

## ***Structural Funds: The European Union is giving 1 034 000 € to IANIS +, a network programme of innovative actions for the Information Society .***

***The European Commission has approved a network programme of innovative actions in the field of Information Society, IANIS +, submitted by the region of Sachsen on behalf of 39 regions drawn from 10 Member States. During the period 2005-2006, the EU will provide 1 034 000 € towards the total cost of the programme which amounts to 2 068 370 €. The networking activities are designed to enhance the exchange of information, experience, know-how and expertise between the participating regions – especially with a view of improving the use of Structural Funds' investment specifically for the development of regional information society.***

The aim of the ERDF programmes for innovative actions 2000-06 is to provide the regions with a laboratory for experimentation and risk-taking which are crucial in facing up to the new challenges for regional development. Complementing these regional programmes, the establishment of networks between regions is essential for facilitating the exchange of experience as well as helping the Commission to promote and disseminate the results of the programmes at European level.

### **The objectives**

IANIS<sup>+</sup> builds on the progress of the previous network (IANIS : Oct 2002- Sept 04) to further develop inter-regional exchange of experience including to build a bridge between EU-15 regions and regions of the new Member States. The objectives assigned to all regions participating in IANIS+ are :

- to provide more effective mechanisms to facilitate sharing information and good practice between regions – both by face-to-face meetings and virtual exchanges and undertaking analysis of regional good practices in terms of innovative projects, programming, processes and organisation;
- to populate, animate, and further develop the e-Region Hub (developed under IANIS) and to develop information resources for regional information society development and policy analysis for policy makers and practitioners working in the context of the Structural Funds and the knowledge-based society.

### **The actions**

The program will carry out the following actions :

- to create thematic work groups and to set up a programme of workshops and seminars;
- to draft regional good practice case study reports based on desk research, interviews, surveys and peer review visits, and to disseminate reports of a thematic, comparative or synthetic nature;
- to organise an intensive training course for regional information society personnel;

- to develop and manage a collective Web site disseminating information on best practice and experiences.

#### **Management Authority and contact :**

The Management Authority and contact for this network programme is :

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#### **Regional and Network Programmes of Innovative Actions 2000-06**

During the period 2000-2006, the innovative actions funded by the European Regional Development Fund aim to create a laboratory for experimentation on regional development in Europe, focusing on actions which are genuinely innovative.

To support this process, regions should seek to exchange the lessons they have learned from their projects and the good practice used with other European regions, especially those responsible for programmes under Objectives 1 and 2 part-financed by the ERDF, by creating (or participating in) networks between themselves.

To this end, the Commission part-finances specific programmes to set up and operate networks which involve a minimum of five regions from at least five Member States focusing on one or more of the following three themes:

- ***Regional economies based on knowledge and technological innovation:*** helping the regions to raise their technological level
- ***e-EuropeRegio:*** the information society at the service of regional development
- ***Regional identity and sustainable development:*** promoting regional cohesion and competitiveness through an integrated approach to economic, environmental, cultural and social activities.

The response from the regions has exceeded expectations: 148 regional programmes were approved so far. In addition, 3 specific thematic Network Programmes are implemented.

The total budget available for ERDF Innovative actions over the entire period 2000-06 is approximately 400 million euros.

#### **For more information :**

You may find other relevant information about innovative actions in the EU Commission web site :

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/innovation/index_en.htm)