

**Handbook
for
Environmental Project Funding**

CONTENTS

PREFACE	IV
Acknowledgement	v
Legal Notice	v
Contacts	v
Useful Links	v
INTRODUCTION	1
Information on the European Union	1
Who should read this Handbook	1
Purpose and Objectives	1
Background	2
Structure of the Handbook	3
ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION	5
Introduction	5
Cohesion Fund	7
European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)	8
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	9
European Social Fund	10
Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance	11
Innovative Actions	12
INTERREG III	13
LEADER +	15
URBAN II	16
CORE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING	18
Environment Funding from the European Union	18
Civil Protection Assistance Interventions	19
Community Action Programme in the Field of Civil Protection	20
Environmental Awareness	21
Financial Support for European ENVIROnMENTAL Organisations	22
General Call for Environmental Proposals	23
LIFE III (LIFE- Nature, LIFE- Environment and LIFE- Third countries)	24
Marine Pollution	26
Sustainable Urban Development	27
ENVIRONMENTAL EXTERNAL FINANCING	28

Introduction	28
Asia Pro Eco	29
Asia Urbs	31
Border Regions – Pilot Projects	33
Co-financing with NGOs	36
Environment in Developing Countries	37
ISPA	39
MEDA II	41
PHARE	43
SAPARD	44
SMAP	45
TACIS	47
Tropical Forest Management	48
URB-AL- Local Urban Development in Latin America	50
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH FINANCING	52
The 6 th RTD Framework Programme	53
ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING THROUGH EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, CULTURAL AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES	55
Culture 2000	56
Leonardo da Vinci	58
Socrates	60
Youth	62
LOAN FINANCING BY THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND	64
European Investment Bank	64
SME Guarantee Facility	66

List of Figures

Figure 1 - Local stakeholders get involved	2
Figure 2 - Format of information	3
Figure 3 - The Structural Funds and Rural Development	6

PREFACE

Over 2 years have past since the publication of the White Paper on European Governance. This document established principles of good governance such as openness, participation, and coherence. It also made a proposal for change to have better involvement from both citizens and local authorities in shaping Europe. Reaching out to citizens through local democracy is one of the key objectives of the White Paper.

I am committed to applying these new approaches to the environment. For many years environmental policy had been developed in consultation with stakeholders. We have adopted an Action Plan on Environmental Governance which included the preparation of this Handbook on funding opportunities for local environmental projects.

I hope that this Handbook will be useful for you and help us jointly improve and sustain Europe's environment.

Margot Wallström
Commissioner for the Environment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

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CONTACTS

This Handbook has been written as a practical guide to EU funding mechanisms for environmental projects. We welcome your views and feedback on any aspect of the guide. Please write or e-mail your comments to the address below. Thank you.

Directorate-General Environment,
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: env-info@cec.eu.int

USEFUL LINKS

[EUROPA](#) – the official web site of the European Union and in particular:

[Secretariat General](#) – for general information on the European Commission

[Directorate General Environment](#) – for general information of European environmental policy

[The green portal](#) – for access the “green portal” of the European Commission

[Grants and Loans](#) – the EuropeAid Co-operation Office

[Europe Direct](#) – first-point contact for general enquiries to the European Union

[Handbook of Environmental Funding](#) – from the French national government

INTRODUCTION

INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the [Europa](#) server. **Europe Direct** is a freephone service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union and to provide direct responses to general enquiries. If you have more detailed questions you will be directed to the best source of information. The freephone number: 00 800 6789 1011 can be used from anywhere within the 15 member states and you will reach an operator who speaks your language. Europe Direct will also cover the fifteen new member states from 1 May 2004.

WHO SHOULD READ THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to increase the capacity of individuals and organisations to engage in issues of local governance through involvement in projects leading to environmental enhancement and sustainable development at the local level. The goal of the handbook is to **increase capacity** for undertaking local environmental interventions by helping individuals and organisations gain access to key information on the funding instruments dedicated to environmental improvement.

This handbook was written to assist people in gaining access to the various environmental funding instruments of the European Commission. A sheet is also included on environmental financing by the European Investment Bank. If you are an officer or a member of a municipality, an NGO, a business, a governmental or non-governmental institution or a concerned individual, working or involved in the activities of environmental protection, improvement or education, then this guide is for you.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the handbook is to guide practitioners, professionals and volunteers through the sources, procedures and practices of EU environmental project funding.

Use of this guide will assist readers to achieve the following:

- understand the sources, extent and availability of the various EU funds accessible for local environmental projects;
- be able to access sources of information regarding project identification and funding application procedures.

The guide itself is not exhaustive but acts as a good first step into the sources of help and assistance provided by the environmental instruments themselves. It is not intended to replace the other sources of information, but to provide a more accessible route to that information.

BACKGROUND

The background to this handbook is contained in the 2002 Action Plan on Environmental Governance of the European Commission. In 2002, the Commission decided that the preparation of a Handbook or Vade Mecum would be helpful in providing information on the principle characteristics of the environmental instruments and in orienting potential funding applicants in the right direction. In summary the Commission expects that the handbook will:

- Assist implementation of the White Paper on Governance;
- Assist the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme;
- Encourage improved local governance by empowering individuals to engage in issues and interventions of local concern;
- Provide improved access to information on EU financial instruments for environmental improvement.



Figure 1 - Local stakeholders get involved

(Krásná Lípa, Czech Republic, May 2002, Photograph by Tomas Salov)

The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (Titled 2010: Our Future, Our Choice) gives a new sense of purpose and direction to the Community's environmental policy. It clearly sets out the objectives and actions for the next decade and determines the actions that will need to be taken within a 5–10

year period if those goals are to be achieved. The new Programme puts forward a series of thematic strategies to tackle persistent environmental problems in seven areas (Air Pollution, Waste Recycling, Soil Protection, Pesticides, Urban Environment, Marine Environment and Resources) and in four priority areas (climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment and health and quality of life; natural resources and waste.)

STRUCTURE OF THE HANDBOOK

The handbook has been constructed on the basis of a series of sheets, one for each financing source or instrument. The sheets are arranged according to which policy area a specific fund addresses. Figure 2 shows the structure of the individual sheets.

Title of instrument		Time frame	
The legal title of the specific instrument		Period of the instrument	
General objectives			
Overarching strategic objectives of the instrument			
Actions able to be financed:		Examples of current financing:	
General thematic actions or activities which may be eligible for funding		Examples of current good practice funded by the instrument	
Geographic coverage:		Eligible organisations	
Geographic coverage		Where appropriate	
Legal basis:			
Terms and Conditions:			
Contact points:		Useful links:	
Commission or other contact points		Links to other sources of information	

Figure 2 - Format of information

The sheets are arranged according to the policy areas of the European Union:

- Environmental integration – with financing through the cohesion policy and rural development;
- Core environmental financing;
- Environmental external financing;

- Environmental research financing;
- Environmental financing through the educational, vocational training, culture and youth programmes.

A sheet is also provided on the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION

INTRODUCTION

The goal of economic and social cohesion has been one of the Union's top priorities. By assisting cohesion, the Union's aim is to encourage across the union, balanced and sustainable economic development, development of employment and human resources, environmental protection and upgrading, the elimination of inequality and the promotion of equal opportunities.

To assist in the goal of cohesion and sustainable development, the European Commission has created financial instruments (the Structural Funds, and the Cohesion Fund) to co-finance regional and sectoral operations in the Member States which fall within the competence of the national governments. The funds are administered on the basis of programming documents which the Member States themselves negotiate with the Commission.

To improve effectiveness three measures were adopted by the Union for the period 2000-2006:

Objective 1

This objective promotes the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind, i.e. whose average per capita GDP is less than 75% of the European Union average.

Objective 2

This objective aims to contribute to the economic and social conversion of regions in structural difficulties other than those eligible for Objective 1. Overall it will cover areas undergoing economic change, declining rural areas, depressed areas dependent on fisheries and urban areas in difficulty.

Objective 3

This objective gathers together all the measures for human resource development outside the regions eligible for Objective 1.

Four types of Structural Fund have been introduced over the years, as the process of building Europe has progressed:

- the European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#)) contributes mainly to assisting the regions whose development is lagging behind and those undergoing economic conversion or experiencing structural difficulties (Objectives 1&2);
- the European Social Fund ([ESF](#)) mainly provides assistance under the [European Employment Strategy](#) (Objectives 1,2 &3);
- the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund ([EAGGF](#)) Guidance Section helps in both the development and the structural adjustment of rural areas whose development is lagging behind, by improving the efficiency of their structures for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and forest products (Objective 1 and Leader+);
- the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance ([FIFG](#)) provides finance for the fisheries sector at different rates according to whether the project takes place within Objective 1 or outside Objective 1 areas. The FIFG rules were modified significantly in December of 2002 when the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy was adopted

There are also so-called Community Initiatives ([Interreg](#), [Urban](#), [Leader+](#) and [Equal](#)), and the strengthened “second pillar” of the CAP the [rural development policy](#) is an opportunity to finance environmental projects.

Figure 3 - The Structural Funds and Rural Development

The following sheets present the details of the funds available relating to cohesion policies.

Title of Instrument COHESION FUND	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives The Cohesion Fund was set up to enable Spain, Greece, Portugal and Ireland to catch up in economic terms in the fields of transport and environment. From 2004 the ten new member states will also be eligible.	
Actions able to be financed: Strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the Community through the balanced financing of projects, technically and financially independent project stages and groups of projects forming a coherent whole, in the fields of the <u>environment</u> and <u>trans-European transport infrastructure networks</u> . Studies related to such projects and their implementation, as well as technical support measures such as comparative studies, impact studies, monitoring and, since entry into force of Regulation (EC) No <u>1264/1999</u> , publicity and information campaigns. All projects financed must be compatible with the Treaties and instruments adopted under them and with Community policies, especially those concerned with protection of the environment, <u>transport</u> , trans-European networks, <u>competition</u> and the award of public contracts.	Examples of previous financing: <u>Integrated Management of Municipal Waste, Galicia, Spain.</u> To bring waste tips in this region of Spain in line with European legislation, the Cereda Environmental Complex was established. This 42ha site comprises a light packaging recycling plant, a plant for producing fuel from organic waste, a thermoelectric plant and a combined heat/power plant to supply the complex itself. <u>Improvement of Water Quality of Beaches in Estoril, Portugal.</u> This project involved the implementation of a water collection, treatment and disposal system to clean up the rivers of the region and to encourage tourists back to the area.
Geographic coverage: Funding is currently available for Spain, Portugal and Greece (Ireland was eligible till the end of 2003). From 2004 the ten new member states will also be eligible.	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No. 1264/1999 of 21 June 1999 amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 1164/94 establishing a Cohesion Fund. Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the terms laid out in Article 10 of the above regulation.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for Regional Policy European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int	Useful links: INFOREGIO

Title of Instrument EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND (EAGGF)	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives The EAGGF finances the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It covers expenditure for agricultural markets and direct payments to farmers as well as support for rural development. The EAGGF also provides a contribution to veterinary and phyto-sanitary measures and finances actions relating to information on and evaluation of the CAP. Rural development includes measures aimed at improving agricultural structures, the diversification of production and activities, sustainable forest development, the social and economic development of rural areas, environmental protection and the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women.	
Actions able to be financed: Many rural development measures include an environmental dimension. Support for rural development is provided under two sections of the EAGGF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fund's Guarantee Section co-finances rural development measures outside of Objective 1 regions and the “accompanying measures” (agri-environment, less favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions, afforestation, early retirement). • The Guidance Section co-finances all rural development measures which are not included in the Guarantee Section. 	Examples of previous financing: <u>National rural development programmes</u> financed under EAGGF: <u>Evaluation of measures</u> applicable to agriculture:
Geographic coverage: All EU Member States are eligible for EAGGF funding.	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy. Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the EAGGF. Terms and conditions: The financial resources required to cover EAGGF expenditure are made available to the Member States by the Commission by means of advances on the provision for expenditure incurred. In effect, the Commission reimburses expenditure incurred (pre-financed) by the Member States. In addition, working capital can be made available to the Member States for the implementation of rural development programmes. See in particular chapter IV (financial provisions) of Regulation No 1257/1999.	
Contact Points: Directorate General Agriculture European Commission B-1049 e-mail: agri-library@cec.eu.int For country specific information visit the web sites of the relevant government department.	Useful links: DG Agriculture EEAGF CAP reform Rural Development

Title of Instrument EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives ERDF contributes towards financing the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> productive investment to create and safeguard sustainable jobs; investment in infrastructure which contributes, in regions covered by Objective 1, to development, structural adjustment and creation and maintenance of sustainable jobs, or, in all eligible regions, to diversification, revitalisation, improved access and regeneration of economic sites and industrial areas suffering from decline, depressed urban areas, rural areas and areas dependent on fisheries. Such investment may also target the development of trans-European networks in the areas of transport, telecommunications and energy in the regions covered by Objective 1; development of the endogenous potential by measures which support local development and employment initiatives and the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises; such assistance is aimed at services for enterprises, transfer of technology, development of financing instruments, direct aid to investment, provision of local infrastructure, and aid for structures providing neighbourhood services; investment in education and health (only in the context of Objective 1). 	
Actions able to be financed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of infrastructure to promote regeneration of economy, (including for environment) in Objective One areas. Local development, employment initiatives and actions to enhance small and medium-sized enterprises. 	Examples of previous financing: <u>Frosler- Jardelunder Moor Regeneration Project, Denmark and Germany.</u> Regeneration of this peat bog following discontinuation of peat cutting in the 1960s. The project included raising the water table and implementing management in the form of sheep grazing to prevent reinvasion of the site by trees and shrubs and allowing the bog flora to recolonise. <u>Regional phytosanitary protection and quality control centre, Ioannina, Greece.</u> Development of a centre to monitor the use of plant health products, particularly pesticides and the quality of fresh and processed plant products to comply with European standards. This created jobs in a disadvantaged area, whilst contributing to human and environmental health. <u>A nature reserve between tower blocks, Biarritz, France.</u> In the disadvantaged area of La Negresse in the city this project involved the transformation of an areas of waste ground from an illegal rubbish dump into a park with woodland and recreation areas. This has enhanced the area for local people and for tourists.
Geographic coverage: Funding available to Objective 1 and 2 regions and regions included in Interreg III and Urban II community initiatives (see separate sheets). Lists of eligible funding regions (including map)	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund [Official Journal L 213, 13.08.1999]. Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities. Community contribution is dependent on the wealth of the region where the investment is made.	
Contact Points: For general information contact: Directorate-General for Regional Policy European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int Contact points for relevant national authorities	Useful links: INFOREGIO Sustainable regions

Title of Instrument EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND	Time Frame 2000-2006
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support measures which prevent and combat unemployment • To promote equality between the sexes in the labour market • To support the European Employment Strategy 	
Actions able to be financed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes to develop or regenerate the employability of people in eligible regions. • Local employment initiatives giving assistance to individuals through vocational training, education and careers advice, also through social skills development. • Provision of services and equipment for the care of dependents. 	Examples of current financing: <u>Examples of successful ESF projects</u>
Geographic coverage: Regions eligible under objectives 1, 2, 3 and the <u>EQUAL</u> initiative.	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions for Structural Funds. European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1784/1999 of 12 July 1999 on the European Social Fund Terms and conditions: All projects and organisations must meet the criteria set out in Council Regulation No. 1260/1999.	
Contact Points: The Commission does not directly fund ESF projects so contact should be made through the relevant national authorities. Contact addresses	Useful links: <u>Further information</u> <u>ESF</u> <u>EQUAL initiative</u>

Title of Instrument FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR FISHERIES GUIDANCE (FIFG)	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by supporting structural measures in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including processing and marketing of products. To strengthen economic and social cohesion. 	
Actions able to be financed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommissioning of vessels and (within certain limits introduced in December 2002) vessel renewal and modernisation. Creation of protected coastal areas Fishing port facilities Processing, marketing and promotional operations Management of resource/fishing effort e.g. adjustment of fishing capacities. Redundancy payments and pensions for fishermen retiring early may be eligible for financial contributions Innovative actions 	Examples of previous financing:
Geographic coverage: All EU Member States are eligible for funding but at different rates of support according to where the project takes place (within or outside objective 1 area).	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 of 17 December 1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries sector as last amended by regulation (EC) No 2369/2002 of 20 December 2002..	
Terms and conditions: National and regional authorities must make a minimum financial contribution. Level of FIFG aid varies according to whether the relevant region is considered objective 1 or not.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for Fisheries European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: fisheries-info@cec.eu.int National contacts	Useful links: Visit the Directorate-General for Fisheries website and download FIFG Instruction for use.

Title of Instrument INNOVATIVE ACTIONS	Time Frame 2002 - 2006
General objectives The innovative actions of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are laboratories of ideas for disadvantaged regions. As the opportunities for experimentation are often limited under the main support of the Structural Funds, the innovative actions provide regional actors with the "risk space" needed to respond to the challenges set by the new economy. To prevent even greater divergence and to take the opportunities presented by the new economy to quickly close the gap, the new generation of innovative actions aims specifically to define and implement innovative practices in economic and social development, which, if successful, are likely to improve the quality of the priority programmes of the Structural Funds in regions lagging behind in their development (Objective 1) or undergoing conversion (Objective 2). These opportunities carry greater risk, sometimes even of failure, and they allow the regions to explore more sophisticated ideas which are not approached in the usual context of programmes part-funded by the ERDF. They therefore help them to become more competitive, raise their level of technological competence and create highly-skilled jobs.	
Actions able to be financed: During the period 2002-06, the programmes comprise measures relating to one or more of the following three strategic themes: knowledge-based regional economies and technological innovation; e-EuropeRegio: the information society and regional development; regional identity and sustainable development.	Examples of previous financing <u>Innovative Actions</u> <u>Sustainable Regional Networks</u>
Geographic coverage: All the regions with areas covered by Objectives 1 or 2 are eligible for innovative action grants.	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund [Official Journal L 213, 13.08.1999]. Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities. Innovative actions programme proposals must be submitted by the competent regional authorities to the Commission by 31st May each year 2001-2005. Community contribution is dependent on the wealth of the region where the investment is made.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for Regional Policy European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int	Useful links: Visit the innovative actions website

Title of Instrument INTERREG III	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall aim is that national borders should not be a barrier to the balanced development and integration of the European territory. • The new phase aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion, by promoting cross-border trans-national and interregional cooperation and balanced development of the Community territory. • Implementation will be under three strands detailed below. 	
Actions able to be financed: Strand A: Promoting integrated regional development between neighbouring border regions, including external borders and certain maritime borders. Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of urban, rural and costal development • Strengthening the spirit of enterprise • Developing small and medium-sized enterprises, including those in the tourism sector • Developing local employment initiatives • Assistance for labour market integration and social inclusion • Initiatives for encouraging shared use of human resources, and facilities for research and development, education, culture, communication, health and civil protection • Measures for environmental protection, improving energy efficiency and renewable energy sources • Improving transport, information and communication networks and services, water and energy systems • Increasing cooperation in legal and administrative areas • Increasing human and institutional potential for cross-border cooperation 	Strand B: Contributing to harmonious territorial integration across the Community. Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate operational spatial development on a trans-national scale, including cooperation among cities and between urban and rural areas, with a view to promoting polycentric and sustainable development. • Promote efficient and sustainable transport systems and improved access to the information society. • Promote the environment and the good management of cultural heritage and of natural resources, in particular water resources. • Promote integration between maritime regions and of insular regions, each through a specific priority with an appropriate financial allocation. • Promote the integrated cooperation of the outermost regions. Strand C: Improving regional development and cohesion policies and techniques through trans-national/interregional cooperation. Priorities: Cooperation actions related to specific topics to be defined by the Commission, after consulting the Management Committee referred to in Article 48(2) (c) of the General Regulation, e.g. research, technological development and SMEs; information society; tourism, culture and employment; entrepreneurship and environment.
Examples of previous financing: Green Benefits for Industries, Austria and Hungary. The “Ecoprofit Vienna-Gyor” cross-border project was set up to facilitate the implementation of environmentally friendly working practices in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to add value to their image. Europe’s Typical Landscapes, Czech Republic and Germany. Environmentally friendly and beneficial sheep farming project in an area of the Czech Republic which includes a regional nature reserve. European subsidy for flood prevention The IRMA programme (Interreg Rhine Meuse Activities) was established after the severe	

flooding of the rivers Rhine and Meuse in 1993 and 1995. In order to increase safety and public awareness along the rivers Rhine and Meuse and their major tributaries, and to reduce the chance of flooding and the corresponding damage and loss in the future, the countries in the catchment area of the two rivers - Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands - submitted a joint flood control programme to the European Commission within the framework of the INTERREG-IIC initiative. In addition to the EU member states mentioned, Switzerland also participates in the programme at project level.

Geographic coverage:

Strand A: All NUTS III areas (a sub-national statistical unit), along internal and external borders of the Community, plus certain maritime areas of NUTS III. See map below.

Strand B: The EU as a whole is eligible for funding together with neighbouring regions. However regional groups have been set up to facilitate programme development.

Strand C: The whole of the Community is eligible.

Area maps

Legal Basis:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund [Official Journal L 213, 13.08.1999].

Terms and conditions:

Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities.

Community contribution is dependent on the wealth of the region where the investment is made.

Contact Points:

Directorate-General for Regional Policy
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int

Contact points for relevant national authorities

Useful links:

Visit the [INFOREGIO](#) website
[INTERACT](#)
[INTERREG III](#)



Title of Instrument LEADER +	Time Frame 2000 – 2006
General objectives <p>Leader+ is designed to help rural actors consider the long-term potential of their local region. Encouraging the implementation of integrated, high-quality and original strategies for sustainable development, it has a strong focus on partnership and networks of exchange of experience. Leader+ has the role of a laboratory which aims to encourage the emergence and testing of new approaches to integrated and sustainable development that will influence, complete and/or reinforce rural development policy in the Community.</p>	
Actions able to be financed: Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for pilot integrated territorial development strategies based on a bottom up approach. The most taken up priority theme concerned the best use of natural and cultural resources, including the enhancement of the value of sites. • Support for cooperation between rural territories • Networking of European Union rural areas • Technical assistance 	Examples of previous financing: Directory of Leader+ programmes
Geographic coverage: All Member States are eligible for co-financing	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund [Official Journal L 213, 13.08.1999]. Article 20 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1260/1999 Commission Communication to the Member States 2000/C 139/95 Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities. Community contribution is dependent on the wealth of the region where the investment is made.	
Contact Points: DG- Agriculture European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: agri-library@cec.eu.it	Useful links: General Agriculture Leader+ Rural development

Title of Instrument URBAN II	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the design and implementation of highly innovative strategies of economic and social regeneration in small and medium-sized towns and declining areas in major conurbations To reinforce and share knowledge and experience on regeneration and sustainable urban development in the European Union. <p>European Network for Exchange of Experience: URBACT URBACT's objectives are to highlight best practices and to draw lessons from successes and weaknesses identified in these programmes. The target group is urban actors from the 216 cities benefiting from the URBAN I and II programmes and Urban Pilot Projects. URBACT consists of two main priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange and dissemination of knowledge. This includes: thematic networks organised by the cities themselves, actions to build the capacity of urban actors, and studies. The accumulation of knowledge and know-how. This includes a website, the presentation of results, a toolbox and information on illustrative projects. 	
Actions able to be financed: Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve living conditions, for example by renovating buildings and creating green areas; create jobs, for example in environment, culture, and services to the population; integrate the less-favoured social classes into the education and training systems; develop environmentally friendly public transport systems; create effective energy management systems and make greater use of renewable energy; use information technologies. 	Examples of previous financing: <p><u>URBAN II in Dublin and Cork, Ireland.</u> This project aimed to facilitate, among other things, enterprise development and provision of community infrastructure such as sports facilities, whilst maintaining a balance between economic development, social integration and environmental measures.</p> <p>URBAN II Cáceres (Spain): "The greening of Cáceres" The "Edificio Embarcadero" project in the city of Cáceres (Extremadura) in the west of Spain aims to convert a disused 3 000 square metre industrial site into a training, leisure and culture facility for the local community and a workspace for SMEs.</p> <p><u>URBAN II Torino (Italy): "Less waste"</u> The project in Turin will pilot a process for sorting household waste by category, with a view to reducing waste and reducing the proportion incinerated. This will involve the setting-up of ecological centres in the URBAN II area in order to inform citizens about waste management and involve them in selective refuse collection.</p> <p>More examples: Brochure "Partnership with the Cities", The URBAN Community Initiative</p> <p><u>URBAN I in Malmo, Sweden.</u> A contribution to a foundation to facilitate business start-up offering education and employment opportunities as well as improving the environment.</p>
Geographic coverage: Eligible Areas: Belgium- Antwerpen, Bruxelles, Sambreville	

<p>Denmark- Arhus</p> <p>Germany- Berlin, Bremerhaven, Dessau, Dortmund, Gera, Kassel, Kiel, Leipzig, Luckenwalde, Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, Neubrandenburg, Saarbrücken</p> <p>Greece- Iraklio, Komotini, Perama</p> <p>Spain- Caceres, Gijon, Granada, Jaen, Orense, Pamplona, San Cristobal de la Laguna, San Sebastien (Pasasia), Sant Adria de Besos Teruel</p> <p>France- Bastia, Bordeaux, Clichy-sous-Bois- Montfermeil, Grenoble, Grigny- Viry, Le Havre, Le Mantois, Strasbourg, Val-de-Seine (Les Mureaux)</p> <p>Ireland- Ballyfermot</p> <p>Italy- Carrara, Caserta, Crotone, Genova, Milano, Misterbianco, Mola di Bari, Pescara, Taranto, Torino</p> <p>Netherlands- Amsterdam, Heerlen, Rotterdam</p> <p>Austria- Graz, Wien</p> <p>Portugal- Lisboa, Lisboa- Amadora, Porto- Gondomar</p> <p>Finland- Helsinki- Vantaa</p> <p>Sweden- Goteborg</p> <p>United Kingdom- Belfast, Bristol, Burnley, Clyde Waterfront, Halifax, Hetton & Murton, Normanton in Derby, Peterborough, Stockwell, Thames Gateway, West Wrexham</p>	
<p>Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds [Official Journal L 161, 26.06.1999]. Council Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 1999 on the European Regional Development Fund [Official Journal L 213, 13.08.1999].</p> <p>Guidelines: Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 28 April 2000 laying down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development URBAN II [Official Journal C 141, 19.05.2000]</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities. Community contribution is dependent on the wealth of the region where the investment is made.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: Directorate-General for Regional Policy European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int</p> <p>URBACT Contact: Ministère délégué à la ville et à la rénovation urbaine 194, avenue du Président Wilson F-93217 Saint-Denis-La Plaine CEDEX Tel.: +33 (0) 1 47 04 11 23 e-mail: info@urbact.org</p>	<p>Useful links: Inforegio website Regional policy Urbact website Urbact.org</p>

CORE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING

ENVIRONMENT FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

In essence environmental project funding can be thought of as falling into two distinct categories:

Funding within *programmes*, where proponents of projects will be required to meet specific and pre-set criteria and to design projects to assist in the delivery of the aims and objectives of the programme. Examples of such instruments are the structural funds.

Open *calls* for proposals, where project proponents have more freedom to design projects that meet objectives set with the context of an environmental need appropriate to the funding call.

Environmental research, education and technological innovation are often funded in this way and the LIFE III instrument provides a good example

The Environment DG offers the widest scope for funding environmental projects as detailed in the following sheets. The Environment DG web site contains helpful information on how to obtain funding for your project. The main source of funds operated by the DG is the LIFE III programme, but there is also an annual call for proposals and specific actions for environmental NGOs and civil protection. Full details are available here.

The Environment DG also provides grants and loans to help with certain environmental projects. Full details are available here. Under the nature and biodiversity theme DG Environment have made proposals for a scheme to monitor and safeguard Europe's forests. Forest Focus aims to offer better protection for forests and to develop awareness of the importance of forests to our environment.

At this point it is helpful to stress the importance of the environmental strand of sustainable development. In many cases it is heard that the *costs* of environmental improvement outweigh the advantages and that such principles as *the polluter pays* are merely additional costs to an economy or an industry or business. This is contrary to the concepts and lessons of sustainable development which show us that investment in the environment is a positive aid to both economic and social development. Investment in environmental capital is a catalyst to advances not in only economic performance but also in human and social capital. This handbook will serve to enhance this belief through providing additional access to environmental funding streams.

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>CIVIL PROTECTION ASSISTANCE INTERVENTIONS</p> <p>Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>Start: 1 January 2002 - Council decision not limited in time</p>
<p>General objectives</p> <p>Reinforce co-operation between the Community and the member states in civil protection assistance intervention in the event of major emergencies, or the imminent threat thereof, which may require urgent response action. The mechanism is intended to help ensure better protection, primarily of people but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage in the event of major emergencies, i.e. natural, technological, radiological or environmental accidents occurring inside or outside the Community including accidental marine pollution.</p>	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses, • Workshops • Community exercises • Introduction of new technologies 	<p>Examples of current financing:</p> <p>EU-Response 2002</p>
<p>Geographic coverage:</p> <p>EU Member States EEA countries Candidates Countries</p>	<p>Eligible organisations</p> <p>Apart from intergovernmental projects, national, regional or local authorities, private firms and other entities may reply under conditions established by the criteria set out in the calls for proposals published in the Official Journal. Moreover, projects in which two or more Member States participate will be encouraged</p>
<p>Legal Basis:</p> <p>Council Decision (2001/792/EC, Euratom) of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions</p> <p>Terms and Conditions</p> <p>Projects are eligible if they comply with the priorities of the Council Decision and its application modalities. Only projects involving all the Member States or a large number of them are eligible.</p>	
<p>Contact Points:</p> <p>Directorate-General Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: env-info@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful Links:</p> <p>Civil Protection Vade Mecum on civil protection</p>

Title of Instrument COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL PROTECTION	Time Frame 2000-2004
General objectives: This programme aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and complement the efforts of the Member States at national, regional and local levels, in protecting persons, property and consequently the environment, in the event of natural or technological disasters. • Facilitate cooperation between Member States in this field. 	
Actions able to be financed: Types of action are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and damage prevention • Increasing preparedness of those involved in civil protection. • Detection and studies of causes of disasters • Improving means of forecasting, including methods and techniques of response and immediate aftercare. • Education and awareness raising to inform the public about the most effective methods of protecting themselves and property. 	Examples of previous financing:
Geographic coverage: All EU Member States are eligible.	Eligible Organisations: Mainly governmental organisations, but private firms or other organisations are not excluded if a call for proposals appears in the Official Journal.
Legal Basis: Council Decision(EC) No. 1999/847 of 9 December 1999 establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection. Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the priorities set out annually by the Management Committee. Only projects involving all Member States or a large number of them are eligible.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for the Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: environment-info@cec.eu.int Contact Point	Useful links: Civil Protection Funding Opportunities Community Cooperation in Civil Protection

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS</p> <p>Call for proposals in the field of Media and Awareness</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2000-2006. Provided that funds are available, calls for proposals may be issued annually under the General Call for Proposals.</p>
<p>General objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the information available to the general public and to raise its awareness level in relation to environmental protection. To create partnerships at a European level and to promote an efficient ecological approach to economic activities. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>There are four priority areas for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Nature and Biodiversity Environment and Health Natural Resources and Waste <p>Projects should be aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrating environmental concerns into all relevant policy areas; working closely with business and consumers to identify solutions; ensuring better and more accessible information on the environment for citizens; developing a more environmentally conscious attitude towards land use. <p>Specific calls for proposals in 2002 in the field of awareness raising were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV 3.1- Environmental communication and awareness raising projects, providing information on environmental problems and solutions, the concept of sustainable development and its concrete applications and the actions of the EU in these areas. ENV3.2- European networks active in the field of environmental communication and awareness raising. 	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p> <p><u>Awareness campaign</u> on Community measures promoting the implementation of the EU nature conservation legislation, SEO/Birdlife- Sociedad Espanola de Ornitologia (Spain). This project aimed at raising awareness of Natura 2000.</p> <p><u>'Floopie, the flying fish'</u>, a young children's environmental awareness project, Federal Environment Agency (Austria).</p> <p><u>The Earth Festival</u>, Ecotopia (Greece). This project involved a film festival on eco-tourism, the production of a documentary and activities by NGOs.</p>
<p>Geographic coverage:</p> <p>All EU Member States are eligible for funding.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations:</p> <p>All entities able to give evidence of technical ability and experience in the field of environmental communication and awareness raising, specifically environmental stakeholders and regional and local authorities.</p>
<p>Legal Basis:</p> <p>Commission Notice to the Member States of 21 March 2003 OJEC 2003/C 68/8.</p> <p>Terms and conditions:</p> <p>The organisations must be eligible under the exclusion criteria set out in the Community's 'General Call for Proposals'.</p>	
<p>Contact Points:</p> <p>Directorate-General Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: env-info@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links:</p> <p>Environment Funding Opportunities</p>

Title of Instrument FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS	Time Frame 2002-2006. Calls for proposals will be issued annually. Funding is for one year only (annual operating grants).
General objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation in different regions of Europe. To promote the systematic involvement of NGOs at all stages of the Community environmental policy-making process To contribute to the strengthening of small regional or local associations working to apply the 'acquis communautaire' in relation to the environment and sustainable development in their local area. <p>Priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change Nature and bio-diversity- protecting a unique resource. Health and environment Sustainable management of natural resources and waste Environmental education Enforcement of Community environmental legislation 	
Actions able to be financed: Financial contributions are towards the costs that European environmental NGOs have to bear in carrying out the activities provided for in their annual work programme.	Examples of previous financing: <u>Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden.</u> Promotes the protection of the environment and natural resources of the Baltic Sea area. <u>International Friends of Nature, Austria.</u> Sustainable development and regional ecological development and ecological tourism.
Geographic coverage: All EU Member States, associated countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia), Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the Balkan Countries (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia).	Eligible Organisations: Non-Governmental Organisations
Legal Basis: Parliament and Council Decision (EC) No. 466/2002 of 1 March 2002 laying down a Community Action Programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection. Terms and conditions: NGOs must be independent and non-profit making and active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement. They must be active at the European level singly or in conjunction with other associations covering at least three European countries. Activities must meet the Sixth Environmental Action Programme goals. The organisations must be eligible under the exclusion criteria set out in the Community's 'General Call for Proposals'.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: env-info@cec.eu.int	Useful links: Financial support for European environmental organisations

Title of Instrument GENERAL CALL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSALS	Time Frame 2000-2006. Calls for proposals will be issued annually.
General objectives: The aim of this call for proposals is to identify projects, which might be eligible for financial support from Environment DG. The call for proposals occurs annually. Fields in which funding is available are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and the Civil Society • Climate Change and Energy • Chemicals • Radiation Protection • Enlargement and Neighbouring Countries • Development and Global Biodiversity 	
Actions able to be financed: Projects should contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out for each field listed above. They should fall within the context of a duly approved basis in Community law (Directive, Regulation or Council Decision), or help to promote objectives in specific fields. <u>Further details</u>	An example from the Call for Proposals 2003: Field: Enlargement and Neighbouring Countries Title: Mediterranean Cooperation Objective: To contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the Mediterranean Action Plan's Mediterranean Commission for sustainable development in key areas-integrated coastal zone management, water demand management, preparation for the for the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade. Actions: Capacity building or practical operational tools, including project preparation and management. For an more information click here (page 9-10)
Geographic coverage: All EU member states; candidate countries or partners may be eligible for certain themes each year.	Eligible Organisations: Various, dependant on call for proposal.
Legal Basis: Commission Notice to the Member States of 21 March 2003 OJEC 2003/C 68/8. Terms and conditions: Requests must be submitted on the basis of the application form , faxed or e-mailed applications, or applications made on behalf of organisations by a third party, will not be accepted. Projects must be non-profit making and must not conflict with Union policies. Projects or phases of projects which have been completed or have already begun will not be accepted.	
Contact Points: <u>Specific contacts</u> Directorate-General Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: env-info@cec.int	Useful links: General Environment Funding

Title of Instrument LIFE III (LIFE- NATURE, LIFE- ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE- THIRD COUNTRIES)	Time Frame 2000 - 2004
<p>General objectives LIFE III contributes towards financing in three main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFE- Nature- To contribute to the implementation of Community nature protection legislation Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the establishment of Natura 2000 network to preserve biodiversity by preserving or restoring habitats of EU importance. • LIFE- Environment- To contribute to the development of innovative techniques and methods for protecting the environment. • LIFE- Third countries- To provide technical assistance to third countries (as named above) in the development of environmental policy and establishment of capacities and admin structures within the environment sector. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFE- Nature- Projects which contribute to maintaining or restoring natural habitats and/or species populations in favourable conservation status as defined by the Habitats Directive. These projects must concern Special Protection Areas or Sites of Community Interest and the species listed in this Directive. • LIFE- Environment- Innovative projects in the fields of land use development and planning, water management, reduction of the environmental impact of economic activities, waste management and reduction of the environmental impact of products through an integrated product policy. • LIFE- Third countries- Projects which contribute to the implementation of regional and international guidelines and procedures, which promote sustainable development at all levels or which solve major environmental problems in the region concerned. 	<p>Examples of current financing:</p> <p><u>Safeguarding Natura 2000 Rivers in the UK</u> The beneficiary if this funding is English Nature who will run this project. The main aim is to produce river conservation strategies for the seven pilot SAC rivers in the UK.</p> <p><u>Realisation of a sustainable tourism in the Council of Jesolo, Italy</u> The beneficiary for this project is the Comune di Jesolo. The main aim is to reduce the environmental impact of tourism by application of the Integrated Product Policy (IPP) model.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: Council and Parliament Regulation (EC) No. 1655/2000 of 17 July 2000 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE) which repeals Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92</p> <p>Terms and Conditions: The projects must comply with criteria set out in the Regulation, Article 3(5) relating to LIFE- Nature, Article 4(6) relating to LIFE- Environment, Article 5(5) relating to LIFE- Third countries and must be selected in accordance with Article 3(7) relating to LIFE- Nature or Article 11 relating to LIFE- Environment and LIFE- Third countries.</p>	
<p>Geographic coverage:</p> <p>LIFE-Nature and LIFE-Environment: EU countries, candidate countries acceding the EU in 2004 and Romania</p> <p>LIFE-Third Countries: third countries bordering the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations:</p> <p>LIFE Nature and LIFE Environment- Any natural or legal person established in the EU or applicant countries in accordance with conditions set out in the association agreements concluded with those countries.</p> <p>LIFE Third Countries- Any natural or legal person established in a non-member country bordering the Mediterranean or Baltic Seas.</p>

<p>Contact Points: Directorate-General Environment European Commission DG ENV.D.1 B-1049 Brussels</p> <p>National contacts for LIFE-Nature for EU countries and for Candidate Countries</p> <p>National contacts for LIFE- Environment</p> <p>National contacts for LIFE-Third countries</p>	<p>Useful Links: LIFE Homepage LIFE Objectives</p>
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Title of Instrument MARINE POLLUTION Community framework for co-operation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution	Time Frame Start: 1 January 2000 - 31 December 2006
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and supplement Member States' efforts at national, regional and local levels for the protection of the marine environment and coastlines against the risks of accidental or deliberate pollution at sea; • To contribute to improving the response capabilities of the Member States in case of oil spills; • To strengthen mutual assistance and co-operation between Member States in this field; 	
Actions able to be financed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses & Workshops • Exercises • Experts exchange programme • Conferences • Pilot projects 	Examples of current financing: A number of projects resulting from the 3 calls for proposals have taken place. Details on all of these actions
Geographic coverage: EU Member States + Norway and Iceland	Eligible organisations Private firms and other entities may submit proposals under conditions to a call for tender published in the Official Journal. Projects, which involve two or more Member States, will be encouraged.
Legal Basis: Decision 2850/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2000 setting up a Community framework for co-operation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution Total budget: 7 million euro. Terms and Conditions Projects must comply with the priorities of the Decision and the terms of its implementation.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for the Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: env-info@cec.eu.int	Useful Links: Civil Protection and Environmental Accidents

Title of Instrument SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT		Time Frame 2000 – 2004
Community Framework for Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Urban Development		
General objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide financial and technical support to networks of Local Authorities. To encourage the conception, exchange and implementation of good practices in the implementation of EU environmental legislation at local level, sustainable urban development and Local Agenda 21. 		
Actions able to be financed: Part A will consider proposals aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information and exchanges of information on sustainable urban development and Local Agenda 21; Improvement of environmental quality in areas where environmental problems occur alongside socio-economic problems. Part B will consider proposals aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation between partners concerned by sustainable development and Agenda 21 at European level; supplementing work under national programmes to help Local Authorities; facilitating dialogue, coordination and exchange of information between networks of Local Authorities at European level; Supporting the establishment of partnerships including partners from Article 8 countries. 	Examples of previous financing: Part A: <u>Sustainable consumption in cities</u> , Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (Belgium). The project will raise awareness and provide information on waste prevention and recycling. Part B: <u>EMAS- Peer Review for Cities</u> , Union of Baltic Cities (Turku, Finland) and partners. The project aims to promote the use of Eco Management and Auditing Scheme (EMAS) by developing city twinning and peer-review.	
Geographic coverage: European Union and European Free Trade Agreement countries including Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta and other countries which have concluded association agreements with the community.	Eligible Countries: Networks of Local Authorities comprising members from at least four EU and EFTA countries.	
Legal Basis: Council and Parliament Decision (EC) No 1411/2001 of the 27 June 2001 on a Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development.		
Terms and conditions: Applications must be from networks of Local Authorities organised in at least four EU and EFTA countries. They may also include those countries listed above. Projects will be selected according to Article 7 of the Decision.		
Contact Points: Directorate-General Environment European Commission B-1049 Brussels Tel: 32 2 295 7195 e-mail: env-urban-legal-base@cec.eu.int	Useful links: Environment Funding Opportunities Funding Guidelines	

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTERNAL FINANCING

INTRODUCTION

After successfully growing from 6 to 15 members, the European Union is now preparing for its biggest enlargement ever in terms of scope and diversity. 13 countries have applied to become new members: 10 of these countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia are set to join on 1 May 2004. There are currently know by the term "accessing countries". Bulgaria and Romania should do so by 2007. Turkey has also applied for membership.

The EU assists these countries in taking on EU laws, and provides a range of financial assistance to improve their infrastructure and economy.

In order to help the countries that have applied to become members of the European Union to carry out the reforms required, the Union is providing financial assistance in different areas. As far as the candidates from central and eastern Europe are concerned, these include institutional building measures through the 'PHARE' programme; environment and transport investment support under the ISPA programme; and agricultural and rural development support by means of the 'SAPARD' programme.

From the 1 May 2004 the 10 new member states will be eligible for the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund. Romania and Bulgaria will still have access to PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD.

Title of Instrument ASIA PRO ECO	Time Frame 2001-2006
General objectives: The three main objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to improve environmental quality in Asia- the development and adoption of less-polluting and more resource efficient products, processes and services in the Asia region, especially in the waste and water sectors, including a positive influence on global change and health conditions; to improve environmental solutions and to build Asia's institutional and technical capacity that helps to tackle such change; to encourage practical cooperation between Asia and the EU in the exchange and application of environmental policies, technologies and practices which promote economic prosperity and a better quality of life. 	
Actions able to be financed: The programme consists of 5 main categories of activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Studies- Industry Benchmarking and Best Practices (BBP) scheme, surveys, pre-competitive situation analyses, EIAS (Environmental Impact Assessments) and other diagnostic research work aimed at documenting environmental market information. Technology Partnership- training courses, training material, seminars, workshops, specialised publications, technology co-operation and contacts, technology promotion and pavilions; Demonstration Activities - feasibility studies, implementation of demonstration projects with a view to transferring advanced technologies. Operational and Practical Dialogue-organisation of conferences in combination with studies and guidelines in order to identify and briefly analyse specific Asian environmental problems to be addressed and debated during these conferences. Policy Reinforcement- provision of technical assistance to Governmental Authorities of the least developed countries in the field of environmental policy making, which aims to help Asia's institutional and technical capacity to implement more sustainable and resource-efficient solutions. <p>Priority will be given to projects related to Water Management, Air Pollution and Climate Change, and Water Management.</p> <p>Other subject areas can be: Land Degradation, Deforestation, Loss of Biodiversity.</p>	Examples of previous financing: Under the first deadline of 8 January 2003, 10 projects have been approved for grant co-funding for three components of the Asia Pro Eco Programme (diagnostic activities, technological partnerships and demonstration projects). <p>For details on the individual projects, please click here</p> <p>The next Call for Proposals of the Asia Pro Eco Programme is expected to be published in both the Official Journal of the European Communities and the Asia Pro Eco web site before the end of this year (likely in November 2003). The 2004 Call for Proposals will cover three out of the five Asia Pro Eco Programme components namely "Diagnostic Activities, Technology Partnerships and Demonstration Projects" and deadlines for submitting applications are likely to be in March and October 2004</p>
Geographic coverage: EU Member States and the following Asian Countries or Territories: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.	Eligible Organisations: Non-profit making organisations from private and public sectors such as: Chambers of Commerce, Non-Governmental Organisations, National and Regional Authorities, Research Institutes and Universities and Industrial and Environmental Organisations.
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (CEE) No. 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic co-operation with the developing countries of Asia and Latin America, notably articles 7, 8 and 11 in correlation with articles 14 and 15.	
Terms and conditions:	

The programme is only open to non-profit making organisations.
Funding will be in the form of grants and co-financing and must be applied for through calls for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Union.
Applications must originate from a consortium of an Applicant and at least two partners comprising at least two partners from different EU Member States and at least one partner from eligible Asian countries.

Contact Points:

EuropeAid Co-operation Office
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: europaaid-asia-pro-eco@cec.eu.int

Useful links:

[EuropeAid](#)
[Asia Pro Eco Programme](#)
[Asia Pro Eco Objectives](#)

Title of Instrument ASIA URBS	Time Frame 1998-2005 In 2004 calls for proposals will have deadlines in March and June
General objectives: The overall objectives of this programme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to strengthen EU participation in the socio-economic development of Asian countries through support to Asian authorities in applying and developing appropriate policies; to enhance understanding and cooperation between European and Asian local communities. The programme also intends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to create durable links between European and Asian local communities through the implementation of projects jointly submitted by EU and Asian local authorities; to provide capacity building for Local Government; to involve Civil Society in decision-making; to encourage an approach to urban management in a sustainable way- environmentally, socially and economically. 	
Actions able to be financed: Areas of cooperation within this programme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Management - municipal finance and taxation, development of legislation, land use planning etc. Urban Socio-economic Development - job creation, enterprise development etc. Urban Environment - conservation of historic buildings, waste management, water sanitation, pollution control, etc. Urban Social Infrastructure - community health care, developing local transport, neighbourhood services, education initiatives, etc Demonstration - This component remains largely as in Phase I, with grants available for Study and Pilot projects but now they are also available for Follow-on Projects. Only two partners are now necessary for studies. Grants or Follow-on Projects have been designed to build on a successful aspect of a previous Development Project meriting further collaboration and depth. Networking and capacity building - Projects in this component are open to both local government and non-local govt. organisations e.g. municipal associations, networks (with HQs in an eligible country), urban institutes, universities, etc. A partnership of three is still required. Objectives can be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and share solutions through thematic, national or regional workshops and conferences Initiate a broad dialogue for Asian communities improve access to know-how and international assistance (including liaison with European initiatives and programmes) Seek and finding appropriate partners for decentralised co-operation Improve capacities of local governments to identify, formulate and manage projects 	Examples of previous financing: <u>ECOLocal - Environmental and Industrial Policies: A Know-how Exchange between Local Administrations</u> , Tamil Nadu (India) Tuscany (Italy) and Castilla-La-Mancha (Spain). <u>Managing Air Quality and Health in the Urban Environment (MAQHUE)</u> , Chaing Mai, Thailand with the London Borough of Barnet, UK and Barcelona, Spain. See also the Asia Urbs <u>UPDATE</u> newsletter

<p>All projects should aim to improve the quality of life for those in urban areas, whilst also considering sustainability, replicability, environmental soundness, gender awareness and clear exchange of knowledge and experience between partners.</p>	
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU member states and in 17 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China*, Indonesia, India, LAO PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam)</p> <p>*Not including Hong Kong and Macau</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: Partnerships of local municipal authorities.</p> <p>High rate grants are available for projects in least developed countries</p>
<p>Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.</p> <p>Terms and conditions:</p> <p>Funding will be available for pilot projects to be carried out by partnerships of local municipal authorities from eligible countries in Asia and the EU. Each application must include at least 2 local authorities from the EU and 1 from Asia.</p> <p>The Community contribution will be up to 65% of the total cost of an urban pilot project, not exceeding €500,000 per project.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: Directorate General- Aidco European Commission B-1049 Brussels</p> <p>e-mail: europaaid-info@cec.eu.int</p> <p>European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office Asia Urbs Programme Loi 41 1/20 B-1049 Brussels, Belgium Tel +32-(0)2-298 47 31 Fax +32-(0)2-299 10 62</p> <p>e-mail : europaaid-asia-urbs@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links: Asia Urbs EuropeAid Co-operation Office</p>

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>BORDER REGIONS – PILOT PROJECTS</p> <p>Pilot Programme on the Impact of Enlargement in the Border Regions of the EU</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2002 - 2006</p>
<p>General objectives</p> <p>The objective of the overall Programme is to improve the competitiveness of EU regions bordering the Candidate and Accession countries by supporting initiatives in three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen access to support services for entrepreneurs of small and medium sized businesses, in particular small, micro and sole proprietorship businesses, and facilitate their inter-regional and cross border co-operation. ▪ Qualify, re-train and increase occupational and geographical mobility of those potentially and currently working in small and medium sized businesses of sectors affected by enlargement, in particular the most vulnerable groups such as unskilled workers. ▪ Improve the capacity of regional and local authority administrations to develop and manage sustainable cross border networks in the areas of youth, education, culture, health, social affairs, environment and civil protection, energy, transport and consumer protection including the organisation of people to people activities in these areas (i.e. local community or neighbourhood actions). <p>Specific Actions</p> <p>Within this context, three Calls for Proposal were launched in September 2003 with the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Partnership Events for Micro-enterprises in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries: the Programme will support the organisation and implementation of regional partnership events for SMEs that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) foster co-operation and contacts between EU and Candidate Country SMEs to help them establish long-term business relations, and identify market opportunities and specialisation possibilities arising from the process of enlargement of the EU; ii) stimulate the use and access of support services for SMEs, especially for small and micro businesses and sole proprietorships; iii) focus the use and access of support services on sectors that are most likely to be affected by the process of enlargement such as labour intensive services with a limited geographical outreach, business services, manufacturing, construction, tourism, transport and communication, and wholesale and retail trade; iv) promote financing, marketing and sales-related support services, with a view to enabling SMEs, especially small and micro business owners and managers and sole proprietors, to take advantage of market opportunities arising from enlargement; v) promote the provision of information on the regulatory environment at local level, in particular legal environmental obligations, and identify co-operation possibilities between EU and Candidate Country SMEs, principally small and micro business owners and managers and sole proprietors. 2. Qualification Initiatives for Vulnerable Labour Force in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries: the Programme will support the organisation and implementation of qualification programmes that: 	

- i) focus on most vulnerable groups, in particular unskilled workers;
- ii) focus on occupational mobility for sectors that will be particularly affected by enlargement i.e. in particular labour intensive sectors;
- iii) promote important areas where regions can gain competitive advantages and create new sources of employment, inter alia in the area of environmental protection;
- iv) develop links between educational institutions and the business community.

3. Cross Border Initiatives for Local and Regional Authorities in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries: the Programme will support the promotion of projects that:

- i) help local/regional authorities and their personnel to obtain skills necessary to develop and implement cross border structures;
- ii) institutionalise contacts and support sustainable cross border structures with municipalities and regional authorities in the candidate countries in various determined fields;
- iii) foster cross-cultural understanding between regions in the border through the implementation of people-to-people activities.

Actions able to be financed:

- In 2003, € 15.64 million in total has been made available to support initiatives on the impact of enlargement. Regional Partnership Events for Micro-enterprises - € 6 million
- Qualification Initiatives for Vulnerable Labour Force - € 5 million
- Cross Border Initiatives for Local and Regional Authorities - € 4.64

In addition, a Call for Proposal concerning an Enlargement Programme for SMEs ("Pan European Business Co-operation Scheme for SMEs in the Framework of Enlargement") was also launched, with a total budget of € 6 million.

Examples of previous financing:

Information on the 2001 Action

The Commission co-financed a broad-based SME project entitled "Growing Together with Europe". A network of 28 Chambers of Commerce located in the border regions. The project, which has a duration of 40 months, comprises three main components: information, qualification and promotion of cross-border co-operation.

Information on the 2002 Actions

In 2002, € 20 million was made available. € 2 million was used for the implementation of measures in favour of young people under the Commission's Youth Programme. For the remaining € 18 million, the Commission launched the following three Calls for Proposals:

1. Regional Partnership Events for SMEs in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries

Results: Grant Contracts Awarded

2. Employment and Socio-cultural Events in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries

Results: Grant Contracts Awarded

3. Cross Border Initiatives between Local and Regional Authorities in EU Regions Bordering the Candidate Countries

Results: Grant Contracts Awarded

<p>Geographic coverage: Activities must take place in EU border regions from the following list: Finland: Etelä-Suomi, Uusimaa</p> <p>Italy: Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto Greece: Anatoliki Makedonia -Thraki, Kentriki Makedonia, Kriti, Notio Aigaio, Voreio Aigaio</p> <p>Austria: Burgenland, Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Wien</p> <p>Germany: Berlin, Brandenburg, Chemnitz, Dresden, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niederbayern, Oberfranken, Oberpfalz</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: <u>Regional Partnership Events for Micro-enterprises:</u> Organisations representing micro, small and sole proprietorship businesses; sectoral organisations and federations; and business support service providers located in an EU Member State</p> <p><u>Qualification Initiatives for Vulnerable Labour Force:</u> Social partners, educational institutions, vocational training centres and universities located in an EU Member State</p> <p>Cross Border Initiatives: Local authorities or administrations, regional authorities or administrations, municipalities or association of municipalities located in an EU Member State</p>
<p>Legal Basis: B 5 3003 (2003) – Preparatory Actions on the Impact of Enlargement in the Border Regions of the EU</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Applications must be submitted using the standard application form attached to the Guidelines for Applicants mentioned below.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: Directorate-General Enlargement European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: elarg-admin@cec.eu.int .</p>	<p>Useful links: Guidelines for Applicants Border Regions</p>

Title of Instrument CO-FINANCING WITH NGOS	Time Frame 2000 onwards. Calls for proposals are issued annually.
<p>General objectives: The overall objective of this financial instrument is to reduce poverty through support for disadvantaged people in developing countries to meet their basic needs, to improve their quality of life and reinforce their own development capacities.</p> <p>Secondary objectives aim to raise public awareness in Europe of development problems in developing countries with the aim of mobilising public support for development strategies and operations which will benefit disadvantaged peoples of developing countries. This instrument also aims to reinforce cooperation between NGOs from Member States and between NGOs from Member States and the Community Institutions.</p>	
<p>Actions able to be financed: Actions addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local social and economic development in rural and urban areas; • development of human resources by means of training and institutional support for local partners in developing countries; • strengthening civil society and participatory development, and the promotion and defence of human rights and democracy; • role of women in development; • sustainable development; • protection of threatened cultures; • protection and improvement of circumstances and rights of children in developing countries. <p>Public awareness operations should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highlighting the interdependence of the Member States and the developing countries seeking to mobilise support for more equitable North-South relations; • encouraging cooperation between NGOs; • enabling partners in the developing countries to play an active part. 	<p>Examples of previous financing: <u>Support for sustainable agriculture</u>, marketing/commercialisation and capacity building with small farmers, Honduras, Oxfam.</p> <p><u>Rural development and cross-border co-operation</u> - towards a peaceful and dynamic environment in the Ferghana Valley (Tajikistan, Kyrgystan and Uzbekistan), Agence d'aide a la coopération et au développement.</p> <p><u>Drought cycle management in the Greater Horn of Africa</u>, a learning, documenting and capacity building project in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Stichting Cordaid.</p> <p><u>Lists of further projects</u></p>
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: NGOs from one or more Member States in a consortium, network or alone.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) No. 1658/98 of 17 July 1998 on co-financing operations with European non-governmental development organisations (NGOs) in the fields of interest to the developing countries.</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Community contribution will be in the form of co-financing grants. The NGO must satisfy the conditions outlined in the above Council Regulation.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: NGOs and Decentralisation Cooperation EuropeAid Cooperation Office European Commission B-1000 Brussels e-mail: europaid-info@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links: Co-Financing with NGO's</p>

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</p> <p>Full integration of the environmental dimension in Development Process in Developing Countries</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2000-2006- Calls for proposals are issued annually.</p>
<p>General objectives:</p> <p>The general aim of this financial instrument is to support developing countries in their efforts to integrate the environmental dimension into their development process. To achieve this, the Community shall provide financial assistance and appropriate expertise to establish and support the implementation of, policies, strategies, tools and technologies for the pursuit of sustainable development.</p>	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for the drawing up of national, regional and local policies, plans and strategies, programmes and projects for sustainable development; • schemes to build up the institutional and operational capacities of actors in the development process, i.e. government, non-governmental organisations, private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples, at national, regional and local level; • pilot projects in the field including those involving environmentally-sound technologies adapted to local constraints and needs; • the promotion of trade in products that have been produced in a sustainable manner; • the creation of instruments for sustainable development, inter alia, trade-related instruments such as labelling and certification schemes and green trade initiatives; • the formulation of guidelines, operating manuals and instruments aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental integration in particular in the form of public databases and databanks on the internet (open to the public); • information campaigns on hazardous substances, and toxic waste and pesticides in particular; • support for the development and application of environment assessment tools in the preparation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects; • raising awareness of local populations and key actors in the development process and development cooperation with regard to the implications of sustainable development, in particular through information campaigns and training; • inventory, accounting and statistical. 	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p>

<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States and developing countries may be beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: International organisations, States, regions and regional bodies, decentralised departments, public agencies, private operators and industries, cooperatives, local communities, non-governmental organisations and associations representing local people, in particular forest dependent people.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 2493/2000 of 7 November 2000 on measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries.</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Activities must meet the criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2493/2000.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: EuropeAid Co-operation Office European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: europaid-info@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links: EU Regulation on the integration of environment in the development process Sustainable Development and Environment</p>

Title of Instrument ISPA	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives ISPA is one of the three financial instruments (with <u>PHARE</u> and <u>SAPARD</u>) to assist the Central and Eastern European candidate countries in their preparation for accession. (<u>Introduction to pre-accession strategy</u>). Established on the basis of a Commission proposal in the Agenda 2000 to enhance economic and social cohesion in the candidate countries of central & eastern Europe for the period 2000-6, ISPA is designed to address environmental and transport infrastructure priorities identified in the Accession Partnerships. Over the period from 2000 to 2006, a total of € 1 040 million a year (in 1999 prices) is made available for major infrastructure projects in the field of environment and transport (50% each).	
Actions to be financed: Candidate countries submit project proposals relating to the two sectors eligible under ISPA. The projects must be part of national ISPA sector strategies adopted by the candidate countries and endorsed by the Commission. There are three areas of assistance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The environment</u> - bringing the applicants up to EU standards particularly with regard to drinking water, wastewater, waste management and air pollution. ISPA concentrates on the 'investment heavy' EU directives. 2. <u>Transport</u> - modernising and expanding the trans-European transport networks in the applicant countries and linking them to the Union's transport networks. 3. <u>Technical assistance</u> - related to project preparation and implementation and to financial management and control. 	Examples of previous ISPA funded actions can be found here Environment: Constanta Sewerage and Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation Pollution of the Black Sea and coastal areas near Constanta, a major international seaport and Romania's second largest city (425 000 inhabitants), causes serious environmental problems. Due to a lack of wastewater treatment capacity, most of the sewage is either discharged to local surface water or dumped into the Black Sea. By modernising its wastewater facilities up to European standards, Constanta will be endowed with a wastewater system that meets the basic hygienic and environmental requirements of modern cities. In addition, improved quality of the coastal waters will help to promote tourism. The project is co-financed with the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) which has provided a loan for about 20% of the total project cost of € 96.6 million. The ISPA grant covers 75% of the costs. Transport: Modernisation of the E-20 Railway Line on Section Mińsk Mazowiecki – Siedlce: The project consists of the rehabilitation and upgrading to international standards of a section of a 52 km long double-track and electrified railway stretch of the E-20 railway line situated on the pan-European transport corridor n° II linking Berlin to Warsaw and, beyond, to Mińsk (Byelorussia) and to Moscow. It will facilitate the exchange of persons and goods between the European Union and Poland, on the one hand, and between Byelorussia and Russia, on the other hand. The ISPA grant covers 75% of the investment cost of € 124.6 million.
Geographic coverage: Following the accession of 8 ISPA beneficiary countries in 2004, Bulgaria and Romania will remain the only countries eligible for ISPA. Upon accession, the new Member states will benefit from assistance from the Cohesion Fund (€ 8.5 billion (in 2004 prices) for the period 2004-2006).	
Legal Basis: Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1267/1999 of 21 June 1999 establishing an <u>Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession (ISPA)</u> Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the national ISPA sector strategies and with Community legislation. ISPA grants can amount to up to 75% of eligible expenditure.	

Contact Points:

Directorate-General for Regional Policy
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: regio-info@cec.eu.int

Useful links:

[Introduction to ISPA](#)
[ISPA Brochure](#)

<p>Title of Instrument MEDA II</p> <p>(Financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership).</p>	<p>Time Frame 2000/2006</p>
<p>General objectives: To provide financial support to the European Union's Mediterranean policy as defined in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995. The main aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support economic transition; • to develop better socio-economic balance; • to foster regional integration; • to gradually create a euro-Mediterranean free trade area. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed: The actions undertaken within the framework of MEDA concerns the following sectors of intervention:</p> <p>for the economic and financial sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for the economic transition including improvement of infrastructures, strengthening of socio-economic balance, such as support for privatisation and structural and sectoral adjustment programmes or projects to encourage external investment; • projects relating to cooperation in customs matters; • the setting up of innovative and trade centres, the improvement of competitiveness, modernisation and restructuring of administrations; • projects relating to the modernisation of education; • projects relating to public health or the improvement of vocational training in certain sectors, or of specific categories of the population; • regional programmes relating to a wide variety of themes, including the audiovisual media, the cultural heritage and exchanges of young people. 	<p>Examples of previous financing: <u>Tourism development and preservation of cultural heritage.</u></p> <p><u>Bethlehem solid waste project, West Bank and Gaza Strip.</u></p> <p><u>Oil Pollution Combating Centre at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt</u></p>
<p>Geographic coverage: EU Member States and of the 12 Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: State and regional authorities, regional organisations, public agencies, local or traditional communities, non-governmental organisations, private operations, cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC) N° 1488/96 of 23 July 1996 amended on 27 November 2000 by the Council Regulation (EC) N° 2698/2000, usually called MEDA II.</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Contracts are open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons of the EU Member States and the countries and territories of the regions covered and/or allowed by the Council Regulation governing the MEDA programme under which a given contract is being financed. Invitations to tender and contract are open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons in the Member States and the Mediterranean partners. Community financing will be mainly in the form of grants.</p>	

Contact Points:

EuropeAid Cooperation Office
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: europaid-info@cec.eu.int

Useful links:

[EuropeAid Cooperation Office](#)
[EuropeAid Tender and Grants Process](#)
[The MEDA system](#)

Title of Instrument PHARE	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives The PHARE programme is one of the three pre-accession instruments financed by the European Communities to assist the candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their preparations for joining the European Union In 2000 - 2006, PHARE is providing some €11 billion of co-financing for institution building support through "twinning" and technical assistance and for investment support to help candidate countries in their efforts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strengthen their public administrations and institutions to function effectively inside the Union. 2. To promote convergence with the European Community's extensive legislation and reduce the need for transition periods. 3. To promote economic and social cohesion. 	
Actions able to be financed: The PHARE Programme focuses on <u>two main priorities</u> : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institution Building meaning adapting and strengthening democratic institutions, public administration and organisations that have a responsibility in implementing and enforcing Community legislation 2. Investment Support taking two forms: investment to strengthen the regulatory infrastructure needed to ensure compliance with the acquis (now complemented) and co-financing of investment in economic and social cohesion. <p>Specific actions financed under PHARE are determined via the <u>Accession Partnership</u> of each respective country.</p>	Examples of previous financing of PHARE actions found <u>here</u>
Geographic coverage: The candidate countries of the European Union.	
Legal Basis: Luxembourg European Council (1997) launched the present enlargement process. Allowing PHARE funds to focus entirely on the pre-accession priorities highlighted in each country's <u>Accession Partnership</u> . Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for Enlargement European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: enlargement@cec.eu.int	Useful links: History of the PHARE programme PHARE Brochure

Title of Instrument SAPARD	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives <p>SAPARD aims to help candidate countries in Central and Eastern Europe deal with the problems of the structural adjustment in their agricultural sectors and rural areas, as well as in the implementation of the acquis communautaire concerning the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and related legislation.</p> <p>Its main feature is that it only finances agricultural and rural development measures. SAPARD has an annual budget of € 520 million (at 1999 prices)</p>	
Actions able to be financed: <p>SAPARD can provide funding for the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment in agricultural holdings; • improvements to methods for processing and marketing agriculture and fishery products; • veterinary and plant health controls, food quality and consumer protection; • promotion of production methods that protect the environment and conserve rural heritage; • diversifying economic activities and developing alternative sources of income; • farm relief services and farm management services; • setting up producer groups; • village renewal and conservation of rural heritage; • land improvement and reparation; • updating land registers; • vocational training; • improvement of infrastructure in rural areas; • management of water resources for agriculture; • forestry and farm woodland projects, investment in private forest holdings, processing and marketing of forest products; • technical assistance (studies, monitoring, information, publicity campaigns). 	Examples of previous financing of SAPARD actions found here.
Geographic coverage: <p>The candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Following the accession of 8 beneficiary countries in 2004, Bulgaria and Romania will remain the only countries eligible for SAPARD. Upon accession, the new Member states will benefit from assistance from the EAGGF Funds.</p>	
Legal Basis: Article 2 of Council Regulation 1268/1999 (pdf) As amended here: (pdf) Terms and conditions: Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities.	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for Agriculture European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: agri-library@cec.eu.int	Useful links: SAPARD Brochure Annual implementation reports

Title of Instrument SMAP	Time Frame 2002 - 2006
<p>General objectives</p> <p>The Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It was adopted unanimously by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Helsinki on the 28 November 1997 and reconfirmed through the Athens Declaration of Euro-Med Environment Ministers in July 2002.</p> <p>The SMAP is the common basis for environmental purposes (as regards both policy orientation and funding) in the Mediterranean region. Therefore, it is understood that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental integration needs to be pursued further in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership • efforts need to be concentrated at both national and regional levels; • coherence and synergies need to be ensured with existing multilateral programmes and legal instruments, while respecting the specificity of each forum; • transparency and broad public support of the SMAP, including from civil society, need to be secured in view of ensuring its full implementation; <p>SMAP operates on two main levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination among Euro-Mediterranean governments, the European Commission, Mediterranean international organisations and funding institutions as well as NGOs for the achievement of the above goals in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership • Funding of environment projects in cooperation with the MEDA Regional Environment Programme 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>The SMAP foresees five priority fields, with the following indicative urgent actions under each one of them:</p> <p>1. Integrated Water Management Water quality, safe drinking water, water conservation, water losses, decentralised authorities, management of water resources.</p> <p>2. Integrated Waste Management National plans, data bases, effective waste management, statistical methodologies and national waste inventories, waste disposal methods, waste reduction, re-use and recycling.</p> <p>3. Hot Spots Environmental plans for the integrated management of highly polluted urban areas, emergency programmes and management of biodiversity and of natural resources.</p> <p>4. Integrated Coastal Zone Management Sustainable urban and industrial development, sustainable development of tourism areas, conservation and management of biodiversity, reduction and control of marine and coastal litter.</p> <p>5. Combating Desertification Maintaining or promoting sustainable agriculture practices, combating forest fires, erosion and sand dunes deposit.</p>	<p>Examples of previous financing of SMAP actions found here Conservation and Management of Biodiversity Hot-Spots: Developing a Mediterranean Network</p> <p>Mediterranean Urban Waste Management Programme South eastern Mediterranean Water Community Programmes</p>

Geographic coverage:

As regards any EU funding for activities undertaken by the Mediterranean Partners, the major financial instrument for the implementation of the SMAP is the **MEDA** Programme, covering EU Member States and of the 12 Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank

Legal Basis:

The Euro-Mediterranean, Conference which was held in Barcelona in November 1995, adopted a Declaration establishing a new Partnership between the European Union and 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Partners (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Malta and the Palestinian Authority).

Terms and conditions:

Projects must comply with the programme adopted by the Commission in agreement with the national authorities.

Contact Points:

Directorate-General for Environment
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
e-mail: environment-info@cec.eu.int

Useful links:

[SMAP Homepage](#)

Title of Instrument TACIS	Time Frame 2000 - 2006
General objectives <p>The TACIS Programme provides grant-financed technical assistance to 12 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and mainly aims at enhancing the transition process in these countries.</p>	
Actions able to be financed: Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional, legal and administrative reform; • Private sector and economic development; • Consequences of changes in society, infrastructure networks; • Environmental protection; • Rural economy; • Nuclear safety. 	Examples of previous financing: <u>The Tacis Environment Awareness Raising Programme for Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Belarus,</u>
Geographic coverage: Eligible Areas: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan	
Legal Basis: Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 99/2000 of 29 December 1999 Terms and conditions: Assistance under TACIS is based on National Strategy Papers , established for a period of five to seven years. They define the long-term objectives for cooperation and identify the strategic priorities and the specific fields of action. Multi-annual Indicative Programmes , usually for three years, based on the strategy papers, are drawn up for each country. They contain a description of sectoral and cross-cutting issues, specific objectives and expected results. Annual or biennial action programmes , based on the multi-annual indicative programmes, set out as precisely as possible, for a given programming period, the aims being pursued, the fields of action, a list of cooperation activities and available budgets. In parallel with the bilateral approach, a Tacis Regional Strategy/Indicative Programme addresses areas where cooperation among the countries of the region is most important, including, inter alia, the environment, trade and transport, Justice and Home Affairs-related issues as well as cross-border cooperation. In particular situations, financing decisions covering specific cooperation measures not included in annual or biennial action programmes may be drawn up. This is the case for specific contributions to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership . Small projects programmes: There are two separate calls for proposals for small projects; the Small Projects programme (which is for the Western and North Western NIS border regions) and the Institution Building Partnership Programme. Both operate with an annual call for proposals, and each has a web site. See the indicative programme . <p>Once identified and agreed by the Member States, technical assistance projects are put out to public tenders, open to organisations from the EU as well as from accession countries and Tacis beneficiary states.</p>	
Contact Points: Directorate-General for External Relations European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: relex-info@cec.eu.int EuropeAid Co-operation Office (Aidco) European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: europaaid-info@cec.eu.int	Useful links: External Relations EuropeAid Cooperation Office

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical and Other Forests in Developing Countries</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2000-2006- Calls for proposals are issued annually.</p>
<p>General objectives:</p> <p>To promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and other forests in developing countries so as to meet the economic, social and environmental demands placed on forests at local, national and global levels. This will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising the status of forests in national policies and integrating forest policies based on sustainable forest management in development planning; • promoting the production and use of wood and non-wood forest products from sustainably managed resources; • contributing to the adequate valuation of forest resources and services; • ensuring active participation of forest-dependent people and local communities in the development of national forest policies and in development planning; • improving coordination and the flow of information between Commission and Member States projects so as to put in place coherent actions in that area. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>The activities to be carried out shall address in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of appropriate national and international forest policy frameworks based on realistic valuation of forests, which include land use planning, equitable trade in sustainably produced forest products, legal and fiscal measures, institution building, support to the private sector and support to self-development of forest-dependent people to shape their own social, economic and cultural development. These shall take into account other sectoral policies which have an impact on forests and the interests and customary rights of forest-dependent people; • conservation and restoration of forests which are considered to be of importance due to their high ecological value, in particular their value for the preservation of biodiversity, or due to their local and global impacts, such as the protection of hydrographic basins, the prevention of soil erosion, or of climate change; • sustainable forest management and utilisation to provide economic, social and environmental benefits and including, inter alia, forest certification - taking account of the different management conditions for small and large forest areas - and environmentally sound harvesting of both wood and non-wood forest products and natural and assisted forest regeneration; • economic viability of sustainable forest management through more efficient utilisation of forest products and technical improvements of downstream activities related to the forest sector such as small and medium scale processing and marketing of wood and non-wood forest 	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p>

<p>products, the sustainable use of wood as an energy source and the promotion of alternatives to agricultural practices based on forest clearing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and information generation and management concerning forest services and products, in order to provide a sound scientific basis for the activities listed above. 	
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States and developing countries may be beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: International organisations, States, regions and regional bodies, decentralised departments, public agencies, private operators and industries, cooperatives, local communities, non-governmental organisations and associations representing local people, in particular forest dependent people.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 2494/2000 of 7 November 2000 on measures to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and other forests in developing countries.</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Activities must meet the criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2494/2000.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: EuropeAid Co-operation Office European Commission B-1049 Brussels e-mail: europaid-info@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links: Funding opportunities for “tropical Forests” and “Environment in Developing Countries” Sustainable Development and Environment</p>

Title of Instrument URB-AL- LOCAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA	Time Frame Second Stage- 2001-2006
<p>General objectives: The general objectives of this programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop direct and lasting links between European and Latin American local communities through the dissemination, acquisition and application of the best practice in the urban policy field. <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to help local communities play a more active role in the social, economic and cultural development of urban areas, including by putting public amenities into operation; to develop the structural capabilities of local authorities, among others by training human resources; to promote partnerships between local communities and representatives of civil society; to increase the capabilities for action of small and medium-sized towns (SMT) within the internationalisation of their relations context; to promote the ‘best practice’ in European and Latin American local development, whilst respecting local distinctiveness. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed: Themes of the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs and towns Conservation of historic urban contexts Democracy in towns The town as a promoter of economic development Urban social policies Urban environment Management and control of urbanisation Control of urban mobility Local finance and participative budgets The fight against urban poverty Urban housing Promoting the role of women in local decision-making bodies Towns and the information society Citizen’s safety in towns <p>There are two types project the Thematic Network and Joint Projects. Thematic network- each of the above themes will be the subject of a single thematic network coordinated by a single local community. Joint Projects- allow an issue of joint concern to be explored in greater depth within a thematic network.</p>	<p>Examples of previous financing: Implementation of a Drug Information System in Alcaldía de Medellín – Colombia. Part of the “Drugs and towns” thematic network coordinated by Santiago de Chile (Chile).</p> <p>Consultation as a mechanism for enhancing urban democracy in Municipalidad de Quetzaltenango - Guatemala. Part of the “Democracy in towns” thematic network coordinated by Issy-les-Molineaux (France)</p> <p>Promoting health: a means for active citizenship in Municipalidad Distrital de Moro - Peru. Part of the “Urban environment” thematic network coordinated by Malaga (Spain).</p> <p><u>More information about URB-AL projects</u></p>
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU member states and the 18 countries of Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela).</p>	<p>Eligible Countries: Local authorities, urban agglomerations, provinces or regions in full member states and other parties working within the urban sector.</p>

Legal Basis:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 of 25 February 1992 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

Terms and conditions:

Thematic networks must have at least 50 members and no more than 200 participants (local authorities).

Joint projects must have at least 5 members and no more than 15 with a 2:3 ratio of EU: Latin America. They must come from at least 4 countries with at least 2 from the EU and 2 from Latin America.

Contact Points:

EuropeAid Cooperation Office
European Commission
B - 1049 Brussels
e-mail - europaaid-urb-al@cec.eu.int

Useful links:

[Guidance for URB-AL](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH FINANCING

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>THE 6TH RTD FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>(FP6)</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2002 - 2006</p>
<p>General objectives</p> <p>The Framework Programmes are the main instrument for funding research within the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the creation of the European Research Area. • To strengthen the scientific and technological bases of industry and encourage its international competitiveness. • To promote research activities in support of other EU policies. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>The 6th Framework Programme has seven thematic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health • Information society technologies • Nano-technologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials, and new production processes and devices. • Aeronautics and space • Food quality and safety • Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems • Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society <p>Furthermore, it covers specific research support to policies, SMEs and international cooperation as well as support to the transfer of knowledge, human resources and mobility, infrastructures, and science and society issues.</p>	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p> <p>Examples of projects funded under the 5th Framework Programme include:</p> <p>GECS (Global emission trading of greenhouse gases (GHG)). Developing a world model for energy and agriculture (48 countries/regions) in order to calculate GHG emissions, permits and prices according to different scenarios about targets of reduction, resources of energy, economic growth, and technological progress. The results of this project have been used for the elaboration of the Directive relative to Emission Trading.</p> <p><u>STAR (Standardisation of river classifications) and REBECCA (Relationships between ecological and chemical status of surface waters).</u> The projects contribute to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive through the development of ecological classification methodologies for various types of water bodies and the establishment of links between the ecological status of surface waters and their physico-chemical quality.</p> <p><u>PASTILLE- Promoting Action for Sustainability Through Indicators at the Local Level in Europe.</u> Developing and examining the role of local sustainability indicators to rationalise the European approach. This was a joint project involving UK, France, Austria and Switzerland.</p> <p><u>CarboEurope.</u> The project will provide estimates on the carbon source/sink strength of European terrestrial ecosystems on continental, regional and local scale. This system will enable Europe to carry out independent checks of carbon sources and sinks inside and outside Europe.</p> <p><u>LASALA (Local Authorities Self Assessment of Local Agenda 21).</u> This project aimed to register progress made in the areas of 'eco-efficient urban management' and 'new schemes of urban governance' brought about through Local Agenda 21. An innovative technique of <i>tele-guided concerted self-assessment</i> utilising web-based</p>

	<p>resources and a virtual training centre is at the heart of the project.</p> <p>5MW Wind Energy Converter for Offshore Application, coordinated by WIP Wirtschaft und Infrastruktur Planungs-KG, Germany. The project aims to develop a prototype 5MW offshore wind generator to install and operate for offshore application.</p> <p>Sustainable Urban Transportation, coordinated by Environmental Software Services, Austria. The project aims, among other things, to solve the problems of urban transportation systems and land use patterns to develop and apply an indicator based approach compatible with Agenda 21.</p> <p>Examples of financing under the energy support programme:</p> <p>“Energy” Framework programme 1998 - 2002 (ALTENER, CARNET, ETAP, SAVE, SURE, SYNERGY)</p> <p>“Intelligent Energy” programme 2003-2006</p>
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States, Associated Countries and INCO Target Countries (the latter only in the part ‘Focussing and Integrating Community Research’ of FP6) are eligible for funding.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: All legal entities established in the eligible countries that are either involved in research or in the dissemination or use of research results. E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities • Individuals • Research bodies • Industrial and commercial firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
<p>Legal Basis: European Parliament and Council Decision (EC) No 1513/2002 of 27 June 2002 concerning the 6th Framework Programme of the EC for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and innovation (2002-2006) Council Decision of 3 June 2002 concerning the 6th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities, also contributing to the creation of the European Research Area (2002-2006)</p> <p>Terms and conditions: Activities must be conducted in compliance with ethical principles Only consortia of partners from different member states and associated countries can apply. Activities that can better be carried out at national or regional level will not be eligible under the Framework Programme.</p>	
<p>Contact Points: Directorate-General for Research European Commission B-1049 Brussels</p> <p>Tel: 32 2 299 1865 Fax: 32 2 295 8220 e-mail: research@cec.eu.int</p>	<p>Useful links: Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) Energy Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development FP6: General research Global Monitoring for Environment and Security INSPIRE – INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe</p>

**ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCING THROUGH EDUCATION,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING, CULTURAL AND YOUTH
PROGRAMMES**

Title of Instrument CULTURE 2000	Time Frame 2000-2004
<p>General objectives: The main objective of this financial instrument is to promote a common cultural area characterised by cultural diversity and a common cultural heritage. This will be achieved through actions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the promotion of cultural dialogue and mutual knowledge of the culture and history of the European peoples; • encouraging creativity, transnational dissemination of culture and the movement of artists, creators and other cultural operators and professionals and their works, with particular emphasis on the young and socially disadvantaged and on cultural diversity; • the highlighting of cultural diversity and the development of new forms of cultural expression; • the promotion and sharing of common cultural heritage, disseminating expertise and promoting good practice concerned with conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, at a European level; • the consideration of the contribution that culture can make to socio-economic development; • the development of intercultural dialogue and mutual exchange between European and non-European cultures; • the explicit recognition of culture as an economic factor and as a factor in social integration and citizenship; • the improvement of access to and participation for as many European Union citizens as possible. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed: There are three specific types of action able to be financed under this programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific innovative and/or experimental actions. • Integrated actions covered by structured, multi-annual cultural Cooperation Agreements. • Special cultural events with a European and/or international dimension. <p>(See Annexe I of Decision No. 508/2000)</p>	<p>Examples of previous financing: Walled Towns: From Dimension to Co-division, University of Bergamo, Italy. Study of fortified towns in Europe to show common roots and comparable architecture and archaeology of these towns.</p> <p>Moor is More (Moor is meer), Gemeente emmen, Netherlands. Aims to make the hidden treasures of moorland areas visible by using visual and virtual art in the landscape itself or on the internet, to give an impression of the original landscape and how it has changed over the centuries.</p>
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States, countries of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and candidate countries participating in the scheme (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Romania).</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: Public or private cultural organisation with legal status whose main activity lies in the cultural sphere and is directed at the general public.</p> <p>Principal Eligibility Condition: Involvement in concept, organisation and financing -</p> <p>In annual co-operation projects: -of at least 3 co-organisers from at-least 3 different countries eligible for participation in the programme</p> <p>In multi-annual cultural co-operation agreements: -of at least 5 co-organisers from at least 5 countries eligible for participation in the programme</p>
<p>Legal Basis: European Parliament and Council Decision (EC) No. 508/2000 of 14 February 2000 establishing the Culture 2000 programme.</p> <p>Terms and conditions:</p>	

Applicants must have the operational capacity to bring the project to a successful conclusion, provide guarantees of financial viability and professional standards and have knowledge of the content of Culture 2000 and of European Commission's guide on grants.
Projects will be co-financing and Community contribution will be in the form of grants of up to 60% of the total budget for the action.

Contact Points:

Directorate-General Education and Culture
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Tel: 0032 2 299 93 35
e-mail - eac-culture@cec.eu.int

[Contact points for participating countries](#)

Useful links:

[CULTURE Homepage](#)

<p>Title of Instrument LEONARDO DA VINCI</p> <p>(European Programme for Vocational Education and Training)</p>	<p>Time Frame 2000-2006</p>
<p>General objectives: This financial instrument aims to develop the quality, innovation and European dimension of vocational training systems and practices, through transnational cooperation. The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve the skills and capabilities of people, particularly the young, in initial vocational training at all levels; • to improve the quality and availability of continuing vocational training; • to promote the contribution of vocational training to the process of innovation, in order to improve competitiveness and entrepreneurship. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed: There are five main areas by which the objectives of this programme can be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility- Support for transnational mobility projects for people undergoing vocational training, especially young people, and for trainers. • Pilot projects- Support for transnational pilot projects to develop and transfer innovation and quality in vocational training, including actions aiming at the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). • Language competences- Support for projects to promote language and cultural competences in vocational training. • Transnational networks- Support for transnational networks of European expertise and dissemination. • Reference material- Support for actions to establish, update and disseminate reference material. 	<p>Examples of previous financing: <u>Euro Roots European Training for Conservation Trainers of the Future, BTCV, UK.</u> The aim of this project is to raise awareness of the European dimension of environmental training and to share good practice.</p> <p><u>European Training for Improved Woodland Utilisation and Management, CYMAD, UK.</u> This project aims for participants from the woodland industry and student in this field to gain the Central Qualification in Practical Environmental Skills and to improve skills in forestry and gain a new perspective on forestry and silviculture.</p>
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), associated countries of central and eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), and Cyprus, Malta and Turkey.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: All public and private bodies and institutions involved in vocational training schemes, including companies.</p>

Legal Basis:

Council Decision (EC) No. 1999/382 of 26 April 1999 establishing the second phase of the Community vocational training action programme 'Leonardo da Vinci'.

Terms and conditions:

Eligibility conditions will be set out in the calls for proposals.

The coordinating/promoting institution and or other organisation must possess a legal identity.

Proposals must be submitted on the official application form by the deadline specified on the relevant Call for Proposals.

With the exception of 'Mobility' and 'Language competences' each proposal must involve partners from at least three participating countries, one of which must be an EU Member State.

For the named measures, proposals must involve at least two participating countries, with one being an EU Member State.

Contact Points:

Directorate-General Education and Culture

European Commission

1049 Brussels

e-mail: eac-info@cec.eu.int

[Leonardo Da Vinci Mailbox](#)

[National Agencies](#)

Useful links:

[Leonardo Da Vinci](#)

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>SOCRATES</p> <p>(Community action programme in the field of Education)</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2000-2006</p>
<p>General objectives:</p> <p>This financial instrument aims to develop the quality of education and encourage life-long learning, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States.</p> <p>The main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to strengthen the European dimension in education at all levels and to facilitate wide transnational access to educational resources in Europe, while promoting equal opportunities throughout all fields of education; • to promote a quantitative and qualitative improvement of the knowledge of the languages of the European Union, in particular those languages which are less widely used and less widely taught, so as to lead to greater understanding and solidarity between the peoples of the European Union and promote the intercultural dimension of education; • to promote cooperation and mobility in the field of education; • to encourage innovation in the development of educational practices and materials including, where appropriate, the use of new technologies, and to explore matters of common policy interest in the field of education. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>There are six main areas by which the objectives of this programme can be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility- Support for transnational mobility of people in the field of education • Support for the use of information and communication technologies in education • Language competences- Promotion of language skills and understanding of different cultures • Support for the development of transnational cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice • Support for innovatory pilot projects based on transnational partnerships designed to develop innovation and quality in education • Improvement of community reference material through the observation and analysis of national education systems, observation and dissemination of good practice and exchange of information. 	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p> <p>Ongoing project SEED (School Development through Environmental Education), financed in the framework of Comenius Action, which is part of the Socrates Programme.</p> <p>SEED project's aims to promote Environmental Education by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a dynamic network of different interest groups within the educational system; • Improving the process of school development; • Strengthening a European strategy of an Education for Sustainability and, • Transferring models of good practice into teachers' training. <p>Duration : October 2002 – September 2005</p> <p>Network website : www.seed-eu.net</p>
<p>Geographic coverage:</p> <p>All EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), associated countries of central and eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), Cyprus and Malta.</p>	<p>Eligible beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils, students and other learners; • Staff directly involved in education; • All types of educational institutions specified by each Member State; • The persons and bodies responsible for education systems and policies at local, regional and national level; • All public and private bodies cooperating with educational institutions may also take part in appropriate actions under the programme.

Legal Basis:

Council Decision (EC) No. 253/2000 of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates'

Terms and conditions:

Eligibility conditions will be set out in the calls for proposals.

The coordinating/promoting institution and or other organisation must possess a legal identity.

Proposals must be submitted on the official application form by the deadline specified on the relevant Call for Proposals.

With the exception of 'Mobility' each proposal must involve partners from at least three participating countries, one of which must be an EU Member State. For the named measures, proposals must involve at least two participating countries, with one being an EU Member State.

Contact Points:

Directorate-General Education and Culture

European Commission

1049 Brussels

e-mail: eac-info@cec.eu.int

National Agencies

Useful links:

[SOCRATES](#)

<p>Title of Instrument</p> <p>YOUTH</p> <p>(European Programme promoting cooperation in youth-related matters)</p>	<p>Time Frame</p> <p>2000-2006</p>
<p>General objectives:</p> <p>This financial instrument aims to widen the options available to young people by discovering Europe and by taking part in its construction, as active and responsible citizens. The main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage young people to make an active contribution to European integration, • to develop intercultural understanding; • to strengthen fundamental values such as human rights and combating racism and xenophobia, • to develop a sense of solidarity, encouraging a spirit of enterprise, initiative and creativity, • to stimulate the recognition of non formal education, • to strengthen cooperation on the part of all people active in the youth field. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed:</p> <p>There are five main actions by which the objectives of this programme can be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Exchanges- Support for exchanges of groups of young people inside and outside the European Union to experience other social and cultural situations and get an idea of what intercultural learning means. • European Voluntary Service - Support for projects to offer young people the opportunity to reside in another country for maximum 12 months and to take part as volunteers in a local project.. • Youth Initiatives- Support for projects to encourage personal initiative among young people and to promote innovative projects targeting their social integration. • Joint actions- Support for projects setting up innovative joint projects across the different educational areas : Youth, Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci. • Support measures- Support for actions to help all those involved in youth activities and in the preparation or development of projects and initiatives in the framework of the YOUTH programme. 	<p>Examples of previous financing:</p> <p>The Boomerang Project – Karlstad Sweden</p> <p>The aim of the project is to focus on places of environmental and cultural interest in Brazil and to exchange experiences and knowledge in the field of protection of the nature. (participants : Sweden, Portugal, Brazil, Paraguay) Ref. 107116 1.2 SE 10 2002 R3</p> <p>Point Jeunes France Evreux</p> <p>The project aims to work with young people from difficult backgrounds. In a two weeks exchange the group will mainly renovate a nature centre in Sebastopol and help clean the beaches. (participants : France, Germany, Belarus and Ukraine) Ref. 103469 1.2 FR2 2002 R1</p>
<p>Geographic coverage:</p> <p>All EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), pre-accession countries,(Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia), Cyprus and Malta, candidates countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey), Mediterranean partner countries, Commonwealth of Independent States, South East Europe and Latin America..</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations:</p> <p>Groups of young people, non-profit-making, non-governmental organisations or associations, public authorities and other partners with valid experience in the field of youth and non-formal education..</p>

Legal Basis:

Decision No 1031/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2000 establishing the YOUTH Community Action Programme .

Terms and conditions:

The Commission is responsible for implementing the programme, for defining its main guidelines and for adopting its operational mechanisms.

YOUTH is nevertheless managed on a largely decentralised basis within the countries taking part in the programme, via the National Agencies which are selecting and providing support to the projects.

Applications must be submitted through the official application form, respecting the deadline specified in the User's Guide.

[The applicant's guide and the relevant forms](#)

Contact Points:

Directorate-General Education and Culture
European Commission
1049 Brussels
e-mail: eac-info@cec.eu.int

[National Agencies](#)**Useful links:**

Technical Assistance Office
Youth Department
Rue de Trèves 59-61
B-1040 Brussels
Tel. 32 2 233 01 11
e-mail : youth@cec.eu.int
Or
e-mail - youth@socleoyouth.be
[SOCRATES, Leonardo and Youth TAO](#)
[SOS Volunteer's Helpdesk](#)

LOAN FINANCING BY THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND

Title of Instrument EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK	Time Frame Ongoing
<p>General objectives</p> <p>As the EU's financing institution, the European Investment Bank (EIB) helps the EU to implement its policy objectives. The Bank provides long-term financing for investment projects both in the public and private sector, furthering EU policies. The EIB raises funds on the capital markets, which it directs on the most favourable terms towards financing capital investment projects. Its main objectives are to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration, balanced development and economic and social cohesion in the EU • Implementation of the 'Innovation 2000 Initiative' • Environmental protection and improvement • Preparing the Accession Countries for EU membership • EU development aid and cooperation policy with Partner Countries. • Financing SMEs via global loans and venture capital operations • Trans-European transport and energy networks (TENs) • Human capital formation. 	
<p>Actions able to be financed</p> <p>Projects which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen regional development and economic and social cohesion • improve infrastructure and services in the health and education sectors • develop transport, telecommunications and energy transfer infrastructure networks with a European dimension • protect nature and manage effectively natural resources, address the relationship between environment and health and tackle international environmental issues, such as climate change • secure the energy supply base by more rational use, harnessing indigenous resources and import diversification • assist in the development of SMEs by enhancing the financial environment in which they operate <p>EIB's environmental eligibility criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting nature and natural resources (e.g. water and soil related projects) • Environment and health (e.g. waste water treatment; air quality improvement; urban renewal) • Sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. waste management) • Climate change (e.g. energy efficiency and renewable energy; carbon sequestration; 	<p>Examples of environmental financing</p> <p>Water supply and sewerage and wastewater treatment in Vienna, Turku, Hamburg, The Hague, Flemish Belgium, the Valencia and Seville regions, Yorkshire, Lisbon and the Tagus valley, Szczecin, Lodz, throughout Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.</p> <p>Flood prevention and reconstruction in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Tuscany, Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont regions, conservation of the Venice Lagoon, and the St. Petersburg flood protection barrier.</p> <p>Construction of urban waste processing and recycling plants in Melun and the Porto area, an innovative steel waste treatment facility in Luxembourg, and the decommissioning of a former uranium mine near Ljubljana.</p> <p>Construction of modern less-polluting power plants involving co-generation in Vodskov, North Jutland, San Roque (Spain), and Tampere.</p> <p>Construction of a steam generating waste incineration plant at Zwentendorf in Lower Austria, a biomass fuelled combined heat and power plant in Ostersund in Sweden, the modernisation of a combined heat and power plant in Swiecie, and wind farms throughout Scotland.</p>

sustainable transport).	<p>Rationalisation and modernisation of several plants for semi-finished copper products in Germany, France and Italy, and construction of a polyolefin plant and R&D facilities at Schwechat, near Vienna.</p> <p>Upgrading of social housing in for instance Vienna, Poznan, and Finland.</p> <p>Metro and light metropolitan rail systems in Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Porto, Copenhagen, Bucharest, Prague and Stockholm.</p>
<p>Legal Basis: Terms and Conditions: Loans are from 4 up to 30 years. The EIB offers fixed interest rates, revisable fixed and convertible rates. Variable rate loans can be available at a spread below LIBOR for full maturity of the loan at the time of each draw down. No commitment fees or non-utilisation fees will be charged. However, fees may be charged in some cases where necessary, for a project's appraisal and required legal services. Adequate security is sought from a bank, banking syndicate, financial institution or large well diversified parent company with a good credit rating. In some cases a risk margin may be included in the financial arrangements. The EIB seeks assurances that no other creditor is in a more favourable position than itself. Project progress is monitored and on site inspections may be carried out. An end of project evaluation report may also be produced.</p>	
<p>Geographic coverage: All EU Member States, Acceding and Accession countries, Euro-Med Partnership countries, African, Caribbean and Pacific States (APCs), South Africa and the OCT, Asia, Latin America, the Western Balkans and N-W Russia.</p>	<p>Eligible Organisations: All public and private sector bodies and enterprises.</p>
<p>Contact Points Head Office Address: Communication Department 100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg Tel: (+352) 4379-1 Fax: (+352) 437704 e-mail: info@eib.org</p>	<p>Useful Links: www.eib.org</p>

Title of Instrument SME GUARANTEE FACILITY	Time Frame 1998 - 2005
General objectives To encourage the granting of loans to SMEs by increasing the capacity of public or private guarantee systems in the Member States.	
Actions able to be financed The facility is managed by the European Investment Fund on a fiduciary basis. The EIF provides counter-guarantees or, where appropriate, co-guarantees for guarantee schemes operating in Member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and direct guarantees in the case of the European Investment Bank or any other appropriate financial intermediary. The following four types of guarantee are available under the facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan Guarantees: to support enterprises with growth potential and up to 100 employees. Under this window, the EIF issues partial guarantees to cover portfolios of loans, typically investment loans; • Micro-credit Guarantees: to support micro-loans for very small enterprises with up to 10 employees; • Equity Guarantees: counter or co-guarantees of eligible guarantee schemes to cover equity investments in SMEs with fewer than 250 employees (no direct guarantees to venture capital funds); • ICT Guarantees: to cover portfolios of loans for the financing of IT equipment, software and training to promote the use of the Internet and e-commerce. Priority will be given to small enterprises with up to 50 employees. 	Examples of environmental financing
Legal Basis: Council Decision of 19 May 1998 on measures of financial assistance for innovative and job-creating small and medium-sized enterprises - the growth and employment initiative (OJ L 155/43, 29.5.1998). Council Decision 2000/819/EC (OJ L333, 29.12.2000, p.84) on a multi annual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (2001-2005). Terms and Conditions: Interested SMEs should approach one of the financial institutions participating in the programme	
Geographic coverage: All member states (EU15+EU10), EEA/EFTA countries, plus Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey..	Eligible Organisations: The programme is for SMEs only, priority being give to SMEs with under 100 employees.
Contact Points: Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs European Commission 1049 Brussels e-mail: ecfin-info@cec.eu.int European Investment Fund	Useful Links: Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs Economic and Financial Affairs European Investment Fund Participating financial institutions

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