

North **EAST** South West
INTERREG III C



‘Project part-financed
by the European Union’

INCORD

Integrated Concepts for
Regional Development

Financing Regional Development projects by EU-Structural Policy (2000–2006)

Framework principles and procedures

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Basic Principles of EU-Cohesion Policy

Legal Basis Treaty of Amsterdam, Article 158

Economic and Social Cohesion

In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the Community shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the **strengthening of its economic and social cohesion.**

In particular, the Community shall aim at **reducing disparities** between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions or islands, including rural areas.

Financial Instruments of Cohesion Policy

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):**
finances infrastructure, job creating investments, local development projects and aid to small and medium enterprises
- **European Social Fund (ESF):**
promotes economic and social integration of disadvantaged groups by financing training measures and systems of recruitment assistance
- **Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG):**
helps to adapt and modernise the fishing industry
- **European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF-Guidance):**
finances rural development measures and provides aid for farmers
- **Cohesion Fund (CF):**
finances major projects designed to improve the environment and to develop transport infrastructure

Key Principles of Cohesion Policy

- **Additionality:** EU resources shall not replace national expenditure
- **Co-Financing:** Projects are never completely financed by EU-funds
- **Partnership:** Close consultation between Commission and relevant national, regional and local authorities, involvement of wide range of public/private actors
- **Programming:** Multi-annual development programs as basis for projects
- **Subsidiarity:** Decentralisation of programme management
- **Concentration:** Focussing measures and means on delimited geographical territories and well defined thematic issues
- **Added Value:** change of traditional support policy to innovative approaches

Structure of Current Programming Period (1)

Three objectives

Objective 1

- ↳ Helping regions whose development is lagging behind to catch up (criterion: GDP < 75% of EU average) (ERDF, ESF, FIFG, EAGGF)

Objective 2

- ↳ Supporting economic and social conversion in industrial, rural, urban or fisheries dependent areas facing structural difficulties (criterion: e.g. unemployment rate, depopulation of rural areas) (ERDF, ESF)

Objective 3

- ↳ Modernising systems of training and promoting employment (ESF)

Structure of Current Programming Period (2)

Four Community Initiatives

INTERREG III:

Cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation
(ERDF)

URBAN II:

Innovative strategies in cities and urban neighbourhoods
(ERDF)

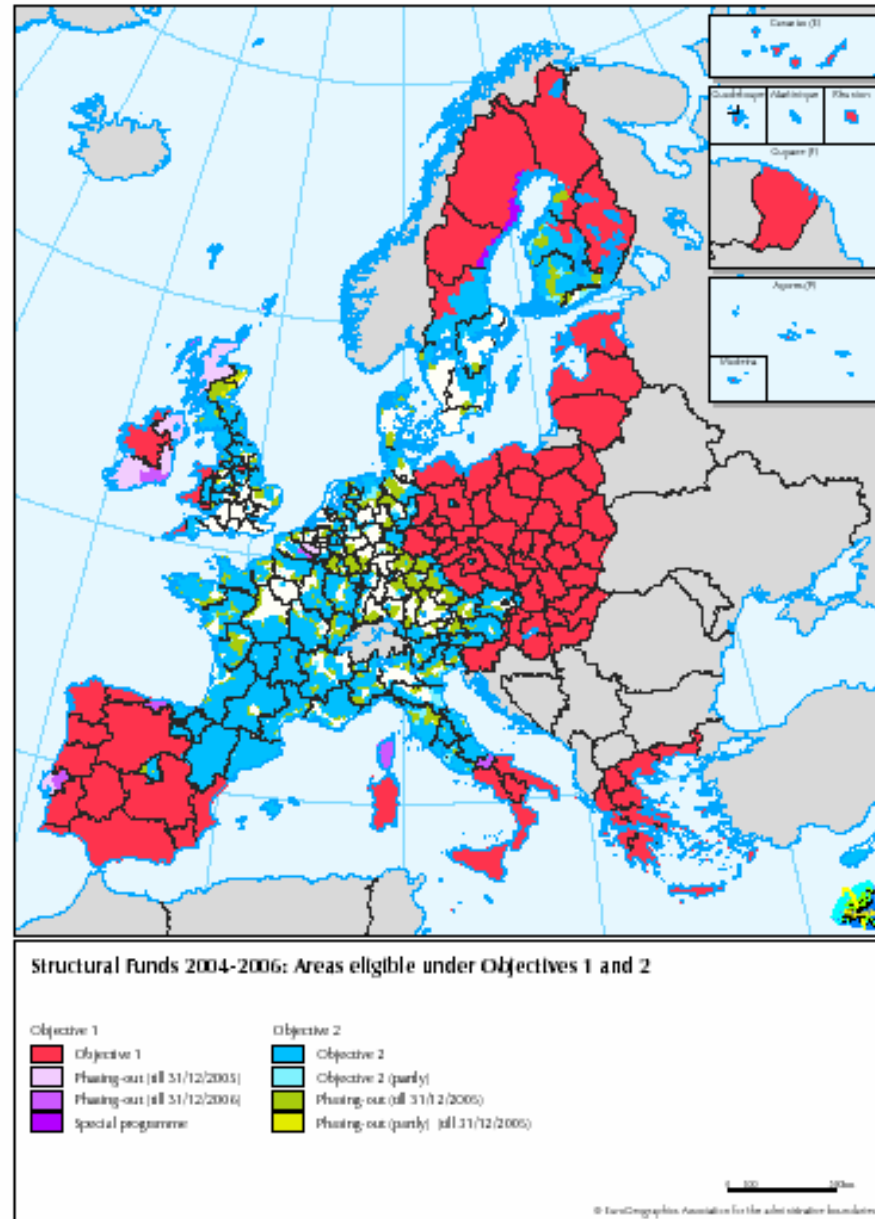
LEADER+:

Rural development initiatives (EAGGF-Guidance)

EQUAL:

Combat discrimination in the labour market (ESF)

Eligible Regions of Structural Funding 2004–2006



Organisation and Management

Plans and Programmes

- **Community Support Framework (CSF)**: national strategy paper for EU Structural Funds' intervention, elaborated by State and approved by European Commission
- **Operational Programmes (OP)**: detailed programme of the CSF for individual regions and for specific themes; conceptual package of measures; description of objectives and priorities
- **Single Programming Document (SPD)**: combination of CSF and OPs for smallest regions

Institutions

- **Managing Authority (MA)**: overall responsibility for program management and selection of funded projects
- **Paying Authority (PA)**: responsible for certifying expenditure
- **Monitoring Committee (MC)**: supervision of implementation

Stages of Programming and Implementation

1. **European Council** decides the Structural Funds' **budget** and **defines eligible areas** and **thematic guidelines**
2. **State or Region formulates** a plan of support, known as **Community Support Framework (CSP)**
3. **Plans** and **programmes** are **presented** to the European Commission
4. **Discussion** of the content of these documents by the Commission and the State or Region
5. **Agreement** and adoption of the plans and programmes by the Commission
6. **Decision on details** of the programmes by national or regional authorities
7. **Selection** of eligible projects by Managing Authority
8. **Implementation** of projects
9. **Supervision** of the progress

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Thank you for your attention!
