



Jaspers Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions • Jaspers Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions



## JASPERS

### Serving the European Union's cohesion policy

JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) is a technical assistance partnership between the European Commission (DG Regional Policy), the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Germany's Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau.

Its purpose is to promote the efficient use of EU Structural Funds, thereby stimulating future investment. JASPERS experts work in close cooperation with the Commission and the Member States to assist the latter in producing mature project proposals which will be supported by EU funds, as well as to identify potential projects for assistance.

JASPERS provides technical expertise to thirteen countries: the twelve EU Member

States which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and, since 2011, Croatia, in anticipation of EU accession, scheduled for mid-2013.

JASPERS' core focus is the current Structural Funds programming period (2007-2013). However, in anticipation of the next programming period (2014-2020), since 2010 JASPERS has been assisting in the

preparation of projects to be submitted for funding after 2013 and it now provides support on horizontal<sup>1</sup> and strategic issues, capacity building and the implementation of projects.

The decision to provide an EU grant from either the European Regional Development Fund or the Cohesion Fund for a project prepared with the assistance of JASPERS remains the responsibility of the European Commission.



Kopernik Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

In the first five years of operation (2006-2011), JASPERS completed 541 assignments, of which 332 were for major projects which must be approved by the European Commission in order to receive grant financing from the Structural Funds. Member States submitted to the EU Commission 250 of these JASPERS-supported applications for major projects and at 31 December 2011, 172 had been approved.

The investment cost of JASPERS-supported projects between 2006 and 2011 totals EUR 63.7bn.

<sup>1</sup> Horizontal actions are actions which involve JASPERS assessing issues that affect several projects/sub-sectors/countries. Such actions are supported either by the JASPERS team directly or with the use of consultants, and the output of the assistance is through reports/workshops/presentations. Horizontal actions can help unblock issues across a whole sector or series of projects (e.g. state aid, environmental issues, CBA).

## How does JASPERS work?

JASPERS operates on the basis of Annual Action Plans for each Member State prepared in cooperation with the national authority concerned and the European Commission. A Managing Authority acts as a central coordinator for each country and it can request assistance from JASPERS. JASPERS experts provide assistance for any stage of the project cycle from the early stages of project conception through to the final application for EU funding. In implementing the annual Action Plans, JASPERS works in close cooperation with the beneficiary, the MA and relevant ministries or agencies. The Member States remain the owners of the projects and the grant application process remains their responsibility.

JASPERS' involvement in a project does not create any obligation on JASPERS' beneficiaries to borrow from the EIB or EBRD or KfW. Potential requests for such loan financing will be considered by the institutions concerned on the basis of their own criteria and their instruments for co-financing.

JASPERS' work is organised into five divisions: Roads; Air, Maritime and Public Transport; Water and Wastewater; Knowledge Economy, Energy and Waste; and Operations Management. This sector-based structure reflects the need to

ensure consistency in the advice delivered across the beneficiary countries.

JASPERS is located within the EIB but is separate from the lending operations of the Bank.

JASPERS' headquarters are in Luxembourg with most of the experts being located in the regional offices in order to be closer to the beneficiaries. There are three Regional Offices: Bucharest (for

Romania and Bulgaria); Vienna (for the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Malta); and Warsaw (for Poland and the Baltic States). JASPERS' operations in Cyprus are managed from Luxembourg.

Contact details of all JASPERS offices are available at the following link:

<http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/index.php/contact-us.html>

## Jaspers Project Cycle

1. In each beneficiary country, the Managing Authority (MA) identifies potential JASPERS assignments
2. JASPERS reviews the proposals and discusses them with DG Regional Policy and the MA
3. Assignments agreed for JASPERS' assistance are finalised with the signature of an Action Plan with the MA
4. JASPERS works actively on the agreed assignments with the beneficiary, MA and the relevant intermediate bodies
5. The Member States continue to 'own' the projects. They submit the applications for grants as required by the EU regulations
6. JASPERS supports projects after submission, especially helping beneficiaries to address issues arising during the European Commission's appraisal
7. JASPERS can also selectively support projects during implementation



*Integrated waste management, Timis (Romania)*

## Jaspers Outputs

JASPERS' involvement in a project depends on what has been requested in the Action Plan. It can be more or less intensive and cover part or all of the project cycle. JASPERS' outputs are delivered via: "Guidance Notes" issued during an assignment to cover on-going findings and recommendations; and "Completion Notes" once JASPERS has completed its assignment, summarising its findings and recommendations in a format helpful to decision-makers.

These outputs cover JASPERS' activities during the pre-feasibility or concept stage, the feasibility stage and the application stage. JASPERS can provide selective implementation support with the setting-up of appropriate Project Implementation Units and the reviewing of tender documents.



Czechowice - Diecizce wastewater treatment plant (Poland)

## Jaspers Networking Platform

In 2012 JASPERS is gradually setting up a networking platform whose objectives will go beyond the EU-12 to cover all EU Member States as well as pre-accession countries.

The platform will inform network participants about JASPERS outputs, horizontal studies and other developments, and will enable an interactive exchange of information and experience between network participants about JASPERS-related topics.

Close cooperation with DG Regional Policy will be critical to ensuring the success of this initiative, especially for issue-specific meetings, which could provide a forum to ensure that good practice is rapidly disseminated and applied.

## JASPERS' partners

JASPERS' partners have a long record of successful cooperation in financing projects in Central Europe. JASPERS represents a further development of this long-standing partnership.

**The European Commission** aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion by reducing disparities between the levels of development of EU regions and countries. DG Regional Policy manages the Structural Funds, supporting the Member States, and the regional development component of the Instru-

ment for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), supporting candidate countries and potential candidate countries.

**The European Investment Bank**, established in 1958 and owned by the EU's Member States, furthers the objectives of the European Union by making long-term finance available for sound investment, borrowing on the capital markets to finance those projects.

The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** was established in 1991 and is owned by 63 countries, the European Union and

the EIB. The EBRD's operations stretch from central Europe and the Western Balkans to Central Asia. Investing primarily in private enterprises, the EBRD helps to build financial stability and modern infrastructure, promoting sustainability and energy efficiency.

**Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau** is a promotional bank established in 1948 and owned by the German national government (80%) and the federal states (20%). KfW supports a broad range of investment projects worldwide, particularly in the areas of transport, the environment, energy and infrastructure.



Jaspers Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions



### Who to contact?

The Managing Authorities for the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds operating in the beneficiary states act as central coordinators for each country and should be the first point of contact for prospective beneficiaries.

The updated list of Managing Authorities is available at the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/manage/authority/authority\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm)



Sewerage system of Kokkinochoria complex (Cyprus)

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Back Cover Photo: Modernisation of Railway Track Nové Mesto nad Váhom - Púchov (Slovakia)

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European Commission

