

RFO-Perspective 2007-2013 Newsletter



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Perspective 2007-2013

Joint Strategy on Regional Competitiveness and Sustainability



The project Perspective 2007-2013 is a Regional Framework Operation (RFO) of which more than 70% is financed by the European Union through the interregional cooperation programme Interreg III C South. The initiative aims at establishing a strategy to jointly programme the use of Structural Funds in 4 regions of the European Union: Saxony-Anhalt (Germany), Central Region (France), Northern Great Plain (Hungary) and the Comunidad Valenciana (Spain).

The project has a budget of 3 million euro and is led by the Comunidad Valenciana through the Regional Ministry for European Affairs. The aim of the project is to develop a strategic approach, common for these four regions, for the next generation of the Structural Funds programme on competitiveness and sustainable development, designed for the period 2007-2013. The final strategy will be applied on 5 specific sectors that are defined as of high importance for all participating regions. These sectors are: auxiliary automotive industry, tourism sector, region marketing to attract investments, renewable energies and waste management.

The participating regions will reflect together on how the use of Structural Funds in the selected sectors can be optimized by taking advantage of each partner's experience and the most successful practice in each region. To do so, the participation of the involved sectors will be stimulated by creating working groups of regional experts. Hence, in May 2006 two forecast studies will be prepared drafting the actual prospect and targeting strategic field for cooperation in competitiveness and sustainability. Within the framework of the project various pilot sub-projects, financed with specific budgets, will be carried out in order to put into practice the results of these studies.

In this number:

Introduction	1
Methodology	2
Carried out actions	3
Next steps	4

Objectives of the RFO-Perspective 2007-2013

The new Structural Funds period, 2007-2013, throws up similar challenges to all participating regions in the project. These regions have to identify their strengths and their weaknesses facing the global economic trend and demographic changes, as well as the changing social patterns and framework conditions. They also have to analyze future trends in order to develop a comprehensive regional strategy that will face these challenges and will ensure the most effective and efficient use of the resources.

The Regional Framework Operation *Perspective 2007-2013* wants to play a key role by: making interregional cooperation one of the main topics of the debate on the future use of Structural Funds in the regions, specially in terms of these key policies, sustainability and competitiveness; by deeply involving the regional presidencies in a joint dialogue on the future of their regions; by developing trust and mutual understanding about these new and common challenges; by transferring the internal debate on the future priorities for regional development to the European context; and by carrying out joint pilot projects, studies, conferences and seminars that might help finding new solutions to these common challenges.



Key figures

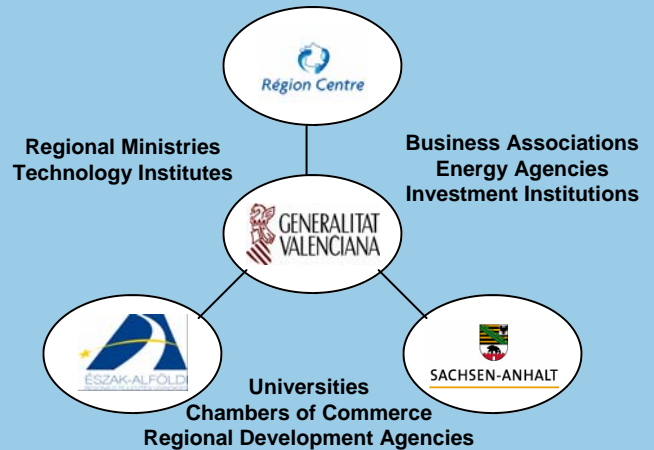
- 36 months length
- 6 Newsletters
- 5 areas of cooperation
- 4 European regions
- 3 million € budget

As a Regional Framework Operation, Perspective 2007-2013 members are regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies aiming at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities.

Thus, the regional Working Groups in each partner region are composed of institutions which represent the entire civil society, as shown in the diagram.

Further more, the participants in the regional Working Groups are business federations, regional ministries, investment institutions, etc., which will work together, sharing expert data and developing actions and subprojects with their counterparts in the others partner regions.

Working Groups



Comunidad Valenciana: first Regional Working Group meeting

On December 16th 2005, the Comunidad Valenciana organized its first Working Group meeting. The Working Group discussed about the forecast studies and the next Prospective Commission to be held in Magdeburg in January and the working methodology of the regional group. The project will gather the demands of the

Commissions by developing pilot actions on competitiveness and sustainability. The Working Group of the Comunidad Valenciana has

more than 20 members: the Valencian Regional Government (Generalitat Valenciana) and other local bodies (Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, FVMP), the business sector (chambers of commerce and CIERVAL), as well as other public bodies like IVF, IMPIVA, IVEX, REDIT and the Fundación Comunidad Valenciana—Región Europea.



Organisational bodies

- **Prospective Commission:** The Presidencies of the Partner Regions and top level experts
- **Steering Group:** Decision Making body of the RFO consisting of executive level representatives
- **Management Group:** Representatives from the partner regions in charge of the overall management of the RFO
- **Working Group:** Experts in the thematic fields of the partner regions

Saxony-Anhalt : Preparing for Prospective Commission

The regional working group in Saxony-Anhalt for the project was created already during the application procedure in 2004. It comprises representatives from the various Ministries in charge of competitiveness and sustainability in the region as well as specialised agencies under the leadership of the State Chancellery.

The main key aspects of the last meetings were the preparation of the first Prospective Commission on January 25th and the first Dissemination Conference on January 26th in Magdeburg, as well as the preparation of the study carried out under the leadership of Saxony-Anhalt in the field of Competitiveness.

Region Centre and North Great Plain

A huge amount of time was dedicated to the selection procedures of consultants in charge of the studies on waste management, on the one hand (ANTEA), and on renewable energies, on the other hand (EUREVAL C3E).

The two consultants are currently working on the benchmark and prospective analysis. Besides, a regional conference was held on 13th October 2005 in Orléans, Région Centre, on the subject of energies: On

this occasion many participants had the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic. Furthermore, the issue of the European Energetic Efficiency Centre was discussed during the plenary session of Région Centre which took place on 15th December 2005.

North Great Plain has also held similar meetings to organise its regional working groups to ensure the participation of regional partners in the RFO-Perspective 2007-2013.

First semester activities

The implementation of Perspective 2007-2013, started in July 2005 and kept on going during the first semester with the organisation of different meetings, which have settled the basic objectives of the project to improve its results.

Hence, the first meeting of the **Management Group**, July 19th 2005, defined the co-operation agreements, subsidy contracts, and a clear organisational structure for the overall project between the Comunidad Valenciana, Saxony-Anhalt, Central Region and Northern Great Plain.

Indeed, as explained previously, the Prospective Commission, the Steering Group, the Management Group and Working Groups constitute the framework of the Perspective's organisation.

The **Training Seminar** which was held in Valencia, 8th and 9th of September 2005, brought together regional representatives from the four organisational bodies,



as well as from the Interreg IIC South authorities. The project main issues were discussed: definition and distribution of activities for

each regional partner, explanation of the working methodology (communication plan and management manual), and reporting obligations to Interreg IIC South.

The first **Working Groups** met last September, 14th and 15th, and analysed the main trends in the fields selected as of common interest to all participating regions in Perspective 2007-2013.

The first **Steering Group**, combined with the second **Management Group**, took place in Orléans in order to insure the right development of the project and the forecast studies, and to draft the main topics of the next **Prospective Commission and Dissemination**

Conference that will be held in Magdeburg the 25th and 26th of January.



Main past events

July 2005 :

- Management Group
Brussels, Belgium

September 2005 :

- Training Seminar
Valencia, Comunidad Valenciana
- Working Groups
Orléans, Région Centre

November 2005 :

- Management Group
- Steering Group
Orléans, Région Centre



Forecast studies on Competitiveness and Sustainability

Preparing the selection and implementation of sub-projects during the second semester of 2006, the on-going forecast studies of Perspective 2007-2013, to be carried out by external experts, will strategically analyse the main aspects of competitiveness and sustainability within the partner regions.

Regarding competitiveness, three sectors are analysed: the auxiliary automotive industry, human resources in tourism sector and region marketing to attract investments. On the other hand, the forecast studies on sustainability focus on renewable

energies and waste management. These studies are divided in 4 phases, which allow to have an operative and clear view of strategic fields in the 4 participating regions.

First Phase: Brief reminder of the general context and analysis of the situation. Underlining the priorities for each of the chosen themes.

Second phase: Benchmark study, which consists of 3 steps:

1. Comparative diagnosis: strengths and weaknesses of each of the four regions.
2. Identification of the major players, as well as the key projects in the four regions.

3. Good practices adopted by other European regions in similar situation to the four participating regions and leaders in the selected sector.

Third phase: Study about the mid and long term regional perspectives. The objective is to explore potential future behaviours by looking at strong trends and scenarios found when working at regional and national levels.

Fourth phase: Formulating methods of co-operation between the partner regions of the INTERREG IIC project. Also identifying potential methods of co-operation between the partner regions.

Forecast Studies

The Forecast Studies related to regional competitiveness and sustainability consist of :

- **Portfolio analysis :**
drafting the general context in terms of the topic reached
- **Benchmarking analysis :**
strengths and weaknesses in the participating regions
- **Trends analysis :**
internal and external trends and developments of the economic and social regulatory conditions of the regions
- **Co-operation analysis :**
possible fields of co-operation for advanced initiatives (sub-projects for 2006)

The completion of the studies is expected in May 2006.

For further information

Please visit our websites :

Comunidad Valenciana (ES) :

- www.uegva.info
- www.qva.es

Sachsen-Anhalt (DE) :

- www.sachsen-anhalt.de

Région Centre (FR) :

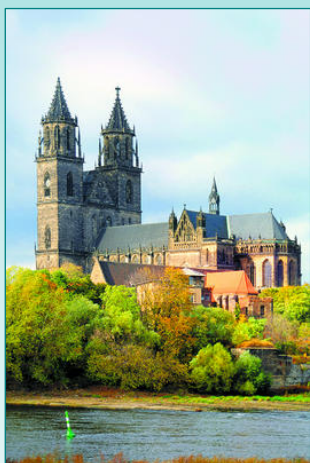
- www.regioncentre.fr

Észak-Alföldi:

- www.eszakalfold.hu

Interreg IIIC Programme :

- www.interreg3c.net



Next Newsletter May 2006

- Main results of the forecast studies
- Dissemination Conference and synthesis of the Prospective Commission



Comunidad Valenciana (Lead Partner) - Spain

The Comunidad Valenciana is located in the Mediterranean coast and its capital, Valencia, is the third largest city in Spain. Its GDP per capita is estimated at 94.27% of the national average and at 89,01% of the EU-25. It is an area of exceptional importance economically, physically and in terms of its population. Over the last few decades has earned its place among the best performing economies in the area. Thus, it has

Partner Regions

a great potential to offer to those willing to do business or invest in the region.

Région Centre France

The Central Region lies in the centre of France, one hour away from Paris and has one of the closest traffic and railway networks in France. With its 39,151 square km the region of Centre is the fourth-largest French region. Orléans is the regional capital. Beside its leading role in many industrial sectors, this region also runs among the richest cultural regions in France. Over 4 million people visit the region every year.

Észak-Alföldi Hungary

The region of North Great Plain is one of Hungary's 7 administration regions. With borders with

Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania, it is geographically very strategically located. This region produces 10,2% of Hungary's gross domestic product. Its main assets are agriculture, carbohydrogen resources and its industry. The R&D network is very significant in the region.

Sachsen-Anhalt Germany

Saxony-Anhalt is a young Federal State with a long industrial tradition. Technical innovations as well as the favourable situation in the heart of Europe led to the development of a centre for industrial production in the region at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, the most important business sectors are the chemical industry and the agro industry, as well as the supply industry for the automotive sector and biotechnology.

Coming events

January 2006 :

- Prospective Commission
- Dissemination Conference Magdeburg, Saxony-Anhalt

April 2006 :

- Project Working Group North Great Plain

May 2006 :

- Project Management Group
- Steering Committee
- Studies on Competitiveness and Sustainability

Next Steps

The German region of Saxony-Anhalt is hosting in January 2006 the first Prospective Commission organised in the framework of this project.

Representatives from the four regional presidencies participating in the project will meet three times over the life cycle of the RFO to discuss the guiding principles that *Perspective 2007-2013* must follow according to the regions' common

interests regarding the future of the regional programmes.

During the Commission, partners from these four regions will be also encouraged to develop new approaches and initiatives on how to improve regional competitiveness and sustainability. The meeting will be held also to allow the settling of priorities for the next funding period, 2007-2013.

This first Prospective Commission and Dissemination



Conference will involve leading representatives and stakeholders from the participating regions in the discussion and validation of the cooperation results.