

3 Selected Programmes and Visions for an Integrated Spatial Development

3.1 EU Programmes with Spatial Impacts

Some funds of the European Community can provide support for integrated spatial development projects.

Economic and Social Cohesion

Under the umbrella of the Structural Fund Regulation, four main funds promote economic and social cohesion: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), "Guidance" part, and the Fisheries Guidance Instrument (FGI). With regard to spatial development projects, the Community initiative INTERREG II C (see B.3.2) and the pilot activities carried out under ERDF Article 10 (see B.3.3) are of particular importance.

The **TERRA** programme, under ERDF Article 10, is aimed at the networks of local and regional authorities with responsibility for spatial development. The projects are interregional. Co-operation and exchange of experience between geographically comparable local authorities is promoted in order to develop joint problem solutions. One initiative, for example, focuses on defining problems and possible solutions for sustainable development in river areas. Also under Article 10, the **RECITE** programme supports interregional projects and the networks of local and regional authorities in the European Union.

Promotion of Collaboration with Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean

Some financial instruments aim to encourage development in the European Union and Europe as a whole. Of these, the **PHARE** programme (Central European countries and the Baltic states), the **TACIS** programme (newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia) and the **MEDA** programme (countries bordering the Southern Mediterranean) are of particular importance.

The **PHARE** programme for Central European countries and the Baltic States supports the process where-

by countries wishing to join are prepared for future membership of the EU. This is achieved mainly through grants for successful completion of the requirements of the transformation process, but also through a wide range of other activities, including the subprogramme for cross-border co-operation. Regions on the external borders of these countries with the EU participate. This programme contains complementary approaches to the EU Community initiatives INTERREG II A and INTERREG II C and is therefore intended to support cross-border and transnational collaboration between EU Member States and non-Member States. Multisectoral projects are also promoted.

The **TACIS** programme supports the transfer of know-how, the exchange of experience, the establishment of partnerships and networks, twin projects and pilot projects. Since 1996, the regional programmes have had a budget line for cross-border co-operation, with which projects on the borders with EU countries and also with other Central and Eastern European countries can be supported. The key focus is on networks, solutions to environmental problems and co-operation at a local level (in each case on a cross-border basis).

The **MEDA** programme finances the development of co-operation projects and the exchange of experience and know-how among EU Member States and non-Member States bordering the south coast of the Mediterranean. Collaboration takes account of sectoral policies with a major impact on spatial development, such as transport, and is intended to support the gradual establishment of a free trade area.

Support for the environment

LIFE is a financial instrument for innovative environmental projects and promotes collaboration in this regard among EU Member States. Sustainable land management is a key area of focus.

3.2 INTERREG II C Programmes

The transnational programmes comprise three areas: general transnational co-operation on spatial development, migration, and drought prevention measures. The general spatial development programmes approved by the European Commission as the basis for financing (currently seven) are described below. In contrast to INTERREG II A (cross-border collaboration), transnational co-operation under II C covers much greater areas (see Map 4 chapter A.4.3). The participating countries (or their regions) are shown on Map 7. The target combination is based on the stipulations of INTERREG II C, which are in harmony with the ESDP concept.

The objectives are:

- I to contribute to balanced spatial development in the European Union, i.e. to promote economic and social cohesion through orderly and, as far as possible, optimum allocation of spatially effective measures, development of adequate communication networks, reduction of development differences and development of strategies for sustainability;
- I to improve the spatial impact of Community policy with regard to spatial development; and

I to achieve improvements in co-operation aimed at transnational areas between the national bodies responsible for spatial planning, in such a way that development priorities are defined for adjoining transnational areas.

Programmes for collaboration in spatial planning are:

- North Sea Region,
- Baltic Sea Region,
- Atlantic Area,
- South-Western Europe,
- Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps,
- Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES),
- North-Western Metropolitan Area.

The programmes adopt the above objectives with different weighting and orientation. For this purpose, a number of priorities (subprogrammes, which are broken down into measures and fields of action) have been defined for each programme. In various combinations, these cover the policy options stated in chapter A.3.

Field of Action/ Programme	North Sea Region	Baltic Sea Region	Atlantic Area	South-Western Europe	Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps	CADSES	North-Western Metropolitan Area
Development of joint planning processes and integrated programme strategies		X				X	X
Development of polycentric urban systems	X	X		X	X	X	
Development of rural areas				X	X		
Improved relationships between urban and rural areas	X	X	X	X	X		X
Development of multimodal transport systems and improved access to infrastructures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Improved access to knowledge and information	X		X				X
Prudent approach to natural and cultural heritage	X	X	X		X	X	X
Economic development in the field of tourism	X	X	X		X		
Technical assistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

3.3 Pilot Actions for Transnational Spatial Development under ERDF Article 10

ARCHI-MED - Southeast Mediterranean. Participants: Greece, Italy (Cyprus, Malta)

Objectives

- I Development of environmentally friendly, multi-modal transport systems and integration of islands into the international transport system.
- I Improvement of collaboration in the area of shipping, increased quality and efficiency in water conservation and safety at sea.
- I High-quality tourism, improvement in efficiency of tourist services and infrastructure.
- I Improved nature and countryside conservation by securing and increasing the diversity of species.
- I More precise and systematic basis of knowledge about the status of the cultural heritage and dangers to it, preservation and expansion of the existing heritage to increase the quality of the countryside.
- I Enhancement of the environment as a factor of development in the Mediterranean.

Northern periphery. Participants: Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, (Norway)

Objectives

- I The overriding objective is to improve services and added value through the transnational exchange of experience, with a view to achieving sustainability. This comprises collaboration on spatial development since the development of economic activities and social services in these target regions is included. The objective is not a joint planning process but only an improved exchange of experience.
- I The common strategy is aimed at gaining new knowledge about innovative and suitable approaches to sustainable development. This includes production, services and land utilisation, taking special account of the particular conditions in peripheral regions in the North. These include extremely low population density, large distances and harsh climatic conditions.

Alpine Space/Eastern Alps. Participants: Germany, Italy, Austria

Objectives

- I Further development of common visions and spatial development strategies in the context of the

document “Principles for a European Spatial Development Policy” (Leipzig) and other relevant documents (Venice 1996).

- I Promotion of transnational, cross-border and trans-European networks between local authorities and regions in the Alps, particularly in the field of spatial development.
- I Improvement and development of sustainable socio-economic activities and environmentally friendly local transport networks, particularly in ecologically threatened areas. Development of new forms to raise the awareness of the local population in order to stimulate them to greater commitment to care for sensitive and threatened areas.
- I Testing of innovative lines of action in an area with a high potential for conflict between economic prosperity and nature conservation.

Mediterranean “Gateway”. Participants: Spain, Portugal (Morocco)

Objectives

- I To combat the deterioration and loss of natural and cultural heritage.
- I To contribute to a European spatial development perspective through improved cultural and spatial diversity.
- I To identify and evaluate the differences in urban and rural forms of life.
- I To enhance the competitiveness of the three participating countries through improved use of their common cultural heritage.

The three stipulated key areas of development focus are:

- I improved knowledge about and evaluation of the common cultural heritage;
- I sustainable and integrated protection of the common heritage by means of studies on durability and feasibility; and
- I evaluation of heritage in the field of architecture as a factor in economic development on the basis of specific projects.

3.4 Spatial Visions

Example: “Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea region 2010”, prepared by Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Poland

Starting situation

The Baltic Sea region has valuable natural areas which are threatened by rapid development. In many cities, the quality of the environment is deteriorating as the result of growing road traffic, air and water pollution, excessive ageing of building fabric, inappropriate land use, inadequate waste disposal and other problems. There is additional environmental damage in other areas which requires immediate remedial action. The urgency of these problems should not, however, stop the countries developing their economic potentials and find solutions which are sustainable in the long term. This is the overall objective of the spatial vision for the Baltic Sea region.

Aim and status

The spatial vision for the Baltic Sea region represents a first step towards formulation of a long-term framework for co-operation in many areas. It is intended to help to avoid disjointed action and waste of resources. It is not a “master plan” but gives the responsible bodies a context for drawing up their own spatial development policies.

Goals

The goals of the spatial vision for the Baltic Sea region are to ensure:

- I an urban system of international importance;
- I effective and sustainable links between cities;
- I sustainable development of specific areas (coastal zone, islands, border areas, rural areas, nature conservation areas).

Related fields of action focus on the following:

- I promotion of specific actions in line with the vision;
- I promotion of balanced development in the Baltic Sea region; and
- I further development of the spatial vision.

To date, work has been carried out on the following:

- I arranging regular meetings of Ministers responsible for spatial planning to elaborate the vision and strategies and update the action programme;
- I making proposals for selected pilot projects;
- I elaborating a research programme;
- I and encouraging the networking of spatial research institutes.