

ECINNOLAB – Economic Innovation and Labour

(working title)

(Draft)

Type of Measure: 1.1 or 1.2

Measure 1.1: Supporting joint strategies and actions for implementation

This measure aims at intensifying trans-national co-operation of actors defining spatial development policies at different levels in order to achieve a greater coherence among policies related to, e.g., regional development, environment, transport, urban and rural development.

Measure 1.2: Shaping urban development, promoting urban networks and co-operation

This measure is oriented towards urban development and a more polycentric settlement pattern. It aims at strengthening urban economies, promoting urban restructuring, etc.

Objective

- To optimise regional development and services aiming at restructuring of industrial and mining sites in particular cities and their surroundings and creating new forms of co-operation and fostering public-private services
- To support a dynamic interregional development in selected fields
- By-products: networks of SME, industries and RTD, public institutions, training institutions, etc.
- Long term impacts: increase in business investments, number of qualified jobs, people more internationally oriented, higher flexibility across border
- Build up a network comparing with international best practice cases for restructuring as EU Future Region

Excursus

The EU Future Region comprises the Austrian federal states Styria, Burgenland and Carinthia, Slovenia, Croatia, the Hungarian West Pannon Region as well as the Italian regions Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia. It has a population of around 18 million.

The aim of the EU Future Region initiative is to foster interregional co-operation in order to contribute to the development of better conditions for social and economic cohesion as well as better competitive conditions within the shared economic area. Networks between public authorities, companies, etc. are built in fields like regional development, urban co-operation, education and training, labour market, R&D, economic co-operation, infrastructure and culture.

Content

The model of the EU Future Region, an interregional co-operation base, shall be strengthened and transferred to similar multilateral cross-border area alongside Polish border from East Germany to Ukraine. Additionally Austria and Italy will contribute experiences regarding their restructuring, labour market and innovation.

The project focuses on central topics of each partner and could be transferred as a whole or partly to each partner region. By now topics are as follows:

- Labour market activities, employment initiatives, education and formation
- Innovation and technology transfer activities for RTD institutions and SME
- Mutual investment opportunities in participating regions
- Joint strategies in interregional development - networks of incubators, business and innovation centers, RDAs, clusters etc.
- At least one common topic as for example renewable energies will be fostered through all measures, tools and instruments elaborated within proposed project.

Approach and methodology

In order to exchange experience and to pass on expertise a number of thematic and strategic workshops and a final conference will be organised in the areas involved. In the first project partner meetings the topics for co-operation will be selected according to interregional interests.

A IT-based learning environment for an efficient manner of sharing experiences within structural funds projects will be established too.

Expected results (overview)

- Design and implementation of pilots for specific interventions in areas of restructuring concerning labour market, innovation and technology transfer
- Creation of an well established working system for additional and repeatable topics not done within proposed projects
- A series of follow up projects (in particular INTERREG IIIA, Structural Funds in particular ERDF, ESF, etc.) out of these planned activities to enlarge, transfer and intensify elaborated pilot actions
- A more concerted and strategic approach in a multi-lateral environment
- Joint preparatory works for next EC term 2007 - 2013

Project duration: June 2006 till May 2008

Project budget: About € 1.500.000,00 (will maybe reduced a bit)

Partners

Partner net will consist of regional and national authorities, cities, public institutions as chambers of commerce, labour market etc., economic development corporation, research institutes, technology parks, regional development agencies.

Number of partners should be manageable even though we intend to establish a broad network project for proposed activity.

- **Poland** (lead partner)
 - Silesia
 - Lower Silesia
 - National Unit and / or Podkarpackie

- **Czech Republic**
 - Ostrava
 - Hradec Kralove
 - Liberec

- **Austria**
 - Upper Austria
 - Styria
 - Austrian Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour

- **Germany**
 - Economic Development Corporation Saxony
 - Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Free State Saxony

- **Italy**
 - Veneto (operative Partner)
 - Regione Veneto or Friuli Venezia Giulia

- **Slovakia**
 - Zilina
 - Kosice

- **Ukraine**
 - Lviv
 - Uzhorod

Lobbying for proposed project

All partners have to inform their National Contact Points for INTERREG IIIB CADSES and their national steering committee members too. We will provide list of contact persons of all participating countries.

Milestones and expected results

Within the time frame of our common INTERREG IIIB CADSES milestones are defined as follows:

- **Kick-off meeting in Poland:** Clearly defined preparatory works should be done by each partner before this meeting. Lead partner (LP) supported by Austrian PP will visit each project partner before. Thus we can guarantee a well prepared start into our common project. Maybe we use Austria's EC Presidency for preparatory working meetings.
- **Regional analysis:** Due to the fact of a lot of similar work done in each partner region we will keep this work package very short. We have just to structure existent data according to project needs and to verify our conclusions with regional and national stakeholder. LP supported by Austria and Italy will additionally bring in an EC approach to our topics.
- **Workshops, conferences**
 - Workshops of project partners will always cover their topics.
 - Meetings on strategies in interregional development will be organised with a longer interval.
 - Conferences: There are two international events to be planned. (see also: www.commonchallenge.net)
 - German EC presidency in first half of 2007 will be integrated too. It's already discussed with regional and national government.
 - All events follow one a strict line of ...
 - how to share experiences for immediate support for restructuring
 - how to transfer results and project work of our common project in your region or even nation wide
 - how to prepare ourselves in an efficient and effective manner for next EC term 2007 till 2013
- **Follow-up activities:** Planned and expected results out of workshops are clearly defined projects (project partner, timeline, financing etc.) of common interest for public bodies and SME.
- **IT environment & background:** Austria could provide nearly all necessary internationally proved project management tools right from the beginning. Just small adjustments will be done implementing our project.
- **Learning environment:** To guarantee an intensive dissemination of project results and experiences a knowledge base and correspondent learning tools will be provided too.
- www.coregio.net: A common platform of (inter)regional development will anchor our joint efforts throughout the project duration in a very sustainable manner.

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