



EU News

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Money from the EU is not only Structural Funds |



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Dear readers,

Traditionally, August is the period when most European institutions take their leave. The intensity of developments and the amount of new events wholly corresponds to this period.

In spite of the absence of revolutionary developments, this period was convenient for reflecting on some of the existing processes accompanying the course of European integration.

One of these processes may be, for instance, overcoming the fairly established perception of the choice of financial resources available to the individual member states and their citizens, companies and institutions. In our country, this perception is – perhaps rightfully – predominantly focused on Structural Funds as the key instrument of the EU's regional policy. Dozens of conferences and seminars, hundreds of presentations carried out there, even a number of specialised worksites in private companies as well as public institutions have Structural Funds in their names.

And it may seem that under a detailed analysis of the form of the Structural Funds in individual member states – the Operational Programmes – interest in comprehensively embracing all the financial sources which an entity from a member state can acquire at the EU level, has become lost. If we take a look at a comprehensive list of such sources, the Structural Funds are like a drop in the ocean, although they represent a substantial financial amount with the volume of allocated money. Nevertheless, a number of those who have not been fortunate enough in competitions for projects under the Operational Programmes for various reasons have the chance to succeed in other programmes organised at various levels of European institutions.

In this issue of this monthly periodical, we have tried to list the EU projects and grants found outside the sphere of Structural Funds. In the topic of this issue, we offer ways of finding these projects and grants. In the following issues, we will be bringing regular updates on them.

We have also devoted the August period to a substantial update, extension and visual beautification of our website, www.csas.cz/eu, where we have added new special analyses and which has acquired a more modern face. We cordially invite you to view and study the new and existing information sources.

I hope that you will spend many pleasant moments when reflecting on the present time of our European integration as well as when reading this latest issue of the EU Developments Monthly Magazine of Česká spořitelna and I wish you a smooth entry into an interesting autumn European integration season.

Petr Zahradník



Events

The European Union already knows the new composition of its supreme executive body. The names of 8 women appeared in the team of José Barroso, the Chairman; the former Czech prime minister Vladimír Špidla, has become the Commissioner for employment, social affairs and equal opportunities. Commentators mostly agree that as compared to Prodi's cabinet, the new composition of the European Commission is more liberal and pro-reformist.

POLITICS

New "Lisbon" Commission Presented

Almost two weeks sooner than expected, José Manuel Barroso, the designated Chairman of the new European Commission, presented his team who will officially take office on 1 November. In addition to the Chairman, the Commission will consist of five Vice-Chairpersons and nineteen Commissioners. The position of Supercommissioner has not been set up. There will be 8 women in the Commission, more than ever before. A new post for improved communication with other institutions, media and the public has been set up in the Commission. A number of "old" portfolios were divided in two: energy and transport, agriculture and fishery, internal market and taxation. In addition, one Commissioner will be responsible for the budget and financial planning, while another Commissioner will be responsible for financial audits and the policy for combating fraud. Formerly, both portfolios were in the agenda of a single Commissioner.

Within the Commission, a number of information groups were created to supervise the main priorities. The group of Commissioners responsible for the Lisbon strategy will be headed by Chairman Barroso himself. In addition, there will be groups for external relationships (headed by José Manuel Barroso), for communication and planning (Margot Wallström), for equal opportunities (Vladimír Špidla) and for competitiveness (Günther Verheugen).

The Barroso team has yet to be approved by the European Parliament; the hearing should start the last week in September.

It is clear now that there will be changes in the composition of the European Commission during its five-year mandate. After the Constitutional Treaty is ratified by all the member states, Javier Solana, the EU Minister of Foreign Affairs, will become the Vice-President of the Commission. If Bulgaria and Romania (and perhaps Croatia as well) accede to the Union in 2007, as expected, their representatives will also become members of the Commission.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1029>

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1030>

Composition of the New European Commission

José Manuel Durão Barroso President	<i>Portugal</i>
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Jacques Barrot Vice President, Transport	<i>France</i>
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Günther Verheugen Vice President, Enterprise and Industry	<i>Germany</i>
Margot Wallström Vice President, Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy	<i>Sweden</i>
Siim Kallas Vice President Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud	<i>Estonia</i>
Benita Ferrero-Waldner External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy	<i>Austria</i>
Louis Michel Development and Humanitarian Aid	<i>Belgium</i>
Markos Kyprianou Health and Consumer Protection	<i>Cyprus</i>
Vladimir Špidla Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	<i>Czech republic</i>
Mariann Fischer Boel Agriculture and Rural Development	<i>Denmark</i>
Olli Rehn Enlargement	<i>Finland</i>
Stavros Dimas Environment	<i>Greece</i>
László Kovács Energy	<i>Hungary</i>
Charlie McCreevy Internal Market and Services	<i>Ireland</i>
Ingrida Udre Taxation and Customs Union	<i>Latvia</i>
Dalia Grybauskaitė Financial Programming and Budget	<i>Lithuania</i>
Viviane Reding Information Society and Media	<i>Luxembourg</i>
Joe Borg Fisheries and Maritime Affairs	<i>Malta</i>
Neelie Kroes Competition	<i>Netherlands</i>
Danuta Hübner Regional Policy	<i>Poland</i>
Jan Figel Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism	<i>Slovakia</i>
Janez Potocnik Science and Research	<i>Slovenia</i>
Joaquin Almunia Economic and Monetary Affairs	<i>Spain</i>
Peter Mandelson Trade	<i>UK</i>
Rocco Buttiglione Justice, Freedom and Security	<i>Italy</i>

ECONOMY AND EURO

Commission will Propose Softening of the Stability Pact

The stringent rules of the Growth and Stability Pact will probably be softened soon through the extension of the scope of what is referred to as exceptional circumstances, which justify exceeding the 3 percent limit of the budget deficit (in relation to the GDP). According to Les Echos, a French economic daily newspaper, the European Commission will present a proposal to this effect in early September. In addition to a serious economic recession, a long period of weak growth will also be a sufficient reason for suspension of the requirement to maintain the deficit below the specified limit.

The prolongation of the time limits for correcting excessive deficits is to be yet another easement. The currently valid system states that within four months after the EC enunciates an excessive deficit, the country concerned must present a plan for decreasing the deficit and then the country is allowed one year to implement the plan. These criteria are to be less rigid and the Commission is to be given the possibility to modify them according to the specific situation of each country at fault. The Finance Ministers of the member states should discuss this proposal at an informal meeting on 9 September.

BUDGET

Barroso Continues to Fight for Increase of the EU Budget

José Barroso, the new Chairman of the European Commission, requests an increase in the common European budget to 1.14% of the gross national income. "Europe cannot have an ambitious policy with insufficient funds," said Barroso.

When discussing the financial perspectives for the period from 2007 to 2013, the newly composed Commission will build on the work of Prodi's cabinet. Prodi also requested an increase in the budget with regard to the enlargement of the Union and the new challenges.

However, the group of net contributors to the common budget sharply opposes this: Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. In their letter presented to the European Commission in December last year, this "gang of six" requests setting a limit for EU budget expenses to 1 percent of the EU's gross national income. Germany and France argue that they cannot be requested to decrease their

national deficits and increase their contributions to the European treasury at the same time.

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0101en02.pdf

TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION

EU Considers Abolishing Motor Vehicle Registration Tax

The European Commission is considering abolishing the motor vehicle registration tax and other fees concerning automobiles, which it deems to be deforming the Union's single market, said the press spokesman of the European Commission in early August. The underlying idea of the proposal is that the taxes, which are not related to the environment, would be replaced with road taxes and fuel taxes. The vehicle registration tax was stated as an example.

The European Commission will discuss this plan with the governments of the EU countries, companies and other institutions until 10 September, and then it will present a legislative proposal.

The vehicle registration tax and other fees vary across the states in the 25-member Union. This results in different costs of operating a vehicle, which limits the free movement of goods.

As a preliminary solution to be applied before the elimination of the automobile registration tax, the Commission will propose a system where the financial amounts will be refunded if the vehicle owner moves, along with the vehicle, to another country in the Union, said the spokesman.

RESEARCH

Open Consultations on Nanotechnologies Started

The European Commission has started open consultations on the future policy for nanotechnology, which is regarded as one of the key technologies of the 21st century and even as a possible catalyst of a future industrial revolution.

Nanotechnologies became a priority in the European research agenda after the Commission's communication "Towards a European Strategy in Nanotechnologies" was issued in May 2004.

Contributions from the parties involved can be sent to the Commission at the following e-mail address: rtd-nano-strategy@cec.eu.int until the end of September. A



With the upcoming December EU Summit that should, among other things, make a decision on the start of the accession talks with Turkey, various opinions on the accession of this country to the Community are propagating. While Günther Verheugen, the Commissioner for enlargement, favours starting the talks as early as in spring 2005, Hannes Swoboda, the vice-president of socialists in the European Parliament considers the possibility of Turkey acceding to the EU in the following ten years to be absurd.

structured on-line form can be filled in at the "Nanoforum" website.

Nanoforum is a Europe-funded topic-specific network which aims to provide an interconnecting framework for all activities in nanotechnologies in the EU. It also serves as a portal to information on the research programmes, technological development, financial opportunities and future activities in nanotechnologies.

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1005>

ENLARGEMENT

Enlarging the EU with Romania will be Expensive

While the planned accession of Romania to the EU in 2007 is nearing, the first figures on the estimated costs of the accession have already been published. In its study titled "Assessment of the Costs and Benefits of Romania's Accession to the EU" (the twelfth of a series of Pre-Accession Impact Studies), the European Institute of Romania estimates that the costs of Romania's accession will amount to EUR 14.5 billion in the years 2007-2009, with the Union itself paying EUR 8.9 billion.

According to this study, the long-term costs of the accession in such areas as transport and the environment will be massive. The Institute estimates that the investments in Romania's infrastructure that Romania will need to make will amount to EUR 18.3 billion in the years 2004-2007 and around EUR 10.6 billion in the years 2008 to 2015.

<http://www.ier.ro/impactstudiesPAIS2.html>

Negotiations with Turkey will be Difficult

According to Le Figaro, a French daily newspaper, in negotiations on the accession of Turkey the European Commission wants to avoid the mistakes it made during the last enlargement by 10 new states and wants to take a stern stance. When the December EU Summit decides on the start of the talks, the Commission will insist on a definite course of negotiations. The relevant chapters will not be closed until full transposition of *acquis communautaire* into the Turkish national legislation takes place.

Opinions on the future approach to Turkey still vary. AIV, an influential Dutch advisory committee, recommends setting aside the concerns about accepting Turkey into the EU based on its widespread Muslim population. "The acceptance of a Muslim country may be new to the EU but in principle it's no different from past enlargements. Islam will gain a position in the EU anyway," says the committee

and refers to the fact that 20 million Muslims already live in member states. AIV goes even further and recommends starting the initial accession negotiations within two years or possibly even sooner, provided that Turkey continues to implement democratic reforms. In spite of this, the committee says it is inadvisable to set an exact date for the future accession, which could raise false hopes.

Hannes Swoboda, the Austrian vice-president of socialists in the European Parliament, is sceptical about the Turkish chances. In his opinion, at its December meeting, the European Council should set the beginning of the accession talks at 2 or 3 years from now. In the meantime, Turkey must meet the Copenhagen criteria, especially in human rights and the fight against corruption. The results of the negotiations with Turkey should remain open so that they may be interrupted at any time and do not automatically lead to accession of the country to the EU. In the opinion of Swoboda, it would be "utterly absurd" to hope that Turkey will accede to the EU during the following ten years.

<http://www.aiv-advies.nl/N1000AD/N137/N137MA.htm>

ENVIRONMENT

EEA: Let Us Prepare for the Consequences of Climatic Changes

A study by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) describes the trends and projections of 22 indicators in the environment. One of the key conclusions of the study is that as a consequence of climatic changes, Europe is warming at a faster pace than the global average. During the last one hundred years, the average temperature increased globally by 0.7°C, while in Europe it increased by 0.95°C. It is estimated that by 2100, the average temperature will increase by something between 1.4 and 5.8°C on Earth and by something between 2.0 and 6.3°C in Europe. Even if still more effective measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases are taken, further climatic changes are inevitable and therefore the study urges the adoption of a strategy for adaptation to the consequences of this climatic change. The study shows examples of the measures of this kind which can be implemented quickly and at acceptable costs.

The study by the European Environmental Agency was published at a time when the persons involved in this issue seem to have lost the momentum in their fight against climatic change. For example, the representatives of industrial and employer associations call for a major revision of the EU's strategy for combating climatic changes

because this strategy reduces the competitiveness of European industry, in their opinion.

http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/newsreleases/climate_report-en

Commission's Manual on Green Public Procurement

The European Commission published a manual on "green" public procurements, which aims to help public administration in applying environmental criteria when goods and services are purchased.

The Commission is trying to persuade the public authorities to take environmental issues into account when awarding their contracts. In the Public Procurement Directive (2004/18/EC), the European Union gives public authorities the option to use environmental criteria to evaluate the offers of private companies. Yet a recent study examining procurement practices in the EU15 Member States shows that only 19% of all public administrations undertake a significant amount of green purchasing.

Therefore, the Commission published a handbook which explains in clear, non-technical terms how to introduce environmental considerations in the different stages of a procurement procedure.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1045>

A Number of Member States still do not Respect European Law

Last year, more than one third of all complaints and violations of the European legislation concerned the environmental sector.

The transposition of the EU's environmental law has proven to be a hard nut to crack for some of the old member states, with France, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain having the worst records according to the last annual survey. Conversely, the Scandinavian states and Portugal are the least problematic states. It is seen from the 2003 survey that there were 88 cases in which environmental Directives were not transposed into national legislation on time. In 118 cases, the Directives were not correctly transposed. Most shortcomings have been found in the sectors of water, waste, nature protection and environmental impact assessments.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1038>

HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Legislation for the Improvement of Children's Medicine is being prepared

The European Commission is currently finalising a new legislative proposal which aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of medicines prescribed to children. The new law will support the research and development of pharmaceuticals for children. A panel of Commissioners should approve the proposal in September.

According to the Commission's data, at least 50% of the medicines administered to newborn babies or adolescents have never been tested for impact on this age group. In practice, it is common that physicians prescribe that smaller doses of medicines for adults should be administered or that medicines for adults should be administered at a lower frequency. Some other forms of the medicines – for example, a liquid instead of a tablet – would often suit small patients better.

For the purpose of reducing the risk of unexpected side effects, the Commission has drafted new legislation introducing an obligation for pharmaceutical companies to improve medicines intended for children. For example, one of the measures is that the companies will have to present the results of clinical tests during the medicine authorisation process. The same rule should apply to medicines with patent protection which are already on the market, if the companies wanted to extend their scope of use. Some of this information would then be made available to the public. The Directive envisions that the pharmaceutical companies will be compensated for the increase in costs by a six-month extension of the validity of their patents.

The Commission also proposes incentives for the preparation of new studies on the paediatric effectiveness of generic medicines (i.e. medicines not covered by patents).

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/pharmacos/medchild.htm>

The future form of the EU's sustainable development strategy, which hinders European industry in its global competitiveness, according to some opinions, is becoming a major topic. The parties involved may express their views on this issue in a public consultation that will be used as the basis for the revision of this policy in January. The conclusions of the conference on the topic titled "Towards Sustainable Production in the SME Sector" are also worthy of attention.

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EU HR Javier Solana announces the appointment of the Chief Executive and deputy Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/81608.pdf

Analysis of the budgetary implementation of the Structural Funds in 2003:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/budget/furtherinfo/execution>

A new Memorandum of Understanding took effect - Romanian participation in "eTEN" programme:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/ocp/programmes/MOUS>

European Investment Bank - List of intermediary banks and financing institutions for global loans:

<http://eib.eu.int/news/news.asp?news=33&years=-1&months=-1&categories=-1&page=1>

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Updated data on participation of candidate countries in Community programmes:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/programmes_communitaires/index.cfm?menu=2&page=B0

Insurance - Consultation on Solvency II:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/insurance/solvency/solvency2-consultation_en.htm

Euro-zone unemployment stable at 9.0 %:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/dashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=3-03082004-EN-BP-EN&mode=download>

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Consultation launched to prepare for review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/pages/consult_en.htm

New and Renewable Energies - First national reports on promotion of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/legislation/biofuels_members_states_en.htm

Company taxation - detailed Commission information document and questionnaire on Home State Taxation for SMEs:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/developments.htm

Volume of retail trade up by 1.2% in euro-zone:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/dashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=4-040582004-EN-AP-EN&mode=download>

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The Workalo project - the creation of new occupational patterns for cultural minorities: the gypsy case:

<http://www.neskes.net/workalo/indexan.htm>

Space research highlighted in next Framework Programme:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/space/news/article_1320_en.html

Directive 2003/48/EC on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments has been published:

http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/archive/2004/l_25720040804en.html

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Cost-benefit Analysis of the Injury Prevention Programme 1999-2003 and Final Project Evaluation:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_projects/2002/injury/ipp_2002_06_en.htm

Review of the Eurosystem's collateral framework: second step towards a 'Single List':

http://www.ecb.int/press/pr/date/2004/html/pr040805_1.en.html

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Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/81675.pdf

Economic Papers - Improving fiscal policy in the EU: the case for independent forecasts:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/economic_papers/economicpapers210_en.htm

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Commission report on the common market organisation in fruit and vegetables:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/reports/fruit_vegsimpl/index_en.htm



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EuropeAid Cooperation Office: Asia-Link Programme - funded projects:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-link/projects_country.htm

European Investment Fund - Quarterly Newsletter:

<http://www.eif.org/news/News.asp?news=84&cat=-1>

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Updated overview of Health Policy:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

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Audiovisual Library - The 25 nominee Commissioners for the new Barroso Commission:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/mediatheque/photo/barroso/commission_en.htm

Research report on work and health "Corporate social responsibility and safety and health at work":

<http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/reports/210/en/index.htm>

Euro-zone GDP up by 0.5 %, EU25 GDP up by 0.6 %:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=2-13082004-EN-AP-EN&mode=download>

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Stakeholder consultation on the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/consultations/forestry/index_en.htm

Social dialogue as a key and efficient tool for change:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2004/aug/socdial2_en.html

Water for Life - EU water initiative:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index_en.html

Publication of the indicative calendar for the Eurosystem's tender operations in 2005:

http://www.ecb.int/press/pr/date/2004/html/pr040813_1.en.html

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Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies adopts Opinion on levels of Boron in food:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/529_en.html

Protection of coral reefs around Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands and changes to North Sea Haddock rules:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf04_36_en.htm

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Preparation of public consultation on the European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/pages/consult_en.htm

Euro-zone annual inflation down to 2.3 %:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=2-18082004-EN-AP-EN&mode=download>

Industrial production down by 0.4 % in euro-zone:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=4-17082004-EN-AP-EN&mode=download>

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Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/committees/regulatory/modif_genet/index_en.htm

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EU External Assistance - programmes and projects:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm

Information Society - Open consultation on future European policy to support research:

<http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/forms/dispatch.jsp?form=330&lang=EN>

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Conference "Towards sustainable production in SMEs" - Benchmarking project:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/environment/events/sme_conference/index.htm

Science and society - Publication of a new leaflet on the action plan:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/action-plan/action-plan_en.html

Weekly overview of RAPEX notifications:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/cons_safe/prod_safe/gpsd/rapex_en.htm#overviews

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Open Consultation on draft technical requirements for tissues and cells:



Diary

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/human_substance/oc_tech_cell/oc_tech_cell_en.htm

EuropeAid Cooperation Office: FAQ and Useful Links:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/general/faq_en.htm

Utilisation of budget appropriations:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/execution/utilisation/index_en.htm

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Study on the European Cities and Capitals of Culture:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/capitals_en.html

Ten years of the European Training Foundation (new publication): http://publications.eu.int/Just/70a49d68-ff92-243a-9134630421d4e005_en.html

European Environment Agency - Europe needs adaptation strategies to limit climate change impacts:
http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/newsreleases/climate_report-en

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European Technology Platform to be established in textile and clothing sector:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/industrial_technologies/articles/article_1406_en.html

Study on the transfer of protection status in the EU:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/studies/doc_asylum_studies_en.htm

EU Engineering Database updated:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/mechan_equipment/statistics/index.htm

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Working for the regions - New brochure online:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/doc_gener/presenta/pres_en.htm

Increase in use of Europol services:
<http://www.europol.eu.int/index.asp?page=news&news=pr040825.htm>

European Refugee Fund of EUR 216 million has been created:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm

Buying green - How public authorities can help save the environment and taxpayer's money:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/publicprocurement/key-docs_en.htm

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Second interim evaluation of the Culture 2000 framework programme:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/finances/actionplan/conference

Outermost regions - New report published:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/newsroom/index_en.htm

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Crafts and Small Businesses site - overview and reference documents updated:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/craft/index.htm>

EU25 population up by 0.4% to reach 456 million:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=3-31082004-EN-BP-EN&mode=download>

European Railway Agency launched:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/transport/news/eu_railway_agency_en.html





With the beginning of September, the activity of the key decision-making bodies of the European Union resumed its usual pace. The meeting of the EU Council on economic and financial issues will draw the attention of economic experts. The easing of the budgetary rules defined by the Growth and Stability Pact is to be discussed at this meeting. In late September, the new Commissioners will appear before the European Parliament.

3.-4.9.2004

- Informal Foreign Ministers' Meeting

5.-7.9.2004

- Informal Agricultural Council

9.-10.9.2004

- Informal Council of Health Ministers

10.-11.9.2004

- Informal Ecofin

13.-14.9.2004

- External Affairs Council

13.-16.9.2004

- European Parliament Plenary Session

20.-21.9.2004

- Agriculture Council

24.9.2004

- Competitiveness Council

26.9.2004

- European Day of Languages

29.-30.9.2004

- European Parliament Plenary Session

29.9.-1.10.2004

- Informal JHA Council



Main Topic

In an absolute majority of cases, the attention of potential as well as actual presenters of projects is primarily focused on the specific method of allocating Structural Funds or the Community Initiatives in each member state and substantially less attention, if any at all, is paid to the funds, which are, in principle, offered in an amount that exceeds the limited sum allocated to each member state in the regional policy. In our Topic of the Month we therefore focus on these direct programmes.

EU MONEY IS NOT JUST STRUCTURAL FUNDS

In an absolute majority of cases, the attention of potential as well as actual presenters of projects is primarily focused on the specific method of allocating Structural Funds or the Community Initiatives in each member state, i.e. on the Operational Programmes (there are five specific programmes of this kind in the Czech Republic), and substantially less attention, if any at all, is paid to the funds, which are, in principle, offered in an amount that exceeds the limited sum allocated to each member state according to the limits defined by the European Commission for each member state for the relevant instruments of the EU's regional policy. The limit for the Czech Republic is EUR 2.63 billion for the rest of this programme period of the EU's regional policy.

What can one do if some of the priorities and measures are not in accordance with the needs of the projects which the implementers of these projects have? What can one do if the project implementer is in accordance with the technical definition of the priority and the measure but is not an authorised entity (for example, the measure only concerns public organisations and does not concern single traders and entrepreneurs)? What can one do if the amount of the amount that needs to be invested or the project value is too high (a more common case) or, conversely, too low (a less common case) and the technical intentions cannot be fulfilled for this reason?

The fact that the attention is absolutely focused solely on the instruments of the EU's regional policy, that is, mostly on the Structural Funds, shows that the Czech public does not perceive the EU comprehensively and integrally and only concentrates on selected areas, which are massively presented in the mass media and discussions. And yet the European Commission has two dozen Directorates General and not just one – the DG for Regional Policy - and yet the European Commission manages almost 20 common and coordinated policies and not just the probably best-known one – regional policy.

In what way can opportunities outside the regional policy, i.e. outside the Structural Funds and the structure of the Operational Programmes, be taken advantage of? And how are these opportunities different from the practice of the Operational Programmes?

So, above all: While the Operational Programmes are specific instruments intended for the specific country and for the authorities administered by the country, the other opportunities are made available throughout the EU and

usually no strict selection is carried out. While for the applicants interested in participating in the Operational Programmes, the contact points are the Implementation Agencies in each country or, speaking precisely, in its region, the relevant worksites of the European Commission are the contact points for the alternative opportunities. The contact information to such contact points is always included in an announced grant. While the communication language for the Operational Programmes is always the mother tongue of the country concerned, communication in English or French is more suitable for the alternative sources. With regard to the limit on the available funds, it applies, in principle, that the only limits are the total amount earmarked for the specific purpose and the continuous process of drawing on this amount (there is no structure of financial limits by individual countries). Grants are usually announced continually and not within individual programme periods (as with the Operational Programmes) and the funds are released in a highly flexible manner. After the funds are exhausted, the announced grant is deleted from the list of the grants on offer and is usually soon replaced by a new announced grant.

Therefore, it is important to check the relevant websites, which are stated below, quite regularly to find out whether a new grant has been announced.

What do the alternative opportunities have in common with the regional policy instruments? Above all, the similarity is that these auxiliary financial sources are mostly spent on projects of a non-investment or intangible nature in this case, too. Perhaps even to a greater extent than in the case of the Structural Funds, these funds are released for research and development projects, for education, training and retraining, for consultancy and assistance, and to a lesser degree for investments into "concrete, bricks, machines and iron".



And how and where can these opportunities be registered, found and checked on an ongoing basis? As a standard, the “omniscient” official website of European integration and European institutions can be used for this purpose. This website is the basic starting point for everyone who considers himself or herself to be at least an elementary expert on European integration events: europa.eu.int. The basic version of this website is also available in the Czech language. After finding the homepage of the Czech version, we can go to the section “Activities of the European Union – Structure by Topics”. Here, we have 31 activities, including the EU’s regional policy. When we open the page with most of these activities, we will see a section titled “Grants and Loans”. In a further search for specific grants and loans, we will have to satisfy ourselves again with English, French or German because the overwhelming majority of the announced grants are described in these languages.

What should be done next? You should study the design brief of the relevant grant very carefully and ask yourselves whether the degree of harmony between its conditions and the applicant’s needs is at least at an above-the-average level. Then, it is a good idea to look at how much money has already been used from this grant and how much money actually remains (it is a good idea to bear in mind that in real time, more potential applicants are considering using this grant; it is up to them to evaluate realistically their chances of actually drawing on the grant). If we receive an affirmative answer, all you need to do is to contact the relevant person stated in the conditions of the grant, follow his or her instructions, cooperate willingly and believe that you will be the one who will successfully receive an aliquot part of the grant.

“Alternative” financial sources of the EU (outside the Structural Funds)

- there is no national limit;
- direct communication with the relevant contact point in the European Commission, without mediation through domestic authorities outside the framework of the Operational Programmes;
- the language of communication is often English or French;
- the funds are continually drawn according to the interest of the applicants; the funds are not structured into programme periods;
- these funds support primarily research and development projects; investment projects involving investments into tangible assets are supported to a far lesser degree.

It is, of course, true that most of the EU funds are not paid directly by the European Commission; they are paid through national and regional authorities directly in the member states. This is, naturally, the case of the payments made under the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (we drew attention to it in the June issue of our EU Developments Monthly Magazine) and the case of most of the payments made within the financial instruments of the EU’s structural policy (the European Fund for Regional Development, the European Social Fund, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance), which we covered in the January, February and July issues of our monthly magazine. These funds indisputably represent a large volume of EU resources in financial terms.

The European Commission pays direct grants to recipients (public or private legal entities – universities, business organisations, interest groups, non-profit organisations; and in certain special cases, the recipients can also be private individuals), pursuing the interest of implementing additional common and coordinated policies in the spheres of research and development, education, professional training, the environment, consumer protection and information. The European Commission also pays direct grants in connection with the implementation of its external policies.

All the EU’s funds are released according to accurately specified objectives and priorities of various common and coordinated policies, which are consequently based on the principles and measures of the basic set of treaties of the Community and Unity. The description of the entire mosaic of EU funds can be found in the individual sections of the special website, a description of which is the subject of this topic-specific analysis. Grants are provided according to specific EU legislation, except for certain pilot schemes, preparatory actions and goals ensured directly by the European Commission as an institution. The principles and procedures for providing and paying EU grants (of all types) are governed by the financial regulatory framework and its implementation rules.

The financial regulatory framework also requires that all grants given to recipients during the current financial year are published on an annual basis, including the names and addresses of the recipients and the granted amounts. Each recipient should be aware that the amount, contents and duration of the grant paid from the EU’s resources is public and published, serving as inspiration for the recipient’s possible followers. If not even the mentioned website provides a potential applicant with the expected information, there is an alternative method of finding a suitable grant on



Main Topic

the website of the corresponding Directorate General of the European Commission. On these websites, there is usually also a complete list of grants (structured in various manners) provided in the past.

Everything related to this issue can be found in a number of various structured overviews and profiles at: <http://www.europa.eu.int/grants>. For practical reasons, it is also advisable to alternatively check the original websites of the areas which are the subject matters of the grant. Experience shows that when we enter these pages, we will get a not quite up-to-date overview of the grants on offer but when we update the original page we will get a complete up-to-date list.

If we look inside this website, we can choose from the options in the following menu:

- Browse Grants by Topic
- Browse Grants by DG
- Index
- New Grants
- Introduction to EU funding

Browse Grants by Topic

It is apparent that the grants are structured by topic according to four basic criteria:

- areas of activity;
- geographic focus of the area to which the grant is related (continent, country or region);
- type of the recipient of the grant or the organisation implementing the project concerned (beneficiary or organisation);
- the names of the selected types of programmes (programmes).

Areas of activity

Agriculture	Investments
Aquaculture	Joint ventures
Asylum	Judicial cooperation
Audiovisual industry	Justice
Civil protection	Labour market
Cohesion Fund	Languages
Competitiveness and sustainability	Marine environment
Concentration camps	Maritime activities
Cooperation	Market access
Cross-border cooperation	Natural disasters
	Nuclear industry

Culture	Organised crime
Demography	Pollution
Disabilities	Promotional campaigns
Discrimination	Quality of life
ECHO	Racism
Education	Radioactivity
Electricity	Radiology
Employment	Research
Energy	Risk capital
Enlargement	Rural development
Environment	Safety (inspections)
Euratom	Science and technology
Euro info centres	Single market
European Development Fund	Social affairs
European Social Fund	Social dialogue
Fisheries	Social exclusion
Fissile materials	Statistics
Forests	Structural Funds
Free movement	Subcontracting
Health	Technology
Humanitarian aid	Tourism
Immigration	Trade
Information society	Trafficking in human beings
Innovation	Training
International cooperation	Transport
	Violence

Continent, country or region

ACP (countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific-Lomé Convention)	Mediterranean region
Africa	Mountain and hill areas
Asia	New Independent States (NIS)
Australia	New Zealand
Canada	North America
CEECs	Outermost regions
Coastal areas	Pre-accession
Japan	Rural areas
Korea	Russia
Latin America	United States
Less-developed regions	Urban areas

Beneficiary or organisation

Children	Public bodies
Consumers	Refugees
Employers	SMEs
Enterprises	Universities
International organisations	Victims of violence
Interpreters	Workers
NGOs	Youth
Private bodies	

Programs

ALTENER II	LIFE III
ARGO	MEDIA
CREA	OISIN
DAPHNE	PHARE
ETAP	SAVE II
EURES	SOCRATES
EUROPARTENARIAT	STOP
EUROTECH	SURE
FALCONE	SYNERGY
GROTIUS	TACIS
HIPPOKRATES	TEMPUS
JEV	THERMIE
LEONARDO	

Viewing grants according to the responsible Directorates General

The second option offered to us by this website is to view the grants by the individual Directorates General of the European Commission. It is clear that this structure may feature cross-referencing especially with the previous topic-oriented method of structuring as well as with the lists structured in other ways (geographically or by the type of recipient). However, from experience, we know that it is worthwhile to monitor both types of structured lists thoroughly.

Viewing grants according to the alphabetical index of project names

For a third perspective, the website offers an alphabetical index of the project names in the English language, where we can also find some of the resources of the Structural Policy, among others. Their list shows that with respect to

their number, they represent an absolute minority (of course, this is not true for the volume of redistributed money). In order to maintain the order in the index, we have not translated the projects into Czech.

A

A Community Framework for co-operation to promote sustainable urban development

Aid for beekeeping

Aid for the processing of flax and hemp straw for fibre production

Aid scheme for producers of certain citrus fruits

Aid scheme for the production of dried fodder

ALFA (second phase)

Arable crops policy concerning cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, flax, hemp and set aside.

ARGO - Administrative cooperation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration.

C

Campaign to promote the consumption of olive oil in third countries. International Olive Oil Council (IOOC).

Cohesion Fund

Common market organisation for eggs.

Common market organisation for hops

Common market organisation for poultrymeat

Common market organisation for sugar

Common market organisation of bananas

Common market organisation of milk and milk products

Common market organisation of pigmeat

Common market organisation of seeds

Common market organisation of the market in beef and veal

Common market organisation of tobacco

Common organisation of the market in wine

Community action programme in the field of civil protection (2000-2004)

Community action programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection



Main Topic

Community action programme to combat discrimination - VP/2001/009

Community action programme to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion (2002-2006) - 2nd Programme

Community cooperation framework for accidental or intentional marine pollution

Community incentive measures in the field of employment (EIM)

Community Initiative EQUAL, under the European Social Fund

Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions

Community Statistical Programme 2003-2007

Confirming the international role of Community research (1998-2002)

Culture 2000 framework programme

D

DAPHNE

E

EC-US Programme for Cooperation in the field of higher education and vocational education and training / EC-Canada Programme for Cooperation in the field of higher education and training

ENEA pilot project on mobility of elderly people

Enhancing EU-related activities in Canadian universities

ERDF

ERDF innovative measures

ETF Start-up Facility

EU Institute in Japan

EU-Japan Year of People-to-People exchanges

Euratom Loans

Euro Info Centre network

European integration activities organised by the academic world

European Refugee Fund

Executive Training Programme in Japan/Korea

F

Financing emergency humanitarian operations lasting six months

Framework programme for judicial cooperation in civil matters

Free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrant workers

G

Grant to an international organisation to support organisation in Asia of a workshop on trade facilitation

Grants for activities to raise awareness of trade issues and enhance expertise

Grants in the field of transport and for the organisation of conferences in the fields of energy and transport

Grants in the framework of external actions of the Community and of the EDF

Growth and Environment



H

HRTTP - Japan Industry Insight

I

Improving the Human Research Potential and the Socio-economic Knowledge Base

Information and training measures for workers' organisations

Information measures relating to the common agricultural policy

Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings

Innovation Relay Centres network

Innovative measures under Article 6 of the ESF (VP/2003/021)

J

Jean Monnet Project European Integration in University Studies

Joint European Ventures (JEVs).

L

LEADER+ Community initiative.

LIFE III Extension

M

Malta pre-accession programme

Market in fresh fruit and vegetables

Market in processed fruit and vegetables

Market studies and promotion of nuts.

Measures concerning agricultural products to assist the French Overseas Departments (POSEIDOM), the Azores, Madeira (POSEIMA), the Canary Islands (POSEICAN)

Measures promoting consumption in the Community and expanding the markets for milk and milk products.

Measures to promote and market quality beef and veal.

Measures to promote and to provide information on agricultural products in third countries.

Measures to promote apples and citrus fruit.

Measures to promote live plants and floricultural products.

Measures to promote the use of flax fibre.

MEDIA Plus : Third phase of the Media Programme (measures to encourage the development of the audiovisual industry)

N

National awareness raising actions on social inclusion

O

Olive oil and table olives

P

Phare

Pilot cooperation project in the field of higher education

Post graduate courses in conference interpreting. Grants to students studying conference interpreting.

Potato starch sector

Pre-accession structural instrument (ISPA)

Programme for research, technological development and demonstration on energy, environment and sustainable development - Sub-programme: energy

Programme relative to the Community framework strategy on gender equality (2001-2005).

Programmes under Objectives 1 and 2 for the programming period 2000-2006

Projects promoting co-operation and commercial relations with countries of North America, the Far East and Australasia (USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Korea)

Provision of assistance to the partner States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Public Diplomacy - Canada

Q

Quality of life & management of living resources

R

Research and training on nuclear energy

Rice policy

Rural development programmes for 2000-06.





Main Topic

S

Safety of transport of radioactive materials (SURE)

SAPARD - Community support for pre-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of central and eastern Europe in the pre-accession period.

Second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education (Socrates)

Second phase of the Community action programme in the field of vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci)

Seed Capital Action

Seventh campaign to promote the consumption of olive oil in the Community.

SME Finance Facility

SME Guarantee Facility

Specific measures in the table olives sector.

Starch policy

Structural operations in fisheries and aquaculture (by the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance, FIGF)

Supply of food from intervention stocks to the most deprived persons in the Community

Support cotton production

Support for debate and reflection projects organised by associations and federations of European interest for 2003.

Support for European discussion projects organised by non-governmental organisations for 2003

T

Technical assistance at the initiative and/or on behalf of the DG

TEMPUS III

Training of national judges in EC competition law and judicial co-operation between national judges

Transatlantic Dialogues

U

URB-AL

USA Outreach Programme - Think Tanks (Lot 1), Academic Institutions (Lot 2), Other Target Groups (Lot 3)

Use of a graphic symbol (logo) for quality agricultural products from the most remote regions of the Community.

V

VP/2000/016 - Innovative measures financed under Article 6 of the European Social Fund Regulation (Direction D)

Y

Youth Community Action Programme

FINAL SUMMARY

We do not claim that it is experience that can be used in every case; nevertheless, a number of potential applicants for an EU grant who did not fit in with the offer of the Operational Programmes network with their needs have the direct alternative to access this offer of programmes. Many of them are not directly applicable to Czech candidates; however, some are undoubtedly accessible to them. This is also evidenced by the examples mentioned in the tables. The presented offer may also be an inspiration for various interest groups for carrying through their goals in the form of projects announced by one of the worksites of the European Commission. We understand that the systematic monitoring of the newly announced grants is a time-consuming activity, which is also demanding in other respects and which can be beyond the capacity of an entrepreneur, a non-profit organisation or a public administration institution that would otherwise gladly participate in the project. This is why we will devote a regular section to the up-to-date list of grants starting in the next issue of the EU Developments Monthly Magazine and this topic should be an introduction to this issue, which will be covered and published regularly. In the following issues of our EU Developments Monthly Magazine, we also want to deal with the issue of the European Union's financial assistance outside the Structural Funds in the form of "Topic of the Month". In addition to this, we are preparing more extensive material on this financial possibility, which is to be published soon. It will be a special analysis which will be available on our website www.csas.cz/eu.



After the silly season during the holidays, the choice of various seminars, conferences or conventions on European topics increases again. At the request of some clients, we decided to shift the monitored period in such a way so that there is enough time to apply for participation in an event. In our list, you will thus find events that will take place in the period from the middle of the current month to the middle of the next month.

Date	Place	Name and Characteristic
16.-17.9.2004	Maastricht, Netherlands	EIPA Seminar: 'Seminar: The Stability and Growth Pact (SGP): A Reassessment of the Fiscal Rules for Monetary Union': http://www.eipa.nl/home/eipa.htm?http://www.eipa.nl/activities/04/34701_16Sep/en/invitation.htm&2
19.-21.9.2004	Berlin, Germany	UITP Conference: 'A Decade of Regional Railways Revival, What next?': http://www.uitp.com/Events/2004/berlin/en/index.cfm
20.-21.9.2004	Brussels, Belgium	EU Conferences - 'EU Lobbying 2004' : http://www.euconferences.com/index2.htm
20.-21.9.2004	Thessalonica, Greece	eSkills 2004 Conference: http://www.eskills2004.org/
22.-23.9.2004	Brussels, Belgium	EU Conferences - 'Developing a Secure & Sustainable Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)': http://www.euconferences.com/energynetworks04.htm
23.-24.9.2004	Maastricht, Netherlands	EIPA Seminar: 'Understanding Decision-Making in the European Union: Principles, Procedures and Practice': http://www.eipa.nl/activities/04/12201_19Feb/en/invitation.htm
27.-29.9.2004	Potsdam, Germany	The German Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - International Summer Academy on 'Sustainable Corporate Governance': http://www.ioew.de/governance/english/zumthema/aktuell.html
27.-30.9.2004	Brussels, Belgium	CzechInvest and the five regions of the Czech Republic - <i>Open days</i> event: http://www.czechinvest.com/web/pwci.nsf/evn/5641D17594FA4EBFC1256ED20034FC58?OpenDocument
28.9.2004	Brussels, Belgium	Forum Europe - Conference: 'Europe's Energy Outlook: Nuclear security and environmentally acceptable': http://www.forum-europe.com/conferences_ataglance.asp?ConfId=300&frame=yes~main&frame=yes~main
30.9.-1.10.2004	Brussels, Belgium	CIAA Congress 2004 - theme: "Food futures: eating well, feeling good": http://www.ciaacongress.be/
6.-9.10.2004	Salzburg, Austria	European Health Forum: global health challenges, European approaches and responsibilities: http://www.ehfg.org/website04-2/style.htm
7.-8.10.2004	Barcelona, Spain	European Federation of Accountants - FEE Congress: 'Mastering the Changes in the European Environment: Strategies for SME Accountants': http://www.effas.com/pdf/fee_e.pdf
7.-8.10.2004	Prague, Czech Republic	Annual General Meeting of the European Medical Technology Industry Association (EUCOMED) - theme: "Eucomed (1979-2004) – what can we learn from the past to shape the next 25 years of Eucomed?": http://www.eucomed.be/?x=2&y=50&z=259
15.10.2004	Brussels, Belgium	Friends of Europe / EurActiv roundtable: "What 'big idea' for the Barroso Commission?" - Priorities for the 2004-2009 Commission agenda: http://www.euractiv.com/ndbtext/agenda/Agenda2004_9conference.doc



Statistical window

The statistical window in a tabular form shows the important macroeconomic and financial indicators of the countries which have newly acceded to the European Union, with respect to the criteria defined in the Maastricht Treaty: the month-on-month, year-on-year and average inflation rates, the indicators of the fiscal budget deficit and the state debt, expressed in relation to the GDP, and the volatility of the exchange rates of national currencies to the euro.

Price development

	m-on-m HICP growth			y-on-y HICP growth			average y-on-y HICP growth in %		
	V-04	VI-04	VII-04	V-04	VI-04	VII-04	V-04	VI-04	VII-04
EU	0.4	0.0	-0.2	2.4	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.9	2.0
EU - minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3	0.4
CR	0.6	0.1	0.3	2.6	2.7	3.1	1.1	1.3	1.6
Estonia	1.9	0.3	-0.3	3.7	4.4	4.0	1.2	1.6	1.8
Cyprus	0.9	0.6	-1.3	1.2	2.4	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.1
Lithuania	1.5	0.1	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.8	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5
Latvia	1.3	0.6	0.2	6.1	6.1	6.7	4.1	4.3	4.5
Hungary	0.9	0.0	0.0	7.8	7.5	7.2	5.8	6.1	6.3
Malta	0.2	0.4	0.4	3.1	3.3	3.1	1.9	1.9	2.6
Poland	1.1	0.7	-0.1	3.5	4.3	4.7	1.5	1.8	2.1
Slovakia	0.3	0.2	0.1	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.7	8.6	8.6
Slovenia	0.9	0.5	0.5	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.5	4.3

Note: HICP means harmonised index of consumer prices, EU – minimum means the average inflation in three EU member states with the lowest inflation. Source: Eurostat

Fiscal development

	Net balance of general government to GDP in %			General government gross debt to GDP in %		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
EU-25	-1.0	-2.0	-2.6	63.2	62.5	64.0
CR	-6.4	-6.4	-12.9	25.2	28.9	37.6
Estonia	0.3	1.8	2.6	4.7	5.7	5.8
Cyprus	-2.4	-4.6	-6.3	64.4	67.1	72.2
Lithuania	-2.1	-1.4	-1.7	23.4	22.8	21.9
Latvia	-1.6	-2.7	-1.8	16.2	15.5	15.6
Hungary	-4.4	-9.3	-5.9	53.5	57.1	59.0
Malta	-6.4	-5.7	-9.7	61.8	61.7	72.0
Poland	-3.5	-3.6	-4.1	36.7	41.2	45.4
Slovakia	-6.0	-5.7	-3.6	48.7	43.3	42.8
Slovenia	-2.7	-1.9	-1.8	26.9	27.8	27.1

Note: according to the ESA 95 methodology. Source: Eurostat

Volatility of FX rates of new EU member states

	average rate	Last 24 months		average rate	Last 12 months	
		deviation maximum in %	deviation minimum in %		deviation maximum in %	deviation minimum in %
Czech koruna	31.78	+6.7	-4.6	32.20	+3.3	-3.4
Estonia kroon	15.65	+0.0	+0.0	15.65	+0.0	+0.0
Cyprus pound	0.582	+2.0	-1.1	0.584	+1.1	-0.5
Lithuanian litas	3.453	+0.0	-0.1	3.453	+0.0	-0.0
Latvian lats	0.640	+9.1	-5.4	0.656	+5.0	-3.0
Hungarian forint	251.7	+7.2	-8.1	255.8	+3.8	-6.6
Maltese lira	0.424	+3.0	-1.7	0.427	+0.8	-1.1
Polish zloty	4.423	+12.7	-10.4	4.634	+6.5	-6.1
Slovenian tolar	234.7	+3.1	-2.2	237.8	+1.2	-0.9
Slovakian koruna	41.16	+3.5	-5.1	40.58	+2.0	-3.4

Note: volatility of foreign exchange rates of new EU member states to euro is expressed in the form of arithmetical average and in the form of maximum and minimum deviation from the average in the reference periods. The reference periods end at 31 August 2004. Source: Eurostat

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