



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Regional Policy

Onwards and Upwards: The Future of Interregional Co-operation

INTERREG IVC

Moray Gilland, DG Regional Policy

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3 Objectives of Structural Funds Policies 2007 - 2013

- **Convergence**
- **Competitiveness and Employment**
- **European Territorial Co-operation**



European Territorial Co-operation

- An Objective in its own right
- Increased funding
- Improved legal framework
- Cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation



Interregional co-operation in Convergence and Competitiveness programmes

- Specific priority for interregional co-operation can be included in the Convergence and Competitiveness programmes
- Will allow co-operation between Convergence and/or Competitiveness regions
- Interregional co-operation covers topics of the regional programmes concerned
- Each project partner funds his own activities from his own programme
- Aim= enriching the implementation of the regional programmes



Interregional Co-operation in the INTERREG IVC programme

- EUR 321m ERDF in one single programme
- One Managing Authority: Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de Calais - Lille (F)
- Four Information Points in Rostock, Katowice, Valencia and Lille
- Focus on Lisbon and Gothenburg agenda
- Whole EU territory is eligible
- Rate of assistance up to 75 -85%



The aims of INTERREG IVC

- to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and contribute to economic modernisation
- to contribute to the Union's strategy for growth and jobs. As such the programme is an important instrument for the implementation of the EU initiative **Regions for Economic Change (RFEC)**



Types of operations - "Regional Initiatives"

- Flexibility regarding the types of operations
- Co-operation can still vary in intensity (from light networking to mini-programmes)
- Priority 1: Innovation and the knowledge economy
- Priority 2: Environment and risk prevention



Types of operations - "Regional Initiatives"

- Priority 1: Innovation and the knowledge economy
 - Research, technology and development
 - Information society
 - Entrepreneurship, SMEs and economic sectoral development
 - Employment, human resources and education
- Priority 2: Environment and risk prevention
 - Energy and sustainable public transport
 - Biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage
 - Natural and technological risks
 - Water & waste management
 - Cultural heritage



Types of operations - "Capitalisation / the Fast Track option"

- The broader context: Regions for Economic Change Initiative
- Expected results: Transfer of good practice identified in regional networks to the Convergence and Competitiveness programmes for implementation
- List of 30 themes
- Enhanced Communication effort



Networks carrying out capitalisation activities

- Extended partnerships involving regions with different levels of experience
- Partnerships include policy makers, decision makers and relevant experts
- Working methods leading to mainstreaming (regional action plans, reporting etc)
- Particular attention to dissemination



Types of operations - The Fast Track option

- Fast Track networks funded under the INTERREG IV C or the URBACT II programme, depending on the theme
- Networks to be set up for each theme bringing together regions with specific experience and those having special interest
- More involvement of Commission: assists with expertise and participates in implementation
- Expected outcome: Action plans for concrete implementation in Convergence and Competitiveness programmes and wide dissemination of results



Possible themes for Fast Track option networks (I)

1. Making Europe and its regions more attractive places for investment and work
 - Improving air quality
 - Moving to a low carbon economy
2. Improving knowledge and innovation for growth
 - Improving the capacity of regions for research and innovation
 - Bringing innovative ideas to the market more quickly



Possible themes for Fast Track option networks (II)

3. **More and better jobs**
 - Promoting entrepreneurship
 - Promoting a healthy workforce in healthy workplaces

4. **The territorial dimension of European cohesion policy**
 - Reaping the benefits of the sea
 - Managing coastal zones



Estimated time frame for the INTERREG IVC programme

- March 2007: submission of Operational Programme to the Commission
- Summer 2007: approval of the Programme by the EC
- September 2007: Start of programme implementation