoring at a transnational level. This system is basically organised as follows:

a) the monitoring system is strongly centred on the Lead Partner, who has the task of collecting (from PPs) and to make available data referring to the execution of projects, feeding the computerised system for exchange of data;

b) the areas of the monitoring system are the usual ones of financial, physical (data on outputs and results) and procedural implementation. With reference to procedural indicators construction, relevant and homogenous steps have been identified at a sector of intervention level;

c) the monitoring system guarantees that financial flows may be identified on the basis: (i) of nationality of the Authorities which pay the co-financing shares; (ii) of nationality of recipient;

d) essential data will be collected also for presented projects which have been not approved or financed. The structure of financial data in the CADSES INTERREG III B database will be developed by fully taking into account the "Vademecum for the Programming Period 2000-2006".

During the programming phase the budgets of project applicants will be compiled in financial tables. The total budget will be broken down by "priority and year" and by "measure". During the reporting phase requests for payments from projects will be gathered for each reporting period. The projects will be assigned to "priorities and measures". The next step will be the payment phase when after checking the financial reports payments of EU funding will be carried out. All payments will be registered in the database. Also the initially agreed budgets of the projects will be kept in the database for comparison. All data will be related to priorities and measures.

Data concerning national co-financing will be gathered in the database. The database will allow a recording of all changes. Thus, it is possible to get information on the budgetary status for each single day.

For reporting purposes, amounts will be in Euro. Financial reports should be internally consistent (for example amounts at priority level should equal the sum of the amounts at measure level). Files generated from CADSES INTERREG III B database will be submitted via email.

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According to the definition of Article 9 (m) and the description of Article 18 (3) of the Council Regulation laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds (EC No. 1260/1999) and as specified in paragraph 27 of the INTERREG III Communication (2000/C 143/08), the INTERREG IIIC Community Initiative Programmes are to be supplemented by a Programme Complement. Herewith the Member States of the East zone of INTERREG IIIC present the Programme Complement for the INTERREG IIIC East zone Community Initiative Programme. It gives information on the eligible measures, the final beneficiaries, the financing plan, the publicity plan, the arrangements between the Commission and the Members States for exchange of data and related issues.

1. Description of Measures

The objective of the interregional co-operation is to improve the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion.¹ The effects will materialise both at national or regional and European level:

- The regional and other public authorities will gain a mean to enhance development through access to the experiences of others; this will enable them to better develop policies and projects to overcome problems and exploit potentials.
- The European policies will be boosted by added value through expanding the effects from individual structural funds interventions to different regions across Europe. Learning effects can be multiplied by disseminating experience interregionally.
- The goal of improving the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion may be achieved by:
 - Changes on the level of projects by introducing new methods or approaches or by improving existing ones. The focus here is on improving the delivery of existing programmes and instruments of regional policy.
 - Changes on the level of policies imply a more far-reaching change of political and institutional structures related to regional policy. Changes at this level occur when a policy instrument, programme etc. is readjusted or reoriented, or if a new instrument is added.

The co-operation under this programme may be organised along one of the following three types of operations. This chapter gives the definition and summary description of the three types.

1 This is coherent with the objectives given in the IIC-Communication, point 5, and the INTERREG Communication point 17.

1.1 Operation Type (a) Regional Framework Operations (RFO)

A RFO is aimed at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities among a group of regions. The goal is to produce a clear strategic approach to interregional co-operation for the participants, which will allow them to develop a process of exchange and learning, which can grow over the long-term.

The RFO is based on an interregional co-operation strategy covering the participating regions. Within the frame given with the INTERREG IIC programme, the RFO's strategy is forming a self-standing strategic framework which is kind of a "mini-programme". Each RFO should address a limited range of subjects relevant to the regions participating, thus ensuring that interregional co-operation activity is better integrated into the economic and social development of the participating areas. In line with its strategy, a RFO should cover a limited number of smaller projects.

The selection of RFO-internal projects is the responsibility of the regional partners co-operating in the RFO. They will form a Steering Committee at RFO-level for the purpose of project selection. Each RFO should be prepared by a group of regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies in a number of regions from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. RFO-internal projects in turn should involve participants from different countries within the participating regions. A RFO under this programme can only be submitted by a lead partner that is located in the programme area of the East zone. The other partners need not to be located in the programme area of the East zone. Each partner should be supported by a regional partnership. The regional partnership would consist of the authorities and organisations in each region with a role to play in the RFO.

A RFO is based on a detailed interregional co-operation strategy, which is focused on a limited number of subjects and includes a detailed work-plan and forms the basis for project development and selection. The strategy needs to give sound information on the management and implementation structures of the RFO. The strategy will indicate the expected concrete results that can be evaluated and disseminated.

As the RFO is a new type of co-operation, no region should participate in more than 2 such operations under INTERREG IIC until the mid term review of the programme has been completed.

The total ERDF contribution for a RFO may normally be between a 500,000 and a 5 million. RFOs can cover all the topics covered by INTERREG IIC. An indicative share of 50% to 80% of the funding under this programme should be allocated to RFOs.

Regions eligible to present a RFO are listed in Annex C of the Community Initiative Programme of East zone. Regional authorities at a geographically lower level can be either lead partner or partner in a RFO on behalf of the region defined in Annex C of the East zone programme.

1.2 Operation Type (b) Individual Co-operation Project:

Individual Co-operation Projects aim at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities. The goal is not merely a transfer of knowledge, but genuine co-operation on the realisation of various parts of the project, with a significant added value to the project participants. The implantation of project results from one region into another with a clear impact in the recipient region would be one concrete effect of such a project.

The Individual Co-operation Project is based on a detailed work programme, defining the expected outcome and concrete results and allowing for evaluation and dissemination of achievements.

Projects should involve partners from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. Not more than 40% of the overall funding can go to the lead partner and the total ERDF contribution may normally be between a 200,000 and a 1,000,000.

Individual Co-operation Projects can cover all the topics covered by INTERREG IIC. An indicative share

of 10% to 30% of the funding under this programme should go to Individual Co-operation Projects.

1.3 Operation Type (c) Networks:

Networks aim to link the various regions inside and outside the European Union on project implementation methods and development.

Only costs related to actions such as seminars, conferences, websites, databases, study trips and exchange of staff, all in order to exchange experience and pass on expertise, might be considered. However, networking should lead to concrete results, which can be evaluated and disseminated. All networking actions should have detailed work programmes, indicating the tasks to be carried out and the expected outcomes.

A Network must have partners from at least 5 countries of which at least three must be Member States. The ERDF contribution may normally be between a 200,000 and a 1 million. All the aid will be paid to and managed by the lead partner of the Network.

Networking can cover all the topics covered by INTERREG IIIC with the exception of those related to topic (d) of point 22 of the INTERREG IIIC Communication - Innovative Actions - which, as indicated in the Programme, can be covered elsewhere. An indicative share of 10% to 20% of the funding under this programme should go to Networks.

1.4 Participation of Non Member States

Non Member States can participate in INTERREG IIIC both on programme level and on operation level. On programme level Non Member States can participate provided that they sign a corresponding letter of commitment specifying which zone they want to adhere to for the overall programme period. Public authorities in these Non Member States will have the option to act as functional lead partner in that zone. This means that they can perform the co-ordination and management tasks of a lead partner for a project. However, as ERDF funds cannot be administered by a Non Member State, the functional lead partner will need a financial lead partner from a Member State of the same zone who will be responsible for the use of the ERDF funds. There has to be a close cooperation between the functional and the financial lead partner. As this makes the administration of the project rather difficult, functional lead partners should be the exception rather than the rule.

On operation level Non Member States can participate throughout all zones. Financing for partners from third countries can nonetheless not be provided under this programme, but needs to be taken from their own resources or relevant European Union funding sources (e.g. Phare, Tacis, Meda, CARDS etc.) in line with the funding rules for each source. Although the difficulties of joint financing with these sources are well known, it can be expected that the development of the next years, as described e.g. in the Phare Review will allow for a better co-ordination even before the candidates formally join the EU.

To ease the co-operation as much as possible, travel and subsistence expenses of partners or participants from third countries outside the EU can be eligible costs for an operation when the meeting or seminar takes place in the EU and is part of an approved operation.

The travel and subsistence expenses by partners or participants from EU Member States on parts of operations that take place in a third country and are vital for the success of the operation as a whole are also eligible for ERDF assistance.

In order to be considered as partner in the understanding of the partnership requirements set out in the eligibility criteria, the partners from candidate countries have to contribute financially to the operation. This contribution, however, can be of a minimum amount or can be exclusively in kind. These contributions from candidate countries are not eligible for ERDF funding.

In accordance with EU public procurement law, services or equipment used for implementing an INTERREG IIIC operation in the EU can also come from the "partner country" or third countries in question, according to general national, EU or international legislation on public procurement.

In the North zone Norwegian partners can be lead partners and thus final beneficiaries on equal terms as lead partners from Member States. ERDF-funding and Norwegian funding in principle remains with

the lead partner. The lead partner using ERDF-funds or Norwegian funds allocated to the particular project will remunerate services and tasks provided to the lead partner by other transnational partners including EU-partners and Norwegian partners for such services and tasks. Total support going to Norwegian partners from Member State lead partners shall at no stage exceed the Norwegian contribution to the programme.

1.5 Strand C - co-ordination actions

On the initiative of the European Commission the East zone INTERREG IIIC programme includes a special priority on co-ordination between the four INTERREG IIIC zones, especially for the initial implementation phase and until the INTERACT programme has come into operation.

Activities under this priority will be concentrated in 2001 and 2002. On a Commission proposal the activities will be co-financed at 90% and the resources from the ERDF will be allocated to the programme from the allocation under par.53 of the INTERREG guidelines.

1.6 Operations on border regions with the candidates countries

On 25 July 2001 the Commission adopted a communication [COM (2001) 437 final] on the external border regions and the probable effects of enlargement. As the communication proposes a series of actions based on a better co-ordination of existing policies and the creation of new measures, this programme includes a special priority on operations linking European Union border regions indicated in the communication with the candidate countries. These actions are intended to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the external border regions indicated in the communication.

The operations foreseen under this priority include:

- Networks and
- Individual Co-operation Projects.

These operations should aim to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the border regions, in order to strengthen their economic competitiveness.

Lead partners of these operations must obligatorily be located in the border regions with the candidate countries as defined in the Commission's communication mentioned above. Co-operation with partners located in the candidate countries should be encouraged.

The normal rules on the implementation of the INTERREG IIIC programmes apply, except for rules detailed below:

- number of partners in each operation:
- an Individual Co-operation Project must have at least three partners from at least two countries;
- a Network must have at least five partners from at least three countries;
- financial size of the operations: the total ERDF contribution for each operation may be less than the a 200.000 indicated in point 26 of the INTERREG IIIC Communication; in addition, more than 40% can go to the lead partner of an Individual Co-operation Project;
- the provisions of point 28 of the INTERREG IIIC Communication do not apply: the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the 75% ERDF allocation quoted in point 28;
- modification of the percentage of financing to be allocated to each type of operation (point 26 of INTERREG IIIC Communication): the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the calculation of the total funding under each INTERREG IIIC programme which should be allocated to the three types of operation.

1.7 Technical Assistance (TA)

TA will be spent on activities necessary for the effective and smooth management and implementation of the programme. An important element for this is a competent and efficient day-to-day work that holds together the flow of information between the bodies involved, prepares the decision making properly, oversees the information collected and its use in the programme management. To fulfil these tasks, a highly skilled and professional secretariat is required.

As INTERREG IIIC introduces a new approach, special emphasis will be given to the assistance and

advise in the development of operations. TA will be invested in the promotion of the programme, awareness rising, pro-active search and interactive development of operations. The strategy will be built on broad involvement of multiple actors on national and European level and is aiming in activating them. Besides the information and advice given to potential applicants, a broader dissemination of the achievement of this programme is foreseen under the publicity plan (cp. chapter 7). Activities necessary to do so are also part of TA.

External advise may be needed to assist gathering and processing of data, implementing a computerised management system, and so on. Additional advise may be necessary on specific questions of managing a programme to assist international co-operation, concerning e.g. the development of operations and drafting of the legal documents that form the basis for the organisational framework of the co-operation projects.

Another element that will need spending of TA is the tasks of evaluation.

According to rule 11 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000, TA is calculated separately for the expenditure directly related to administration, implementation, monitoring, and control of the programme on the one hand, and other expenditure (e.g. studies, evaluations, information, seminars, etc.) on the other. The TA under this programme will only fund activities directly related to the programme, whereas the Strand C co-ordination activities (cp. chapter 1.5) will be designed to co-ordinate the activities of all four zones. All activities falling under Strand C co-ordination activities will be excluded from the TA budget of this programme and funded from the budget for the Strand C co-ordination activities. In relation to these tasks, the TA budget will only cover the adaptation and specification for this zones needs, if necessary.

The ERDF contribution to this programme's TA budget will be 50%. Additional information on the financial calculation of the TA budget is given in chapter 5 on the financing plan. The TA under this programme will be supplemented by the activities under the INTERACT programme.

1.8 Quantified objectives

According to Annex B of the INTERREG IIIC Communication, quantified monitoring indicators are not yet needed at this stage. Due to the innovative character of the initiative, the quantification of objectives is quite difficult for INTERREG IIIC. The quantification of objectives will be developed by the Monitoring Committee when a sufficient number of applications have been approved. The annual reports will inform about the status of quantification of objectives.

2. Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor and evaluate the results and effects of the INTERREG IIIC activities, a number of indicators can be applied. The following is giving an overview over some of the core criteria and concepts, the monitoring and evaluation will use. According to Working Paper 3 of the Commission (Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation), we distinguish output indicators on the one and result/impact indicators on the other hand:

Output indicators relate to activity. They are measured in physical or monetary units.

Result indicators relate to the direct and immediate effect brought about by a programme. Such indicators can be of a physical (reduction in journey times, number of successful trainees, number of roads accidents, etc.) or financial (leverage of private sector resources, decrease in transportation cost) nature. Impact indicators refer to the consequences of the programme beyond the immediate effects on its direct beneficiaries. Two concepts of impact can be defined. Specific impacts are those effects occurring after a certain lapse of time but which are, nonetheless, directly linked to the action taken. Global impacts are longer-term effects affecting a wider population. Clearly, measuring this type of impact is complex and clear causal relationships often difficult to establish.

2.1 Output Indicators

The basis for both monitoring and evaluation is a sound overview of what is really going on in the

programme and of how implementation is working. Information on these issues is part of the monitoring indicators - which despite their naming certainly form also the basis for evaluation purposes. The monitoring indicators are based on the Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/20012, with some additional indicators for INTERREG IIC specific issues.

2 Please note that the following table is not listing the full range of information necessary to meet the requirements of the Control Regulation, which is certainly to be held available for the Commission for the purposes of this Regulation.

2.2 Result and impact indicators

The evaluation of the INTERREG IIC programme is a demanding task as it poses the problem of grasping a newly designed approach. This is the reason why in the case of INTERREG IIC one can hardly define a chain of effect in the way it is possible for established measures of regional development policies. So the evaluation in the case of this programme can not be limited to measuring and assessing given indicators, but has to work on identifying the mechanisms by which effects are reached. This Programme Complement will therefore not give a detailed list of indicators, but rather list the categories the evaluation has to deal with. A first task of the evaluation will consist in research on the processes of forming the partnerships of the operations and of working within the partnerships. Crucial categories in this respect are:

- Type of operation: RFO, Network or Individual Co-operation Project
- Intensity of co-operation is a category allowing to analyse the co-operation processes in the networks by distinguishing exchange and dissemination of experience from transfer of instruments or projects as well as development of new approaches and joint development of new approaches. The four categories mentioned cover a continuum from rather separated acting partners to close co-operation. The evaluation will keep in mind that the three eligible types of operations differ in terms of intensity. Whilst Networks may be limited to exchange and dissemination, although the aim should be to reach the level of transfer, the RFOs and Individual Co-operation Projects should at least have the level of transferring instruments or projects.

- Products of Co-operation consist of the tangible outcome. A product may for instance be a new political instrument applied in one region, but also a written concept for the transfer and adoption of a project approach. The first step in evaluation is to document the products achieved. It should not be sufficient for a project to claim its success; instead it should be able to document the output by products.

- Quality of products. Innovation is one aspect of the quality of products as the programme aims at improving the existing instruments and policies. This can only be achieved by changing the status quo and thus introducing an innovation - compared to the regional status quo ante.

For the purposes of the INTERREG IIIC Programme, innovation is defined on regional level: the product that derives from the co-operation should be something new compared to the already existing instruments and projects in the region. Innovation under this programme may be achieved in different ways:

- by developing new methods, instruments and concepts or improving existing ones (process-oriented innovation). In this context, the improvement of implementation of regional development policies is dominant. This may include for instance the adoption of new financial or advisory instruments by the use of information technology.

- by formulating new goals for regional policies and instruments of regional development and cohesion(goal oriented innovation), e.g. by orientation to the potentials for regional learning and innovation, by exploiting the potentials of social capital in the region, by making use of the potentials offered by technical progress or by continuing to integrate aspects like e.g. sustainability or equal opportunities more fully into regional development policies and instruments.

- by developing political and institutional structures and systems related to regional policy (context-oriented innovation). Context-oriented innovation relates to structural improvements like e.g. networking, development partnerships, etc. This changes the overall setting in the regional policy system, e.g. by adding new aspects to the role of politicians and officials, who are becoming enablers and moderators, and by changing the role of enterprises and other regional organisations, who are becoming involved in the process of goal-definition.

One can expect that the implementation of INTERREG IIIC will bring a number of complex, integrated operations, combining two or all three of the innovation types. Specifically the RFOs present a complex approach combining a range of different projects. Most operations therefore will all contain process-oriented, goal-oriented and context-oriented innovations in different mixing ratios.

On the basis of the analysis of processes, the second task of the evaluation is to grasp the effects of the programme:

- The evaluation will assess whether the INTERREG IIIC activities initiated co-operation activities linking and exchanging experiences and best practice from the type of activity supported under Objective 1 and 2 programmes, the INTERREG Community initiative, the URBAN Community Initiative and urban development, future regional innovative actions programmes, and other subjects appropriate for interregional co-operation.

- The evaluation will assess the effects of the programme on the social and economic cohesion, environment, equal opportunities and sustainable development.

- The evaluation will finally assess the improvement of effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion achieved by INTERREG IIIC.

3. Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Operations

This Programme Complement is giving information on the criteria to be applied when selecting operations. Two sets of criteria - eligibility criteria and selection criteria - will be applied.

Eligibility criteria are minimum requirements, each of which has to be met for an operation to be declared eligible. Selection criteria will be applied to assess the respective merits of eligible operations. For the eligibility criteria, a distinction can be made between core criteria (applying for all operations) and specific criteria (applying for specific topics for co-operation or types of operation).

The Joint Technical Secretariat makes use of the eligibility criteria to check the applications. To do so it takes the relevant core and specific eligibility criteria and tests, if the application contains the relevant elements. The answer of such a test must be a clear yes or no. As a result it drafts two lists: one listing the eligible applications, and another listing the ones assessed as not eligible giving the reason for this assessment.

Eligible applications will be subject to a ranking by the Joint Technical Secretariat applying the selection criteria given in table 5. An external pool of experts may assist the secretariat. Based on the ranking list the Steering Committee is taking the decision on selection of operations. The selection will be done in several steps:

1. The ranking will be done for each type of operation (RFO, Individual Co-operation Project and Network) separately. The assessment of every single operation will include a short explanation for the scoring chosen. The results of this step are three type-specific ranking lists of eligible applications. For information, the Steering Committee will also be provided with a list of the non-eligible operations giving the reasons for this.

2. The Steering Committee decides on operations to be selected. The applications to be approved by the Steering Committee are taken from the three type-specific lists. As a rule, only applications fulfilling the eligibility criteria and reaching a high score with the selection criteria could be proposed for approval to the Steering Committee. The reasons for acceptance or rejection of applications will be clearly set out in the Steering Committees' decisions.

3. The list of all applications to be proposed for approval is checked against the indicative financial share of the programme funding given per type of operation. (50% to 80% for RFOs, 10% to 30% for Individual Co-operation Projects, and 10% to 20% for Networks).

4. In the last step the list is checked against the financial quota that 75% of ERDF contribution goes to operations involving partner outside the programming zone. If the list of operations foreseen to be approved so far does not fulfil the 75% criterion, the lowest ranking operations not including partners from outside the programming zone are replaced by the next highest ranking operations of the same type doing so.

The procedure for doing the ranking will be managed by the Joint Technical Secretariat. Having provided the list of eligible applications, the Joint Technical Secretariat is distributing to each member of the Steering Committee a ranking list of applications based on the criteria given in table 5 in due time before the meeting. On this basis, the Steering Committee will then take its decisions on applications.

4. Final beneficiaries

The INTERREG III guidelines, laid down by the European Commission on 28 April 2000, define the term "final beneficiary" as follows (cf. No. 31 sentences 4 and 5):

"In the case of operations involving partners in different Member States, the final beneficiary will be the partner in charge of the operation which will undertake financial management and co-ordinate the various partners in the operation. This partner in charge will bear financial and legal responsibility to the managing authority. The partner in charge will establish with these partners, possibly in the form of an agreement, the division of the mutual responsibilities."

According to this definition, to be seen in the special context of financial and legal responsibility, the final beneficiary is only the lead partner of an operation. (In case of functional lead partners from Non Member States, the financial lead partner is the final beneficiary). Only the lead partner, representing the various partners in the operation, will conclude a subsidy contract (awarding a grant to the operation) with the managing authority and may, on the basis of this contract, request payments from the paying authority; only this partner will be liable for the total amount of subsidy awarded to the specific operation. As a result the other partners in the operation do not bear financial and legal responsibility to the managing authority directly.

Taking these principles into consideration, the following categories of lead partners are admissible:

1. Lead partners of regional framework operations (RFO)

In the INTERREG IIIC East/South/West zone lead partners of RFOs can be all territorial units forming a region as defined in Annex C Table C.1 of the CIP INTERREG IIIC East/South West zone. (resp. for the North zone: "all territorial units forming a region as marked in Annex B of the CIP INTERREG IIIC North zone.")

Regional authorities at a geographically lower level can be lead partner in a RFO on behalf of a region defined.

public equivalent bodies on the level of regions described above.

2. Lead partners of individual interregional cooperation projects and networks

Lead partners of individual interregional cooperation projects and networks can be

public authorities;

public equivalent bodies.

Public equivalent body means any legal body governed by public or private law

(1) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character³, and

(2) having legal personality, and

(3) * either financed, for the most part, by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law,

* or subject to management supervision by those bodies,

* or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law.

Concerning admissible partners and participants of operations it is referred to chapter 2.6 (for South zone: "chapter 2.7") of the CIP (Target groups).

Partners in an operation funded under INTERREG IIIC should consider the benefit of concluding an agreement concerning their mutual financial and legal responsibilities, including the functions and responsibilities of the lead partner.

To guarantee similar conditions for all partners, these rules apply to all INTERREG IIIC programmes.

5. Financing Plan

Each Member State is contributing its share of INTERREG IIIC money to its programme. In the case of Germany, Greece, France and Italy, which are participating in more than one INTERREG IIIC zone, those Member States decided themselves how to distribute the money to the programmes. The sum of all single national shares of ERDF money is the overall ERDF contribution available under this programme.

Due to the opportunity offered to give partner from objective 1 regions an assistance rate of 75%, the national contribution is somewhat difficult to calculate. The reason for the difficulties is that one cannot know in advance how many projects will involve partners or participants from objective 1 regions. It depends on the project applications to show how frequently a co-operation with objective 1 partners is planned. So to calculate the financial tables, one can only assume an effective average rate of assistance, which is in case of this programme expected to be 60% for the North, East and West zones, and 63,29% for the South zone.

³ This definition does not exclude bodies partly having an industrial or commercial character.

The contribution from the ERDF is calculated in relation to the total eligible cost.

As concerns the private participation, one has to keep in mind that INTERREG IIIC is mainly oriented to public actors. The opportunities for private contribution are therefore very limited and the financial calculation is assuming a 5% share of financial contribution from private actors, except for the South zone (0%).

For TA purposes, a share has been foreseen as follows: 4,27% for the North zone, 5,00% for the South zone, 4,76% for the East zone and 4,88% for the West zone. The following table gives the indicative breakdown of the TA-budget according to rule 11 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000.

Eligibility of preparation costs

The date from which programme's expenditure shall be eligible, has been decided by the European Commission as follows:

INTERREG IIIC North: 05.10.2001

INTERREG IIIC East: 05.11.2001

INTERREG IIIC South: 06.12.2001

INTERREG IIIC West: 12.10.2001

As a rule, preparation costs of operations are eligible costs, as the preparation of interregional operations may consume more resources, both in time and finance, than other ERDF supported projects. To avoid preparation costs becoming a large indefinable part of the operation's budget, the following core conditions must be met:

Preparation costs forming a part of the total eligible budget of an operation have to comply with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000 regarding the eligibility of expenditure;

Only operations approved by the Steering Committee (Monitoring and Steering Committee for the North Zone) qualify for co-financing from ERDF;

Only costs that show a direct demonstrable connection to the development of the operation based on verified audited invoices are eligible;

Total eligible preparation costs are subject to a ceiling of 50,000 Euro for RFOs and 25,000 Euro for individual interregional cooperation projects and networks.⁴

Before the approval of an operation by the Steering Committee no other costs than these preparation costs are eligible for ERDF funding.

More details on preparation cost will be provided in the application documents.

⁴ In exceptional and justified cases preparation costs can be higher. Decisions on higher preparation costs will be made by the Steering Committee

As already mentioned in the chapter on eligibility and selection criteria (cp. chapter 3), the financial share of the three types of operations is not fixed in advanced. According to the INTERREG IIIC Programme, the share of RFOs may vary between 50% and 80%, Individual Cooperation Projects may be funded by 10% to 30% of the programmes budget, for the Networks, a range of 10% to 20% is foreseen. The fact that the share of the different types of operations is not fixed leads to the consequence, that a financial breakdown per type of operation is not easy to calculate.

Depending on the relative weight of the types of operations, the amount of ERDF grants may vary:

6. Codification

In Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001 of 2 March 2001, the European Commission is giving a classification of areas of intervention. This classification is introduced to contribute "to clear communication on the various Community policies" and shall be mainly used for the communication to the Commission. The list of 14 basic categories is drawn from the types of activity carried out in earlier Objective 1 programmes.

INTERREG IIIC does not fit directly into this classification. Operations under INTERREG IIIC aim at "linking and promoting exchanges of experience and best practice from the types of activity supported under Objective 1 and 2 programmes, the INTERREG Community Initiative, the Urban Community Initiative and urban development, and the future regional innovative actions programme" (INTERREG IIIC Communication, point 6). All Structural Funds related activities may be subject of INTERREG IIIC operations, but the Operations themselves can hardly be categorised in this way.

The essential core of IIIC measures is the "exchange of experience and best practice". Operations of this kind can only fall under Category 4 "Miscellaneous" and code 414 "innovative actions" of Annex IV,

Chapter 3, of the above-mentioned regulation.

For the information of the Commission and in order to relate INTERREG IIIC operations to the Structural Funds activities, the classification of operation will be supplemented by a classification of the subject of exchange, according to Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001. All operations of this programme will be classified as follows:

7. Publicity

7.1 Strategic objectives of the publicity plan

The overall aim of the publicity plan is to constantly provide different kinds of target groups with adequate and high-quality information about INTERREG IIIC. An efficient communication of information should both increase the public awareness about the programme as well as providing the stakeholders with accurate and reliable information and data on the programme. All information and publicity measures will take into account Article 46 of the Structural Fund Regulation (Council Regulation No. 1260/1999) and the Information and Publicity Measures Regulation (Commission Regulation No. 1159/2000).

Reflecting the specific nature of INTERREG III C with an administrative structure divided into four zones but interregional cooperation activities mainly going beyond the zone division it is especially important to assure consistent information on the programme throughout the eligible area. Therefore all information and publicity activities have to be closely coordinated between the four zones.

7.2 Responsibility

The publicity plan will be jointly implemented by the Managing Authorities respectively Joint Technical Secretariats of the four INTERREG IIIC programme zones. All information and publicity will be carried out under supervision of the monitoring and steering committees of the four zones. National stakeholders including the regions involved will play an important role when it comes to information activities in the respective participating countries.

7.3 Target group

The target group of the programme is compound and manifold. This implies that the information communicated to different stakeholders has to be adjusted to various needs.

Primarily information should be directed to potential as well as final beneficiaries becoming or being involved in operations within the programmes. Information should also be provided for on a regular basis to relevant public authorities on national, regional and local level, in order to e.g. achieve a full coverage when it comes to further dissemination of information in the participating countries. Economic and social partners as well as NGO's are parties that also should be included in frequent communication activities. By marketing the programme through different kinds of media the general public is also becoming aware of the role played by the European Union in co-operation with the Member States.

7.4 Information sources and means of communication

Information about the programme will be spread through a variety of channels in order to reach the different stakeholders and raise general awareness. A number of basic sources of information as well as some essential means of communicating this information serve as a basis for a constantly broad and a deep communication of programme-related information.

7.5 Sources of INTERREG III C information:

(A) Core documents

INTERREG IIIC Community Initiative Programmes (CIP): The work within the programme revolves around the Community Initiative Programmes of the four INTERREG IIIC zones, which are almost similar in content. All relevant information about the programme, e.g. topics for cooperation, types of operation as well as means of implementation are defined in these documents.

Programme Complements: The Programme Complements add more information to the programmes; especially final beneficiaries, criteria for project selection as well as for monitoring and evaluation are depicted.

(B) The joint INTERREG IIIC Internet portal

The four programme zones set up a joint Internet portal, which comprises a main section for general information on INTERREG IIIC and four sub-sections with special information for each programme zone. The Internet portal will be the main information source for the programme. It will be constantly updated and filled with all kinds of relevant information and data on e.g. ongoing activities and calls for proposals, as well as facts and figures about the programme and its implementation. Hyperlinks to other INTERREG programmes as well as to applicable sites of the EU and to relevant institutions and organisations will be also presented.

(C) Publications

Flyers and brochures: Printed flyers and brochures giving general information about the programme and its objectives, implementation, activities and results will be constantly produced in order to inform the public about INTERREG IIIC. The aim is to market the programme and its funding opportunities, and to generally encourage interest and participation in the programme. There will be both printed information material valid for all four zones and zone specific flyers and brochures.

The INTERREG IIIC application and operation pack: The INTERREG IIIC application and operation pack will be published on the joint INTERREG IIIC website. Main documents in this pack will be the application manual, the operation manual, the application form, a practical guide for filling in the application form and various model contracts. The INTERREG IIIC application and operation pack will apply to all four zones.

The application manual is to be seen as an applicants' handbook for the application phase, which will be regularly updated and completed with relevant information. The application manual contains e.g. information about eligibility and selection criteria, the application procedure, the involvement of partners from third countries and the establishment of the partnership.

The operation manual in turn is to be seen as a handbook for both applicants as well as Lead partners and partners in INTERREG IIIC operations. It will also be regularly updated and completed with relevant information. The operation manual contains e.g. information about management and administration of INTERREG IIIC operations, monitoring and reporting procedures as well as publicity and information activities.

Specific publications: In connection to e.g. seminars, conferences, speeches, exhibitions and fairs a wide range of specific information material will be produced by the Joint Technical Secretariats and Managing Authorities in order to meet the needs of information at each specific occasion. Information material and reports produced by the final beneficiaries in the framework of their work will also be collected and distributed at appropriate occasions.

(D) The INTERREG IIIC Joint Technical Secretariats and Managing Authorities

The INTERREG IIIC Joint Technical Secretariats and Managing Authorities of the four programme

zones will provide continuously information about the programmes. They could be contacted by telephone, fax, e-mail, via web sites as well as visits.

(E) Information- and partner-search forums

Information- and partners-search forums marketing the programme to applicants and potential final beneficiaries are planned.

(F) Lead partner seminars

Seminars on management and administration of INTERREG IIIC operations will be organised for lead partners of approved operations. Information about e.g. reporting and monitoring procedures will be given, as well as information about administrative, legal and practical matters of relevance concerning project co-ordination and management.

(G) Participation in external events

The programme will be marketed at several occasions like conferences, seminars, exhibitions and fairs organised by different organisations or networks active in the field of regional policy. At these occasions information will be given on e.g. funding opportunities and application procedures. On occasions of national relevance, information will be provided mainly by national stakeholders. At transnational events, the members of the Managing Authorities and Joint Technical Secretariat will promote the programme depending on staff resources and travel limitations.

H) Media

Press releases and other kind of information to the media will be provided for when issues of interest to the general public or to experts so arise.

8. Information System

The INTERREG IIIC programmes will develop a common database for the administration of operations, which facilitates the generation of data files that support the requirements of the file interface of the Structural Funds common (SFC) database. The financial data in the project administration database will be organised by taking into account the 'Vademecum for the Programming Period 2000-2006'.

During the application phase the indicative budgets of applications will be compiled in financial tables. The total budget will be broken down by topics for cooperation and types of operation. During the selection process the tables can have the status 'proposed plans', 'programme complements' or 'decided plans'. It will be possible to generate PG-files from the database. The version-management will be taken into account.

During the reporting phase requests for payments from operations will be gathered for each reporting period. The operations will be assigned to topic for cooperation and types of operation. From this information DP-files can be generated.

The next step will be the payment phase when after checking the financial reports payments of EU funding will be carried out. All payments will be registered in the database. Also the initially agreed budgets of the operations will be kept in the database for comparison. All data will be related to topics for cooperation and types of operation. From it a RE-file will be produced for each payment. As there will be no advance payments under INTERREG IIIC FC-files are not foreseen.

Data concerning national co-financing will be gathered in the database and transferred to MO-files. The database will allow a recording of all changes. Thus, it is possible to get information on the budgetary status for each single day. From it AR-files can be produced for the annual and final report.

The generation of interface files and the submission to the SFC-database will be recorded in the database.

When establishing the INTERREG IIIC administration databases for operations following conventions will be taken into account:

- Convention 1: "The internal reference codes for each operational level should have only numerical values. This would facilitate the data extraction in respect of the file interface specifications";
- Convention 2: "In all the cases the references (codes and description) which characterise the initial structure of the assistance have to remain unchanged in the revised financing plan";
- Convention 3: "Presentation of amounts into the financial reports. For reporting purposes, amounts will be in Euro. Financial reports should be internally consistent (for example amounts at priority level should equal the sum of the amounts at measure level)".

For creating the file names of interface files the rules of file interface 1.2 will be taken into account. The character code ISO 8859 will be applied. Language will be English.

Files generated from the database will be submitted via email.

The development of the administration databases for operations will take place during 2002. New requirements for the file interface can still be taken into account.

Interreg III C-Programme

Zone East

According to Version 3.2 of the Draft programme for Zone West (by Oliver Schwab, Institut für Stadtforschung und Strukturpolitik GmbH)

Including results of second co-ordination meeting INTERREG IIIC Zone East in Vienna on 9th of November and comments of Commission (Ms. Helander, Mr. Peters, Mr. Lieske).

Vienna, 14.11.2001

European Regional Development Fund 2000 - 2006

Community Initiative Programme

INTERREG III C

Zone East

International Working Party - Zone East

September 2001

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Community Initiative INTERREG is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the Community by promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation and balanced development of the Community territory. It focuses, therefore on improving cohesion - economic, social and territorial - by reducing the negative impact of borders on economic development and territorial integration. Whilst transborder co-operation within Europe has, for some years, been encouraged and supported by means of cross-border (INTERREG III A) and transnational co-operation (INTERREG III B), the new funding period introduced a new strand of INTERREG aiming at interregional co-operation: INTERREG III C.

With this new strand, the Community Initiative INTERREG is extended to a new type of intervention. For the first time this instrument is used to assist interregional Co-operation beyond the scope of the A- and B-strand. INTERREG III C is built on the experience collected under other instruments and the structural funds. Mainly the innovative action of ERDF, like RIS/RITTS; RISI, Recite, Ecos-Ouverture, etc., but also actions under the 5th research framework programme allowed for important experiences, which can now be exploited by INTERREG III C. INTERREG III C takes the idea of interregional co-operation further by applying the first time a programme approach to this type of co-operation.

The main approach of INTERREG III C is to make use of the stock of experiences collected in the context of implementation of structural funds programmes as well as related to national policies. Thus INTERREG III C can help non contiguous regions to get in contact and to develop the already existing networks of co-operation in terms of inclusion of as many European regions as possible, as well as in terms of the types of actors included. This should help in intensifying the co-operation all over Europe.

This programme is giving the information necessary to implement INTERREG III C in the Zone East. The programme has been drafted on the legal basis given by:

The Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 7 May 2001 "Interregional Co-operation" Strand C of the INTERREG III Community Initiative - Commission Communication C(2001) 1188 final (2001/C 141/02) - (in the following "INTERREG III C-Communication")

The Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 28 April 2000 laying down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning trans-european co-operation intended to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory - INTERREG III (in the following referred to as "INTERREG-Communication")

The Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds - (in the following "Structural Funds Regulation")

The European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) Nr.1783/1999 of 12 July 1999 on the European Fund for Regional Development

A number of other legal provisions have also been taken into account:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001 of 2 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards the management and control systems for assistance granted under the Structural Funds. (in the following "Control Regulation")

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 of 30 May 2000 on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds. (in the following "Publicity Regulation")

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000 of 28 July 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260 as regards eligibility of expenditure of operations co-financed by the Structural Funds. (in the following "Eligibility Regulation")

Commission Regulation (EC) No 448/2001 of 2 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards the procedure for making financial corrections to assistance granted under the Structural Funds

Commission Regulation (EC) No 643/2000 of 28 March 2000 on arrangements for using the Euro for the purposes of the budgetary management of the Structural Funds

Commission Communication [COM (2001) 437 final] on the external border regions and the probable effects of enlargement

Furthermore, the not legally binding working paper has proven to be very helpful:

Working Paper: INTERREG III B and III C Member States Responsibility: Management and Control System, 23 April 2001, DG REGIO/B1/GD D (2000)

2. Strategic Approach

This INTERREG III C-programme forms a general framework for interregional co-operation and promotion of exchanges of experience and best practice. By doing so, it intends to contribute to the improvement of European and national policies for the welfare of the European people. The way to achieve this is to exploit the experiences collected with different policy instruments and project approaches and on that basis to learn from each other - and to do so jointly by interregional exchange and co-operation.

This approach is based on the notion that a number of problems and tasks are confronting European regions not only nationally, but across Europe in a similar way. This is true for regions like cities and urban areas, rural areas, border regions, or declining regions to give only a few examples. Where problems and tasks are similar, an exchange on solutions, on the policy instruments applied and the projects developed is promising. An important field to collect experiences in tackling the regional demands have been the Structural Funds Programmes. This is why they form an important basis for the exchange of experiences under INTERREG III C. But also national or regional policy are expected to build the substance to start the exchange of experiences from.

2.1 Main goal

The objective of the interregional co-operation is to improve the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion.¹ The effects will materialise both at national or regional and European level:

The regional and other public authorities will gain a mean to enhance development through access to the experiences of others; this will enable them to better develop policies and projects to overcome problems and exploit potentials.

The European policies will be boosted by added value through expanding the effects from individual structural funds interventions to different regions across Europe. Learning effects can be multiplied by disseminating experience interregionally.

The goal of improving the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion may be achieved by:

Changes on the level of projects by introducing new methods or approaches or by improving existing ones. The focus here is on improving the delivery of existing programmes and instruments of regional policy.

Changes on the level of policies imply a more far-reaching change of political and institutional structures related to regional policy. Changes at this level occur when a policy instrument, programme, etc. is readjusted or reoriented, or if a new instrument is added.

This programme wants to contribute to and is clearly in line with the aim of overcoming the barriers that national borders impose on balanced development and the integration of the European territory (INTERREG-Communication, item 3). As part of the Structural Funds, INTERREG III C is in line with the efforts to promote harmonious, balanced and sustainable development all over Europe. With this aim, INTERREG III C is also contributing to the cross sector orientation towards a process of balanced and sustainable territorial development in Europe, which is the core of the European Spatial Development Perspective. This programme will promote as wide as possible a participation of third countries, especially the candidate countries.

The eligible operations under this programme will be built on one or - in the case of RFOs several of the five Topics for Co-operation and may take the form of one out of three Types of Co-operation. By choosing one of the five Topics every operation is defining the content or substance of co-operation. Each Topic is referring to a certain sector of Structural Funds Interventions:

1 This is coherent with the objectives given in the III C-Communication, point 5, and the Interreg-Communication point 17.

By deciding on one out of three Types of Co-operation, an operation is deciding on the form of organising its work.

The following chapter(2.2) gives a description of the Topics and Types of Co-operation foreseen in accordance with the INTERREG III C guidelines. Furthermore this programme includes a special priority on the preparatory actions to be taken for the preparation of the Interact programme. Co-ordination activities for the benefit of all the four INTERREG III C programmes are planned to be carried out in co-operation between the secretariats of different zones, in agreement with the Interact programming group and the Interact Managing Authority as soon as it is responsible. This is in view of the urgency to ensure an efficient and co-ordinated implementation of these programmes before the INTERACT programme is approved.

Based on Commission communication [COM (2001) 437 final], this programme includes a special priority on operations linking existing European Union border regions with the candidate countries.

2.2 Topics for Co-operation

The stock of experience with regional, national and European policies designed to promote regional development is too broad to be visible at a glance. It offers a rich potential for the exchange of experience but simultaneously makes it necessary to find a track along which the co-operation can be organised. As the system of Structural Funds policy is spread and well known all over Europe it can serve to give a structure to the exchange of experiences. Accordingly, INTERREG III C should be seen as a vehicle for promoting European interregional co-operation on the types of activities supported under the new regional and cohesion policies², in Structural Funds Objective 1 and 2 and INTERREG programmes, as well as the URBAN Community Initiative and urban development activities and the Regional Innovative Actions programmes, thus contributing to their overall improvement and adding value to the European Union's regional policy as a whole.

Due to their importance, a number of other subjects could be addressed under INTERREG III C. These include maritime and coastal co-operation, spatial planning issues, co-operation on insular and ultra-peripheral issues, on solutions to natural or man-made catastrophes as well as on alleviating the economic effects of handicaps such as very low population density or mountainous conditions.

Based on the types of activities under the European regional and cohesion policy, the topics for interregional co-operation under this programme are as follows:

² See the Commission Communication "The Structural Funds and their Co-ordination with the Cohesion Fund - Guidelines For Programmes", COM 344 final, 1 July 1999.

2.2.1 Topic a) Exchange on Types of Activities supported under Objective 1 and 2 of the Structural

Funds

94% of Structural Fund expenditure is targeted through the mainstream Objective programmes. However, this expenditure tends to be focused on the regional level and there are currently limited opportunities to exchange information and experience with other regions in Europe. This topic is intended to address this issue by promoting direct co-operation between public authorities or equivalent bodies across Europe on the types of projects supported in Objective 1 and 2 programmes.

Partners would not need to be located in Objective 1 or 2 regions, but would have to be involved, or be interested in becoming involved, in the types of activities supported under Objective 1 and 2 programmes.

2.2.2 Topic b) Exchange on Interregional co-operation linking public authorities or equivalent bodies involved in other INTERREG programmes

The aim of this topic is to enable exchanges of experience and networking among border areas and among transnational areas. Actions can cover co-operation on cross-border and transnational activities, where a wider degree of co-operation would be beneficial. Actions could also focus on the implementation dimension of INTERREG programmes (for example networking among several secretariats of INTERREG III A- or B-programmes to examine procedures and operational structures).

So, INTERREG III C is aiming at promoting exchange of experiences collected under INTERREG III A- and B-programmes. Given the improvement of policies by exchanging experiences as the main goal of INTERREG III C, the focus is to contribute to develop better project approaches or policies for cross-border and transnational co-operation. INTERREG III C will be built on exchange of experience with and co-operation on cross-border and transnational projects or programmes. INTERREG III C-projects take the experiences collected with cross-border and transnational co-operation as the starting point to work on development of project and policy approaches - as long as this element is missing, a project can not be assisted under INTERREG III C.

This topic is limited to public authorities or equivalent bodies involved in current or previous INTERREG programmes.

2.2.3 Topic c) Exchange on interregional co-operation in the field of urban development

Urban development is currently one of the key regional policy issues in Europe. In addition to the targeted actions supported under the URBAN Community Initiative and the mainstream objective programmes, wider co-operation actions related to urban development issues should be encouraged.

This topic is open to all cities and urban areas, including small and medium-sized towns. Nevertheless, priority should be given to those proposals which contain at least one city or urban area receiving funding from Structural Funds programmes.

2.2.4 Topic d) Exchange on interregional co-operation linking regions³ involved under the three themes of the regional innovative actions for 2000-2006

The three priorities of the innovative actions for 2000-2006 are:

- regional economy based on knowledge and technological innovation;
- e-EuropeRegio: the information society and regional development;
- regional identity and sustainable development.

Each regional innovative actions programme will contain a strategy agreed between the different regional players for defining innovative measures. This strategy will constitute the framework for the implementation of individual projects, the transfer of results to programmes under Objectives 1 or 2 co-financed by the ERDF in the regions concerned and the exchange of experiences between regions. The strategy may be based on one of the three priorities, or on a combination of these priorities, in order to meet the needs of each region as fully as possible. Building on the contents of their individual innovative action programmes, regions may propose co-operation actions in order to transfer and implement successful project ideas to other regions.

As networking actions can be supported through the Regional Innovative Action programmes and through the programme "Promotion of innovation and encouragement of SME participation"⁴,

INTERREG III C cannot support networking as described below under this topic.

2.2.5 Topic e) Exchange on other subjects appropriate to interregional co-operation

Due to their importance, a number of other subjects could be addressed under INTERREG III C. These include maritime and coastal co-operation, spatial planning issues, co-operation on insular and ultra-peripheral issues, on solutions to natural or man-made catastrophes as well as on alleviating the economic effects of handicaps such as very low population density or mountainous conditions.

2.2.6 Preparatory actions for Interact

On the initiative of the European Commission this programme includes a special priority on the preparatory actions to be taken for the preparation of the Interact programme.

A list of actions to co-ordinate the four III C zones has already been discussed with the Commission (Annex E). It is planned to have them carried out in co-operation between the secretariats of different zones, in agreement with the Interact programming group and the Interact Managing Authority as soon as it is responsible.

3 As defined in the draft Commission communication on Innovative Actions (SEC(2000)1870).

4 The "Promotion of innovation and encouragement of SME participation" programme supports networking of regions which are developing regional innovation strategies. These activities are carried out in complementarity to INTERREG IIIC and the "Regional Innovative Actions for 2000-2006" programme.

The actions additionally foreseen under this priority in Zone East include:

Development of the Interact programme

Preparation of the Interact inception phase and the elaboration of an initial workplan

Establishment of the Interact secretariat.

Other actions considered appropriate by the Interact programme preparation group for an efficient and co-ordinated start-up of the Interact programme and the co-ordination with the Interreg IIIC programmes may also be considered for co-financing after consultation with the Commission.

Activities under this priority will be concentrated in 2001 and 2002. On a Commission proposal the activities will be co-financed at 90% and the resources from the ERDF will be allocated to the programme from the allocation under par.53 of the INTERREG guidelines.

2.2.7 Operations on border regions with the candidates countries

On 25 July 2001 the Commission adopted a communication [COM(2001) 437 final] on the external border regions and the probable effects of enlargement. As the communication proposes a series of actions based on a better co-ordination of existing policies and the creation of new measures, this programme includes a special priority on operations linking existing European Union border regions with the candidate countries. These actions are intended to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the external border regions indicated in the communication.

The operations foreseen under this priority include:

- networks;

- individual co-operation projects.

These operations should aim to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the border regions, in order to strengthen their economic competitiveness.

Lead partners of these operations must obligatorily be located in the border regions with the candidate countries (see list below). Co-operation with partners located in the candidate countries should be encouraged.

Border regions in Zone East:

Germany: Bayern (Niederbayern, Oberpfalz, Oberfranken), Brandenburg, Berlin, Sachsen (Chemnitz, Dresden)

Austria: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien, Kärnten, Steiermark, Oberösterreich

Italy: Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Greece: Anatoliki Makedonia-Thraki, Kentriki Makedonia

The normal rules on the implementation of the INTERREG IIIC programmes apply, except for rules detailed below:

- number of partners in each operation:

an individual co-operation project must have at least three partners from at least two countries;

a network must have partners from at least three countries;

- financial size of the operations: the total ERDF contribution for each operation may be less than the EUR 200 000 indicated in point 26 of the INTERREG IIIC communication; in addition, more than 40% can go to the lead partner of an individual co-operation project;

- the provisions of point 28 of the INTERREG IIIC communication do not apply: the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the 75% ERDF allocation quoted in point 28;

- modification of the percentage of financing to be allocated to each type of operation (point 26 of INTERREG IIIC communication): the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the calculation of the total funding under each INTERREG IIIC programme which should be allocated to the three types of operation.

2.3 Types of Operations

The co-operation under the five Topics may be organised along one of the following three types of operations. This chapter gives the definition and summary description of the three types. Important information on the definition of partners and the management processes for each of the types of operations is given later.

2.3.1 Operation Type (a) Regional Framework Operations

A regional framework operation (RFO) is aimed at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities among a group of regions. The goal is to produce a clear strategic approach to interregional co-operation for the participants, which will allow them to develop a process of exchange and learning, which can grow over the long-term.

The RFO is based on an interregional co-operation strategy covering the participating regions. Within the frame given with this programme, the RFO's strategy is forming a self-standing strategic framework which is kind of a "mini-programme". Each regional framework operation should address a limited range of subjects relevant to the regions participating, thus ensuring that interregional co-operation activity is better integrated into the economic and social development of the participating areas. In line with its strategy, a regional framework operation should cover a limited number of smaller projects.

The selection of RFO-internal projects is the responsibility of the regional partners co-operating in the RFO. They will form a "steering Committee" at RFO-level for the purpose of project selection. Each regional framework operation should be prepared by a group of regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies in a number of regions from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. A regional framework operation under this programme can only be submitted by a lead partner that is located in the programme area. The other partners need not to be located in the programme area. Each participating competent authority should be supported by a regional partnership. The regional partnership would consist of the authorities and organisations in each region with a role to play in the regional framework operation.

A Regional Framework Operation is based on a detailed interregional co-operation strategy which is focused on a limited number of subjects and includes a detailed work-plan and forms the basis for project development and selection. The Strategy needs to give sound information on the management and implementation structures of the RFO. The strategy will indicate the expected concrete results that can be evaluated and disseminated. A detailed list of requirements for a regional framework operation is set out in Annex A.

As the Regional Framework Operation is a new type of co-operation, no region should participate in more than 2 such operations under INTERREG III C until the mid term review of the programme has

been completed.

The total ERDF contribution for a regional framework operation may normally be between a 500,000 and a 5 million. Regional framework operations can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2. An indicative share of 50% to 80% of the funding under this programme should be allocated to RFOs.

Regions eligible to present a Regional Framework Operation are listed in Annex C. Of course a regional authority at a geographically lower level can present the Regional Framework Operation to the Managing Authority, as long as it is on behalf of the region defined in the Annex.

2.3.2 Operation Type (b) Individual interregional co-operation project:

Individual interregional co-operation projects aim at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities. The goal is not merely a transfer of knowledge, but genuine co-operation on the realisation of various parts of the project, with a significant added value to the project participants. The implantation of project results from one region into another with a clear impact in the recipient region would be one concrete effect of such a project.

The Individual Co-operation Project is based on a detailed work programme, defining the expected outcome and concrete results and allowing for evaluation and dissemination of achievements.

Projects should involve partners from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. Not more than 40% of the overall funding can go to the lead partner and the total ERDF contribution may normally be between a 200,000 and a 1,000,000.

Individual interregional co-operation projects can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2. An indicative share of 10 to 30% of the funding under this programme should go to individual co-operation projects.

2.3.3 Operation Type (c) Networks:

Networks aim to link the various regions inside and outside the European Union on project implementation methods and development.

Only costs related to actions such as seminars, study trips and exchange of staff, all in order to exchange experience and pass on expertise, might be considered. However, networking should lead to concrete results, which can be evaluated and disseminated. All networking actions should have detailed work programmes, indicating the tasks to be carried out and the expected outcomes.

A network must have partners from at least 5 countries of which at least three must be Member States. The ERDF contribution may normally be between a 200,000 and a 1 million. All the aid will be paid to and managed by the lead partner of the network.

Networking can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2 above with the exception of those related to Topic (d) which, as indicated, can be covered elsewhere. An indicative share of 10% to 20% of the funding under this programme should go to networks.

2.4 The logic of Co-operation

The three types of operations vary in the intensity of co-operation. Whilst a network is mainly organising the exchange of experience, the individual co-operation projects go further by co-operating in the realisation of a concrete project. The RFOs in turn add an element by integrating the co-operation into a self-standing strategic framework, which forms the basis for the selection of projects within the RFO. Whilst intensity of co-operation is focussing on the process of co-operation within an INTERREG III C-project, it is also the quality of tangible output of the co-operation which is characteristic for INTERREG III C. Aiming at development of project approaches or policies, a certain innovation is required.

2.4.1 Intensity of Co-operation

The intensity of co-operation varies from exchange of experience, which is information and knowledge focused, to the development of concrete approaches, which emphasises the materialisation of ideas in tangible projects or new instruments. The different intensities of co-operation can be defined in relation to the overall goal of the intervention:

Exchange and dissemination of experience enhances the capacity of the partners involved, but do not

lead directly to changes in policy instruments or to new projects.

Transfer of instruments or projects means the transfer of an existing element from one region to another. Under the overall aim of improving the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development, transfer may be located either at the level of projects or the level of policies.

Development of new approaches can be a result of co-operation if something new is developed that goes beyond the knowledge and policy previously available in the region. Again this can happen at the level of projects or the level of policies.

Joint Development of new approaches may it be at policy or at project level, involves a closer co-operation than the development of new approaches that can be done separately.

Depending on the Intensity of Co-operation the type of output that can be expected varies. In the case of exchange or dissemination of experience the gain in knowledge, the transfer of good ideas may be an output of the co-operation. A translation from the sphere of knowledge to action-oriented consequences, like e. g. a new type of project is not necessarily achieved. Therefore the most important product may be a document that proves the transfer of experience but rather has the status of a working document (e.g. a protocol, a report, a publication, etc.). In the case of transfer or development of instruments or projects, the drafting or implementation of the new element would be the product. That means that the product will materialise beyond the working and preparation stage. Changes on the level of a real project or a real programme or instrument are the output. The following table gives an overview of the intensities of co-operation their definition, and the output that can be expected.

The three types of operations require different minimum levels concerning the intensity of co-operation:⁵
A regional framework operation should reach at least the level of transferring instruments or projects. This requires that under the joint strategic approach, the projects of the RFO are carefully targeted to be as productive as possible in working together.

Individual co-operation projects should reach the same intensity of co-operation. The difference to the RFOs is not only the size - in terms of partners involved and budget - , but rather the fact that individual co-operation projects are not embedded in a comparable strategic framework.

- As to networks, they do not need to work as intensively together to reach transfer or even the new development. It is sufficient to make clear that exchange and dissemination have been achieved.

⁵ The following gives the minimum requirements that should be achieved as output of the project. As the effects of co-operation are not limited to the output level, the impact might reach a higher intensity.

2.4.2 Innovation

By assisting interregional co-operation, this programme aims at producing a specific quality of products. By aiming at improvement of the effectiveness of policies, the programme points to the necessity of developing existing policies, programmes and projects, beyond the status quo for allowing to better meet the regional needs.

In the best case, the regions participating profit from the changes in projects and programmes by

enhancing their ability to solve regional problems. This gain in effectiveness of regional policies is reached by a certain amount of "innovativeness" of the newly developed projects and instruments that allow for a development beyond the status quo. This is why innovation is a crucial category to grasp the core logic of the programme.

For the purposes of this programme, innovation is defined on regional level: the product that derives from the co-operation should be something new compared to the already existing instruments and projects in the region.

2.5 Eligible Area and rate of assistance

Applications for projects can be submitted by the lead partners from the areas listed in Table C.1 in Annex C.

Non Member States can participate in Interreg III C programmes provided that they sign a corresponding letter of commitment specifying which zone they want to adhere to. In the case they want to participate in Zone East they are regarded as full Members of the Programme. They will have the option to act as "functional lead partner" in that zone. This means that they can perform the tasks of a lead partner for a project. However, as ERDF funds cannot be administered by a Non Member State, the functional lead partner will need a "financial lead partner" from a Member State of the same zone who will be responsible for the use of the ERDF funds. There has to be a close co-operation between the functional and the financial lead partner. As this makes the administration of the project rather difficult, functional lead partners should be the exception rather than the rule. This does not prevent Non Member States from participating as project partners throughout all zones. Financing for partners from third countries can nonetheless not be provided under this programme, but needs to be taken from their own resources or relevant European Union funding sources (e.g. Phare, Tacis, Meda, etc.) in line with the funding rules for each source. Although the difficulties of joint financing with this sources are well known, it can be expected that the development of the next years, as described e.g. in the Phare Review will allow for a better co-ordination even before the candidates formally join the EU. To ease the co-operation as much as possible, travel and subsistence expenses of partners from outside the EU can be eligible costs for an operation when the meeting takes place in the EU and is part of an approved operation.

Under this programme ERDF Funds will finance up to 50% (in the case of partners coming from objective 1-regions up to 75%) of total eligible cost. The rate of assistance of 75% can be used by partners from objective 1-regions. In the technical assistance, ERDF will finance 50%.

The applications will indicate the share of budget going to objective 1-partners. The Calculation of the budget of a Network or Individual Co-operation project will be indicating which partners of the overall operation will fall under the 75%-assistance. In the case of RFOs, the application will have to include a detailed calculation, including binding figures giving the maximum amount of money to be used in objective 1-regions.

2.6 Target Groups

For regional framework operations, the partners must be regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies with the capacity to take the full responsibility for the administration and spending of public funds within the RFO. Regional authorities include for example public administration on regional level or equivalent bodies. A definition of the territorial units understood as a region in this context is given in Annex C.

For individual co-operation projects, networks and projects funded within a regional framework operation, the partners must be public authorities or equivalent bodies with the requisite capacity for administration and financial management of public funds. Examples include regional and local authorities, city authorities, (particularly for the urban development topic) or regional development agencies competent to manage public funds. Private participants can also participate in projects funded within a regional framework operation where the public authority concerned provides the necessary guarantees to ensure the proper management of public funds. Private participants and the above-mentioned authorities equivalent bodies have to present a bank guarantee or a security of equivalent

value showing the amount of funds from ERDF they are applying for. A fundamental condition for private resources to be part of national co-financing is that no conditions are linked to the funding.

As mentioned so far, each Type of Operation has to fulfil some specific criteria as summed up in the next table:

Furthermore, the description of the strategic approach of this programme introduced a number of important issues that need to be covered by applications:

Definition of a limited number of goals;

Description of a clear, transparent work plan, describing the intensity of co-operation, the operation is aiming at;

Description of the expected product of co-operation on level of project approaches or policy

Description of the expected influence on the regions involved

A comprehensive list of issues to be dealt with in the application can be taken from the Annex A for the RFOs. More detailed information for applications will be provided under the Strand C co-ordination actions.

3. Provisions for Implementing the programme

The following sections describe the provisions for the implementation of the programme. Whilst chapter 3.1 gives the general information on the bodies involved in the management of the programme (tasks, list of members, etc.), chapter 3.2 gives a description of different processes that are necessary in the implementation.

3.1 The organisational Framework: Bodies for the implementation and management:

The management of this programme follows the management structure applicable for a Structural Funds Programme and will thus comprise:

- a Managing Authority,
 - a Paying Authority,
 - a Monitoring Committee,
 - a Steering Committee,
- a Joint Technical Secretariat.

Chapter 3.1 is naming the bodies acting as Managing Authority, Paying Authority and Secretariats and defines the tasks of each of the bodies involved as well as of the Monitoring and Steering Committee. The next chapter 3.2 is describing the interplay between the different bodies in the different processes necessary for programme implementation.

3.1.1 The Managing Authority

Managing Authority of this programme is the

MA 27 EU-Förderungen

Schlesingerplatz 2

A-1080 Wien

According to Article 34 of the Structural Funds Regulation, the Managing Authority, assisted by the Joint Technical Secretariat will be responsible for efficient and correct management and implementation of the programme, in particular for:

- a) collection and transmission of reliable financial and statistical information on the implementation of the programme, including the monitoring and evaluation indicators defined in the Programme Complement;
- b) preparation of the Annual and Final Implementation Report, presentation of the report to the Monitoring Committee for approval before final submission to the European Commission;
- c) organisation of the Mid-term Evaluation in co-operation with the Commission and the Member States;
- d) adjusting the programme at the request of the Monitoring Committee without changing the total amount of the contribution from ERDF;
- e) ensuring that all bodies involved in the management and implementation will be installing a separate accounting system or adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to ERDF assistance;

- f) ensuring the correctness/legality of operational payments and Technical Assistance budget, including the implementation of internal controls and corrective measures in line with a sound financial management as described in chapter 3.2.4;
- g) ensuring compliance with Community regulations
- h) promotion and presentation of the programme within and outside the Zone East
- i) information and publicity relating to measures
- j) liaison with the implementing authorities and other interested partners, as appropriate
- k) liaison with the European Commission, including forwarding of financial and implementation data, annual meetings (examination of results of the previous year) and implementation of any Commission recommendations for changes in monitoring and management procedures

3.1.2 The Paying Authority

The Paying Authority of this programme is

Magistrat der Stadt Wien

A-1082 Wien, Rathaus

At the operative level the task will be performed by

Magistratsabteilung 5

Finanzwirtschaft und Haushaltswesen

Ebendorferstraße 2

1082 Wien

In co-operation with ERP-Funds.

The Paying Authority is responsible for the payment of ERDF assistance, which includes in particular:

- a) drawing up and submitting payment applications to the European Commission;
- b) receiving payments from the Commission;
- c) payments to the beneficiaries;
- d) certifying the accuracy of declarations of expenditure presented to the Commission, in line with the procedures for the financial control as given in section 3.2.4
- e) receiving payments from the Member States for their share of the Technical Assistance budget

A single bank account held by the Paying Authority will be opened to receive and effect all necessary payments.

3.1.3 The Monitoring Committee

Within three months of official approval of the CIP by the European Commission, a Programme Monitoring Committee will be set up to supervise the programme. The Monitoring Committee will draw up its own rules of procedure. The Monitoring Committee will supervise the programme and satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the programme, and to this end it will:

- a) review annually the progress made towards achieving the specific objectives of the assistance;
- b) examine the results of implementation, particularly achievement of the targets set for the different measures and the mid-term evaluation;
- c) consider and approve the Annual and Final Implementation Report before they are sent to the Commission;
- d) consider and approve any proposal to amend the contents of the Commission decision on the contribution of the Funds;
- e) propose adjustments of the assistance to improve the goal-attainment or the management of the assistance, including in respect of financial management;
- f) approve of publicity measures, based on the outline of the publicity strategy in section 5;
- g) approve and if necessary adjust of the Terms of Reference for Calls for Project Proposals;
- h) re-orient of the project development process, if necessary to ensure that the strategic objectives are met;
- i) decide on the use of Technical Assistance.

The Monitoring Committee will be made of representatives of the National and Regional Authorities of

the participating Member States. A representative of the European Commission, the Paying Authority, the European Investment Bank will participate in an advisory capacity.

3.1.4 The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will be set up by the Member States. It will draw up its own rules of procedure and agree them with the Monitoring Committee. The Steering Committee will take the following tasks:

- a) decision on selection of projects;
- b) following of programme implementation.

The project selection will be in compliance with the selection procedure and criteria given in section 3.2.2 and Programme Complement.

The Steering Committee will be made of representatives of the National and Regional Authorities of the participating Member States. A representative of the European Commission and of the Paying Authority will participate in an advisory capacity.

3.1.5 The Programme Secretariat

The Secretariat will undertake the day-to-day implementation of the programme. It will assist the Managing Authority, the Monitoring Committee and the Steering Committee in the implementation of their tasks and responsibilities. Its work-plan will be approved by the Monitoring Committee. The Secretariat of this zone will be contracted by Land Wien and located in Vienna.

In addition to the support to the tasks of the managing Authority (3.1.1) the Secretariat will be responsible for the following:

- a) organising the preparation of decisions to be taken by the Monitoring Committee and the Steering Committee
- b) implementation and follow-up of all decisions made by the Monitoring and Steering Committees;
- c) implementing the publicity strategy;
- d) facilitating and initiating the development of III C-projects by using the publicity strategy and advising potential applicants, including on financial and technical issues. this task includes to keep contact with the responsible bodies of interested third countries to invite them to participate where possible;
- e) providing application forms, information packages, manuals, model contracts, etc. for the purpose of assisting potential project application, as far as this is not done by Interact;
- f) ensure the reception, examination and assessment of application for financing
- g) assistance to lead partners during the course of project implementation;
- h) implementation of Technical Assistance measures adopted by the Monitoring Committee;
- i) keeping contact with the secretariats of the other three III C-programming zones and the activities under Interact and taking care of a proper exchange of experience;
- j) co-operation with the other secretariats on the tasks described in 3.4
- k) keeping the responsible bodies in third countries informed about the approved project applications as far as they demonstrated their interest.

Further tasks may be added by the Monitoring Committee.

3.2 Management Structures:

Based on the experience with transnational co-operation in programme management collected under INTERREG II C and III B, a clear and transparent programme management system will be created. It consists of different distinct processes that are described in the following sections.

3.2.1 Project Development

As INTERREG III C opens the funding by ERDF to a new field of activity one can not rely to the same degree as in already established programmes on project promoters experience with the development of applications. Instead it is likely to be necessary to provide for assistance and support to those developing projects. The support under this programme comprises the following elements:6

All Member States participating in this programme are taking care of spreading the information on the funding to potential applicants. They already started doing this in the course of programming and will continue to do so. The secretariat will do the same as soon as it starts working. All activities of this kind

will be integrated in the Plan for Information and Publicity (section 5)

Advice to lead partner on how to draft their project application will be given by the secretariat.

Member States as well as the Secretariat will take care of keeping the responsible authorities of interested third countries informed about project development and opportunities to join developing projects. Other assistance to project partners and secretariats will come from the Interact programme, this will include amongst others:

- organising exchange on information and application documents to guarantee that all potential applicants and project partner get the same information wherever they might be located.
- assisting the establishment of partnerships by helping to find interested actors, e.g. by means of a database or events.
- providing technical assistance to projects in form of model-contracts

6 Please note that some basic information can be taken from this programme.

3.2.2 Project Selection:

The project application and selection process can be split up in the following steps:

1. The Monitoring Committee initiates a Call for proposal. The Call is drafted by the Management Authority assisted by the Secretariat in close co-ordination in terms of timing and selection criteria with the other three programming zones of INTERREG III C.

2. The project application is submitted by the lead partner to the Secretariat. Applications under this programme can only be submitted by lead partners located in the area of this zone - irrespective of the fact that projects may include partner from the whole eligible area. The application has to follow the rules concerning the Target Groups (2.6) Given the Topics for Co-operation and Types of Operations, each application has to indicate the Type of Operation and the Topic covered. As a rule, one application will cover exactly one topic and comprise one type of operation, only a RFO may cover more than one Topic as long as it deals with a limited range of subjects.

In the course of the next steps in the selection process, two different sets of criteria are applied to come to the decision of approving an application. A first set consists of the rather formal criteria for eligibility - it gives the minimum requirements that an application has to meet. In this step projects which do not fulfil the eligibility criteria are sorted out. The next filter consists of criteria for selection of applications. These criteria form the basis for an assessment of the application with the aim of bringing the projects in a certain order for selection. So the next steps are:

4. Having received an application, the Secretariat will check the eligibility according to the criteria set out in the Programme Complement. Each application will be checked against 1) the core-eligibility criteria that apply for all projects, 2) the topic-specific criteria and 3) the operation specific criteria. Applications that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria are sorted out on a separate list together with the written reasons for doing so. Both the list with eligible and the list with the not eligible applications are handed over to the steering committee.

5. In a next step the Secretariat will organise a ranking of eligible applications based on the selection criteria given in the Programme Complement. The ranking will be done by a point-system.

6. Based on the ranking provided by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee will finally decide at its sessions on the admission of the applications. It will give written reasons if it decides to deviate from the list prepared during the ranking process.

3.2.3 Description of the Monitoring and Evaluation-System

Monitoring

The Monitoring of this programme will provide information on the implementation at any given time. It will cover financial issues as well as information on the achievement and goal-attainment at project level. The Monitoring will ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation by assessing the progress of the projects against the goals of the programme. The Monitoring will make use of the regular reports

from the lead partners of the projects. In terms of content, it will concentrate on the products that will be output of the co-operation and exchange and will aim at grasping the effects of the broader use of innovative ideas and instruments that has been achieved by disseminating the elements through interregional co-operation.

The monitoring system will provide the information as required in Annex IV of the Regulation on the Management and Control Systems (EC No.438/2001). It will include the classification of operations and the information. Furthermore and according to Annex B of the Interreg IIIC-Communication, as soon as a sufficient number of applications have been approved, the monitoring system will include additional quantified indicators to cover programme-specific aspects. The Programme Complement will give a minimum core for monitoring and evaluation indicators. These indicators form the basis for the monitoring system. They may be completed by the Monitoring Committee. The Managing Authority may take the initiative to propose additional indicators.

The lead partners of the projects will be obliged to report regularly on the effects achieved. The secretariat will collect and compile the data stemming from these reports in order to allow for conclusions on the programme level. The Managing Authority will use this documentation to draft - together with additional information on the financial implementation - the Annual and Final Implementation Reports and submit them to the Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee will assess the Monitoring information on the basis of a yearly report on the status of the Monitoring System. The Monitoring information will form one important basis for the mid-term evaluation.

The information made available to the Commission will be presented in a database format in line with the Annex IV of the Regulation on Management and Control Systems. It will go beyond the scope of the monitoring by including, according to Annex B of the Interreg IIIC-Communication, also information on the additional quantified evaluation indicators. The Monitoring Committee will define, on the basis of a proposal of the Managing Authority, the concrete database structure and transfer specifications. The Managing Authority will take care to implement the system.

Annual Implementation Report

The Managing Authority will, by June 30 of each year following a full calendar year of implementation, submit to the Commission an annual implementation report. The annual reports will be drafted by the Secretariat and approved by the Monitoring Committee before they are sent to the Commission.

The yearly implementation report will be based on the information provided by the Monitoring system as outlined above. It will go beyond the scope of the monitoring by including also information on the additional evaluation indicators. Therefore the annual implementation reports will form an important basis for the evaluation of the programme.

Within six months after the final date of eligibility, a Final Implementation Report will be submitted to the Commission following the same rules like the Annual Implementation Reports.

Evaluation

The programme will be subject of a mid-term evaluation in accordance with Article 42 of the Structural Funds Regulation. An independent expert will be appointed to examine the implementation of the programme against its rationale, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The mid-term evaluation will start with taking stock of the initial results of the programme, their relevance and the extent to which these results are in line with the Programme objectives. It will assess the adequacy of the system for the financial management and administration. The evaluation will provide recommendations for the remainder of the programme.

The Secretariat will provide the evaluator with the required information and make sure that he can use all available information, e.g. from the monitoring and Annual Implementation Reports. The results of the evaluation will be forwarded to all members of the co-operation structure and the Commission. The Monitoring Committee will discuss and comment all recommendations of the evaluator. It will decide on the necessity of reprogramming, including reallocation of funding.

Having in mind the fact that the eligible area is the same for all four INTERREG III C-programmes, there

is a strong argument that a good co-ordination of the evaluations makes sense. The Monitoring Committee will be responsible to try to co-ordinate its evaluation efforts, in terms of terms of reference, etc. as good as possible with the other zones. It will especially check the possibility to carry out the evaluations together for the four zones or at least to charge the same evaluator as in other zones.

In Compliance with Art.43 of the Structural Funds Regulation, the ex-post evaluation is the responsibility of the Commission together with the Member States and the Managing Authority. It will also be carried out by an independent evaluator.

3.2.4 Description of the system for Payment, Financial Management and Control

Concerning the financial flows, their administration and control, the programme has to provide for the management of the relation between the programme and the Commission on the one hand, and the programme and the beneficiaries on the other. The System for payment, financial management, and control has been designed in line with the Commissions Regulation on "detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No.1260/1999 as regards the management and control systems for assistance granted under the Structural Funds". The system applied under this programme consists of the following elements:

a system ruling the conditions for payment of grants a) from the Commission to the Paying Authority and b) from the Paying Authority to the projects.

a system of financial control consisting of an independent certification of expenditure (according to Article 9 of the Management and Control Regulation) and sample checks on operations (Article 10 to 14 of the same regulation).

One of the central preconditions for a sound and transparent financial management is a clear-cut overview of the location of relevant information. This forms the basis for all payment and control purposes as well as the communication with the Commission. The information management has to make sure that the requirements of Article 18 of the Management and Control Regulation are met. The following should make transparent where the necessary information is located and how it is reported within the management system of the programme.

3.2.4.1 Financial Management of the Programme in relation to the Operations

The main difficulty in financial management of the programme stems from the fact that each project consists of partners from several Member States. This complicates the checking of eligibility of costs or defining the value of accounting documents due to the differences of national systems. A consequence is that this programme is strictly trying to locate the responsibility for systematic checks at the most appropriate level, which is in general:

the level of the managing authority to organise the detailed rules for the checks on the project level as regards the correctness, legality, and eligibility of expenditure, whilst the main responsibility lies with the lead partners;

the lead partners to check the reality of the service carried out and the expenditure declared. But the lead partner normally is not competent to fulfil a full check of the expenditure as far as the eligibility of costs (according to national provisions) and the value of documents submitted as proof of payment are concerned.

As a general rule the financial control system should involve checks done by external auditors where appropriate. This should be done at least always when a separated part of an operation is finished. So the external audit will be a rule when 1) a project within a RFO is finished, 2) when an individual co-operation project is finished, 3) when a Network operation is finished. Whether the auditing can be done by one auditor for the whole project or by several for the different national parts of it, is up to the responsible Lead Partner (regional lead partner in case of RFO).

Every single operation has to submit a report on the progress of its work, including information on the financial expenditure, a register of the supporting documents and their location, the functioning of the internal control and financial administration system, as well as information on the monitoring and evaluation indicators to the Paying Authority, the Managing Authority and the Secretariat at least every

six months.

The three possible types of operation differ in the structure of financial management and control. Whilst for example the RFO grants are paid to the lead partner, but finally spent by the other partners, the network grants are spent by the lead partner directly. The financial management and control is described below separately for each type of operations.

a) Financial Management of a RFO

The Management Authority concludes a contract on the regional framework operation with the regional lead partner. The Managing Authority ensures the capacity of the management and control system put in place by the lead partner to ensure the reality of the work done and of declared expenditure, in particular on the basis of the information submitted before the signature of the contract. A description of the management and control system put in place at the lead partners office and his partners offices, including the control and checking procedures, should be included in the documents accompanying the contract. The activity reports submitted by the lead partner must provide regular updates on the operation of the system. The Managing Authority also ensures the consistency, legality and the eligibility of expenditure on the basis of the methods described below as well as the reports on project controls representing 5% of their expenditure.

The Paying Authority of the programme pays ERDF appropriations only directly to the lead partner. The agreements between the Member States concerned will reserve the Paying Authority the right to request all additional information and checking from the Managing Authority which would be necessary for the fulfilment of its responsibilities.

A RFO will consist of a lead partner and several regional partners, each of which is supported by a regional network of other actors involved. Within this RFO single projects will be implemented. The regional partners are responsible to the lead partner for all projects or parts of projects carried out in their regional network, this includes checking the realisation of activities and the expenditure and declaring the expenditure to the lead partner. On the level of the single project within a RFO in turn the responsibility for checking the realisation and expenditure lies with the project lead participant who reports to the regional partner. The system of payment and control of a RFO is cascade-like and stretches from the programme level to the single project:

b) Financial Management of Individual Co-operation Projects

The Paying Authority is transferring payments only to the lead partner, who in turn is responsible for payments to the project partners. The Paying Authority is including the expenditure declared to it by the lead partner in the regular reports in its certified declarations of expenditure to the Commission.

The Managing Authority is concluding a contract with the lead partner, including a description of the management and control system for financial transfer and expenditure established in the project. The contract obliges the lead partner to ensure the expenditures are in accordance with national rules, which is if needed to be confirmed by an independent auditor. On the basis of the contract and on the basis of the activity reports, the MA is ensuring the reality of work carried out and expenditure.

The Lead Partner receives the funds and is responsible for the correct use within the project. The Lead Partner assures that the project is carried out in accordance with the contract. Each partner is submitting regularly his contribution to the activity report and the certificate of expenditure to the lead partner, who is compiling the regular report on activity and expenditure to the PA and MA.

c) Financial Management of Networks

All aid will be paid by the PA to the responsible organisation of the networks (in accordance with Paragraph 37 of the INTERREG III C guidelines). The responsible organisation of the network will pay the costs of the network directly to the participants. The responsible organisation of the network should be regarded as the sole beneficiary of the grant. It carries out all the payments in compliance with national rules. It organises and ensures the management and control of all activities of the network.

The responsible organisation is the only interlocutor to MA and PA. The checks on financial matters will

be carried out according to the rules of the Member State where the responsible organisation is located. The Managing Authority may ask the responsible organisations to submit - together with the activity report, the certification of expenditure which is supported by copies of audit certificates from an independent body.

3.2.4.2 Financial management of the programme in relation to the Commission

All payments by the Commission are transferred to the account of the Paying Authority. Once the payment on account according to Article 32 of the Structural Funds Regulation is done, all following payments (interim payments and final balance) are done on the basis of the expenditure actually paid out and work completed. It is the Paying Authority who undertakes it to draw and submit payment applications to the Commission. The Paying Authority will take care of organising the certification of expenditure according to Art.9 of the Management and Control Regulation and of giving the statement of expenditure. The basis for certifying the expenditure is different for the three types of operations:

According to point 31 of the INTERREG III C-Communication, each Member state shall nominate a body responsible for the financial control of partners located in his country, who are participating in a III C-operation under any of the four III C-programmes. For the Member States of this programme, the bodies responsible for the financial control are given in Annex D. The Member States will take care that III C-projects are audited in line with the same standards as applicable in Single Programming Documents and Operational Programmes in the Member States. The Managing Authority of this programme will take care of informing all bodies responsible for financial control about the details of those partners financed under this programme that are located in their area.

The Member States responsible for this programme will ensure that sample checks covering at least 5% of the total eligible expenditure under this programme are carried out. The method for selecting projects for sample checks will be described in more detail in a special agreement between the 15 Member States. They will take care that the selection of this checks will be representative for the mix of types and sizes of operations under this programme. They will also take into account risk factors identified as well as concentration of operations under certain bodies when selecting the sample to be checked. The Member States will furthermore assure that the checks are distributed over the funding period. The reports on the checks and if necessary on the up-dating of the system for financial control will be submitted to the Commission by 30 June each year.

In the case that day-to-day management or 5%-checks discover serious errors, which lead to cancelling all or part of the Community contribution, the MA and PA will cancel or reallocate the funds and simultaneously account for the cancelled or recovered funds vis-à-vis the Commission. In the case the MA or PA are not able to recover the unjustified funding from the lead partner, the responsibility rests with the Member State concerned. In the case of a net correction by a Commission decision on the basis of Art.39, paragraph 3 of regulation 1260/1999, responsibility of the Member States is limited to the errors and expenditure irregularities committed by partners located on their national territory Each Member States bears the possible financial consequences of irregularities committed by the partners and participants located on its national territory, even for the partners and participants of projects financed by Interreg III C programmes for which it has no responsibility⁷.

7 Concerning financial liability, the Member States responsible for this programme favour the solution described here. They are aware that the precondition for this solution is that the other Zones adopt the same approach. At the time this programme is being submitted to the Commission, the other Zones did not yet confirm the solution proposed here.

The Member States are responsible to declare the programme closure vis-à-vis the Commission. The closure declaration is prepared by an independent person or service from the Member State where the MA or PA is located.

3.3 Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance will be spent on activities necessary for the effective and smooth management and implementation of the programme. An important element for this is a competent and efficient day-to-day work that holds together the flow of information between the bodies involved, prepares the decision making properly, oversees the information collected and its use in the programme management. To fulfil this tasks, a highly skilled and professional secretariat is inevitable.

As III C-introduces a new approach, special emphasis will be given to the assistance and advise in the development of projects. Technical assistance will be invested in the promotion of the programme, awareness rising, pro-active project search and interactive development. The strategy will be built on broad involvement of multiple actors on national and European level and is aiming in activating them.

Besides the information and advise given to potential applicants, a broader dissemination of the achievement of this programme is foreseen under the Plan for information and publicity. Activities necessary to do so are also part of TA.

External advise may be needed to assist gathering and processing of data, implementing a computerised management system, and so on. Additional advise may be necessary on specific questions of managing a programme to assist international co-operation, concerning e.g. the development or projects and drafting of the legal documents that form the basis for the organisational framework of the co-operation projects.

Another element that will need spending of TA is the tasks of evaluation.

According to rule 11 of the Annex of the Eligibility Regulation, TA is calculated separately for the expenditure directly related to administration, implementation, monitoring, and control of the programme on the one hand, and other expenditure (e.g. studies, evaluations, information, seminars, etc.) on the other. The TA under this programme will only fund activities directly related to the programme, whereas the preparatory actions for Interact activities (2.2.6) will be designed for the preparation of the Interact programme. All activities relating to preparation of the Interact programme will be excluded from the TA budget of this programme and funded from the budget for preparatory actions for Interact activities. In relation to activities listed in Annex E, the TA budget will only cover the adaptation and specification for this zones needs, if necessary.

The ERDF contribution to this programme's TA budget will be 50%. The technical assistance under this programme will be supplemented by the activities under the Interact-programme.

3.4 Interplay with other programme-zones

The eligibility of projects with partners from all over Europe leads to projects that overlap different programming zones. A minimum co-ordination on programme level is inevitable and needs to be foreseen concerning selection criteria, financial control, rate of assistance, eligibility, monitoring and evaluation. For measures on coordination of financial responsibility control see section 3.2.4.2.

4. Coherence with EU policies

The activities of INTERREG III C focus on issues being part of other structural fund programmes. This coherence with structural funds is a core element of this programme and guarantees that the activities are in line with EU-policies in content (as given in item 25 of the III C-communication). It will be one of the central tasks of the evaluations of this programme to analyse the value-added in terms of the EU-

policies, including the horizontal policies like environment and equal opportunities.

Although the programme is mainly targeted to public authorities, private actors may form part, but this must clearly be the minority. Nonetheless, If the involvement of private actors includes enterprises, the rules of competition policy and the obligation for notification will certainly be respected. The Member States confirm that any state aid that might be provided under this programme will either be in conformity with the de minimis rule or with aid schemes implemented under one of the block exemption regulations or other exemption regulations or will be notified to the Commission in accordance with notification rules. Especially the following regulations will be observed: Commission regulation (EC) No.68/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to training aid, Commission regulation (EC) No. 69/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to de minimis aid, Commission regulation (EC) No. 70/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to aid to small and medium sized enterprises, all of them published in the Official Journal L 10, 13.1.2001.

5. Plan for information and publicity

This programme and the results it produces will be subject to a comprehensive information and publicity strategy aiming at the widest possible degree of participation and information of public and private actors, as well as the dissemination of the results. The strategy will make use of all available channels of communication to disseminate the information. Specific emphasis will lie in the opportunities offered by electronic media: homepages, mailing lists, etc. will form integral part of the overall strategy. The overall strategy consists of two parts:

As far as the publicity activities are aiming at the potential involvement of actors in projects, they are described in chapter 3.2.1. In this field of informing and involving the public, this programme and the Interact-activities will mutually reinforce each other. The activities include the publication of the central approach of the programme, the distribution of documents for information, as well as the information on the progress of implementation. The Publication strategy will undertake efforts explicitly oriented at the information of potential project partners from third countries and will be co-ordinated with the responsible authorities of third countries interested in the programme.

Besides this a broader public will be informed about progress of the programme and its results. The distribution of the output of the programme contributes to the dissemination of newly developed approaches and allows for additional potential of effects of the programme.

The publication measures are part of the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The Managing authority will develop a detailed communication plan to implement this strategy and will submit the detailed plan within three months after the approval of the programme. As the co-ordination with Interact is crucial, the communication plan will be submitted with delay, in the case that the Interact programme is not yet finished. The co-ordination may lead to the need to revise this chapter of the programme.

6. Indicative Financial table

Each Member State is contributing its share of INTERREG III C money to this programme. In the case of Germany, Greece and Italy, which are participating in more than one INTERREG III C zone, those Member States decided themselves how to distribute the money to the programmes. The sum of all single national shares of ERDF money is the overall ERDF contribution available under this programme. Due to the opportunity offered to give partner from objective 1-regions an assistance rate of 75%, the national contribution is somewhat difficult to calculate. The reason for the difficulties is that one can not know in advance how many projects will involve partner or participants from objective 1-regions. It depends on the project applications to show how frequently a co-operation with objective 1-partners is planned. So to calculate the financial tables, one can only assume an effective average rate of assistance, which is in case of this programme expected to be 60%.

The contribution from the ERDF is calculated in relation to the total eligible cost.

As concerns the private participation, one has to keep in mind that INTERREG III C is mainly oriented to public actors. The opportunities for private contribution are therefore very limited and the financial

calculation is assuming a 5% share of financial contribution from private actors.

For TA purposes, a share of 4,768% has been foreseen. The following table gives the indicative breakdown of the TA-budget according to rule 11 of the Eligibility Regulation.

The co-operation with funds from other EU instruments, specifically pre accession instruments like PHARE national programmes (and ISPA or other programmes if applicable) or other financial instruments as CARDS are of utmost importance for success of the Interreg IIIC Zone East programme. All Non-Member States participating in the Zone East are expected to contribute to the programme by using national, PHARE or other resources. Contributions from PHARE will be specified based on the recommendations of 'PHARE 2000 Review' from Commissioner Verheugen. National sources are contributing to the programme as national co-financing sources to the PHARE or other EU financial instruments from the first Call for Proposal.

Annexes:

7. A: Information to be provided in proposals for a regional framework operation

8. B: Programming Area - Zone East

9. C Definition of Regions

10. D: Bodies responsible for the financial control of INTERREG III C-operations

E: List of Tasks for the Interreg III C co-ordination actions (chapter 2.2.6)

11. Annex A: Information to be provided in proposals for a regional framework operation

Regional framework operation proposals should contain the following information to help the Programme Steering Committee decide on a contribution from the ERDF budget for a regional framework operation.

Proposals should not exceed 20-25 pages as a rule.

Introduction

A brief description of the regions, identifying their particular strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and threats to development.

Content

A description of the proposed operation, its scope (including geographic coverage), its specific aims, its duration and the composition of the partnership involved in preparing the regional framework operation proposal.

Objectives and expected results (quantified if possible),

a description of the interregional strategy to promote co-operation targeting a limited number of subjects, the subjects for co-operation,

a description of the types of projects to be funded (studies, pilot projects, strategic planning, participation in networks, etc.),

the number of partners and other participants,

the division of financing among regions (not more than 40% for the lead partner) and the justification for the division and the total budget,

a detailed workplan and timetable for the implementation of the operation,

a description of the potential influence of the regional framework operation on other structural funds programmes co-financed by the ERDF,

compatibility and synergy with other Community policies,

indicative project selection criteria,

procedures and conditions for applications by potential beneficiaries,

- main target groups.

Management and implementation

This section should include arrangements for co-operation between the regional authorities responsible for the preparation and implementation of the proposal and the managing authorities for other structural funds programmes co-financed by the ERDF.

Lead partner to be designated by the partners as the managing body for the operation,
the composition of the Steering Committee which oversees the implementation and monitoring of the operation, including the selection of projects,
a description of the implementation system,
a description of the financial system,
a description of the control system,
practical arrangements for exchange of information and co-operation between the partners,
- monitoring and evaluation provisions.

Financing plan

Total cost: the ERDF contribution and public and private contributions broken down by the subjects to be covered by the operation,

- rate(s) of assistance envisaged for actions (broken down by Objective 1, Objective 2 and non-objective areas where different rates of assistance are used).

Partnership

- Description of the consultation procedure at the operation drafting stage.

Information and promotion

- A description of publicity and information activities to promote the operation.

12. Annex B: Programming Area - Zone East

13. Annex C: Definition of Regions

The list given here comprises the definition of territorial units forming a region eligible to present a Regional Framework Operation under this programme. Of course regional authorities at a geographically lower level can present the Regional Framework Operation to the Managing Authority, as long it is on behalf of the region as defined here. This list includes not only the countries of this programme, but all Member States.⁸

⁸ For Denmark, Finland and Sweden also parts of the proposed regional unit (comprising more than one NUTS III area) can participate as a region in a RFO but no NUTS III area can participate in more than two RFOs before the midterm review.

14. Annex D: Bodies responsible for the financial control of INTERREG III Co-operations

The following bodies are nominated as responsible for the financial control of all III C-operations in the territory of the member state:

France: to be submitted later

Belgium:

Belgium / Wallonia : Inspection des Finances, cellule audit-fonds européens

Belgium / Flanders : to be submitted later

Belgium / Brussels-Capital Region : to be submitted later Netherlands: to be submitted later

Luxembourg: Inspection Générale des Finances (IGF) - Ministère des Finances

Germany: Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle (to be confirmed)

United Kingdom: to be submitted later

Ireland: to be submitted later

Denmark: Danish Agency for Trade and Industry

Finland: Ministry of Interior

Sweden: Swedish Business Development Agency

Austria: to be submitted later

Italy: to be submitted later

Greece: to be submitted later

Spain: to be submitted later

Portugal: to be submitted later

15. Annex E: List of Tasks for the Interreg III C co-ordination actions (chapter 2.2.6)