

# Case Studies of Operational Programmes, their Analysis and Comparison of Experiences from the Relevant Areas of EU-15

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## Introduction

Structural and cohesion policies represent two basic pillars of the Union's policies, the objective of which is to overcome existing economic and political disparities.

Much attention is paid to this issue in several special analyses and articles published in *Měsíčník EU aktualit (EU News Monthly Journal)*.

One of the rightfully expected effects of our membership in the European Union is the adoption and implementation of the experiences of those countries that have been members of the European Union for much longer than the Czech Republic.

In our previous materials focusing on the Union's structural and cohesion policies we have always emphasised the fact that while certain general principles and opinions are shared by all EU member states, the particular architecture of structural and cohesion policies in individual countries is determined by Operational Programmes (see the previous issues of *Měsíčník EU aktualit* published in 2004 and the special analyses published in March and July 2004).

This special analysis offers an opportunity to compare our form of Operational Programmes to certain relevant areas of the Operational Programmes produced in EU-15. This comparison may subsequently help us to identify the differences between our perception of Operational Programmes and the perception used by other EU member states. It can also serve as a source of inspiration for the process of the production of Operational Programmes in the Czech Republic in the next programming period (2007 – 2013) whose concept is currently being prepared.

We have selected a small sample of the hundreds of Operational Programmes promoting regional and local social and economic development prepared in EU-15 in the course of the past ten years (after the reformation of EU regional policy) for the purpose of this comparison. Their characteristics can be applied, for instance, to the future development of the tourist trade (tourist industry), rightfully regarded in many Czech regions and localities as one of the few (if not only) sectors that could significantly contribute to the improvement of their economic and social situation.

The lesson drawn from the selected Operational Programmes could also indicate how individual subjects – providers of services in the tourist industry - could be motivated, stimulated and effectively directed.

The reason why we have chosen tourist industry for our purpose is quite simple. Synergetic effects are very strong in this sector and the fact that a region or location has a sufficiently developed tourist infrastructure means that it is economically and socially vital and attractive for tourists. In addition, most of such infrastructure can be used by both tourists and local residents.

If we compare most of the case studies included in this material with the Operational Programmes produced in the Czech Republic, the selected Operating Programmes will probably best match our SROP, while also showing some characteristics featured in other Operational Programmes, especially the Operational Programme for Industry and Business and the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources.

The spheres in which it is possible to analyse the specific impacts and effects of the tourist industry have both sectional and cross-sectional (horizontal) character. The most obvious include the impact on employment, regional development, education, the environment, health, safety, new technologies, transport, finance, taxation and culture.

The tourist industry, at the same time, is a typical sector in which services are offered almost exclusively by medium-sized and above all small firms. That is why all principles of the promotion of small and medium-sized companies apply almost absolutely to the tourist industry (or as the case may be, to regional development based on tourism).

## Case Studies from Various Relevant Areas

More attention is paid, and more examples and details concern countries comparable, to the Czech Republic in terms of size, geography and above all economic and social development. Nevertheless, the inspiration and experience of countries that are completely different may also be useful and even applicable in the Czech Republic, mainly on the regional level.

### **Belgium**

#### **A. Regional Programme**

##### **Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for Limburg**

###### Basic characteristic

The European Commission contributes actively to the development of Limburg, by co-financing an Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 of the programme period 2000 – 2006. The overall assistance from Structural Funds shall amount to € 92.7 million (the project's total budget is € 240.4 million).

###### Priorities

The programme concentrates on the following three priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

- 1. The promotion of business activities and employment.** The support of small and medium-sized firms as an instrument correcting the structural imbalance of the local economy dominated by a single sector and the creation of new jobs. **The promotion of technologies and innovation, especially through the development and sharing of know-how and networking. A specific form of assistance should also ensure the diversification and modernisation of tourist facilities and locations.**
- 2. The optimisation of general conditions.** Main attention focused on the creation of optimal economic conditions. Measures concerning business infrastructure and environment; for instance, the decontamination of polluted and damaged areas, waste processing and promotion of energy effectiveness. Improvement of access to large urban areas.
- 3. Integrated rural development of the Haspengouw region.** Financing the measures necessary for economic diversification of the Haspengouw region through the promotion of rural tourism and more diverse utilisation of farms. The region shall also become more attractive as a result of the renovation of villages and promotion of services in small towns.

###### Suitability

The programme concerns a former mining precinct situated in the Hasselt district and the Haspengouw rural region in Tongeren. Some 263,000 people live in both regions (out of the overall Limburg province population of 784,000). Their average age is much lower than in other Flemish provinces. A relatively large number of immigrants lives in this area.

Small and medium-sized firms play a key economic role in the province (69% of the jobs in industry and services, more than 90% of the jobs in construction, public work, retail and furniture production). On the other hand, the automotive industry, also a very important sector, is limited only to a couple of large corporations. It is strongly orientated on export (77% of its overall production). The automotive industry takes first place, followed closely by the processing of non-ferrous ores.

The rate of unemployment in Limburg amounts to 8%, slightly below the average in Belgium as a whole, but high above the average in other Flemish provinces. The rate of unemployment in the area concerned by Objective 2 totals 11.3%. The unemployment of women is even twice as high as the unemployment of men.

###### Project management and contacts

The project is managed by the Flemish community.  
Limburg province.

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### Financial and technical information

Title: Operational Programme Forming a Part of Objective 2 for Limburg  
 Programme type: single programme document  
 Programme number: 2000BE162DO002  
 Resolution number: C(2001)861  
 Date of approval: 15.5.2001

### Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Promotion of business activities and employment	133.22	50.71	114.83
Optimisation of general conditions	78.53	31.10	69.16
Integrated rural development of the Haspengouw region	23.20	8.12	22.21
Technical assistance	5.53	2.77	5.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240.48</b>	<b>92.70</b>	<b>211.72</b>

### Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF
92.70	82.07	10.63
100.00 %	88.54 %	11.46 %

## ***Ireland***

### **A. Multiregional programme**

#### **EU Operational Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Irish Border Regions (2000 – 2004) – PEACE II**

##### **Basic characteristics**

The second Operational Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Irish Border Regions (2000 – 2004) demonstrates the Union's solidarity and support of the peace process based on the Belfast Treaty. It is focused on addressing the economic and social legacy of the 30-year conflict in the region and the creation of new opportunities and advantages resulting from the restoration of peace. This programme – completely unique in European conditions – follows the pioneering efforts of its predecessor, the Special Supporting Programme of Community Initiative (1995 – 1999).

The Programme supports a whole range of sectors, regions, groups and communities affected by the conflict in Northern Ireland and encourages cross-community projects. The largest amount of financial means is administered by local partner structures and non-governmental organisations. These structures enable all members of both communities to get together and work on issues important for both the southern and northern border regions. This approach turned out to be the most successful method of ensuring the reconciliation of local communities and the distribution of EU financial assistance among communities that would otherwise be unable to benefit.

This joint project of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland partially forms the framework of the Communities' support for both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The overall amount of financial means available to fund individual projects is estimated at € 740 million, of which the European Structural Funds shall provide € 531 million (75% of public project financing). Approximately 80% of the programme's overall allocation is designated for projects in Northern Ireland and 20% for the Irish border regions. 15% of the overall budget is designated for cross-border projects.

##### **Priorities**

The programme concentrates on the following five priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

1. Economic reconstruction.

Realisation of economic opportunities resulting from peace conditions, compensation for jobs lost in traditional sectors and help to individuals employed in such sectors find permanent jobs.

2. Social integration, social engagement, reconciliation.

Concentration on opportunities and needs in both urban and rural areas across the entire region, with special attention paid to vulnerable groups, sectors most affected by the conflict, areas with poor infrastructure, etc.

3. Local regeneration and development strategies.

Consolidation of special approaches to local needs developed in the course of PEACE I. Execution through locally formulated regeneration strategies managed by local strategic partners and regional task forces much more sensitive to local needs and promoting new work relations overcoming and eliminating traditional sectarianism and social divisions, thus encouraging mutual trust and reducing prejudice.

4. Promotion of external and thriving regions.

Its objective is to promote a more constructive dialogue with other EU regions concerning economic, social and environmental issues and more positive image of a peaceful society.

5. Cross-border collaboration.

Promotion of economic, social and cultural cross-border collaboration should create a strategic framework of cross-border initiatives and projects across different sectors and organisations, whether public, voluntary, non-profit-making or private, contributing to peace, reconciliation and mutual understanding.

### Suitability

Northern Ireland has approximately 1.69 million citizens living on some 13,576 sq. kilometres. 30 years of political instability and armed conflict have resulted in a low level of incoming investments and almost non-existent tourist industry, with entrepreneurs showing extreme caution and a workforce displaying poor mobility. However, the level of violence decreased significantly after 1994 and a peaceful reality became more noticeable. The transfer of power to the Northern Ireland executive and parliament should restore entrepreneurial trust in the region and contribute to higher economic growth. In the past couple of years, the economy of Northern Ireland has grown faster than the British or an average EU economy. The problem of low productivity and high long-term unemployment, however, still persists.

Important economic sectors, agriculture, food production and the textile industry suffer from low productivity. On the other hand, less than 10% of the workforce is employed in sectors with higher added value, such as financial, commercial and entrepreneurial services. Another negative factor is high dependence on employment in the public sector, representing approximately one third of the overall employment in Northern Ireland. At the same time, the level of education is much lower than in Britain, although many potential newcomers are well-educated.

### Project management and contacts

The project is managed by a special EU programme body representing the governing authority of the PEACE II programme; the project's administrative aspects are based on the Belfast Treaty.

Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)  
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### Financial and technical information

Title: EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Irish Border Regions (2000 – 2004) - PEACE II

Regions: Northern Ireland (Great Britain), border regions (BMW, Ireland)

Objective: 1

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 2000RG161PO001

Resolution number: C(2001)638

Date of approval: 22.3.2001

### **Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Economic reconstruction	238.855	170.740	227.611
Social integration, social engagement, reconciliation	182.475	131.500	175.339
Local regeneration and development strategies	143.067	103.000	137.330
Promotion of external and thriving regions	38.377	27.530	36.708
Cross-border collaboration	112.528	79.400	105.880
Technical assistance	25.956	18.790	25.057
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>741.258</b>	<b>530.960</b>	<b>707.925</b>

### **Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG
530.960	293.01	189.7	44.83	3.42
100 %	55.18 %	35.73 %	8.44 %	0.64 %

## ***Italy – Regional Programme***

### **Operational Programme for Sardinia**

#### **Basic characteristic**

The European Commission contributes actively to the development of Mezzogiorno in Italy, by co-financing an Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 1 for the period 2000 – 2006 for Sardinia. The programme is instrumental for the introduction of the Communities' support to Italian regions as a part of Objective 1. The overall contribution from EU Structural Funds amounts to € 1.946 billion (the project's total budget is € 4.686 billion).

#### **Priorities**

The programme concentrates on the following six priorities and the provision of technical assistance. Special emphasis is placed on **integrated development projects ensuring the improvement and advancement of the local potential through synergy.**

1. **Natural resources.** Improvement of water resources and soil, protection of coastal zones, improvement of natural reserves, processing waste, improvement of ecological information systems and energy management (renewable resources).
2. **Cultural resources.** Integrated approach to the improvement of regional cultural resources with the possible promotion of new companies, offering attractive alternatives to the tourist industry in coastal zones currently limited to the summer months only.
3. **Human resources.** Close connection to recommendations of the European Commission and the country's national action plan, an integral part of the European Employment Strategy. Measures in the area of research and technological innovations also included.
4. **Local development conditions.** Development of a business base, with emphasis placed on production chains with high growth and export potential. Measures focused on the improvement of local potential, attraction of investments from outside the region, improvement of tourist facilities, diversification of agriculture and increase of competitiveness of rural areas.
5. **Towns.** Strengthening the role played by towns in a territorial context, with a possible increase of the competitiveness of urban zones and services with added value. Smaller urban centres will be also strengthened – prevention of depopulation of Sardinia's inland regions.
6. **Networks and services.** Development of material and immaterial communication networks on the island. Measures supporting accessibility and availability, transport efficiency and quality (especially mobility in urban centres) and balanced combination of individual types of environmentally-friendly transport. Accelerated introduction of informational society in education, public administration and production base.

#### **Suitability**

Sardinia is a region whose development is well below the European average. As an island, it has many unique qualities, both positive and negative, including a limited domestic market resulting above all from a low population density (69 persons per square kilometre), lack of basic infrastructure and high average unemployment (22.1%). In 1999, the overall rate of employment, including children, the elderly and the handicapped, amounted to 36.9%. This in reality means that each working person supports two non-working persons. In 1996, the overall sum of GDP per capita amounted to mere 70.6% of the Italian average and 72.5% of the European average.

On the other hand, Sardinia can offer an unpolluted environment and a rich cultural heritage. Both aspects can play an important role in the island's future development.

#### **Project management and contacts**

The project is managed by the Regional Programme Centre of Sardinia.

Giunta Regionale - Sardegna

Assessorato della Programmazione Bilancio, Credito e Assetto del Territorio – Centro Regionale di Programmazione

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### Financial and technical information

Title: Regional Programme for Sardinia  
 Programme type: operational programme  
 Programme number: 1999IT161PO010  
 Resolution number: C(2000)2359  
 Date of approval: 8.8.2000

### Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Natural resources	1 072.51	520.63	1 041.26
Cultural resources	379.55	189.77	379.55
Human resources	567.74	283.87	567.74
Local development systems	1 983.34	610.50	1 220.99
Towns	233.12	116.74	233.48
Networks and services	436.12	218.06	436.12
Technical assistance	13.32	6.66	13.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 685.70</b>	<b>1 946.23</b>	<b>3 892.46</b>

### Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG
1 946.23	1 155.93	357.21	406.08	27.01
100.00 %	59.39 %	18.35 %	20.86 %	1.39 %

## **Luxembourg**

### **A. National programme**

#### **Operational Programme “Support of Industrial Regions”, part of Objective 2**

##### Contact information

Ministry of Economics  
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##### Financial and technical information

Title : National Programme „Support of Industrial Regions”, part of Objective 2  
 Programme type: single programme document  
 Programme number: 2000LU162DO001  
 Resolution number: C(2001)  
 Date of approval: 31.12.2001

##### **Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF
41.0	41.0
100 %	100 %

## **Portugal**

### **“Culture” Operational Programme**

##### Basic characteristic

The European Union contributes to the development of Portugal by co-financing the “Culture” Operational Programme. It is a part of the third Portuguese framework of the Communities' support and focuses on cultural improvement as a source of employment development and promotes equal access to culture. The European Communities provide € 237.278 million (the project's overall budget is € 327.467 million).

##### Priorities

The programme concentrates on the following two priority areas:

- Development of historical and cultural heritage: financing of measures focusing on the restoration and renovation of buildings classified as historical heritage, above all construction works and the modification of existing tourist facilities, and the promotion of main museums.
- Securing better access to cultural locations and activities: construction and modification of cultural facilities and promotion of cultural activities. In order to make culture more popular among people, emphasis is placed on the provision of cultural information through new information technologies.

Suitability

In the previous programme of the Communities' support (1994 – 1999), culture represented a subcategory of the programme of modernisation of the economic structure. The result achieved through the said programme was very encouraging, with its significance – especially with regard to activities related to the tourist industry – justifying its current status as a separate programme forming an integral part of the third framework of the Communities' support.

Culture affects many economic sectors. That is why culture-orientated projects can be included on both sectional and regional programme levels. On the other hand, financing by the ERDF and the Portuguese government is much more comprehensive than Operational Programmes.

Project management and contact information

The management is primarily responsible for ensuring that all projects comply with EU regulations, co-ordinates programme introduction, including financial aspects, and organises a monitoring committee.

Ministry of Culture

Ministério da Cultura

Gabinete de Gestao do Programa Operacional da Cultura

Gestor

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Financial and technical information

Title : "Culture" Operational Programme

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 1999PT161PO006

Resolution number: C(2000)1524

Date of approval: 27.7.2000

**Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Development of historical and cultural heritage	261.017	187.44	187.44
Securing better access to cultural locations and activities	66.45	49.838	49.838
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>327.467</b>	<b>237.278</b>	<b>237.278</b>

**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF
237.278	237.278
100 %	100 %

**"Economics" Operational Programme**Basic characteristic

The European Commission takes active part in the development of Portugal by co-financing the "Economics" Operational Programme. It is a part of the third Portuguese framework of the Communities' support and focuses on further strengthening of the competitiveness of Portuguese firms and entrepreneurial subjects. The European Communities shall provide € 2.732 billion (the project's overall budget is € 9.378 billion).

### Priorities

The Programme concentrates on the following three priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

1. Strengthening corporate competitiveness. The main objective of the "Economics" Operational Programme is to increase the competitiveness of Portuguese corporations through integrated campaigns focused on the improvement of capabilities and technological processes, the promotion of modern managerial methods, the creation and implementation of commercial networks and participation in a global market.

2. Promotion of strategic development areas. The programme also concentrates on the promotion of products, activities and sectors with technological added value having strategic importance for the improvement of competitiveness. It concerns various sectors, such as industry, tourism, power production and trade, and focuses on the further advancement of the natural and cultural advantages of Portuguese society, economy and know-how.

3. Improvement of the business environment. Measures promoting co-ordinated public policies providing a legal and economic framework for entrepreneurial activities on a national level, especially for small and medium-sized companies. Introduction of projects securing access to financial networks, enabling the transfer and exchange of technologies and promoting the establishment of sectional and entrepreneurial associations. Special attention is also paid to promoting the image of Portuguese entrepreneurs abroad.

Technical assistance. Measures securing technical assistance, project management, information basis, implementation and control.

### Suitability

Portugal has less than 10 million citizens, 95% of which live on the continent, with the remaining population living on the Azores and Madeira. In 1998, the overall sum of GDP per capita amounted to just 73.6% of the European average (in addition, there were also substantial differences among individual regions).

In the course of the previous framework of the Communities' support (1989 – 1999), the Portuguese economy recorded quite encouraging growth. The policies of structural adaptation bore fruit and the country took an important step towards economic and monetary convergence (both real and nominal) – Stage Three of the EMU. The most important economic problem in Portugal is extremely low productivity amounting to a mere 65.8% of European average. It is caused above all by an insufficient qualification and skills of the local workforce, production processes requiring almost no innovation and significant managerial and organisational failures of Portuguese corporations.

The country's economy is dominated by micro-companies (with less than 10 employees) representing approximately 80% of all entrepreneurial subjects. Small firms (employing 10 – 40 people) represent about 15%. Both categories together represent approximately 80% of the overall employment, 70% of the production, 70% of the investments and 60% of the export. The level of productivity in large corporations is approximately three times higher than in small and medium-sized firms.

The difference between Portugal and the European Union is especially distinctive in the area of innovations, science and technologies. Regardless of the results achieved in the course of previous frameworks of the Communities' support, Portugal falls behind in two indicators above all – research and development expenditures/GDP and the number of persons employed in research and development sectors/the overall size of the workforce. The insufficient qualification and abilities of the population of an active, productive age and very modest investments in the research and development of private companies are regarded as the main cause of low productivity.

### Project management and contact information

Ministry of Economics

Ministério da Economia

Gabinete do Gestor do Programa Operacional da Economia (POE)

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### Financial and technical information

Title : "Economics" Operational Programme

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 1999PT161PO008

Resolution number: C(2000)1774

Date of approval: 28.7.2000

### Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Strengthening corporate competitiveness	4 862.378	1 094.035	1 458.713
Promotion of strategic development areas	2 634.587	986.412	1 632.587
Improvement of the business environment	1 822.647	607.908	948.666
Technical assistance	58.399	43.799	58.399
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 378.011</b>	<b>2 732.154</b>	<b>4 098.365</b>

### Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF
2 732.154	2 491.537	240.617
100 %	91.19 %	8.81 %

## ***Austria – Regional Programme***

### **Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for Burgenland**

#### Basic characteristics

The European Commission contributes to the development of the federal department of Burgenland by co-financing an Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 1 for the period 2000 – 2006. It shall provide € 271 million from Structural Funds out of an overall budget totalling € 864 million.

#### Priorities

The Programme concentrates on three basic aspects: the promotion of Burgenland as a modern central European region, the preparation of Burgenland for the expansion of the EU and the reduction of internal differences. In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, it will be necessary to increase corporate economic efficiency and competitiveness. The programme is also focused on **innovations, the transfer of technologies and development of networks of business and entrepreneurial co-operation.**

Main priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

1. **Commercial and industrial activities.** Priority is given to endogenous development through the promotion of small regional entrepreneurial subjects. They shall receive direct investment assistance in the area of immaterial production factors (management quality, internationalisation and innovation). New financial instruments should contribute to the increase of own capital resources of small and medium-sized companies (venture capital/risk capital/other forms of financial infrastructure). Additional merits include the strengthening of the economic infrastructure and the development of information and telecommunications technologies.

2. **Research, technologies and development.** The European Union shall help create "centres of excellence", technological centres, entrepreneurial incubators, centres of higher technical education and development facilities for research projects.

3. **Tourist industry, tourism and culture.** The tourist industry is promoted through investment aid accompanied by a quality increase of tourist products, marketing and networking of operators and service providers. This priority will also secure the expansion of the tourist infrastructure and the development of initiatives concerning cultural heritage that should help attract tourists.

4. **Agriculture, forestry, fishery and the preservation of nature.** The future development of the said sectors will be supported by investments in farms, assistance for young employees, training courses and the improvement of procedural and marketing methods. Special measures will concern a whole range of rural activities, such as the reconstruction and development of villages, the improvement of roads and enhancement of the infrastructure. The assistance provided by the European Communities will also contribute to the protection and development of the countryside.

5. **Human resources.** Co-ordination with Austria's national plan of employment. Concentration on unemployment reduction, promotion of equal opportunities, improvement of qualification courses and fight against social isolation.

### Suitability

The project shall concern some 270,880 people, i.e. approximately 3.3% of Austria's population.

Burgenland borders on Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia. Its overall rate of unemployment is lower than the Austrian average because one third of its workforce is employed outside the region. However, people with limited mobility or those living in less developed areas (southern areas) suffer from poor access to labour markets in other regions. Although still relatively high, the overall number of the workforce employed in agriculture has been decreasing significantly (17.1% in 1988, 8.2% in 1997).

In general, development differences within the region are quite considerable. The northern part is more prosperous, benefiting from its proximity to Vienna and its central position among regions with high economic growth (in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia). The region's southern and central parts have fewer opportunities for economic development.

### Project management and contacts

The project is supervised by the Provincial Government of Burgenland. It also co-ordinates all institutions involved in the Programme's implementation. The monitoring committee consists of federal ministers (each concentrating on his/her department) and implementation authorities and institutions (in the case of co-financing). The project's secretariat is supported by the Austrian Conference for Regional Planning (ÖROK).

The day-to-day management is in the hands of implementation agencies collaborating with one another and distributing various forms of aid. Each fund is monitored by the relevant ministry (ERDF, Federal Chancery, ESF, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, EAGGF, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management). The said ministries also provide the necessary data and information for both the managerial structures and the responsible implementation agencies.

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### Financial and technical information

Title: Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for Burgenland

Programme type: single programme document

Programme number: 1999AT161DO001

Resolution number: C(2000)802

Date of approval: 4.5.2001

**Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Commercial and industrial activities	340.88	88.34	117.80
Research, technologies and development	72.67	29.43	39.24
Tourist industry, tourism and culture	197.43	50.87	67.83
Agriculture, forestry, fishery and preservation of nature	158.79	41.29	55.06
Human resources	86.56	55.39	82.07
Technical assistance	7.56	5.68	7.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>863.90</b>	<b>271.00</b>	<b>369.57</b>

**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF	FIFG	EAGGF
271.00	173.82	55.01	41.35	0.83
100.00 %	64.14 %	20.30 %	15.26 %	0.30 %

**Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for the Federal Province of the Tyrol****Basic characteristic**

The European Commission contributes actively to the development of the Tyrol by co-financing an Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for the period of 2000 – 2006. In the course of the previous programme period (1994 – 1999), the Tyrol received assistance pursuant to the Operational Programmes of Objectives 2 and 5b, respectively. The overall cost of this programme totals € 220.447 million, of which € 44.689 million shall be provided by EU Structural Funds.

**Priorities**

The Programme concentrates on the following three priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

1. Assistance for entrepreneurs, promotion of the region's entrepreneurial attractiveness. Creation of incentives ensuring the establishment of new entrepreneurial subjects in industrial sectors, related sectors and the service sector. Emphasis placed on the development of existing entrepreneurial subjects and the support of young businessmen. Other objectives: strengthening regional entrepreneurial structures, development of suitable locations, improvement of research and innovations, improvement of water management, the environment and power economy.

2. Tourism, leisure time, quality of life. Investments in tourist industry projects and sectors related to leisure-time activities represent the programme's main objectives. Support is provided above all for young businessmen and new enterprises in the tourist industry. Measures also concern investments in information systems and communication technologies. Special emphasis is placed on investments in infrastructure, cultural and environmental projects and measures focusing on the prevention of natural disasters.

3. Innovative solutions to regional and environmental problems. Measures concentrating above all the stimulation of endogenous regional development through regional managerial institutions and environmental projects concerning the power industry.

**Suitability**

The Tyrol is a region situated in western Austria, bordering Germany in the north and Italy in the south. The overall number of people affected by Objective 2 amounts to 203,900. This area has a positive birth rate, partially reduced by high emigration, and a significant proportion of young people.

The overall sum of GDP per capita in the Tyrol amounts to approximately 94.5% of the Austrian average. However, local differences are quite considerable. The region's economy is dominated by the service sector (63%) and processing industry (35%). Agriculture contributes to the regional GDP by a mere 2%. Small and medium-sized companies employing less than 50 persons represent the main pillar of the region's economy.

The rate of unemployment in the Tyrol (6.3%) is higher than the Austrian average. In some parts, however, unemployment is even higher. The number of unemployed women (8.7%) and young people (7.5%) is also much higher than in the rest of Austria. On the other hand, long-term unemployment is relatively low.

The region suffers from insufficient numbers of persons with a higher secondary and tertiary (university) education. This applies especially to women. However, there are quite substantial differences between, for instance, the region's centre, Innsbruck, and some more distant and less accessible areas in this respect.

### Project management and contacts

The project is supervised by the Provincial Government of the Tyrol. It also co-ordinates all individual institutions involved in the programme's implementation. The project's secretariat is supported by the Austrian Conference for Regional Planning (ÖROK).

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### Financial and technical information

Title: Operational Programme forming a part of Objective 2 for the Federal Province of the Tyrol

Programme type: single programme document

Programme number: 2000AT162DO007

Resolution number: C(2001)526

Date of approval: 15.1.2001

### **Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Assistance for entrepreneurs, promotion of the region's entrepreneurial attractiveness	117.404	18.697	29.487
Tourism, leisure time, quality of life	82.284	19.387	35.934
Innovative solutions to regional and environmental problems	19.151	5.801	11.091
Technical assistance	1.608	0.804	1.608
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220.447</b>	<b>44.689</b>	<b>78.120</b>



**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF
44.689	44.689
100 %	100 %

**Greece****Basic characteristics**

The European Commission has approved the “Competitiveness” Operational Programme representing the main development programme in Greece in the financial period of 2000 – 2006. The programme features Community support for all Greek regions as a part of Objective 1 (regions with sluggish development). Community assistance amounts to € 1.97 billion, approximately 9% of the overall assistance provided by the European Union for Greece. The programme is expected to mobilise total investments exceeding € 6 billion, including public and private financial means.

**Priorities**

The Programme’s most important objectives include the creation of new entrepreneurial entities and opportunities, strengthening quality-orientated and sustainable competitiveness of entrepreneurial subjects and their participation in a global economy, their integration into the “new economics” and improvement of services for the sector of small and medium-sized companies.

Main priorities:

**1. Improvement and simplification of the entrepreneurial environment.**

Development problems are caused above all by structural problems. Greece’s entrepreneurial environment is very complicated, with its huge bureaucracy causing delays, disruptions and disorder. That is why the main objective in this area is the modernisation of the administrative structures and the simplification of formalities.

**2. Promotion of new entrepreneurial entities and opportunities.**

Special promotional campaigns for small, medium-sized and micro companies, innovative campaigns focusing on the development of entrepreneurial abilities, starting new businesses and promotion of research on networking and integrated approach. Pursuant to EU regulations, approximately 80% of the assistance provided as a part of the “Competitiveness” Operational Programme will promote the development of small entrepreneurial activities and entities.

**3. Strengthening the quality-orientated sustainable competitiveness of entrepreneurs and their participation in a global economy.**

The ever-changing global market requires that the entrepreneurial environment adapt to new needs. The adaptation of existing entrepreneurial entities to new economic circumstances is secured by a programme of quality certification, innovation, development of human resources and the acceleration and modernisation of entrepreneurial incentives.

**4. Improvement of research and technological transfer and its relation to entrepreneurial needs.**

The transfer of research and technologies is very low and poor in Greece, especially due to a lack of relevant networks. The Programme promotes improvement in this area. Its main objective is to make Greek entrepreneurial subjects more competitive. Another important factor in this context is the adaptation of research and technologies to entrepreneurial needs.

**5. Improvement, diversification and promotion of the Greek tourist industry.**

The Greek economy is very dependant on tourism. This is why the programme concentrates on the diversification, improvement and promotion of the tourist industry, including the monitoring, redirection and development of tourism and promotion of competitiveness through information technologies and innovations.

**6. Provision of energy supplies and promotion of power production liberalisation.**

Greece is extremely dependant on the import of energies and especially on oil imports. This Programme will help Greece diversify and secure energy supplies. A connection with the European Gas Distribution Network is assumed. Other objectives include the liberalisation of power production and the provision of energy supplies for the islands.

### 7. Power industry and sustainable development.

The country must above all meet its ecological obligations. This is why it is necessary to promote the integration of environmental and power production policies. Reasonable and adequate exploitation of energy sources and development of renewable resources can secure power supplies and contribute to sustainable development.

### 8. Improvement of human resources.

The development of professional training courses and educational opportunities will help specialise human resources and determine the conditions for the creation of new jobs and for sustainable and balanced growth. The programme concentrates on measures ensuring the improvement of human resources and innovative campaigns concerning the development of personal skills and abilities. It also includes measures leading to better employment conditions and the creation of equal opportunities.

### 9. Technical assistance.

The provision of technical assistance related to implementation activities. Financial support is available in the area of administration, monitoring and control.

### Suitability

Structural disorders are the main reason for the slow economic development in Greece. Its entrepreneurial environment is extremely complicated and complex and inefficient bureaucracy causes delays, disruptions and havoc. This Operational Programme is a part of the second priority of CSF - Enhancing Competitiveness for Sustainable Development and concerns; for instance, the processing industry, small and medium-sized companies, research and technologies, tourism and the power industry. Pursuant to EU regulations approximately 80% of the overall amount of assistance provided in compliance with the "Competitiveness" Operational Programme is designated for small enterprises.

### Project management and contacts

The Programme shall be managed by the Department of Special Services of the Ministry of Development of Greece. It also bears primary responsibility for compliance with EU regulations, the co-ordination of implementation activities, including financial aspects, and the organisation of a monitoring committee.

The Programme's monitoring committee shall include social partners and other representative organisations. Individual projects are selected by the programme's management authority in compliance with the aforementioned criteria and approved by the monitoring committee.

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### Financial and technical information

Title: "Competitiveness" Operational Programme

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 2000GR161PO016

Resolution number: C(2001)210-N

Date of approval: 26.7.2001

**Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Improvement and simplification of the entrepreneurial environment	271.251	158.09	220.944
Promotion of new entrepreneurial entities and opportunities	3.400.775	847.686	1.364.392
Strengthening the quality-orientated sustainable competitiveness of entrepreneurs and their participation in a global economy	43.928	19.125	27.914
Improvement of research and technological transfer and its relation to entrepreneurial needs	497.108	215.175	301.465
Improvement, diversification and promotion of the Greek tourist industry	208.752	73.817	105.453
Provision of power supplies and the promotion of power production liberalisation	1.139.048	330.777	661.554
Power industry and sustainable development	465.074	108.575	217.15
Improvement of human resources	240.848	144.75	193.00
Technical assistance	125.549	78.71	125.549
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.392.333</b>	<b>1.976.705</b>	<b>3.217.421</b>

**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF
1.976.705	1.826.705	150.00
100 %	92.41 %	7.59 %

**“Informational Society” Operational Programme, part of Objective 1****Basic characteristics**

The European Commission contributes to the main development programme for Greece for the period of 2000 – 2006, titled “Informational Society”. It specifies Community support of all Greek regions as a part of Objective 1 (underdeveloped regions). The Programme’s overall budget is approximately € 2.839 billion, with Community assistance totalling € 1.702 billion (approximately 8% of its total assistance provided for Greece).

**Priorities**

The Programme’s most important objectives include the adaptation of educational systems to new economic needs, the creation of conditions for culture and education, the quality improvement of services offered to citizens by the public sector, including healthcare and social services, the promotion of electronic trading (e-business), the support of new entrepreneurial activities, strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-size companies, the improvement of human resources, the promotion of employment of new economic sectors, the provision of access to the Internet at reasonable prices and public access to digital services.

Main priorities:

**1. Education and culture.**

Culture and education are extremely important for the economic and social development of the Greek population. This is why any improvement of the infrastructure, the relevant institutions and the educational and cultural network and system plays a very significant role. Educational facilities and procedures need to be adapted to new economic circumstances and a new platform for education and culture created.

**2. Provision of services for citizens and improvement of the quality of life.**

The most elementary obligation of any modern and developed country is to improve the quality of services provided for its citizens by the public sector, including healthcare and social services. As a part of this Operational Programme, Greece shall increase its efforts at quality and efficiency improvement of health and social services and shall support equal opportunities for everyone by eliminating the barriers of socio-economic integration.

### 3. Employment and digital economy.

Concentration on electronic trading, promotion of new entrepreneurial activities, strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-size companies, improvement of human resources and support of employment in new economic sectors.

### 4. Communication.

Provision of access to the Internet at low prices and public access to digital services. Creation of a common basis for comprehensive and integrated access to information services.

### 5. Technical assistance.

Provision of technical assistance related to implementation activities. Financial support is available in the area of administration, monitoring and control.

## Suitability

In the area of informational society Greece falls significantly behind the rest of the European Union. This Programme should play a determinative role in this respect and have a very positive effect on both economic and social development. It should also help Greece to overcome its backwardness in this area. An integral part of the e-Europe initiative, it is highly innovative and involves a wide range of governmental institutions. The Programme concentrates on the promotion of informational society in its comprehensive and integrated form and covers a whole range of economic and social aspects, such as the public sector, the private sector, communications, education, culture, health services and research. It also affects human resources by reducing the difference between Greece and the rest of the European Union in the area of informational society. This decision is an integral part of a new series prepared by the European Commission for the following programme period of structural policy.

## Project management and contact information

The structure necessary for the project's effective implementation include above all a managerial authority (Department of Independent Services of the Ministry of National Economy led by a special secretary responsible directly to the Minister). It is divided into four units – programming and evaluation, monitoring and management, audit and administration support. The Programme itself is realised by an independent company controlled jointly by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Public Administration.

## Financial and technical information

Title: "Informational Society" Operational Programme, part of Objective 1

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 2000GR161PO023

Resolution number: C(2001)210-Q

Date of approval: 26.7.2001

## **Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Education and culture	421.033	293.8	391.733
Provision of services for citizens and improvement of the quality of life	879.324	637.443	849.924
Employment and digital economy	901.7	403.2	537.6
Communication	569.233	316.9	422.533
Technical assistance	67.788	50.841	67.788
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.839.078</b>	<b>1.702.184</b>	<b>2.269.578</b>

**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF	ESF
1 702.184	1 266.034	436.15
100 %	74.38 %	25.62 %

**“Culture” Operational Programme, part of Objective 1****Basic characteristics**

The European Commission adopted the “Culture” Operational Programme for the period of 2000 – 2006. Its budget amounts to approximately € 605 million, of which some 68%, i.e. € 414.3 million, will be financed from EU Structural Funds. The remaining sum will be settled by the public and private sectors (€ 176 million and € 14.5 million, respectively). The Programme includes the Communities’ support of all Greek regions, part of Objective 1 (underdeveloped regions).

**Priorities**

The Programme’s principal objective is to contribute to the preservation and development of the Greek cultural heritage and the harmonic development of supply and demand in the area of culture in all regions. Additional measures are partially financed from the “Informational Society” Programme and other programmes focused on the improvement of human resources.

Main priorities:

**1. Preservation and development of Greek cultural heritage.**

Improvement of museum infrastructure and services offered by museums and the protection and promotion of archaeological monuments and sites. Greece has a considerable competitive advantage thanks to its cultural heritage, famous all over the world. As this is definitely the country’s most important asset, culture could significantly contribute to its economic and social development. That is why the programme’s fundamental objective is the promotion of Greek culture.

**2. Development of modern Greek culture.**

Improvement of supply and demand in the area of culture and culture-related services. A better infrastructure and institutions will have a positive effect on modern Greek culture. In addition, thanks to culture-related initiatives, the development and marketing of cultural products and the support of multinational culture networks, Greece could play an important role in this area and benefit both economically and socially.

**3. Technical assistance.**

The provision of technical assistance related to implementation activities. Financial support is available in the area of administration, monitoring and control.

**Suitability**

Greek culture represents an exceptionally dynamic area from both the economic and social points of view. In this context, the improvement of the infrastructure and relevant institutions plays a key role, together with the creation of cultural networks. The Programme includes measures contributing to a better infrastructure of museums and services and to the protection of archaeological monuments and sites. The improvement of Greece’s image and tourist industry, together with the provision of cultural products and services, could positively affect the country’s economic and social development.

**Project management and contacts**

The project is managed by the Ministry of Culture of Greece. It also bears primary responsibility for compliance with EU regulations, co-ordination of implementation activities, including financial affairs, and the organisation of a monitoring committee.

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### Financial and technical information

Title: "Culture" Operational Programme, part of Objective 1  
 Programme type: operational programme  
 Programme number: 2000GR161PO026  
 Resolution number: C(2001)210-R  
 Date of approval: 26.7.2001

### Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Preservation and development of Greek cultural heritage	357.0	267.75	357.0
Development of modern Greek culture	231.5	134.25	217.0
Technical assistance	16.4	12.3	16.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>604.9</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>590.4</b>

### Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)

EU contribution	ERDF
414.3	414.3
100 %	100 %

## Spain

### "Enhancement of Competitiveness and Development of Production Structures" Operational Programme, part of Objective 1

#### Basic characteristics

The European Commission contributes actively to the further advancement of selected underdeveloped Spanish regions (Objective 1) by co-financing a horizontal Operational Programme focusing on the enhancement of competitiveness and the development of production structures in the period of 2000 – 2006. The Programme is an integral part of the Community support defining the development of Spanish regions in compliance with Objective 1. The overall contribution of EU Structural Funds amounts to € 1.785 billion (total support from public finances: € 2.640 billion).

#### Priorities

The Programme concentrates on the following two priority areas and the provision of technical assistance.

1. Improvement of competitiveness and production structure. The promotion of industrial and trade companies and companies operating in the service sector through campaigns focusing on the provision of information and communication technologies for small and medium-sized companies, the support of innovative enterprises, provision of access to financing and stimulation of domestic trade. Other objectives include the creation of production centres (including the modernisation of existing ones) and the provision of services to entrepreneurs. Specific campaigns will focus on companies operating in the co-operative sector. Promotion of international expansion, support on external

markets (creation of syndicates, business missions, etc.) and assistance for entrepreneurs and service providers in tourist industry.

2. Local and urban development. Improvement of the tourist and cultural infrastructure with the objective of offering integrated and high-quality services for alternative and comprehensive tourism. Reduction of dependence on seasonal tourism through the revival of cultural and historic heritage and environmental projects. Some special campaigns included in the Programme will focus on the erection of informational signs, development of regional tourist potential (Ruta de la Plata; construction of roads connecting autonomous centres in Asturias, Castilla-Leon, Extremadura and Andalusia) and establishment of a network of watersport centres.

### Suitability

The regions subject to Objective 1 of this project are characterised by poor urbanisation models and significant imbalance in the area of leisure centres, environment and the utilisation of natural resources. Other problems include the high unemployment of women and structural unemployment (significant difference between the quality of labour supply and demand). The dynamics of entrepreneurial activities are slowed by a significant lack of communication connections among, as well as within, individual sectors and a rather limited capacity for the adoption of technological innovations. Information technologies, for instance, are usually used for mechanical and less sophisticated tasks, with entrepreneurs not benefiting from a possible increase of productivity and competitive advantages resulting from their proper employment.

The total domination of small and medium-sized companies resulting from economic fragmentation limits the vitality and viability of entrepreneurial subjects and their internationalisation. In addition, the fact that individual regions still specialise in structurally weak sectors (heavy industry, activities with low added value) reduces their dynamics considerably. It is, therefore, very important to persuade the authorities that the commercial activities that have been carried out in their regions for centuries are obsolete and are no longer economically and socially viable.

### Project management and contact information

Ministry of Economics

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### Financial and technical information

Title: "Enhancement of Competitiveness and Development of Production Structures" Operational Programme, part of Objective 1

Programme type: operational programme

Programme number: 2000ES161PO014

Resolution number: C(2001)227

Date of approval: 15.2.2001

### **Financial means according to priority areas (in millions of EUR)**

Priority area	Total cost	EU contribution	Public aid (EU + others)
Improvement of competitiveness and production structure	2 615.233	1 767.961	2 615.233
Local and urban development	24.286	17.00	24.286
Technical assistance	0.561	0.421	0.561
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 640.080</b>	<b>1 785.382</b>	<b>2 640.080</b>

**Financial breakdown in accordance with EU Funds (in millions of EUR)**

EU contribution	ERDF
1 785.382	1 785.382
100 %	100 %

It is clear both from the latest EU documents and from the content of the case studies included in this material that the following areas must represent the main subjects of support of the tourist industry through EU policies:

- The promotion of dialogue with the tourist industry and other concerned parties through annual tourist fora and the expansion of competencies of the Advisory Tourist Board.
- The provision of network services and supporting functions in the tourist industry, for instance, through competence centres (observatories, study and research centres) on the national, regional and local levels.
- The effective employment of financial and non-financial EU instruments for the benefit of the tourist industry in collaboration with the national and regional authorities and operators.
- The promotion of sustainable development through the introduction and improvement of regulators of agenda 21.
- The definition and implementation of evaluation methods and instruments (quality indicators and benchmarking) necessary for monitoring tourist destinations and services.