Partnership with the Cities
The URBAN Community Initiative
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Cover picture: A scene from the Palermo URBAN I area, Sicilia, Italy

Further information on the EU Structural Funds can be found at the following address:

European Commission

Directorate General - Regional Policy
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (http://europa.eu.int).

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Partnership with the Cities
Foreword

Europe is a continent characterised by a high degree of urbanisation. Today, close to half of the population live in urban areas with more than 50,000 inhabitants. Towns and cities play a major role in Europe’s social, economic and cultural life. As the principal motors of growth in a global economy, they contain the major share of Europe’s wealth, knowledge and technology.

The paradox of Europe’s cities is that they are also home to some of the most serious problems facing society today: multiple deprivation, economic and social exclusion, degradation of both the natural and the built environment, congestion, crime, intolerance and racism, and loss of a sense of community.

Urban policy has therefore been at the heart of the Union’s efforts to forge a strong, competitive and sustainable Europe while maintaining social cohesion. One of the main instruments in this regard is the URBAN community initiative through which the Union currently delivers support to areas in some 70 towns and cities across the fifteen Member States.

The experience of my visits across the Union has left little doubt in mind that URBAN is widely regarded as one of the success stories of European cohesion policy. It has achieved this, I believe, because it has been able to strike a balance between the need for a coherent policy framework at Community level and the involvement of communities at the grassroots in the implementation of the programmes. It has thus contributed to new forms of governance in towns and cities.

Another key feature of URBAN is that it places particular emphasis on innovation in tackling the problems faced by urban areas and urban communities. This brochure contains examples of some of the exciting projects that have been developed under this initiative in order to address the wide variety of problems experienced and opportunities arising in our towns and cities. These projects are the proof of the added value of European policy when combined with local flair and imagination. And they explain why, in the context of the ‘great debate’ on the future of European cohesion policy for the period after 2006, so many are convinced of the need for the maintenance of a strong urban dimension.

Michel Barnier
Member of the European Commission responsible for Regional Policy and Reform of the Institutions
Europe’s cities,
the Structural Funds and the URBAN Community Initiative

Europe’s cities present a paradox. On the one hand they are the motors of growth in an increasingly
global economy, concentrating wealth, knowledge and
technical capacity. They are also centres for the provision
of public services, such as education, healthcare and
transport. At the same time however, many of the worst
problems facing society today are concentrated in urban
areas, including economic and social exclusion,
degradation of the natural and built environment,
congestion, crime, intolerance and racism, and the loss of
local identity.

Urban areas are therefore important strategic locations for
pursuing shared European goals such as promoting
economic competitiveness, social inclusion, environmental
sustainability, and enhancing local culture and identity.
Three challenges in particular stand out:

• Reinforcing the competitiveness of Europe’s towns
and cities. Building on successes, removing obstacles to
entrepreneurship, new technology and employment.

• Tackling social exclusion, improving access to jobs and
training for all, including immigrants and those from
ethnic minorities. In addition, building the capacity of
local communities to help themselves.

• Physical and environmental regeneration, ensuring
sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns
and cities. Building on the cultural and architectural
heritage of urban areas.

Europe’s cities benefit in various ways from European Cohesion Policy:

• Objective 1 helps regions who are lagging in
development to catch up. Spending accounts for two
thirds of the Structural Funds or some Euro 135
billion (1). The focus is on providing Objective 1 regions
with the basic infrastructure they lack - in terms of
transport, telecommunications, training, education,
health, water supply, energy and waste treatment - and
encouraging investment in business and economic
activity. Cities act as motors of growth in such regions
and the Structural Funds seek to build on this.

• Objective 2 funding amounts to over Euro 22 billion and
supports economic and social conversion in areas facing
structural difficulties, including industrial restructuring
and urban areas in difficulty. The major problem for such
areas is not lack of infrastructure, but the decline in
traditional economic activities. This requires the
development of alternatives. Key measures include the
promotion of enterprise and retraining.

• Objective 3 (Euro 24 billion) focuses on modernising
training systems and promoting employment.
In addition, the EQUAL Community Initiative aims to
tackle social exclusion, which is particularly relevant to
deprived urban areas.

The URBAN Community Initiative makes a specific
contribution within this framework. The current round
covers some 2.2 million people across Europe living in 70
urban neighbourhoods in crisis. Some Euro 730 million is
devoted to tackling the main problems these areas face.
Key features include:

• An integrated approach to issues which elsewhere are
often tackled in isolation: reinforcing competitiveness;
tackling social exclusion; and physical and environmental
regeneration.

• A high profile for EU priorities such as the integration of
immigrant communities, sustainable development, equal
opportunities and the information society.

• Programmes are run at the local level, close to
people and their problems. Local authorities are
involved in the running of two thirds of the
programmes. Urban areas are being enabled to help
themselves.

(1) for the EU15 in 1999 prices.
• Close involvement of **local communities**, who participated in the drafting of over 80% of the programmes. They are also well represented on the monitoring committees. The participation of the local community is a precondition for programme effectiveness, not least when it comes to tackling issues to do with social exclusion or the local environment.

• A built-in **learning cycle**, with extensive tools for analysing and exchanging experience. Within URBAN, the URBACT programme will structure the identification of good practices and the exchange of experience between some 200 EU cities.

This document provides information on the situation of Europe's urban areas and on the work of the URBAN Community Initiative, including:

• **Key facts on the challenges facing urban areas**, drawing on information sources such as the Urban Audit (a comprehensive survey of many different socio-economic indicators from a sample of towns and cities from across the EU). As noted above, whether in social, economic or environmental terms, urban areas contain a paradox, combining significant challenges with striking opportunities.

• The delivery system for European URBAN programmes (the “**URBAN method**”). Project examples demonstrate the commitment and involvement of local authorities and the local community. There is also information on the European Network for Exchange of Experience (“**URBACT**”), which offers cities an important opportunity to study good practices from across the EU.

• Concrete examples of the contribution URBAN is making to **competitiveness, social inclusion, and physical and environmental regeneration**, including projects illustrating the value and nature of the integrated approach.
Introducing the URBAN Community Initiative

- The first round of the URBAN Community Initiative ("URBAN I") ran from 1994-99. 118 cities across the EU benefited from over EUR 900 million in EU funding.

- With the strong support of the European Parliament, a second round ("URBAN II") was established and set out in the Commission Communication, "Laying down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning economic and social regeneration of cities and neighbourhoods in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development" (ref: COM (2000) 1100 of 28 April 2000).

- There are 70 URBAN II programmes across the EU, covering areas containing some 2.2 million people. In addition, the URBACT programme will support a European Network for Exchange of Experience.

- The programmes run from 2000-2006. The ERDF contribution is EUR 730 million and the total investment amounts to some EUR 1 600 million.

Further information is available on the Inforegio website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/urban2/index_en.htm

Before and after: renovation of tram arches to create space for educational facilities, cultural institutions and restaurants. URBAN I Vienna.

Before and after: renovation to create a business and cultural centre in URBAN I Bremen.
Europe’s cities, the Structural Funds and the URBAN Community Initiative

Partnership with the Cities

Guyane (F)
Guadeloupe (F)
Martinique (F)
Réunion (F)
Açores (P)
Madeira (P)
Canarias (E)

Cities participating in the URBAN Community Initiative

Belgium
1 Antwerpen
2 Bruxelles/Brussel
3 Charleroi
4 Mons-La Louvière
5 Namur
6 Liège
7 Hasselt
8 Verviers
9 Genk
10 Hasselt
11 Beringen
12 Hasselt
13 Beringen
14 Hasselt
15 Dünkirchen
16 Eeklo
17 Geraardsbergen
18 Doornik
19 Bruges
20 Oudenaarde
21 Ghent
22 Ieper
23 Zeebrugge
24 Oostende
25 Blankenberge
26 Knokke-Heist
27 De Haan
28 Oostende

France
29 Ermont
30 Issy-les-Moulineaux
31 Kerastis
32 Comines
33 Paris
34 Perpignan
35 Pau
36 Toulouse
37 Limoges

Spain
38 Albacete
39 Avilés
40 Badajoz
41 Badalona
42 Barakaldo
43 Cáceres
44 Castellón de la Plana
45 Cartagena
46 Castellón de la Plana
47 Córdoba
48 Girona
49 Granada
50 Huesca
51 Jaén
52 La Coruña
53 Langreo
54 León
55 Madrid-Carabanchel
56 Malaga
57 Murcia
58 Orense
59 Palma de Mallorca
60 Pamplona
61 Pontevedra
62 Sabadell
63 Salamanca
64 San Cristóbal de La Laguna
65 San Sebastián (Pasajes)
66 Sant Adrià de Besos
67 Santa Coloma de Gramenet
68 Santander
69 Sevilla
70 Toulouse
71 Tarragona
72 Toledo
73 Valencia
74 Valladolid
75 Vigo
76 Zaragoza

Germany
77 Amiens
78 Aubervilliers
79 Béthune
80 Bordeaux
81 Bruxelles/Brussel
82 Clichy-sous-Bois
83 Grimbergen
84 Grigny-Viry
85 Le Havre
86 Le Mans
87 Lyon
88 Mantes-la-Jolie
89 Marseille
90 Mulhouse
91 Roubaix-Tourcoing
92 Saint-Etienne
93 Strasbourg
94 Val-de-Saône (Les Mureaux)
95 Valenciennes

Ireland
96 Ballyfermot
97 Cork
98 Dublin

Italy
99 Bari
100 Catanzaro
101 Carrara
102 Caserta
103 Catanza
104 Catania
105 Civitavecchia
106 Crotone
107 Foggia
108 Genova
109 Lecce
110 Milano
111 Misterbianco
112 Molfetta-San Salvo
113 Napoli
114 Palermo
115 Pescara
116 Reggio Calabria
117 Roma
118 Salerno
119 Siracusa-Ortigia
120 Taranto
121 Torino
122 Trieste
123 Venezia-Porto Marghera

Luxembourg

Netherlands
124 Differdange-Dudelange
125 Amsterdam

Portugal
126 Den Haag
127 Hoornsen
128 Rotterdam
129 Utrecht

Austria
130 Graz
131 Wien

Finland
132 Lahti
133 Lahti-Ambaria
134 Lahti-Louha
135 Lahti-Neuru
136 Porto-Gondomar
137 Porto-Vale de Campanha

Sweden
138 Göteborg
139 Malmó
140 Malmö

United Kingdom
141 Belfast
142 Birmingham
143 Brighton
144 Bristol
145 Bournemouth
146 Burnley
147 Clyde Waterfront
148 Coventry
149 Derby
150 Glasgow North
151 Hertford
152 Heston & Merton
153 Leeds
154 London
155 Manchester (Moss Side and Hulme)
156 Merseyside
157 Normanton in Derby
158 Nottingham
159 Paignton
160 Peterborough
161 Sheffield
162 Stockley
163 Swansea
164 Thames GateWay
165 West Wrexham

Cities participating in the URBAN Community Initiative

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URBAN II

The initial assessment of URBAN II and the London conference (8 and 9 July 2002)

A Commission Communication of 14 June 2002 presented a first assessment of the programming of the second round of URBAN. The communication provided detailed data on the economic, social and environmental problems facing URBAN II areas. It also examined the selection of sites, the drawing up and management of programmes, the financial allocation to different types of projects, and outlined some interesting examples of projects planned.

This set the stage for the “Cities for Cohesion” conference in London on the 8 and 9 of July 2002 to discuss initial results from URBAN II and the future of the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy. Over 620 delegates participated in the conference, including mayors and city leaders from over 170 EU cities.

Delegates noted with approval the main improvements of URBAN II: administrative simplifications; the network for exchange of experience; and the strong emphasis on local partnership. It was also suggested that cities should play a leading role in EU regional policy. Moreover, 75 mayors and city leaders, representing 56 million people across the EU, signed a declaration calling for a strengthening of EU urban actions.

The full text of the communication (COM (2002) 308 of 14 June 2002), as well as documents and speeches from the London conference, are available on the Inforegio website:


Mayors and some of the 620 local partners from across the EU who met with Commissioner Barnier at the “Cities for Cohesion” Conference in London, July 2002.
The economic, social and environmental challenges facing cities and URBAN II areas

This section highlights the main issues facing URBAN II areas and European cities. Analysis of the URBAN II sites confirms that they face multiple challenges such as high unemployment, high crime rates, a high proportion of ethnic minorities and a lack of green space. In fact, in most European cities there is a marked tendency for such challenges to concentrate in certain neighbourhoods - disparities within a single city are usually far greater than the differences between cities.

The information presented here is based on the European Commission’s initial assessment of the URBAN Initiative of June 2002 (1) and the Urban Audit project (2).

Europe’s cities face many challenges as well as many opportunities. Despite the role of cities as the motors for growth in their regions, pockets of intense deprivation can still be found in even the most economically successful cities. The cultural diversity of many cities attracts visitors, residents and businesses. Yet high crime rates in some cities and neighbourhoods deter people and investment. There is also a paradox in environmental terms: people living in cities suffer the highest levels of pollution, yet they place a smaller per capita burden on the environment.

The problems of URBAN II sites mirror and amplify those of cities more generally. To qualify as an URBAN area, a site had to have a high score on at least three of the following indicators: long-term unemployment, poverty and exclusion, number of immigrants, ethnic minorities or refugees, crime and delinquency, lack of education and skills, low levels of economic activity, need for social and economic conversion, adverse demographic changes and degradation of the environment.

Unemployment can be particularly severe in cities, concentrating in certain neighbourhoods. Some cities have substantially higher levels of unemployment than the country in which they are located. The European Commission’s Second Report on Economic and Social Cohesion (3) showed that in 10 Member States unemployment tended to be higher in urban areas than in the rest of the country.

Figure 1. Unemployment rates - city average and range from least to worst affected neighbourhoods

Source: Urban Audit, data for 1996.
Disparities within a single city are usually far greater than differences between cities - unemployment rates are a good example.

(2) Launched by the European Commission in 1997, the Urban Audit aims to measure the quality of life in individual EU cities and to provide comparable information about these cities.
The economic, social and environmental challenges facing cities and URBAN II areas
Partnership with the Cities

The differences between neighbourhoods within a single city, however, tend to be far more serious than differences between cities and other areas. In Turin for example, the Urban Audit found that the unemployment rate in the worst affected neighbourhood was more than 10 times that of the least affected neighbourhood. Even in cities with generally low unemployment rates some neighbourhoods still have a serious concentration of unemployment. Edinburgh, for example, had an average unemployment rate of 5% at the time of the Audit, but in its worst affected neighbourhood the rate was 34%.

These disparities between neighbourhoods in themselves pose a serious problem, but they can also hinder the city’s role as a motor for growth. European Cohesion Policy aims not only to reduce overall unemployment but also to tackle the considerable disparities between neighbourhoods.

**Figure 2. Unemployment rate in Member States, Urban Audit I Cities and URBAN II Areas**

Unemployment as a percentage of working age population
(Sources: Eurostat, Urban Audit, self-reporting by URBAN II areas).
Unemployment in URBAN II areas is broadly speaking twice that for urban areas in general and three times that for the EU as a whole.

**Figure 3. Non-EU Nationals in Member States, Urban Audit I Cities and URBAN II Areas**

Sources: Eurostat, Urban Audit, self-reporting by URBAN II areas.
URBAN II areas have twice as many immigrants and ethnic minorities as EU cities in general, and four times as many as the EU as a whole.
The average unemployment rate in the URBAN II areas is particularly high - in all cases higher than the national average and in most cases higher than the national average for urban areas. In Amsterdam, for example, the unemployment rate in the URBAN II area is five times higher than the Dutch average. The URBAN II area in Lisbon has an unemployment rate of 38%, compared to an Urban Audit average for Portuguese cities of only 3.6%.

The integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities has become an important political issue in many countries, not least in the context of an ageing indigenous population. The multicultural character of cities can be an important attraction for tourists and residents alike. However, immigrants often need help to participate fully in the economic and social life of the host country.

Figure 3 demonstrates how most cities have a far larger share of non-EU nationals than other parts of the countries in which they are located. Brussels for example has 15% non-EU nationals, four times more than the Belgian average of 3.5%. In large cities, one in five residents is a non-EU national, in contrast with only one in seven in medium-sized cities and one in twelve in small cities.

URBAN II areas are particularly affected. In some cases, like San Sebastian, Aarhus and Brussels for example, these minority groups are actually in the majority.

Crime is another political issue that is growing in importance. A perception of insecurity in a neighbourhood leads to businesses and residents avoiding or leaving the area. In turn, this results in less economic activity and more vacant buildings, which then leads to an even greater sense of insecurity. Breaking this vicious circle is one of the goals of the URBAN II programmes, particularly as crime rates in URBAN II are on average rate twice those for the EU as a whole.

In environmental terms, there is a paradox: city dwellers are exposed to high levels of pollution while they are often the most efficient users of natural resources. For example, air pollution tends to be worse where many people live in close proximity. But car use per capita, a major contributor to air pollution, is considerably lower in cities than elsewhere. Much of the explanation for this lies in shorter average journeys and access to urban public transport systems. Similarly, energy and water use per capita in urban areas also tend to be significantly lower than the national average.
Population density gives an indication of the lack of environmental amenity and most URBAN II areas are extremely densely populated - the average URBAN II population density is 6 600 residents per km², compared to an average for the cities in the Urban Audit of only 4 000. The Urban Audit covers 22 of the URBAN II programmes, 18 of which had a higher population density than the city as a whole. Figure 5 shows how these densities compare to the city as a whole. The most extreme example is Sant Adrià del Besós located in the Barcelona metropolitan area. The Sant Adrià del Besós programme area has a density of 22 500 residents per km², compared to 4 800 for the metropolitan area of Barcelona.

Data on green spaces tell a similar story. URBAN II areas have only half the average proportion of green space of urban areas in the EU - 10.5% of total area, as opposed to 20.5%.

Sources: Eurostat, Urban Audit.

Although cities on average have a high proportion of ethnic minorities, this varies considerably from one city to another. For example, large cities tend to attract more immigrants than small ones.

Higher average population density in URBAN II areas reflects a lack of green spaces and cramped housing conditions.
The economic, social and environmental challenges facing cities and URBAN II areas

Partnership with the Cities

The Mulhouse URBAN I programme in Alsace, France: social and environmental regeneration—local inhabitants were given small plots of land to grow vegetables and flowers.
Local partnership and exchanging good practice across Europe - the URBAN method in action

There are many challenges facing towns and cities across Europe and the URBAN Community Initiative has the resources to tackle only a small fraction of these. However, an important part of the rationale for URBAN is to contribute to the effectiveness of other urban actions. This is achieved by acting as a testing ground, or a model, and by generating the raw material for the exchange of experience. Much of the added value of URBAN therefore stems from the method of implementation. This includes features such as an integrated approach to issues such as local economic development, social exclusion and physical and environmental regeneration. It also includes strong partnership with local authorities and the local community, and has various tools to promote a continuous learning cycle.

Partnership with local authorities - helping cities to help themselves

One of the distinguishing features of URBAN II is the degree to which management is decentralised to the local authorities. Of the 70 programmes selected, one third have a city council as the managing authority. This includes the Italian, Dutch, Austrian, Finnish and Irish programmes, as well as most of the French programmes. This is a significant change from URBAN I, where (for example) in France and Italy the national authorities (or their local representatives) were responsible for all programmes.

For a further third of the programmes, the local authority is the key player, in partnership with central government. For example, in the English regions, although the managing authority is a central government department, day-to-day responsibility has been devolved to its regional offices. Furthermore, local councils have accepted the role of “accountable body” and are responsible for financial management and project appraisal, within broad parameters laid down by central government. In Spain and Greece similar relationships exist between the Ministry of Finance and the municipalities.

In most of the remaining programmes, the city council is a full member of the monitoring committee. This is the case for example in Germany, where the managing authorities are the Länder, and in Portugal, where the national authorities take the lead. In many cases, not only are the relevant local authority represented, but also the national association of local authorities. This strong degree of partnership with local elected representatives is not just a boost to local democracy but also promotes the effectiveness of EU actions and their visibility at the local level.

Young people from Bristol URBAN II visit Brussels and Antwerp to present their programme and exchange ideas. Young people from the local area are key partners in running the programme.
URBAN II Pamplona (Spain)

A palace for consensus

The renovation of an abandoned XVI century palace (el Palacio del Condestable) for use as a community facility. A characteristic of the project is the depth of co-operation between the city council and the local community.

Located in the historic centre of the city, the renovated palace will be used for community activities and services, and to encourage the social and economic regeneration of the neighbourhood. The project will recover 5,100 square metres of space for training and for social, cultural and leisure activities.

An innovative feature of the project is the extent of civic participation. The City Council built on its relationships with residents’ and trade associations to undertake, in partnership with these associations, a detailed public consultation process. At each stage, local people were actively involved in making proposals and in defining the project. Consultation took the form of public consultation forums and workshops, and ongoing consultation continues within the “FOROS URBAN”. URBAN II has offered the City Council the opportunity to try this in-depth approach for the first time.

In total, the Urban II programme covers an area of approximately 1.7 square kilometres, which includes the historical centre and the Rochapea district. The area has a population of 29,119. The unemployment rate is about 12%, higher than the city average, and the area is characterised by ongoing depopulation, a deteriorating urban environment and problems of social and economic exclusion. The programme aims to tackle these problems, mainly through the renovation of derelict sites, in a manner which is environmentally sensitive, pacts for employment, basic services, social inclusion and actions to promote access to and use of new technologies.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 3,503,900
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 1,715,950

The programme, run by the local council, has attracted strong local participation. Residents and trade associations are well represented on the monitoring committee.

The “palace for consensus” (“El Palacio para el consenso”). This palace will be renovated and used as a community centre. Working on this project is enabling the city council to strengthen relationships with local residents and traders.
The Gründungspaket ("start-up pack") project aims to build on this technical capacity and SME growth. It includes four different modules: the development of a "coaching point"; information about the criteria for SME participation in URBAN II; an incubation centre, developed in close cooperation with universities; and a one-stop-shop, which makes it easier to contact the administration and other actors involved in supporting start-ups.

An integrated communication strategy will help to attract enterprises from the different sectors.

The project adopts a holistic approach to the various challenges facing innovative start-ups. This is made possible by a pre-existing and structured partnership between the managing authority - the city of Graz - and universities, businesses and local development agencies.

The city of Graz is also playing an important role in developing synergies between the different projects. For example, the project is closely linked with the "Wissensstadt" and "Start-up Center Reininghaus" projects, also in the Graz URBAN II programme.

In addition, the City Council has developed linkages with other projects funded from outside URBAN, since supporting new business is a key element of the city's economic development plan, while the "Initiative Stadtteilentwicklung Graz-West" was set up to promote partnership between actors such as universities, businesses and local development agencies.

The ERDF will contribute EUR 4.2 million to the programme. With national, regional and local co-financing, the programme will have a total budget of EUR 20.555 million. EUR 3.755 million will come from the private sector.

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**Total cost of the project:** EUR EUR 960 000
**EU contribution (ERDF):** EUR EUR 380 000

"Start-Fest" 15 November 2002 to raise awareness among businessmen and local people of the opportunities offered by the Graz URBAN II programme. One of the main goals of the city of Graz is to foster an innovative business environment and URBAN II is a golden opportunity to achieve this.

Following on from the URBAN I programme in Graz (Bezirk Gries), the URBAN II programme, "Urban_Link Graz_West", covers a total area of 738 ha. in the western part of the city. This area, which has a population of 31 930 inhabitants (the total population of Graz is 240 967) faces challenges including a decline in economic activity, high unemployment, a large immigrant population, below average education levels, social exclusion and transport-led environmental pressures. However, on the positive side the "Fachhochschule" (local college) is attracting more students and there is continuing growth in the SME sector.

URBAN II Graz (Austria)

An integrated approach to business innovation

With only 10% of start-up SMEs in Graz currently defined as "innovative", the City Council has set itself the goal of promoting such start-ups. URBAN II is providing the means, but the City Council’s contacts with universities and business will be crucial to the success of this project.

The city of Graz is also playing an important role in developing synergies between the different projects. For example, the project is closely linked with the "Wissensstadt" and "Start-up Center Reininghaus" projects, also in the Graz URBAN II programme.

In addition, the City Council has developed linkages with other projects funded from outside URBAN, since supporting new business is a key element of the city’s economic development plan, while the "Initiative Stadtteilentwicklung Graz-West" was set up to promote partnership between actors such as universities, businesses and the public sector.

The ERDF will contribute EUR 4.2 million to the programme. With national, regional and local co-financing, the programme will have a total budget of EUR 20.555 million. EUR 3.755 million will come from the private sector.

Graz URBAN II stand at the "Steirische Gründungsmesse 2002", distributing information on support for innovative business start-ups.
Involving the local community

A key goal of URBAN II is to make the local community a full partner in the regeneration effort. In over 80% of cases, local partners such as community groups, voluntary groups and residents associations were extensively consulted in the design of the programmes. These groups are also well represented on the monitoring committees, which are responsible for the strategic management of the programmes.

Strong partnership with local communities is arguably one of the best forms of added value. Not only does it make the programmes more effective and better targeted to local needs, it also contributes to the long-term development of the areas. Once in place, a local partnership also has the potential to play other roles in promoting local development, for example, by improving local strategic planning, finding new ways to deliver local spending, and promoting private sector investment. Moreover, the involvement of civil society promotes the European model of governance and is a visible and tangible way of bringing Europe closer to its citizens.
URBAN II Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

A second home for young Moroccans

This project in Rotterdam aims to give focus to the lives of young Moroccans and to reduce problems of criminality, nuisance and school dropout in the target neighbourhoods. Local community groups, as well as schools, social workers and the local police, are key partners in the project.

The URBAN II area in Rotterdam is located in the inner neighbourhoods of the second largest city in the Netherlands. The majority of the population is of non-Dutch descent, primarily immigrant groups from Turkey, Surinam and Morocco. Economic opportunities and education levels are low and many of the youth turn to crime, particularly drug-related crime.

Of the 5,000 young people living in this area, roughly 1,200 are of Moroccan origin. The transition to life in the Netherlands has not been easy for the families of these young people. In fact, it has been estimated that around half of the families concerned experience multiple problems in vital upbringing tasks. The normal cultural processes which would help these young people find their place in the broader culture and the world of work have been largely overwhelmed.

A “Recovery Plan” has therefore been formulated that gives attention to empowering families and building the capacity of the local community to help themselves so that both parents and young people can become active and full members of the community. “Het Klooster” is the part of the plan that focuses on young people.

“Het Klooster” involves the establishment of a community centre which functions as a second home to the young Moroccans and focusses on education and training as well as on recreation. Activities include music, drama productions, discussion groups, guest parents reading aloud from books, coaching in homework and computer building. In addition, there is an emphasis on equal opportunities within the Moroccan community, such as classes for girls, and sensitivity training for boys, and on inclusion within the wider Dutch community by activities which provide a bridge between Dutch people and immigrants.

To achieve these ambitious objectives, it is essential to involve the local community. Local social and cultural organisations, as well as parents were represented in the planning process and are active on the staff and as volunteers. Schools, social workers and the local police are also closely involved in providing practical advice and assistance. Support is also provided by the sub-municipal office, local politicians and by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

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Total cost of the project: EUR EUR 904 675
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR EUR 452 337

“Het Klooster”, a community centre promoting the economic and social inclusion of young Moroccans.
URBAN II Clyde Waterfront (United Kingdom)

Improving life for former shipbuilding communities

The programme aims to improve quality of life for residents of these two former shipbuilding communities. One interesting project has representatives of the local community managing an initiative to promote health and employability, particularly for the socially excluded.

The URBAN II area contains 27,900 inhabitants in the former ship-building communities of Clydebank and Port Glasgow. The area suffers from high levels of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment and many of the other traditional socio-economic problems of depressed urban neighbourhoods. However, the area is well served in terms of communications and has access to the motorway network. It therefore has considerable development potential.

This area also has a strong tradition of working in partnership. The project manager, the West Dunbartonshire Healthy Living Initiative, is managed by representatives of the local community and is financed by a range of bodies, including the local council and the local health board.

The main objectives of the project, entitled “South Clydebank Community Focus”, are:

- Promoting good health within the local community, particularly the socially excluded. The project specifically focuses on their ability to identify and cope with stress and aims to improve mental, physical and emotional health and increase confidence and self esteem, thus improving opportunities for employment;
- Providing pre-employment training, including computing to clerical administrative level, first aid, health and safety and food hygiene.

The project will last for three years and will include three pre-employment training courses, each of 20 weeks duration, catering for 15 local residents. The project will also fund seven new posts, including two lay community health workers and specialist training staff.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 938,863
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR EUR 469,431

The URBAN method: Involving the local community
Partnership with the Cities

Hospital and houses in Clyde Waterfront. The programme has a strong emphasis on promoting healthy living and this is delivered by a broad partnership, including representatives of the local community.
A systematic learning cycle

The URBAN Community Initiative has several tools to improve targeting and effectiveness, both for the URBAN programmes themselves, and urban actions more generally.

These include:

- Promoting, via the launch of a new phase of the Urban Audit, a deeper knowledge of the situation in European cities. This lays the foundation for a culture of using urban indicators and statistics. The Urban Audit, published by the Commission in 2000 (1), measured the quality of life in 58 European cities. A broad range of socio-economic indicators were selected, covering themes such as participation in civic life, teaching and training, the environment, culture and leisure.

- The adoption of a short list of common indicators inspired by the Urban Audit for the monitoring and evaluation of programmes. This is an important condition for more effective implementation and will provide a comparable basis for evaluation.

- The European Network for the Exchange of Experience, “URBACT”, will structure the identification of good practices and the exchange of experience between some 200 EU cities. The programme is being run by the French authorities, in agreement with the other Member States and the Commission. A key element will be networks for the exchange of experience on specific topics. Cities will take the initiative in proposing these topics and constructing the networks. Other activities will include training, information tools and studies.

The Urban Audit

Measuring the quality of life in European cities

In 1998 the Commission launched a unique and comprehensive survey of the quality of life in 58 European cities. This survey (the “Urban Audit”) gave mayors, planners and citizens access to a wide range of socio-economic data on their city and enabled them to compare this with figures from cities across Europe. Such comparisons were previously impossible because there were many gaps in the information available. Where figures existed, they were often not comparable between Member States.

The aim of this pilot exercise was to test the feasibility of collecting information on over 500 variables for cities across Europe. The results of the first audit were presented at the Urban Audit Day in Paris in September 2000.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive reaction to the first Urban Audit, and the growing interest in high quality urban statistics, a second Urban Audit was launched in 2002. The second Urban Audit is even more ambitious than its groundbreaking predecessor. It covers over 180 cities, including London and Paris, which were not included in the first audit for technical reasons. Given the important role of medium-sized cities in Europe, the Commission also decided to add 100 cities with between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.

The first Urban Audit collected information on over 500 variables in five fields: socio-economic aspects, the environment, education and training, participation in civic life, and culture and leisure. Measuring these issues often necessitated developing new methods. For the second Urban Audit, these methods have been fine-tuned and the list of variables has been re-evaluated and updated. The list has been refined down to just over 300 variables for which accurate and reliable data can be obtained.

The audit will work on three different geographical levels. The main level is the administrative city, which ensures that the information collected is useful for action. A second level is that of the sub-city, grouping neighbourhoods into comparable areas of approximately 20,000 inhabitants. Information at this level will help improve understanding of the disparities between different parts of the city. The third level, where appropriate, is the broader region, which in most cases corresponds to the next administrative tier.

For the administrative city, information will be collected on all 300 plus variables. For the sub-city level and the broader region a smaller number of variables will be collected. All the results will be compared with the average value at the Member State and European Union level.

The initial results of the second audit will be available in time to feed into the debate on the future of the European Cohesion Policy. The complete results will be published in 2004.
The URBACT Programme

Working together to promote best practice

One of the most exciting features of URBAN II is the provision for exchange of good practices across Europe. This is the subject of a specific programme: the “European Network for Exchange of Experience”, or “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:

• **Exchange and dissemination of knowledge.**
  This includes: thematic networks organised by the cities themselves, actions to build the capacity of urban actors, and studies. EUR 14 million is set aside for this priority, of which 50% will come from the EU and 50% from project partners.

• **Capitalisation and information.**
  This includes a website, the presentation of results, a toolbox and information on illustrative projects. Total funding for this priority is EUR 8.8 million.

In addition there is a budget of EUR 1.96 million for technical assistance and for the running of the programme.

The programme is directed by a monitoring committee, with members representing all participating Member States and the European Commission. The French Ministère délégué à la ville et à la rénovation urbaine (Délégation interministérielle à la Ville, DIV) has been designated as the managing authority.

... as well as attracting a good deal of interest from the media.

... as well as attracting a good deal of interest from the media.
The Austrian URBAN II areas of Vienna and Graz have combined with the German URBAN II areas of Berlin, Bremerhaven, Dessau, Dortmund, Gera, Kassel, Kiel, Leipzig, Luckenwalde, Mannheim / Ludwigshafen, Neubrandenburg and Saarbrücken to form a network for exchange of experience and good practice.

One of the first working groups created under the network deals with the theme of support to SMEs. A key goal is to compare the range of measures to improve the competitiveness of SMEs. Some measures seek to promote the establishment of new enterprises while others include the development of existing ones. Some cities also provide for the restoration of offices, the application of new technologies for production, or new environmental and energy technologies, the provision of services to SMEs, and for the employment of unemployed people in accordance with the principle of equality of opportunity for socially excluded groups.

Another aim of the SME working group is to provide a simplified overview for local actors of the eligible actions, criteria and maximum investment rates under URBAN II. The working group is drawing heavily on the experience of the cities of Chemnitz, Magdeburg and Rostock, who have already implemented similar measures under Urban I.

Other working groups planned or in progress cover topics such as: citizen participation; socio-economic tracking indicators; the information society; support for technology parks; education and research as motors for the integrated development of cities; culture and media as forces for development; synergies between projects.

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An integrated approach to urban needs

Because cities are motors for growth they play a crucial role in the economic competitiveness of the EU. The concentration of people, economic and cultural activity, and the role of cities as transport centres also make them strategic locations for promoting physical regeneration and environmental sustainability. However, because of the pockets of poverty, deprivation and unemployment, which are so common in towns and cities, they also represent a key challenge in the fight against social exclusion.

Many urban measures at the national or EU level seek to address these issues. However, a noteworthy feature of the URBAN Community Initiative is that it seeks to address all of these needs in an integrated and co-ordinated fashion. The aim is to help cities help themselves and to generate self-sustaining improvements in the following areas:

- Reinforcing competitiveness,
- Tackling social problems,
- Physical and environmental regeneration.

The advantage of an integrated approach is that in deprived urban areas these three priorities are often difficult to tackle in isolation. There are obvious and natural links between them and the URBAN Initiative seeks to build on these. For example, bringing the socially excluded into the labour market also boosts economic performance. Conversely, it is difficult to promote an area without tackling its social and environmental problems, fighting crime and creating new uses for derelict land. In addition, more jobs and improved economic growth generally make it easier to promote social inclusion and the regeneration of the natural and physical environment.
URBAN II Taranto (Italy)

Re-inhabiting the island

The objective of the URBAN II programme for Taranto is the restoration of the historic city centre, including the island of Taranto. 70% of the buildings on the island are abandoned and unsafe, due to fundamental and structural problems.

Taranto is situated around the gulf of the Ionian Sea. The URBAN II programme covers the historical centre of the city (surface area of 509 ha. with 47 400 inhabitants), which includes the two historic sides of the gulf and the island in the middle. Taranto's economy was traditionally based on the iron and steel industries, which have gone into decline in recent years. With the closure of these heavy industries, the surrounding neighbourhoods are confronted by longterm unemployment, high crime rates, poverty and a high residual level of air and soil pollution.

Despite the fact that the island is a very important archaeological and cultural heritage site (the first settlement dates back to 700 BC), this part of the city has been effectively abandoned since World War II. Isolated from the rest of the city, the island is therefore unsafe and considered a crime hotspot. To address this situation, and encourage the redevelopment of the island, the URBAN II programme will implement an extensive integrated rehabilitation project. The challenge is to develop the cultural, commercial and tourism sectors, thereby offering new opportunities for employment. Buildings will be restored and, in parallel, specific training on construction with local material and restoration techniques will be offered.

A second branch of the national archaeological museum, which is located in the city, will be situated in one of the restored buildings on the island and training provided on cultural heritage management. Other restored buildings will be given to SME's working in the local arts and crafts sector and a training course on tourism management and trade services will be offered to the unemployed. Public space on the island will be further improved through the implementation of environmental and public transport measures.

The expected results of the project include the creation of new job opportunities: 150 people will be employed directly in the restoration of the buildings and a further 600 jobs will be created in the arts and craft and commercial sectors. It is also expected that a total of 1 300 people will attend the various training courses. In addition, the increase in the number of people and services in the area will act as a deterrent to criminals.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 20 000 000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 7 701 530
An integrated approach to urban needs
Partnership with the Cities

URBAN II Berlin Lichtenberg-Friedrichshain (Germany)

Overcoming obstacles

A key project in the URBAN II programme for Berlin is the Kulturgewerbliches Gründerzentrum RAW-tempel e.V (Arts and Crafts Centre), which promotes the establishment of small cultural and craft enterprises and artists in disused railway buildings. The project aims to renovate and regenerate the local area and strengthen the local economy.

The programme covers parts of two districts in the southeast, Lichtenberg and Friedrichshain, which have a total population of 30,000 people. This former industrial area, characterised by derelict railway infrastructure, has been experiencing economic decline since 1990 and has an unemployment rate of almost 16%.

For the Kulturgewerbliches Gründerzentrum project, the first step was the establishment of the cultural association RAW-tempel, with the financial support of URBAN. The association will renovate architecturally significant buildings and provide training for small businesses attempting to become financial viable. It is also intended that a network of good practice will emerge between the different enterprises that will occupy the renovated buildings.

In addition to artists, cultural and craft workers, the site will accommodate a drum maker, who is exporting his innovative “pneumatic pitch control” invention, in collaboration with recording studios and music producers.

In all, 25 units will be created, and 12 enterprises should be in-situ by 2006. This project provides an integrated approach, where culture is the catalyst for economic development and urban renewal.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 661,000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 400,000

The “RAW-Tempel” project is reclaiming disused railway buildings and making them into a centre for crafts and innovation, boosting employment and the local economy.
URBAN II Le Havre (France)

The art of wood

In the southern districts of Le Havre, where levels of unemployment and disadvantage are particularly high, this URBAN II project, “Bois’ Art”, will help to impart new skills in furniture restoration, create new employment opportunities, and provide items of furniture for re-sale at low prices.

Since 2000, the association PROFILE has been collecting large items of waste, of which about half (approximately 1,500) are pieces of wooden furniture. This furniture, which could be restored, is mostly sent to a waste collection centre. With the support of the URBAN II programme, and to safeguard the environment and provide work placements for vulnerable members of the community, PROFILE is now developing a restoration workshop. This will provide placements for unemployed women, most of whom are beneficiaries of the RMI (Revenu Minimum d’Insertion or unemployment benefit).

The project will therefore contribute to various objectives:

- For the participants, the project is not narrowly conceived in terms of training them to work with wood. The goal is rather to provide a “back to work opportunity”, smoothing the return to stable employment. With the aid of social accompaniment, the aim is to promote independence, self-confidence, a work ethic and re-socialisation into the world of work.
- Environmental protection. Bulky items of furniture are being restored and therefore recycled.
- Social Cohesion. The furniture produced will be sold to vulnerable communities at low prices.

A total of 16 placements per quarter will be offered. Therefore, 64 women per annum will start a course of professional reintegration (training, employment, etc) and, on average, 1,500 pieces of furniture will be restored for resale.

Dereliction and unemployment has characterised the URBAN II site since the decline of the docks. A project for recycling furniture is promoting employment, protecting the environment and - by employing and selling the finished product to those on low incomes - assisting in social inclusion.

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**Total cost of the project:** EUR 300,208
**EU contribution (ERDF):** EUR 18,294
URBAN I Antwerpen (Belgium)

Telecentre acts as catalyst for regeneration and social inclusion

The Telecentre project - which aimed to foster both economic growth and social inclusion - was one of the main pillars of the Urban I programme in Antwerp. URBAN II money has enabled the telecentre to employ over 160 people, many of them from excluded social groups.

The URBAN I programme for Antwerp (Flanders) targeted an area with a population of 66,300, which had suffered from a long period of under-investment. The area was characterised by high levels of unemployment, crime, and poverty and had a significant immigrant community. The establishment of a telecentre in 1998 was one of the main projects of the Antwerp URBAN I programme. The goal was to make this a profitable enterprise, creating employment and promoting the regeneration of the area. The EU contributed EUR 325,000 to the project, the Flemish government EUR 335,000, the city of Antwerp EUR 1,116,000 and the private sector a further EUR 497,000, creating a total investment of EUR 2,273,000.

The Telecentre has since become an outstanding success. Activity has grown on average by 32% per annum over each of the past three years. In 2001, it employed over 160 people from 10 different nationalities, speaking 14 different languages. It has also made an important contribution to social inclusion, as two-thirds of its employees are women, two-thirds have little formal education and one-third belong to ethnic minorities. The growth of this business has also convinced several business support services, such as a temp agency, a restaurant and a small supermarket to set up in the immediate vicinity of the Telecentre, contributing further to the economic regeneration of the neighbourhood.

The telecentre is promoting social inclusion as well as employment - two thirds of the employees are women, two thirds have little formal education and one third belong to ethnic minorities.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Reinforcing competitiveness
Partnership with the Cities

Reinforcing competitiveness

The conclusions of the Lisbon summit in March 2000 laid down the goal of the EU being the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and progressing towards economic and social cohesion by 2010. European cities are the key to reaching this goal, since they act as the motors for regional growth, innovation and employment creation.

To achieve balanced territorial development within the EU, cities of all sizes must become or remain attractive both to residents and businesses. This is particularly important for small and medium sized towns in isolated or remote locations, since their health is often crucial for the well-being of their regions. Their capacity to innovate and create new opportunities is a prerequisite to ensuring that these regions do not lose out in global competition. Furthermore, strong regional economies, driven by competitive cities, are better able to afford social inclusion and to maintain and protect the physical and natural environment.

Actions to reinforce competitiveness include the promotion of small and community businesses, entrepreneurship, employment creation, innovation, information technology and the new economy. One particularly interesting area of job creation is the social economy, which might include environmental or cultural activities, or services for the local community. Crime prevention also has an important role to play in making deprived areas more attractive for investment.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Reinforcing competitiveness

Partnership with the Cities

Bremerhaven is a seaport town on the North Sea coast of Germany. The Urban II area is situated north of the city-centre and covers an area of 326 ha and a population of almost 23 000. With the decline of the traditional shipbuilding and fish-processing industries, small shops, local service-oriented businesses, and, sadly, vacant stores have become the dominant features of the local economic landscape. Large parts of the harbour area have turned into industrial wastelands and the rate of unemployment and the poverty level are now well above the city average. In some areas more than 25% of the inhabitants live on welfare. The crime level has also increased, mainly as a result of an increase in drug-related offences.

The Technology Park ‘T.I.M.E. Port’ project forms part of the overall programme for the regeneration of the URBAN II area. The project aims to stimulate the development of a sustainable IT sector by supporting small businesses that are rooted in the local community. Project activities include the renovation and conversion of the old ‘Imperial Mail’ office to create the new T.I.M.E. Port enterprise centre. When completely occupied, total employment in the T.I.M.E. Port will be at least 60 people. Its location on the harbour front should also encourage further redevelopment of the area. Cooperation with the nearby polytechnic and other local institutes, will encourage the development of an alternative, future-oriented economic structure that will attract other external IT companies to set up in Bremerhaven.

An innovative feature of the project is the establishment of a ‘T.I.M.E. Port’ management, which will not only deal with managing the building, but will also be involved in recruitment and training activities, and maintaining contact and co-operation with the local community and the District Management regarding the overall development of the area.

As part of the URBAN II programme in Bremerhaven, the old ‘Imperial Mail’ office on the harbour front is being renovated and converted to accommodate small and start-up businesses in the field of telecommunication, information technology, multimedia and entertainment (T.I.M.E.).

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**Total cost of the project:** EUR 3 124 000

**EU contribution (ERDF):** EUR 1 562 000

The entrance of the new enterprise centre - a gateway to the new economy for this former shipbuilding and fish-processing area.

The T.I.M.E Port business centre is based in a building on the harbour front, renovated with URBAN II money.

The URBAN II programme includes a business incubator for start ups in the fields of Telecommunication, Information Technology, Multimedia and Entertainment (the “T.I.M.E.” Port).
URBAN I Malmö (Sweden)

Promoting enterprise and community development

The URBAN I programme in Malmö provided support to a foundation assisting start-up businesses and offering education and employment opportunities. The programme also supported the upgrading of outdoor areas and the development of new community facilities.

In all, the programme covered five areas with high concentrations of immigrants, high unemployment and considerable social problems. The total contribution from the European Union was EUR 5.1 million and this attracted a further investment of EUR 6.7 million, creating total resources of EUR 11.8 million.

One of the main URBAN I projects involved the renovation of an industrial building and associated offices in the Facklan street-block, which lies in the centre of the URBAN area in Malmö. The building was renovated between 1997 and 2000 to create the Facklan Development Centre, which now accommodates 67 new businesses. All of these businesses were started with support from a newly created advice bureau. The partnership between KOOP, an association for co-operative entrepreneurship, ALMI, a state owned company that supports economic growth and development, and the enterprise and employment agencies in Malmö was an important factor in the success of this advice bureau.

Adjacent to the Facklan quarter, an old school building was also renovated and converted into the “Sofieland Citizen Centre”, which now hosts a variety of community-based activities that complement the development of the area.

The Facklan business centre - renovated with URBAN I money.

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Total cost of the project (Facklan Development Centre, the advice bureau and the Sofielund Citizen Centre): About EUR 3 500 000*

EU contribution (ERDF): EUR About EUR 1 750 000

* This includes the renovation of the Facklan Centre (EUR 1.82 million, with an EU contribution of EUR 0.82 million).
URBAN II Luckenwalde (Germany)

New opportunities in biotechnology

Luckenwalde, a city of just 22,500 inhabitants, 60 km south of Berlin, is using URBAN II money to make the most of a local biotechnology park, creating new opportunities for employment and economic development.

Since German reunification and the political changes that occurred 11 years ago, Luckenwalde has been undergoing radical changes. The city has experienced a social and economic transformation, resulting in a decline in population, a weak local economy, the abandonment of industrial areas, a lack of investment in the maintenance of buildings, rising unemployment, low average education levels and environmental degradation.

In terms of addressing these issues, one of the most important assets for economic development and the creation of new, future-oriented jobs in the region is the Luckenwalde biotechnology park. An important strategic objective for the further expansion of the biotechnology park is the development of biotechnology-specific vocational training.

Within the framework of the URBAN II programme, which covers the entire city (2,230 ha), the local implementation body has decided to support the establishment of a 3.5 year vocational training course, “Biologielaborant/in”. The course will be developed on the basis of a “cooperative model” between training organisations and enterprises. 16 people will participate in each course (including 11 women on the first course) and 21 jobs will be created or sustained (at least 10 jobs for women).

Funding will be given for preparation, planning and the improvement of laboratories and classrooms, as well as for equipment and expendable materials for two training courses. The training within the dual system (theoretical and on-the-job training) will be financed by different sources (Federal State, Land, European Social Fund, enterprises) for different projects.

This project will strengthen Luckenwalde’s position as a center for biotechnology and will assist in the change to more sustainable industries based on trend-setting technologies. The creation of a future-oriented teaching and vocational training course and the improvement of general vocational training will also influence biotechnology companies considering locating in Luckenwalde.

The biotechnology park includes a vocational training course for biotechnologists. The course is funded by URBAN and delivered in partnership with training organisations and local businesses.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 3,124,000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 1,562,000
Urban Pilot Project Helsinki (Finland)

Renovation of a decaying landmark into a successful media centre

This Urban Pilot Project in Helsinki involved the conversion of the historic Lasipalatsi building into a new centre of economic activity, combining information and communications technology with support for the arts and culture.

The Lasipalatsi project is the masterpiece of the Helsinki Urban Pilot Project (UPP). It provides an excellent example of how physical regeneration can be combined with the introduction of a range of new economic activities.

Built in 1936 on the site of a former Russian barracks as a landmark of modern architecture, the Lasipalatsi had lapsed over time into near dereliction. Under the Urban Pilot Project the building was skilfully renovated to become a film and media centre. The renovation, which was preceded by an extensive study of the original plans, materials and method of construction, attempted to preserve as many of the original features of the building as possible.

The Centre now houses more than 20 companies, which between them employ approximately 200 staff, and has more than 100,000 visitors per month. In summer, Lasipalatsi is one of the venues for the Helsinki Festival, which attracts more than 200,000 visitors to its theatre, musical and dance performances.

The centre also offers free access to modern information technology and cultural services, including 20 Internet workstations, equipment and communication facilities for video and media producers, a public library and bookshop, two art cinemas and other media facilities. There are web kiosks and a “Home-Page-Machine”, which helps visitors to create their own homepage. The rehabilitation of public space around the Centre has also created a meeting place for those interested in cultural and media activities.

The Lasipalatsi Centre makes information technology accessible to a wider audience, especially those who due to age or social status feel remote and excluded from its benefits. The project has created a focal point for urban life, providing inhabitants and disadvantaged communities with access to the modern information and media society.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 9 000 000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 2 700 000
URBAN I Volos (Greece)

New activities at the Tsalapata Factory

The restoration and conversion of the Tsalapata brick and tile factory to create space for SMEs from the art and craft sector was the demonstration project of the Volos URBAN I programme in Greece.

A middle-sized industrial city, Volos has experienced a decline in industrial activity, accompanied by a marked increase in unemployment and the desertion of industrial buildings and certain urban districts. The URBAN I programme, which covered an area with a population of 8100, has made a contribution towards reversing this situation. The demonstration project of the programme was the Tsalapata factory, a former industrial site which was recovered and converted into a centre for traditional crafts and industry.

Established in 1925 and operational until 1975, the factory grounds covered 2.3 hectares, with 7600 m² of buildings. Today, more than 20 shops and small enterprises producing art and crafts - including ceramics, metal jewellery, clothing, photography, mosaics, painting and decoration have been established on the former factory site.

An industrial archaeology museum with a thematic library has also been developed, as has an exhibition area, galleries and a theatre, all of which provide excellent venues for cultural activities and meetings. The outdoor space has also been redeveloped to create recreation and leisure facilities. Targeting a pre-existing market, these new enterprises have strengthened the local economy and created about 80 new jobs.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 3 111 263
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 2 333 477

Before and after: this once derelict factory is now a vibrant art and craft centre, housing some 20 shops and small enterprises.
Tackling social exclusion

The benefits of economic growth should also be extended to the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Social cohesion, and tackling poverty, joblessness and social alienation are all important EU priorities. But the less favoured social groups include not just the poor and the long-term unemployed, but also immigrants, ethnic minorities and young people in deprived areas.

Inclusion in the labour market and affordable access to basic services are specific goals for the EU Structural Funds. A key instrument in achieving this is the provision of training programmes, particularly those targeting disadvantaged and marginalised groups. This can include customised counselling and language training specifically oriented to the needs of minorities, as well as work experience schemes on local rehabilitation projects. Training in information technology can also help to promote a level playing field.

In terms of improving access to services, specific measures include the provision of cultural, leisure and sports amenities, particularly where they contribute to creating sustainable jobs and social cohesion. Similarly, there are measures for the provision of nursery and crèche facilities, as well as alternative care facilities and other services for children and the elderly.

Other measures include the improvement of health services, including drug rehabilitation centres, provision of support for co-operatives and mutual associations, and the provision of advice on security and protection against crime.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Tackling social exclusion

Partnership with the Cities

The URBAN I programme for Differdange and Dudelange targeted areas in the neighbourhood of “Petite Italie” in Dudelange and the city centre of Differdange. Because of the decline of the coal and steel industry, these areas had many abandoned industrial sites and derelict buildings, and were confronted by problems of pollution, unemployment and low average income. The total population of the eligible area was 2,900.

Projects within the URBAN I programme were aimed at integrating people into the labour market. A social centre was built by unemployed people and old buildings were renovated to create polyvalent social centres whose services targeted young people and children. The total cost of the Urban I programme was EUR 1.0 million, which included an EU contribution of EUR 0.5 million.

La Maison de Quartier was the main project of the URBAN I programme in Dudelange. A derelict building was purchased by the city in 1994 to serve, after renovation, as La Maison de Quartier. It now provides a place for residents to meet or to get in contact with social workers, and it offers after-school activities, such as sports and language courses, to 30 children. Another 80 children attend introductory classes in the centre’s nursery school. Through these various activities, the centre has created a real meeting point for children from the neighbourhood. It also contains a cafeteria, which offers meals to 25 children three times a week. The project currently employs 6 full-time staff.

La Maison de Quartier was the main project of the URBAN I programme in Dudelange. The project was developed with significant citizen participation and aims to tackle social exclusion.

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| Total cost of the project: EUR 632 000 |
| EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 271 000 |
An integrated approach to urban needs: Tackling social exclusion
Partnership with the Cities

URBAN I Porto (Portugal)

Youth participation in urban regeneration

As part of the URBAN I programme in Porto, special activities were organised in local schools with the aim of directly involving children and young people in the urban regeneration process.

The URBAN I programme targeted the “Vale de Campanhã” district in the west of the city. With a population of 11 000, the area had high unemployment, a lack of economic potential and severe social problems. The programme aimed to improve living conditions and the environmental quality of the area, and to strengthen civil society. Total expenditure amounted to EUR 19.1 million, of which EUR 13.7 million came from the EU.

The “Azulejaria Comunitária” project was one of the key projects of the URBAN I programme in Porto. The project involved children and young people from local schools creating panels of tiles, which were used to decorate and personalise the different buildings inside the “Bairro do Cerco”, a local social housing district. There was excellent participation from the local population revealing a new dynamic in the way in which the inhabitants related to their surroundings.

This project demonstrates how regeneration can be combined with the introduction of social activities. The project formed part of the urban regeneration programme for the “Bairro do Cerco”, which also included the planning and creation of public spaces and green areas.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 1 173 038
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR EUR 841 068

The project got children and young people from local schools to help decorate social housing. This project improved both living conditions and the community spirit of the area.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Tackling social exclusion
Partnership with the Cities

The « kiosque convivial » project in Point de Claix responds to difficulties between the adults and the young people of the district arising from the fact that young people do not have places to meet and therefore end up loitering in the receptions of residential buildings. In an attempt to dissipate the increasing tension resulting from this situation, the residents committee, the young people of the district, supported by a city youth association, local community workers and elected officials have developed the idea of creating a meeting place which would be open to all members of the community (adults, children, teenagers, etc.).

This will provide a place for people of all generations to meet and exchange views, and will also provide shelter during the long evenings for the young people of the district. The decoration of the kiosk was carried out during the summer of 2002 by local children, young people, and the adults of the district, with the help of a local artist. This process of working together has in itself already helped to recreate dialogue between the older and younger generations.

The URBAN II area is characterised by tension between adults and young people. The “Kiosque Convivial” is a community centre, designed to bring the two sides together. Old and young joined together to decorate the centre, guided by a local artist.

Total investment under the URBAN II programme in Grenoble is EUR 26 295 941, which includes an ERDF contribution of EUR 9 660 000, or 37%. The programme area is located in the south-west of the city, between the railroad and Drac, and covers the districts of Grenoble, Fontaine, Seyssinet Pariset, Echirolles and Point de Claix. The entire area has a population of 40 384 and is characterised by industrial wastelands, large open spaces, significant noise and atmospheric pollution and a poor public image. In economic and social terms, the area is characterised by an increase in public disorder and delinquency, an increasingly vulnerable population, and ongoing marginalisation and exclusion from the labour market. However, in terms of future development prospects, the area also has some important assets. These include the accessibility of certain districts by public transport, a young population, a dynamic network of associations and good cable and internet links.

URBAN II Grenoble (France)

A meeting of generations

The URBAN II programme in Grenoble is responding to tensions that have developed between adults and young people by involving both parties in the development of a new meeting place for all members of the community.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 50 460
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 15 245
Physical and environmental regeneration

The challenge of urban regeneration is to combine competitiveness and social inclusion in a way that enhances the quality of the natural and physical environment. This is a key determinant of the quality of life in urban areas, as well as a deciding factor in attracting business.

The emphasis on physical regeneration of city centres and public spaces is particularly important. This includes both the provision of green spaces, which tend to be in short supply in URBAN II areas, and the renovation of derelict buildings and land.

In addition, a significant proportion of spending is devoted to developing environmentally friendly public transport systems. This not only includes measures to make the public transport system more effective, but also the promotion of cycle paths and other environmentally friendly forms of urban transport. Funding is also available for the development of effective energy and water management systems, noise reduction, and to support greater use of renewable energy.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Physical and environmental regeneration
Partnership with the Cities

This was a flagship project for the URBAN I programme in Ireland, which focused on the districts of Ballymun, Finglas and Darndale in North Dublin, West Tallaght and Clondalkin in South-West Dublin and on the north side of Cork. An integrated programme, it involved a balanced and coherent set of economic development, social integration and environmental measures based on local partnership proposals.

The main objectives of the programme were: to facilitate the participation of deprived members of the target communities in education and training; to support enterprise development and ensure the progression of those trained into employment; to ensure the provision of community infrastructure such as sports and leisure facilities; and finally, to promote dynamic and self-reliant communities in a visibly improved physical environment.

The eligible parts of Dublin contained 198 500 inhabitants, while the total population of the eligible area of Cork amounted to 55 600. The total cost of the programme was EUR 28 million, which included an EU contribution of EUR 21 million.

One of the most significant projects in the Dublin part of the programme was the Ballymun Arts and Community Centre. This project involved the construction of a multifunctional arts and community resource centre, with a 240 seat theatre and conference centre, a crèche catering for 34 children, a café/bar, recording and dance studios, and offices and training rooms which could be leased to local voluntary groups.

The centre now provides 26 permanent jobs for the local community. It is located in the Ballymun district of Dublin and provides social, arts and recreational facilities for a community who were previously deprived of access to such facilities. The project thus provided a major confidence boost for the community and created a physical focus for the regeneration effort. The building has become a flagship development for the regeneration of Ballymun.

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**Total cost of the project:** EUR 8 500 000
**URBAN Programme** EUR 3 200 000
**EU contribution (ERDF):** EUR 2 400 000

The renovation of the Ballymun art and community centre has not just created jobs and recreational resources - it also provides training for socially excluded groups.
URBAN I Aalborg (Denmark)

Viking past meets sustainable future

"LINDHOLM 21", the Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, was a key project of the URBAN I programme in Aalborg. The project renovated a former cement works in a new bottom-up development process which involved close co-operation with the local community.

The Danish URBAN I programme targeted the Parish of Lindholm in Aalborg, a deprived urban area with a lack of local industry, high rates of unemployment, the absence of cultural and social facilities, a high concentration of ethnic minorities, low education and a large number of dwellings that were badly in need of renovation. Lindholm was also suffering very badly from the closure of an important local business, the Cement Works ‘DAC’. With EUR 1.5 million provided by the European Union, the URBAN I programme attracted a further investment of EUR 1.5 million, creating a total budget of EUR 3 million.

The core project, “LINDHOLM 21”, contributed significantly to the redevelopment of the Lindholm area. As part of the project a non-profit housing organisation prepared an ecological master plan for 140 new dwelling houses. Between 40 and 60 houses are currently under construction, based on a bottom-up process which proactively involves the local community.

LINDHOLM 21 and the URBAN I programme also contributed to the development of a number of ‘Urban Tourism’ projects. One of these projects exploited the area’s historic association with wooden sailboats and involved the construction of replicas of old wooden ships, such as the ‘Sjaægte’. Since the Viking Age, Nørresundby, located at the waterfront of the Limfjord, has been an important centre for trade and travel by sea.

This project has continued after the termination of URBAN I and has led to the construction of a new boat-building workshop. The local community, who were enthusiastic about the project, participated actively and this helped the locality to regain a positive identity and to become more attractive to tourists.

140 eco-friendly houses are being built on the site. Again, the local community has been closely involved in the planning and construction process.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 336 000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 148 000

Before and after: renovation of a former cement works in close consultation with the local community.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Physical and environmental regeneration
Partnership with the Cities

A noteworthy aspect of the project is the adherence to the highest environmental and sustainability standards. The building renovation will be based on strict environmental and bio-climatic criteria. Buildings will be equipped with solar energy panels, use recycled rainwater and incorporate sewage purification systems. It is also intended that the project will act as a model of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. In the interior, a space will be dedicated to environmental research, the dissemination of information, and environmental education. The area surrounding the site will also be developed as a green space, with an emphasis on local indigenous vegetation. A total area of 3 000 square metres will be recovered.

The wider Cáceres Urban II programme covers the Calerizo neighbourhood, which has a population of 26 705 inhabitants and covers an area of 3 square kilometres. Unemployment in this area is 9.4%, which is considerably higher than the city average, and it is characterised by problems of on-going depopulation, a deteriorating urban environment and social and economic exclusion.

The programme aims to tackle these problems through the environmentally friendly renovation of derelict sites, the development of local employment pacts, waste treatment and social integration.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 5 474 808
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 4 106 106

A derelict industrial site is being transformed into a training, leisure and cultural facility. The new centre will meet the highest environmental standards in terms of energy efficiency and the treatment of sewage and waste. Solar panels and the recycling of rainwater will be included.
An integrated approach to urban needs: Physical and environmental regeneration

An URBAN II 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.

The URBAN II programme covers the southern suburbs of Turin, which have a surface area of 2.135 km² and a population of 24,843 inhabitants. Located beside the FIAT industrial site, “Mirafiori Nord”, the area is struggling with severe social and economic problems: deteriorating social housing, environmental damage, decaying buildings and public spaces, unemployment, crime, poverty and low levels of education and training. A number of primary roads also cross the area, creating high levels of air and noise pollution. However, on the positive side, the area does have a significant amount of green space.

The challenge for URBAN II is to improve the quality of the urban environment. This is a goal in itself, but will also improve the context for entrepreneurship and social cohesion.

With the local authorised dumping site scheduled to cease operating in 2004, the city of Turin will have to reduce and recycle its waste. To achieve this, an integrated waste management plan has been approved by the municipality, and the URBAN II project will help implement this. The project is being organised in two phases. The first phase will attempt to bring about a change in habits, and will include environmental communication and training. A second “negotiation” phase will enable inhabitants to participate in decision-making relating to the waste management plan. By a process of collective decision-making, areas for differentiated refuse collection will be selected in each neighbourhood and the appropriate facilities put in place. Schools, apartment block administrators and commercial operators will also be involved in the project.

The expected results are an improvement in the environmental quality of the area, a reduction in the amount of waste being brought to the incinerator, and an increase in the separation of waste by category (from the current 30% to 50%).

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Total cost of the project: EUR 1,291,142
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 387,343
Urban Pilot Project Vila do Conde (Portugal)

Preserving a maritime heritage

The URBAN Pilot Project in Vila do Conde involved the building of a replica XVI century ship, the restoration of the Royal Customs House and the establishment of a new museum dedicated to the history of naval construction in the city.

The renovated 15th Century Customs House includes a documentation centre about life and the economy of the city in the age of discoveries.

Situated on the Atlantic coast and perched over the River Ave, Vila do Conde has been an important town since the Middle Ages, when its naval construction industry began to flourish. This industry was at its height in the XV and XVI centuries, during the era of discovery and Portuguese maritime expansion. With an excellent naturally sheltered harbour, Vila do Conde also proved to be an important trading port, where merchandise was unloaded for the surrounding areas.

The aim of the “Journey of the Wind Rose” URBAN pilot project was to revive this almost forgotten heritage, and to stimulate the search for a new course of direction for Vila do Conde, which would preserve and strengthen its cultural identity. The operational objective of the project was twofold. Firstly, to develop real skills (know-how), education, innovation and the internationalisation of cultures; and secondly, to restore the harbour area of the city, transforming it into a pleasant and appealing place to live and an urban landmark with important environmental symbolism.

The urban regeneration of the harbour area involved the old shipyard space facing the Customs-House building. A replica of the XV century Vessel, the ”Nau”, was installed and this was complemented by the restoration of the Royal Customs House and the establishment of a museum dedicated to the naval construction industry in Vila do Conde. As well as being an important resource for tourism and entertainment, the museum also has a valuable educational function, as it was built following extensive research by Admiral Rogério de Oliveira and incorporates his ancestral knowledge of the carpenters and caulkers of the Vila do Conde shipyards.

The Régia Customs-House of Vila do Conde is the only Portuguese Customs-House of this era which still exists today (and one of the few still in existence in Europe). It will include a XVI century Documentation Centre and a museological programme of national and international significance.

Reconstruction of a historic boat (the “Fifteen Hundred Vessel”). The almost forgotten naval heritage of the area is being reclaimed for locals and tourists alike.

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Total cost of the project: EUR 5 066 000
EU contribution (ERDF): EUR 2 999 200

Reconstruction of the harbour area, building an anchorage for small and middle sized boats.
Cohesion Fund: Fund created in 1993 to complement the structural aid of the European Union in the four least prosperous Member States (Greece, Portugal, Spain, Ireland) by financing projects concerned with environmental protection and European transport networks.

**Community Initiatives:** programmes set up to complement Structural Fund operations in specific problem areas. Community initiatives are drawn up by the Commission and coordinated and implemented under national control. They absorb 5.35% of the budget of the Structural Funds.

- **URBAN II** concentrates its support on innovative strategies to regenerate cities and declining urban areas (financed by the ERDF).
- **INTERREG III** promotes cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation, i.e. the creation of partnerships across borders to encourage the balanced development of multi-regional areas (financed by the ERDF).
- **LEADER+** promotes pilot integrated strategies for sustainable development in rural areas, drawn up and implemented by local partnerships (financed by the EAGGF Guidance Section).
- **EQUAL** seeks to eliminate the factors leading to inequalities and discrimination in the labour market (financed by the ESF).

The key common implementation features of the Community Initiatives are:
- Administrative simplification, in that they are financed by one Fund only
- A strong emphasis on partnership
- Networks for the exchange of experience

**Economic and social cohesion:** The origins of economic and social cohesion go back to the Treaty of Rome where a reference is made in the preamble to reducing disparities in development between the regions. However, it was not until the seventies that Community action was taken to coordinate the national instruments and provide additional financial resources. Subsequently these measures proved inadequate given the situation in the Community where the establishment of the internal market, contrary to forecasts, had failed to even out the differences between regions. With the adoption of the Single European Act in 1986, economic and social cohesion proper was made an objective, as well as the single market. In the preparation of economic and monetary union, this provided a legal basis from 1988 onwards for Community action to become the central pillar of a comprehensive development policy. The Maastricht Treaty finally incorporated the policy into the Treaty establishing the European Community. It is an expression of solidarity between the Member States and regions of the European Union. This means balanced and sustainable development, reducing structural disparities between regions and countries and promoting equal opportunities for all individuals. In practical terms it is achieved by means of a variety of financing operations, principally through the Structural Funds. Every three years the European Commission must present a report on progress made in achieving economic and social cohesion and on how the various means provided for in the Treaty have contributed to it. The future of economic and social cohesion was one of the major issues discussed in the Commission's Agenda 2000 communication (presented on 15 July 1997), largely because of the financial implications. It has been the Community's second largest budget item from 1994 to 1999 (around 35% of the budget). Its importance was confirmed in the financial perspective 2000-2006. The European Council decided in December 2002 in Copenhagen to allocate an additional budget of about €41 billion for the period of 2004-06 in case of accession of 10 new Member States. Euro 21 billion of it will be dedicated to Structural and Cohesion Funds. With enlargement in 2004 and a possible doubling of disparities in an EU with 25 Member States, the Community's cohesion policy after 2006 has to be adjusted. The debate among actors at the European, national and regional levels is ongoing since 2001. The 3rd Cohesion Report which will be published before the end of 2003, will contain proposals for reform.

**Equal opportunities:** the two key elements of the general principle of equal opportunities laid down in the Community Treaties are the ban on discrimination on grounds of nationality and equal pay for men and women. Equal opportunities are intended to apply to all Community policies, especially through the ‘gender mainstreaming’ approach. Gender mainstreaming should ensure that measures and operations financed by the Structural Funds take into account their effects on the respective situations of women and men.

**ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective):** informal document adopted by the Member States in 1999, which proposes analyses and guidelines to strengthen the coordination of national regional planning policies. It aims to promote the balanced and polycentric development of Europe, appropriate city planning, a new relationship between cities and the countryside, equal access to infrastructures, communications (in particular through new technologies) and knowledge and a careful management of the environment, natural resources and heritage in order to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development.
Framework for Action for Sustainable Urban Development: On 28 October 1999, the Commission adopted a Communication on “Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action”, which has four goals: strengthening economic prosperity and employment in towns and cities; promoting equal opportunities, social integration and the rehabilitation of run-down areas; improving the urban environment; contributing to good urban governance and increased participation of local actors and citizens. For each goal, the Framework for Action sets out models for action of an innovative nature, based in particular on partnerships involving the public, private and voluntary sectors. It also encourages the networking of projects and tools and the dissemination of “good practice”. The idea is not to apply predetermined solutions but to start from local conditions, taking account of the institutional context in each Member State.

Innovative Actions: 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. During the period 2002-06, Innovative Action Programmes can be applied for by Managing Authorities in Objective 1 and 2 regions and must relate to one or more of the following three themes: knowledge-based regional economies and technological innovation, e-EuropeRegio: the information society and regional development, regional identity and sustainable development.

INTERREG: Community Initiative of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in favour of cooperation between regions of the European Union. Between 2000 and 2006, the objective of INTERREG III is greater economic and social cohesion in the European Union and the balanced and harmonious development of EU territory. The initiative has a total budget of Euro 4,875 billion and promotes three strands:

• A: Cross-border cooperation between adjacent regions aims to develop cross-border social and economic centres through common development strategies.

• B: Transnational cooperation between national, regional and local authorities aims to promote better integration within the Union through the formation of large groups of European regions.

• C: Interregional cooperation aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks). Within strand B, the priorities for action focus on drawing up regional development strategies at transnational level, including cooperation between towns or urban areas and rural areas, promoting effective and sustainable transport systems, together with better access to the information society and the protection of the environment and natural resources.

Managing Authority: any public or private authority or body at national, regional or local level designated by the Member State, to manage the Structural Funds’ interventions.

NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes): Nomenclature established by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in order to have a single and coherent territorial distribution plan. The current nomenclature subdivides the countries of the European Union into 78 NUTS 1 territories (the German Länder, the Regions in Belgium, etc.), 210 NUTS 2 territories (the Autonomous Communities in Spain, the French regions, the Italian regions, the Austrian Länder, etc.) and 1093 NUTS 3 territories, which are smaller areas. In the regional development programmes, Objective 1 of the Structural Funds primarily covers NUTS 2 territories and Objective 2 covers NUTS 3 territories.

Partnership: principle of action of the Structural Funds that implies the closest consultation possible for the preparation of programmes, between the European Commission and the relevant authorities of the Member States at the national, regional and local level. The partnership principle also implies the cooperation of a wide range of public and private actors, including the social partners (trade unions and employers organisations) and bodies responsible for environmental matters, in the implementation of programmes.

Priority Objectives of the Structural Funds: Objectives to which the Structural Funds devote most (94%) of their resources, which amount to a total of Euro 195 billion between 2000 and 2006 (for EU 15 in 1999 prices).

• Objective 1 (territorial): aid to help regions whose development is lagging behind to catch up by providing them with the basic infrastructures they are lacking and by supporting investments in firms to boost economic activities. It has been estimated that some 60% of Structural and Cohesion Funds are spent in urban areas and Objective 1.

• Objective 2 (territorial): aid for areas having difficulties with economic and social conversion (urban, industrial, rural or fisheries-dependant areas). Objective 2 has a dedicated urban strand: of the 18% of the EU population covered by Objective 2, roughly 2 % (ie a population of just over 7 million) fall within this strand. Most of the industrial strand of Objective 2 goes to tackle the reconversion problems of urban areas.

• Objective 3 (thematic): measures to modernise training systems and to promote employment. Objective 3 covers the entire Union except for the Objective 1 regions where these measures are included in the catch-up programmes.
Programming: principle of action of the Structural Funds aimed at the elaboration of multi-annual development programmes. The programming follows a multiphase decision-making process based on partnership and ending with the take-over of the programmes by the holders of public or private projects. The current programming period covers the years 2000-2006.

Structural Funds: the main four financial instruments providing aid for the Union’s “structural” actions, meaning those aimed at narrowing the economic and social gaps. The Structural Funds are complementary to national or private funding and are used to implement large-scale programmes, which cover a very broad range of local, regional or national actions. They combine their interventions depending on the needs. The Funds are the following:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): it supports the building of infrastructures, productive and job-creating investments, local development projects and aid for small and medium-sized enterprises in disadvantaged regions.
- European Social Fund (ESF): it supports training actions and employment schemes and promotes the social and occupational inclusion of unemployed people and less-favoured groups.
- European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF): the “Guidance” section supports rural development and assistance measures for farmers in regions lagging behind in development (Objective 1) and supports the LEADER+ Initiative throughout the Union. The “Guarantee” section supports the same measures outside of Objective 1 and certain specific measures across the Union.
- Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG): it supports the adaptation and modernisation of the sector’s facilities.

Sustainable development: concept based on the choice of balanced economic growth which takes account of the requirements of employment and social inclusion, the needs of firms, the health and welfare of all and environmental protection. The aim is to satisfy present needs without jeopardising the capacity of future generations to satisfy theirs. The Structural Funds’ interventions have to reflect upon the principle of sustainable development.

Town twinning: since the end of the Second World War, town twinning has grown into a movement linking municipalities in several European countries to a dense and organised network of citizens. The European Commission has been awarding funding to town twinning activities since 1989, the main aim of which is to reinforce existing links between towns and to encourage new twinning initiatives through the award of carefully targeted subsidies. The focus is in particular on the creation of twinning links in regions where this type of activity is not yet widespread, as well as in the accession countries. http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/towntwin/index_en.html

Territorial Employment Pacts: agreements between public and private local partners to implement at an appropriate territorial level new methods to use all resources (financial, administrative, human, technical) that can help create jobs and contribute to economic and social development. The experience of the 89 Pacts implemented in the Union between 1994 and 1999 has served as a basis to encourage a better use of the Structural Funds.

URBACT: a programme financed between 2002 and 2006 under the URBAN II Community Initiative aiming at exchange of experience between some 200 European towns and cities. A total of Euro 24.76 million is available, of which Euro 15.9 million will come from the Community and Euro 8.86 million from the Member States. The French Ministère délégué à la ville et à la rénovation urbaine has been designated as the managing authority. A monitoring committee set up by the Member States and the Commission will also act as a steering committee, selecting the projects to be implemented. Further information can be found at this site: http://www.urbact.org

URBAN Community Initiative: Since the end of the 1980s the EU has developed specific approaches and programmes for cities, the most visible being the URBAN Community Initiative. Between 1994 and 1999 the URBAN I initiative financed programmes in 118 urban areas with a total of Euro 900 million of Community assistance. 3.2 million people lived in the supported areas and projects focused on rehabilitation of infrastructure, job creation, combating social exclusion and upgrading of the environment. Between 2000 and 2006, the URBAN II Community Initiative represents an added value for innovative strategies for cities. An total of Euro 730 million is planned to be invested in sustainable economic and social regeneration in 70 urban areas throughout Europe. URBAN II will be accompanied by a network of EU cities (URBACT) aiming to exchange experience and best practice.

Urban Audit: Launched by the European Commission in 1998, the Urban Audit aims to enable an assessment of the state of individual EU cities and to provide access to comparative information from EU cities. The indicators used for 58 cities of the Urban Audit cover 5 fields: socio-economic aspects, participation in civic life, education and training, environment and culture and leisure. A second Urban Audit was launched in 2002 covering over 180 cities. http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/urban2/urban/audit/src/intro.html
**Urban Pilot Projects (UPP):** Between 1989 and 1999 Euro 368 million helped to support 59 Urban Pilot Projects, financed under the innovative actions scheme of the European Regional Development Fund. These projects promoted urban innovation and experimentation and produced encouraging results, particularly as regards participative and integrated approaches to urban regeneration.

**Urban policy:** European Union urban policy has been laid down in several documents, inter alia the in the Commission Communications “Towards an Urban Agenda in the European Union” (1997) and “Urban Sustainable Development in the EU: a Framework for Action” (COM(98) 605 final). These documents mainly focus on four policy aims: strengthening economic prosperity and employment in towns and cities; promoting equality, social inclusion and regeneration in urban areas; protecting and improving the urban environment: towards local and global sustainability; contributing to good urban governance and local empowerment.
European Commission

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