

European Regional Development Fund 2000 - 2006

Community Initiative Programme

INTERREG IIIC

North Zone



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1. Introduction

The objective of the Community Initiative INTERREG is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the Community by promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation and balanced development of the Community territory. It focuses therefore on improving cohesion – economic, social and territorial – by reducing the negative impact of borders on economic development and territorial integration. Whilst trans-border co-operation within Europe has, for some years, been encouraged and supported by means of cross-border (INTERREG III A) and transnational co-operation (INTERREG III B), the new funding period introduced a new strand of INTERREG aiming at interregional co-operation: INTERREG III C.

With this new strand, the Community Initiative INTERREG is extended to a new type of intervention. For the first time this instrument is used to assist interregional co-operation beyond the scope of the A- and B-strand. INTERREG III C is built on the experience collected under other instruments and the structural funds. Mainly the innovative action of ERDF, like RIS/RITTS; RISI, Recite, Ecos-Ouverture, etc., but also actions under the 5th research framework programme allowed for important experiences, which can now be exploited by INTERREG III C. INTERREG III C takes the idea of interregional co-operation further by applying the first time a programme approach to this type of co-operation.

The main approach of INTERREG III C is to make use of the stock of experiences collected in the context of implementation of structural funds programmes as well as related to national policies. Thus INTERREG III C can help non-contiguous regions to get in contact and to develop the already existing networks of co-operation in terms of inclusion of as many European regions as possible, as well as in terms of the types of actors included. This should help in intensifying the co-operation all over Europe.

This programme is giving the information necessary to implement INTERREG III C in the North Zone. The programme has been drafted on the legal basis given by:

- The Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 7 May 2001 “Interregional Co-operation” Strand C of the INTERREG III Community Initiative - Commission Communication C (2001) 1188 final (2001/C 141/02) - (in the following “INTERREG III C Communication”)
- The Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 28 April 2000 laying down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning trans-European co-operation

intended to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory - INTERREG III (in the following referred to as "INTERREG Communication")

- The Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 of 21 June 1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds - (in the following "Structural Funds Regulation")
- The European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) Nr.1783/1999 of 12 July 1999 on the European Fund for Regional Development

A number of other legal provisions have also been taken into account:

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001 of 2 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards the management and control systems for assistance granted under the Structural Funds;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 of 30 May 2000 on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance from the Structural Funds;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000 of 28 July 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260 as regards eligibility of expenditure of operations co-financed by the Structural Funds;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 448/2001 of 2 March 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 as regards the procedure for making financial corrections to assistance granted under the Structural Funds;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 643/2000 of 28 March 2000 on arrangements for using the euro for the purposes of the budgetary management of the Structural Funds

Furthermore, the not legally binding working paper has proven to be very helpful:

- Working Paper: INTERREG III B and III C Member States Responsibility: Management and Control System, 23 April 2001, DG REGIO/B1/GD D (2000).

2. Strategic Approach

This INTERREG III C-programme forms a general framework for interregional co-operation and promotion of exchanges of experience and best practice. By doing so, it intends to contribute to the improvement of European and national policies for the welfare of the European people. The way to achieve this is to exploit the experiences collected with different policy instruments and project approaches and on that basis to learn from each other - and to do so jointly by interregional exchange and co-operation.

This approach is based on the notion that a number of problems and tasks are confronting European regions not only nationally, but across Europe in a similar way. This is true for regions like cities and urban areas, rural areas, border regions, or declining regions to give only a few examples. Where problems and tasks are similar, an exchange on solutions, on the policy instruments applied and the projects developed is promising. An important field to collect experiences in tackling the regional demands have been the Structural Funds Programmes. This is why they form an important basis for the exchange of experiences under INTERREG III C. But also national or regional policies are expected to build the substance to start the exchange of experiences from.

2.1 Main goal

The objective of the interregional co-operation is to improve the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion.¹ The effects will materialise both at national or regional and European level:

- The regional and other public authorities will gain a mean to enhance development through access to the experiences of others; this will enable them to better develop policies and projects to overcome problems and exploit potentials.
- The European policies will be boosted by added value through expanding the effects from individual Structural Funds interventions to different regions across Europe. Learning effects can be multiplied by disseminating experience inter-regionally.

The goal of improving the effectiveness of policies and instruments for regional development and cohesion may be achieved by:

¹ This is coherent with the objectives given in the III C Communication, point 5, and the Interreg Communication point 17.

- Changes on the level of projects by introducing new methods or approaches or by improving existing ones. The focus here is on improving the delivery of existing programmes and instruments of regional policy.
- Changes on the level of policies imply a more far-reaching change of political and institutional structures related to regional policy. Changes at this level occur when a policy instrument, programme, etc. is readjusted or reoriented, or if a new instrument is added.

This programme wants to contribute to and is clearly in line with the aim of overcoming the barriers that national borders impose on balanced development and the integration of the European territory (INTERREG Communication, item 3). As part of the Structural Funds, INTERREG III C is in line with the efforts to promote harmonious, balanced and sustainable development all over Europe. With this aim, INTERREG III C is also contributing to the cross sector orientation towards a process of balanced and sustainable territorial development in Europe, which is the core of the European Spatial Development Perspective. This programme would like to see as wide as possible a participation of third countries, especially from the candidate countries.

The eligible operations under this programme will build on one (or in the case of RFOs even more than one) out of the five Topics for Co-operation and may take the form of one out of three Types of Operation. By choosing one of the five Topics every operation is defining the content or substance of co-operation. Each Topic is referring to a certain sector of Structural Funds Interventions:

Table 2.1 Topics of Co-operation

Topic	refers to....
Topic a)	Interregional Co-operation related to Objective 1 and 2
Topic b)	Interregional Co-operation related to Interreg-programmes
Topic c)	Interregional Co-operation related to Urban development
Topic d)	Interregional Co-operation related innovative actions
Topic e)	Interregional Co-operation related to other appropriate subjects

By deciding on one out of three Types of Co-operation, an operation is deciding on the form of organising its work.

Table 2.2 Types of Operation

Type of Operation	is organised as
Type a)	Regional Framework Operation
Type b)	Individual Co-operation Project
Type c)	Network

The following chapter (2.2) gives a description of the Topics and Types of Co-operation foreseen in accordance with the INTERREG III C guidelines.

2.2 Topics for Co-operation

The stock of experience with regional, national and European policies designed to promote regional development is too broad to be visible at a glance. It offers a rich potential for the exchange of experience but simultaneously makes it necessary to find a track along which the co-operation can be organised. As the system of Structural Funds policy is spread and well-known all over Europe it can serve to give the exchange of experiences a structure. Accordingly, INTERREG III C should be seen as a vehicle for promoting European interregional co-operation on the types of activities supported under the new regional and cohesion policies², in Structural Funds Objective 1 and 2 and INTERREG programmes, as well as the URBAN Community Initiative and urban development activities and the Regional Innovative Actions programmes, thus contributing to their overall improvement and adding value to the European Union's regional policy as a whole.

Due to their importance, a number of other subjects could be addressed under INTERREG III C. These include maritime and coastal co-operation, spatial planning issues, co-operation on insular and ultra-peripheral issues, on solutions to natural or man-made catastrophes as well as on alleviating the economic effects of handicaps such as very low population density or mountainous conditions.

Based on the types of activities under the European regional and cohesion policy, the topics for interregional co-operation under this programme are as follows:

2.2.1 Topic a) Exchange on Types of Activities supported under Objective 1 and 2 of the Structural Funds

94% of Structural Fund expenditure is targeted through the mainstream Objective programmes. However, this expenditure tends to be focused on the regional level and there are currently limited opportunities to exchange information and experience with other regions in Europe. This topic is intended to address this issue by promoting direct co-operation between public authorities or equivalent bodies across Europe on the types of projects supported in Objective 1 and 2 programmes.

² See the Commission Communication "The Structural Funds and their Co-ordination with the Cohesion Fund - Guidelines For Programmes", COM 344 final, 1 July 1999.

Partners would not need to be located in Objective 1 or 2 regions, but would have to be involved, or be interested in becoming involved, in the types of activities supported under Objective 1 and 2 programmes.

2.2.2 Topic b) Exchange on Interregional co-operation linking public authorities or equivalent bodies involved in other INTERREG programmes

The aim of this topic is to enable exchanges of experience and networking among border areas and among transnational areas. Actions can cover co-operation on cross-border and transnational activities, where a wider degree of co-operation would be beneficial. Actions could also focus on the implementation dimension of INTERREG programmes (for example networking among several secretariats of INTERREG III A- or B-programmes to examine procedures and operational structures).

So, INTERREG III C is aiming at promoting exchange of experiences collected under INTERREG III A- and B-programmes. Given the improvement of policies by exchanging experiences as the main goal of INTERREG III C, the focus is to contribute to develop better project approaches or policies for cross-border and transnational co-operation. INTERREG III C will build on exchange of experience with and co-operation on cross-border and transnational projects or programmes. INTERREG III C-projects take the experiences collected with cross-border and transnational co-operation as the starting point to work on development of project and policy approaches – as long as this element is missing, a project can not be assisted under INTERREG III C.

This topic is limited to public authorities or equivalent bodies involved in current or previous INTERREG programmes.

2.2.3 Topic c) Exchange on interregional co-operation in the field of urban development

Urban development is currently one of the key regional policy issues in Europe. In addition to the targeted actions supported under the URBAN Community Initiative and the mainstream objective programmes, wider co-operation actions related to urban development issues should be encouraged.

This topic is open to all cities and urban areas, including small and medium-sized towns. Nevertheless, priority should be given to those proposals, which contain at least one city or urban area receiving funding from Structural Funds programmes.

2.2.4 Topic d) Exchange on interregional co-operation linking regions³ involved under the three themes of the regional innovative actions for 2000-2006

The three priorities of the innovative actions for 2000-2006 are:

- regional economy based on knowledge and technological innovation;
- e-EuropeRegio: the information society and regional development;
- regional identity and sustainable development.

Each regional innovative actions programme will contain a strategy agreed between the different regional players for defining innovative measures. This strategy will constitute the framework for the implementation of individual projects, the transfer of results to programmes under Objectives 1 or 2 co-financed by the ERDF in the regions concerned and the exchange of experiences between regions. The strategy may be based on one of the three priorities, or on a combination of these priorities, in order to meet the needs of each region as fully as possible. Building on the contents of their individual innovative action programmes, regions may propose co-operation actions in order to transfer and implement successful project ideas to other regions.

As networking actions can be supported through the Regional Innovative Action programmes and through the programme "Promotion of innovation and encouragement of SME participation"⁴, INTERREG III C cannot support networking as described below under this topic.

2.2.5 Topic e) Exchange on other subjects appropriate to interregional co-operation

Additionally to the already mentioned Topics of Structural Funds activities, a number of other subjects appropriate for interregional co-operation could be addressed. These include maritime and coastal co-operation, spatial planning issues, co-operation on insular and ultra-peripheral issues, on solutions to natural or man-made catastrophes as well as on alleviating the economic effects of handicaps such as very low population density or mountainous conditions.

³ As defined in the draft Commission Communication on Innovative Actions (SEC(2000)1870).

⁴ The "Promotion of innovation and encouragement of SME participation" programme supports networking of regions which are developing regional innovation strategies. These activities are carried out in complementarity to INTERREG IIIC and the "Regional Innovative Actions for 2000-2006" programme.

2.2.6 Strand C - co-ordination actions

On the initiative of the European Commission this programme includes a special priority on co-ordination between the four INTERREG III C zones, especially for the initial implementation phase and until the INTERACT programme has come into operation.

A list of actions to coordinate the four III C zones has already been discussed with the Commission. It is planned to have them carried out in cooperation between the secretariats of different zones. The Joint Technical Secretariat of the North Zone will mainly deal with the following:

- creation of a common applicants' pack incl. application forms and other information material;
- set up of a joint Internet portal and project database for all four INTERREG III C zones;
- development of common selection criteria and assessment procedures;
- establishing the legal framework, audit and control system as well as monitoring and reporting procedures.

Other actions considered appropriate by the INTERREG III C secretariats for an efficient and co-ordinated start-up of the programmes may also be considered for co-financing after consultation with the Commission.

Activities under this priority will be concentrated in 2001 and 2002. On a Commission proposal the activities will be co-financed at 90% and the resources from the ERDF will be allocated to the programme from the allocation under par. 53 of the INTERREG guidelines.

2.2.7 Operations on border regions with the candidates countries

On 25 July 2001 the Commission adopted a communication [COM (2001) 437 final] on the external border regions and the probable effects of enlargement. As the communication proposes a series of actions based on a better co-ordination of existing policies and the creation of new measures, this programme includes a special priority on operations linking European Union border regions indicated in the communication with the candidate countries. These actions are intended to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the external border regions indicated in the communication.

The operations foreseen under this priority include:

- - networks;
- - individual co-operation projects.

These operations should aim to encourage and facilitate co-operation in the border regions, in order to strengthen their economic competitiveness.

Lead partners of these operations must obligatorily be located in the border regions with the candidate countries (for the North Zone *Finland: Uusimaa, Etelä-Suomi; Germany: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*). Co-operation with partners located in the candidate countries should be encouraged.

The normal rules on the implementation of the INTERREG III C programmes apply, except for rules detailed below:

- number of partners in each operation:
 - an *individual co-operation project* must have at least three partners from at least two countries;
 - a *network* must have at least five partners from at least three countries;
- financial size of the operations: the total ERDF contribution for each operation may be less than the EUR 200 000 indicated in point 26 of the INTERREG III C communication; in addition, more than 40% can go to the lead partner of an individual co-operation project;
- the provisions of point 28 of the INTERREG III C communication do not apply: the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the 75% ERDF allocation quoted in point 28;
- modification of the percentage of financing to be allocated to each type of operation (point 26 of INTERREG IIIC communication): the operations financed under this priority are excluded from the calculation of the total funding under each INTERREG III C programme which should be allocated to the three types of operation.

2.3 Types of Operations

The co-operation under the five Topics may be organised along one of the following three types of operations. This chapter gives the definition and summary description of the three

types. Important information on the definition of partners and the management processes for each of the types of operations is given later.

2.3.1 Operation Type (a) Regional Framework Operations

A regional framework operation (RFO) is aimed at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities among a group of regions. The goal is to produce a clear strategic approach to interregional co-operation for the participants, which will allow them to develop a process of exchange and learning, which can grow over the long-term.

The RFO is based on an interregional co-operation strategy covering the participating regions. Within the frame given with this programme, the RFO's strategy is forming a self-standing strategic framework which is a kind of a "mini-programme". Each RFO should address a limited range of subjects relevant to the regions participating, thus ensuring that interregional co-operation activity is better integrated into the economic and social development of the participating areas. In line with its strategy, a regional framework operation should cover a limited number of smaller projects.

The selection of RFO-internal projects is the responsibility of the regional partners co-operating in the RFO. They will form a Steering Committee at RFO-level for the purpose of project selection. Each regional framework operation should be prepared by a group of regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies in a number of regions from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. RFO-internal projects in turn should involve participants in the RFO-region from different countries. A RFO under this programme can only be submitted by a lead partner that is located in the programme area. The other partners need not to be located in the programme area. Each participating competent authority should be supported by a regional partnership. The regional partnership would consist of the authorities and organisations in each region with a role to play in the regional framework operation.

A Regional Framework Operation is based on a detailed interregional co-operation strategy, which is focused on a limited number of subjects and includes a detailed work-plan and forms the basis for project development and selection. The Strategy needs to give sound information on the management and implementation structures of the RFO. The strategy will indicate the expected concrete results that can be evaluated and disseminated. A detailed list of requirements for a regional framework operation is set out in Annex A.

As the Regional Framework Operation is a new type of co-operation, no region should participate in more than 2 such operations under INTERREG III C until the mid term review of the programme has been completed.

The total ERDF contribution for a Regional Framework Operation may normally be between €500,000 and € 5 million. Regional framework operations can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2. An indicative share of 50% to 80% of the funding under this programme should be allocated to RFOs.

Regions eligible to present a Regional Framework Operation are listed in Annex B. Regional authorities at a geographically lower level can present a RFO – and thus be partners in such a RFO - to the MA on behalf of the region defined in Annex B.

2.3.2 Operation Type (b) Individual interregional co-operation projects:

Individual interregional co-operation projects aim at exchanging experience on methodology and project-based activities. The goal is not merely a transfer of knowledge, but genuine co-operation on the realisation of various parts of the project, with a significant added value to the project participants. The implantation of project results from one region into another with a clear impact in the recipient region would be one concrete effect of such a project.

The Individual Co-operation Project is based on a detailed work programme, defining the expected outcome and concrete results and allowing for evaluation and dissemination of achievements.

Projects should involve partners from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States. Not more than 40% of the overall funding can go to the lead partner and the total ERDF contribution may normally be between €200,000 and €1,000,000.

Individual interregional co-operation projects can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2. An indicative share of 10 to 30% of the funding under this programme should go to individual co-operation projects.

2.3.3 Operation Type (c) Networks:

Networks aim to link the various regions inside and outside the European Union on project implementation methods and development.

Only costs related to actions such as seminars, study trips and exchange of staff, all in order to exchange experience and pass on expertise, might be considered. However, networking should lead to concrete results, which can be evaluated and disseminated. All networking actions should have detailed work programmes, indicating the tasks to be carried out and the expected outcomes.

A network must have partners from at least 5 countries of which at least three must be Member States. The ERDF contribution may normally be between € 200,000 and € 1 million. All the aid will be paid to and managed by the lead partner of the network.

Networking can cover all the topics described in chapter 2.2 above with the exception of those related to Topic (d) which, as indicated, can be covered elsewhere. An indicative share of 10% to 20% of the funding under this programme should go to networks.

2.4 The logic of Co-operation

The three types of operations vary in the intensity of co-operation. Whilst a network is mainly organising the exchange of experience, the individual co-operation projects go further by co-operating in the realisation of a concrete project. The RFOs in turn add an element by integrating the co-operation into a self-standing strategic framework, which forms the basis for the selection of projects within the RFO. Whilst intensity of co-operation is focussing on the process of co-operation within an INTERREG III C-project, it is also the quality of tangible output of the co-operation which is characteristic for INTERREG III C. Aiming at development of project approaches or policies, a certain innovation is required.

2.4.1 Intensity of Co-operation

The intensity of co-operation varies from exchange of experience, which is information and knowledge focused, to the development of concrete approaches, which emphasises the materialisation of ideas in tangible projects or new instruments. The different intensities of co-operation can be defined in relation to the overall goal of the intervention:

- Exchange and dissemination of experience enhances the capacity of the partners involved, but do not lead directly to changes in policy instruments or to new projects.
- Transfer of instruments or projects means the transferring of an existing element from one region to another. Under the overall aim of improving the effectiveness of policies

and instruments for regional development, transfer may be located either at the level of projects or the level of policies.

- Development of new approaches can be a result of co-operation if something new is developed that goes beyond the knowledge and policy previously available in the region. Again this can happen at the level of projects or the level of policies.
- Joint Development of new approaches may it be at policy or at project level, involves a closer co-operation than the development of new approaches that can be done separately.

Depending on the Intensity of Co-operation the type of output that can be expected varies. In the case of exchange or dissemination of experience the gain in knowledge, the transfer of good ideas may be an output of the co-operation. A translation from the sphere of knowledge to action-oriented consequences, like e.g. a new type of project is not necessarily achieved. Therefore the most important product may be a document that proves the transfer of experience but rather has the status of a working document (e.g. a protocol, a report, a publication, etc.). In the case of transfer or development of instruments or projects, the drafting or implementation of the new element would be the product. That means that the product will materialise beyond the working and preparation stage. Changes on the level of a real project or a real programme or instrument are the output. The following table gives an overview of the intensities of co-operation their definition, and the output that can be expected.

Table 2.3 Intensity of Co-operation

Intensity	Definition	Output
1) Exchange and Dissemination of experience	The exchange of experiences enhances the capacity of the partner involved, but does not lead directly to changes in policy instruments or new projects	new Knowledge, Ability: learning
2) Transfer of instruments/projects	An instrument/project is transferred from one region to another	new Instrument, Project
3) Development of new approaches (separately)	The co-operation results in the development of new approaches that are not only transferred within the operation, but create something new in at least one region involved	Innovative instrument, project
4) Joint development of new approaches	The co-operation results in the joint development of a new instrument or approach. This is done by several regions involved together.	Innovative instrument, project

The three types of operations require different minimum levels concerning the intensity of co-operation:⁵

- A regional framework operation should reach at least the level of transferring instruments or projects. This requires that under the joint strategic approach, the projects of the RFO are carefully targeted to be as productive as possible in working together.
- Individual co-operation projects should reach the same intensity of co-operation. The difference to the RFOs is not only the size – in terms of partners involved and budget - , but rather the fact that individual co-operation projects are not embedded in a comparable strategic framework.
- As to networks, they do not need to work as intensely together to reach transfer or even the new development. It is sufficient to make clear that exchange and dissemination have been achieved.

2.4.2 Innovation

By assisting interregional co-operation, this programme aims at producing a specific quality of products. By aiming at improvement of the effectiveness of policies, the programme points to the necessity of developing existing policies, programmes and projects, beyond the status quo for allowing to better meet the regional needs.

In the best case, the regions participating profit from the changes in projects and programmes by enhancing their ability to solve regional problems. This gain in effectiveness of regional policies is reached by a certain amount of “innovativeness” of the newly developed projects and instruments that allow for a development beyond the status quo. This is why innovation is a crucial category to grasp the core logic of the programme.

For the purposes of this programme, innovation is defined on regional level: the product that derives from the co-operation should be something new compared to the already existing instruments and projects in one or more of the participating regions.

⁵ The following gives the minimum requirements that should be achieved as output of the project. As the effects of co-operation are not limited to the output level, the impact might reach a higher intensity.

2.5 Eligible Area and rate of assistance

Applications for projects can be submitted by lead partners from the following areas: Denmark, Sweden and Finland as a whole, and for Germany, the Federal States (Länder) of Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Annex C).

Non Member States can participate in INTERREG III C programmes provided that they sign a corresponding letter of commitment specifying which zone they want to adhere to. In the case they decide to participate in the North zone they are regarded as full members of the programme (partner states). They will have the option to act as functional lead partner in that zone. This means that they can perform the tasks of a lead partner for a project. However, as ERDF funds cannot be administered by a Non Member State, the functional lead partner will need a “financial lead partner” from a Member State of the same zone who will be responsible for the use of the ERDF funds. There has to be a close cooperation between the functional and the financial lead partner. As this makes the administration of the project rather difficult, functional lead partners should be the exception rather than the rule. This does not prevent Non Member States from participating as project partners throughout all zones. Financing for partners from third countries can nonetheless not be provided under this programme, but needs to be taken from their own resources or relevant European Union funding sources (e.g. Phare, Tacis, Meda, etc.) in line with the funding rules for each source. Although the difficulties of joint financing with these sources are well known, it can be expected that the development of the next years, as described e.g. in the Phare Review will allow for a better co-ordination even before the candidates formally join the EU. To ease the co-operation as much as possible, travel and subsistence expenses of partners from outside the EU can be eligible costs for an operation when the meeting takes place in the EU and is part of an approved operation.

Norwegian partners can be lead partners and thus final beneficiaries on equal terms as lead partners from Member States. ERDF-funding and Norwegian funding in principle remains with the lead partner. The lead partner using ERDF-funds or Norwegian funds allocated to the particular project will remunerate services and tasks provided to the lead partner by other transnational partners including EU-partners and Norwegian partners for such services and tasks. Total support going to Norwegian partners from Member State lead partners shall at no stage exceed the Norwegian contribution to the programme.

Under this programme ERDF Funds can finance up to 50% of total eligible cost. In the case of partners coming from objective 1-regions up to 75% of total eligible cost can be financed. The rate of assistance for Technical Assistance will be 50%.

The applications will indicate the share of budget going to objective 1 partners. The calculation of the budget for a Network or for an Individual Inter-regional Co-operation project will be indicating which partners of the overall operation will fall under the 75%-assistance. In the case of RFOs, the application will have to include a detailed calculation including binding figures giving the maximum amount of money to be used by partners from objective 1-regions.

2.6 Target Groups

For Regional Framework Operations, the partners must be regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies with the capacity to take the full responsibility for the administration and spending of public funds within the RFO. Regional authorities include for example public administrations on regional level or equivalent bodies. A definition of the territorial units understood as a region in this context is given in Annex B.

For Individual interregional co-operation projects, networks and projects funded within a regional framework operation, the partners must be public authorities or equivalent bodies with the requisite capacity for administration and financial management of public funds. Examples include regional and local authorities, (particularly for the urban development topic) or regional development agencies competent to manage public funds.

Private participants can also take part in projects funded within a regional framework operation where the public authority concerned provides the necessary guarantees to ensure the proper management of public funds. Private participants and the above-mentioned “authority-equivalent” bodies have to present a bank guarantee or a security of equivalent value as the amount of funds from ERDF they are applying for. A fundamental condition for private resources to be part of national co-financing is that no claims are linked to the funding. Another condition is that private resources always must be connected with public funding.

As mentioned so far, each Type of Operation has to fulfil some specific criteria as summed up in the next table:

Table 2.4 Criteria for Applications – per Type of Operation

	OPERATIONS – Type of Application		
	Regional Framework Operations	Individual Projects	Networks
Minimum no. of partners	Regions from a minimum of three countries, of which at least two must be Member States,	Partners from a minimum of three countries of which at least two must be Member States.	Partners from a minimum of five countries of which at least three must be Member States.

		Special rule for operations on border regions (see chapter 2.2.7): At least three partners from at least two countries.	Special rule for operations on border regions (see chapter 2.2.7): At least five partners from at least three countries.
Type of partners Type of participants	Regional authorities or equivalent regional bodies, on project level: public authorities or equivalent participants , private participants with public guarantee	Public authorities or equivalent bodies	Public authorities or equivalent bodies
Minimum intensity of Co-operation	Transfer	Transfer	Dissemination, Exchange
ERDF contribution	€ 500.000 to € 5 million	€ 200.000 to € 1.000.000	€ 200.000 to € 1.000.000

Furthermore, the description of the strategic approach of this programme introduced a number of important issues that need to be covered by applications:

- Definition of a limited number of goals;
- Description of a clear, transparent work plan, describing the intensity of co-operation, the operation is aiming at;
- Description of the expected product of co-operation on the level of project approaches or policy
- Description of the expected influence on the regions involved

A comprehensive list of issues to be dealt with in the application for RFOs can be taken from the Annex A.

3. Provisions for implementing the programme

3.1 The organisational Framework: Bodies for the implementation and management:

A joint implementation structure will be set up to manage, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the programme for the North Zone.

The implementation structure will comprise:

- a joint programme management structure performing the functions of Managing Authority, Paying Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat,
- a Monitoring Committee (also undertaking the tasks of the Steering Committee).

3.1.1 Joint programme management structure

According to point 24 of the INTERREG III C Communication and point 25 of the INTERREG Guidelines, the Member States participating in the programme shall designate common structures for co-operation established on the basis of specific agreements taking into account national legislation, which will be responsible for the following functions:

- a **Managing Authority** within the meaning of Articles 9(n) and 34 of the Structural Funds Regulation;
- a **Paying Authority** within the meaning of Articles 9(o) and 32 of the Structural Funds Regulation at programme level, and if necessary subsidiary paying authorities;
- a **Joint Technical Secretariat** for the operational management of the programme, in particular for the tasks set out in point 30 of the INTERREG guidelines without prejudice to the global responsibility of the managing authority according to Article 34 of the Structural Funds Regulation;

These three functions (Managing Authority, Paying Authority, Joint Technical Secretariat) are undertaken by these bodies either separately or together, taking account of the specific needs for implementing INTERREG III C.

Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein as legal body for the joint programme management structure

The Member States participating in the INTERREG III C North Zone have designated the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB) to act as managing authority and paying authority as well as host of the Joint Technical Secretariat, while retaining financial liability for the ERDF funds (Details will be set out in the “Memorandum of Understanding”).

The IB functions as legal body for the programme management structure. The legal body is the legal person in whose name contracts are concluded. The IB concludes subsidy contracts with lead partners of projects in its own name, thus being liable for ERDF funds

in the first place as contracting partner. The IB provides hosting functions for the Joint Technical Secretariat, administering employment and rental contracts. The IB will also be responsible for banking functions.

3.1.1.1. Responsibilities of Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as Managing Authority

The Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as the Managing Authority shall be responsible for the efficiency and correctness of management and implementation in accordance with Article 34 of the Structural Funds Regulation, in particular:

- setting up a system to gather reliable financial and statistical information on implementation for the monitoring indicators and evaluation and for forwarding the data in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the Member States and the Commission, using where possible computer systems permitting the exchange of data with the Commission;
- adjusting and implementing the programme complement;
- drawing up and, after approval of the Monitoring Committee, submitting to the Commission the annual implementation report;
- organising, in co-operation with the Commission and Member States, the mid-term evaluation;
- ensuring that those bodies taking part in the management and implementation of the assistance maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the assistance;
- ensuring the correctness of operations financed under the assistance particularly by implementing internal controls in keeping with the principles of sound financial management and acting in response to any observations or requests for corrective measures adopted;
- ensuring compliance with Community policies; and
- ensuring compliance with the obligations concerning information and publicity.

Every year, when the annual report is submitted, the Commission and the Member States shall review the main outcomes of the previous year, in accordance with arrangements to be defined by agreement with the Member States.

3.1.1.2. Responsibilities of Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as Paying Authority

The Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as the Paying Authority draws up and submits payment applications, receives payments from the Commission, and pays out subsidies to projects in accordance with Article 32 of the Structural Funds Regulation.

The bank account for payments will be:

Account No: 51000613
Name of the bank: Landesbank Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany
Bank code: 210 500 00
Swift code: KILADE22

The Member States are responsible for financial control in accordance with Commission regulation (EC) 438/2001.

Contractual agreements for INTERREG III C will be concluded following the example of BSR INTERREG III B programme, where the functions of the IB, acting as managing authority and as paying authority are laid down in detail in an "Agreement between the EU Member States and the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein".

Considering Article 9 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001, certificates of statements of interim and final expenditure referred to in Article 32 (3) and (4) of the Structural Funds Regulation shall be drawn up by a person or department within the Paying Authority that is functionally independent of any services that approve claims. The independent financial control department of the IB under the authority of a separate director (for the time being Mr. Lutz Koopmann) will draw up the aforementioned certificates.

All other functions of the Managing and Paying Authority will be carried out by the IB under the authority of its operating director (for the time being Mr. Klaus Rave).

Following the example of the INTERREG III B programme, the IB as legal body will be supported by a Joint Technical Secretariat pursuant to the "Rules of Procedure of the INTERREG III C North Zone Joint Technical Secretariat", which are constituent to the "Agreement between the EU Member States and the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein". The support to the Managing Authority and the Paying Authority will be carried out by different employees of the Joint Technical Secretariat functionally separated under the supervision of the IB as defined in the Rules of Procedure.

3.1.1.3 Organisation of the Joint Technical Secretariat

A Joint Technical Secretariat of INTERREG III C North Zone will undertake the day-to-day administration and management of the programme. It will be closely connected to, and physically located at the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat which fulfils the tasks of the Managing and Paying Authority. The seat of the JTS will also be in Rostock, Germany.

INTERREG III C North Zone Joint Technical Secretariat
Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein
Grubenstrasse 20
18055 Rostock
GERMANY

Phone: +49 381 45484 5281

Fax: +49 381 45484 5282

email: bsda@spatial.baltic.net

The Joint Technical Secretariat shall have international staff. The number and qualification of staff shall correspond to the tasks defined below.

The Joint Technical Secretariat shall be funded from the Technical Assistance budget.

Tasks of the Joint Technical Secretariat

The Joint Technical Secretariat will support the Managing Authority and Paying Authority in implementing its tasks (as defined in the agreement between Member States and Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein).

In addition, the Joint Technical Secretariat will have following responsibilities:

- to prepare, implement and follow-up decisions of the Monitoring Committee;
- to manage the project application process for all projects, including information and advice to applicants (e.g. by means of an applicants' package), checking and pre-assessing applications, and advising partners of decisions;
- to provide advice and assistance to projects regarding implementation of activities and financial administration;

- to monitor progress made by projects through collecting and checking project monitoring reports, monitoring outputs, results and financial implementation;
- to monitor commitments and payments of ERDF funds at programme level;
- to distribute information and implement publicity measures on the programme and its projects, including running a programme web-site;
- to assist and organise activities to support project generation and development;
- to liaise with the implementing authorities, the European Commission and especially with other INTERREG III C zones
- to co-operate with organisations, institutions and networks relevant for the objectives of the programme
- to fulfil the usual work of a secretariat i.e. organisation of meetings, drafting of minutes etc.

3.1.2 The Monitoring Committee

Within three months of approval of the OP the Member States will set up the Monitoring Committee taking into account Article 35 of the Structural Funds Regulation.

Taking account of the financial scope of INTERREG III C North Zone, the Monitoring Committee will also undertake the tasks of the Steering Committee as permitted by point 24 of the INTERREG III C Communication.

Tasks of the Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee will supervise the programme. Its overall task is to ensure the quality and effectiveness of implementation and accountability of the programme operations.

In accordance with Article 35 of the Structural Funds Regulation, the main tasks of the Monitoring Committee will be:

- to confirm and adjust the programme complement, including the physical and financial indicators to be used to monitor the assistance; its approval must be obtained before any further adjustment is made; it shall make later amendments to the programme or the programme complement;

- to consider and approve the project selection criteria within six months of the approval of the assistance;
- to periodically review progress made towards achieving the specific objectives of the assistance;
- to examine the results of implementation and the midterm evaluation (Article 42 of the Structural Funds Regulation);
- to decide on the implementation of the Technical Assistance, within Rule 11 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000;
- to consider and approve the annual and final reports before they are sent to the Commission;
- to consider and approve any proposal to amend the content of the Commission decision on the contribution of the Funds;
- it may in any event propose to the Managing Authority any adjustment or review of the assistance likely to make possible the attainment of the objectives described in Article 1 Structural Funds Regulation or to improve the management of assistance, including in respect of financial management. Any adjustment to the assistance shall be made in accordance with Article 34 (3) Structural Funds Regulation;
- publicity and information tasks mentioned in point 4 of the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000.

Tasks of the Monitoring Committee acting as Steering Committee

In accordance with Point 29 of the INTERREG Communication the main tasks of the Monitoring Committee acting as Steering Committee will be:

- to approve individual project applications on the basis of the assessment of projects and to decide on the use of the available EU Structural Funds;
- to monitor the implementation of projects by means of progress reports, annual reports and interim appraisals;
- to co-ordinate decisions with other INTERREG III C zones, and also to harmonise procedures with the BSR Phare CBC programme;

- to liaise with other relevant Community programmes;
- to adopt an information and publicity plan to be implemented by the Managing Authority /Joint Technical Secretariat; and
- to approve the work plan of the Joint Technical Secretariat.

Membership, chairmanship and procedures

The Monitoring Committee shall have a limited number of representatives from both national and regional levels of all partner states of the programme area to ensure efficiency and broad representation, including environmental representatives. The Monitoring Committee shall have a balanced representation of men and women.

More specifically, the Monitoring Committee shall be composed of:

- 2-3 representatives of each partner state (including, as a minimum requirement, one representative of the national authority responsible for ERDF / INTERREG and one representative from the regional level)
- One representative of the Åland islands

Representatives of Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (Managing Authority, Paying Authority) and the Joint Technical Secretariat shall take part in Monitoring Committee meetings.

A representative of the EU Commission and, as appropriate, of the European Investment Bank will be a member in an advisory capacity.

The chairman of the Monitoring Committee can invite others to attend the meetings as observers or advisors.

The Monitoring Committee shall have a chairman and a co-chairman, representing the national authorities responsible for the administration of INTERREG III C in Member States. The chairman and co-chairman shall be nominated for a period to be defined in the Rules of Procedure and alternate between the Member States.

The Monitoring Committee shall meet at least once a year.

Decision-making in the Monitoring Committee will be by consensus among the national delegations (one vote per delegation). Decisions may be taken via written procedure.

At its first meeting, the Monitoring Committee shall establish its own Rules of Procedure, including any appropriate organisational arrangements.

The Monitoring Committee may decide to set up other advisory groups or decide on other organisational arrangements in order to support the implementation of the programme.

The Monitoring Committee will be assisted by the Joint Technical Secretariat. The Secretariat will be responsible for the preparation of all documentation relating to the meetings. In principle the documents required for the Monitoring Committee shall be available four weeks before the date of the meeting.

3.2 Project Selection

The project application and selection process can be split up into the following steps:

1. The Monitoring Committee will launch a call for proposal. The call is drafted by the Management Authority assisted by the Joint Technical Secretariat in close co-ordination in terms of timing and selection criteria with the other three programming zones of INTERREG III C, and possibly also with calls for application for Phare / Tacis programmes.

2. The project application is submitted by the Lead Partner to the Joint Technical Secretariat. Applications under this programme can only be submitted by lead partners located in the area of this zone - irrespective of the fact that projects may include partners from the whole eligible area. The application has to follow the rules concerning the target groups. Given the Topics for Co-operation and Types of Operations, each application has to indicate the Type of Operation and the Topic covered. As a rule, one application will cover exactly one topic and comprise one Type of Operation; only a RFO may cover more than one Topic as long as it deals with a limited range of subjects.

		OPERATIONS – Type of Application		
		Regional Framework Operations	Individual Projects	Networking
TOPICS – Basis for Co- operation	Objective 1- 2	x	x	x
	Interreg	x	x	x
	Urban	x	x	x
	Innovative Actions	x	x	-----
	Other	x	x	x

3. In the course of the next steps in the selection process, two different sets of criteria are applied to come to the decision of approving an application. A first set consists of the rather formal criteria for eligibility – it gives the minimum requirements that an application has to meet. In this step projects, which do not fulfil the eligibility criteria, are sorted out.

The next filter consists of criteria for selection of applications. These criteria form the basis for an assessment of the application with the aim of bringing the projects in a certain order for selection. So the next steps are:

4. Having received an application, the Joint Technical Secretariat will first check the eligibility according to the eligibility criteria set out in the Programme Complement. Each application will be checked against 1) the core-eligibility criteria that apply for all projects, 2) the topic-specific criteria and 3) the operation specific criteria. Applications that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria are sorted out on a separate list together with the written reasons for doing so. Both the list with eligible and the list with the not eligible applications are handed over to the Monitoring Committee.

5. In a next step the Joint Technical Secretariat will organise a ranking of eligible applications following the selection criteria given in the Programme Complement. The ranking will be done by a point system.

6. Based on the ranking provided by the Joint Technical Secretariat, the Monitoring Committee will finally decide at its sessions on the admission of the applications. It will give written reasons if it decides to deviate from the list prepared during the ranking process.

3.3 Financial management, payment and control

3.3.1 Financial Flows

The EU INTERREG project partners will be financed partly by the EU Member States through national co-financing, and partly by the European Union through ERDF / INTERREG IIIC funds. Project partners of the Non-EU Member States have to apply for financial assistance to the respective country (national co-financing) and to the Phare or Tacis programme. The financial management systems are described below. Other systems that are in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001, particularly Annex I of that regulation can be adopted with the agreement of all MS and the European Commission.

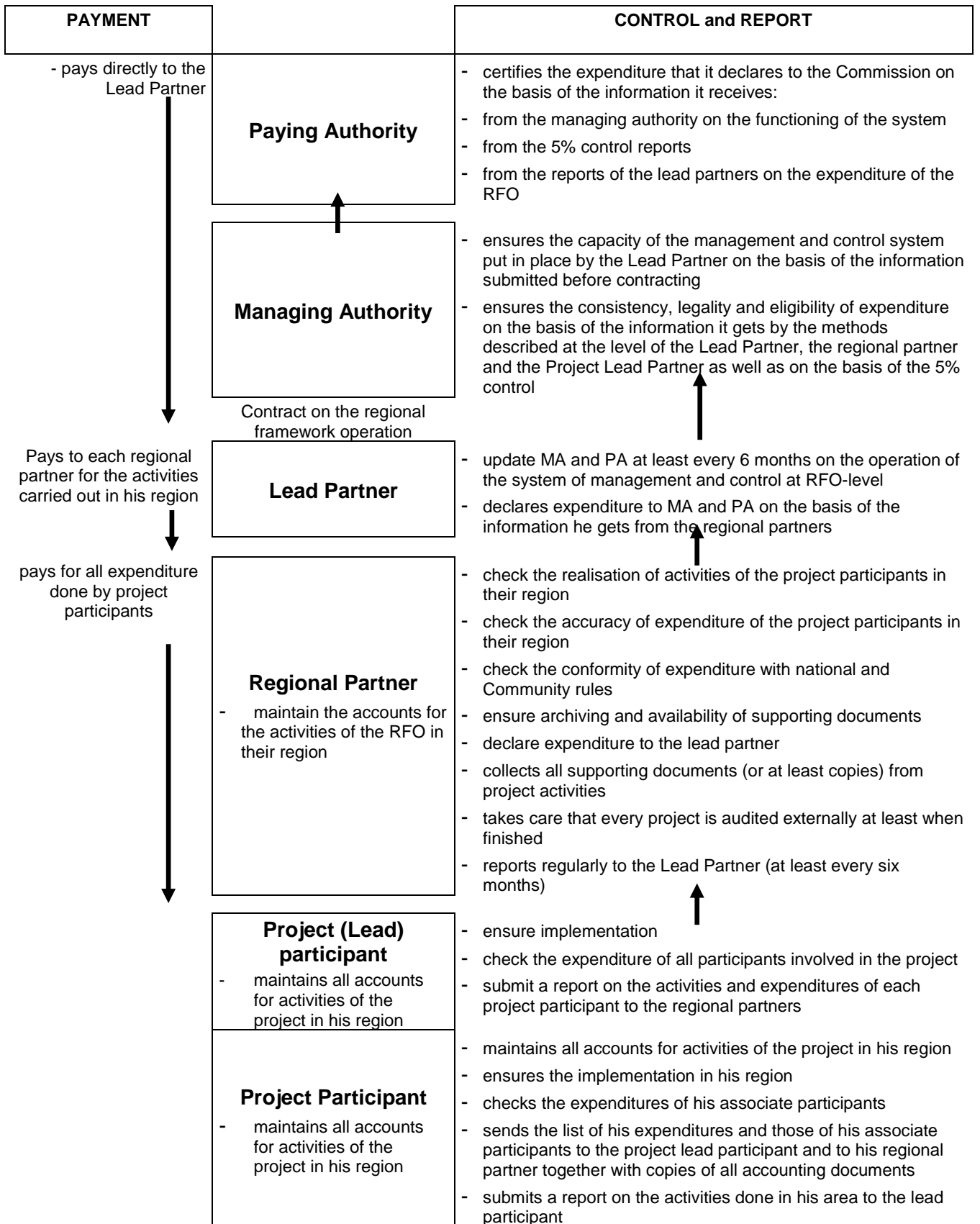
a) Financial Management of a RFO

The Managing Authority concludes a contract on the regional framework operation with the regional lead partner. The Managing Authority verifies the existence of the necessary management and control system put in place by the lead partner to ensure the

appropriate verification of work done and the declared expenditure, in particular on the basis of the information submitted before the signature of the contract. A description of the management and control system put in place at the lead partners office and its partners' offices, including the control and checking procedures, should be included in the documents accompanying the contract. The activity reports submitted by the lead partner must provide regular updates on the operation of the system. The Managing Authority also ensures the consistency, legality and the eligibility of expenditure on the basis of the methods described below as well as on the basis of the reports on project controls representing 5% of their expenditure.

A RFO will consist of a lead partner and several regional partners, each of which is supported by a regional network of other actors involved. Within this RFO single projects will be implemented. The regional partners are responsible to the lead partner for all projects or parts of projects carried out in their regional network, this includes checking the realisation of activities and the expenditure and declaring the expenditure to the lead partner. On the level of the single project within a RFO in turn the responsibility for checking the realisation and reality of expenditure lies with the project lead participant who reports to the regional partner. The system of payment and control of a RFO is cascade-like and stretches from the programme level to the single project:

Financial Management of Regional Framework Operations



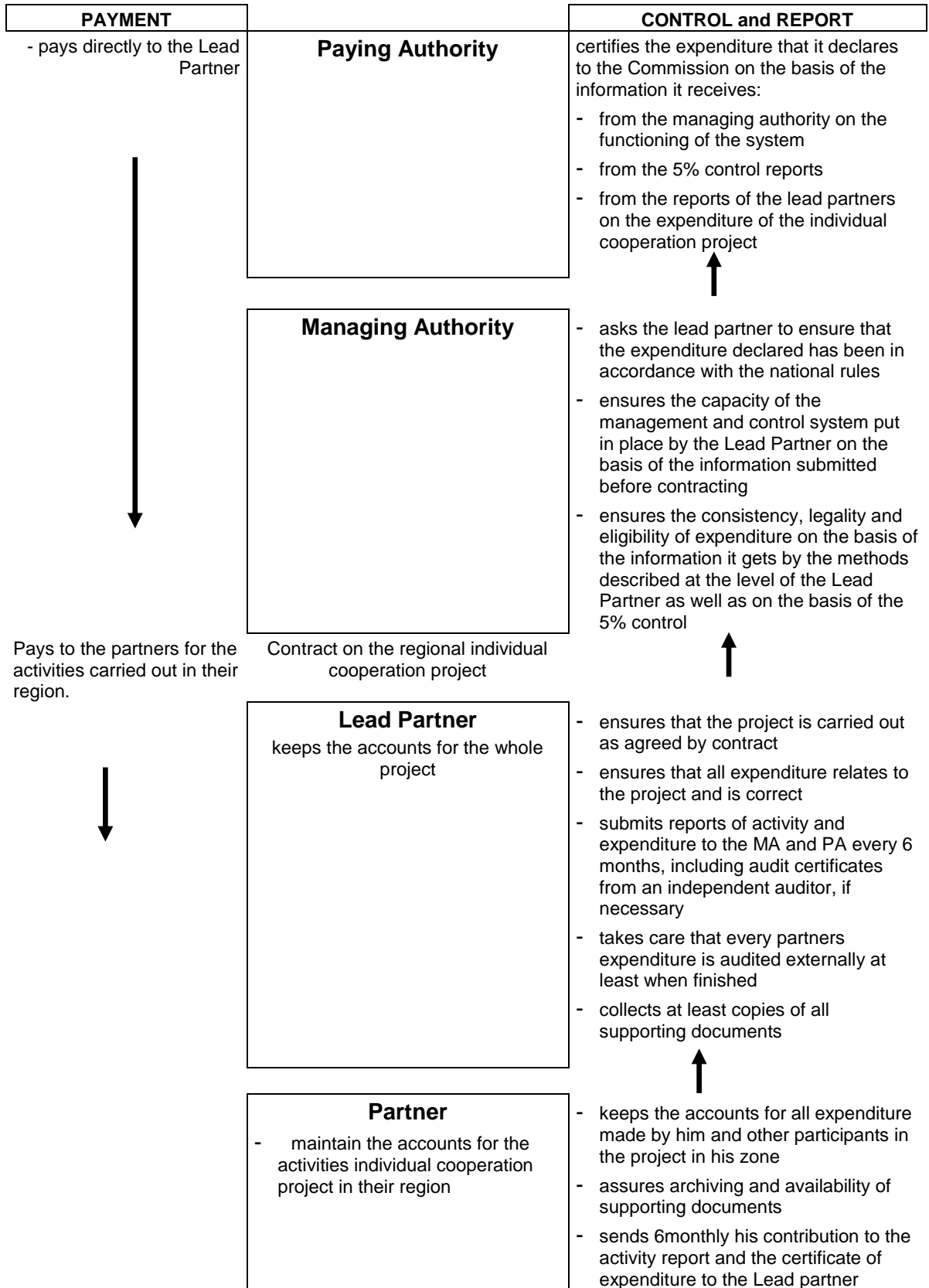
b) Financial Management of Individual Co-operation Projects

The Paying Authority is transferring payments only to the lead partner, who in turn is responsible for payments to the project partners. The Paying Authority is including the expenditure declared to it by the lead partner in the regular reports in its certified declarations of expenditure to the Commission.

The Managing Authority is concluding a contract with the lead partner, including a description of the management and control system for financial transfer and expenditure established in the project. The contract obliges the lead partner to ensure the expenditures are in accordance with national rules, which is if needed to be confirmed by an independent auditor. On the basis of the contract and on the basis of the activity reports, the Managing Authority verifies that the work carried out and the expenditure spent are in accordance with the project.

The lead partner receives the funds and is responsible for the correct use within the project. He assures that the project is carried out in accordance with the contract. Each partner is submitting regularly his contribution to the activity report and the certificate of expenditure to the lead partner, who is compiling the regular report on activities and expenditure to the Paying and Managing Authority.

Financial Management of Individual Cooperation Projects

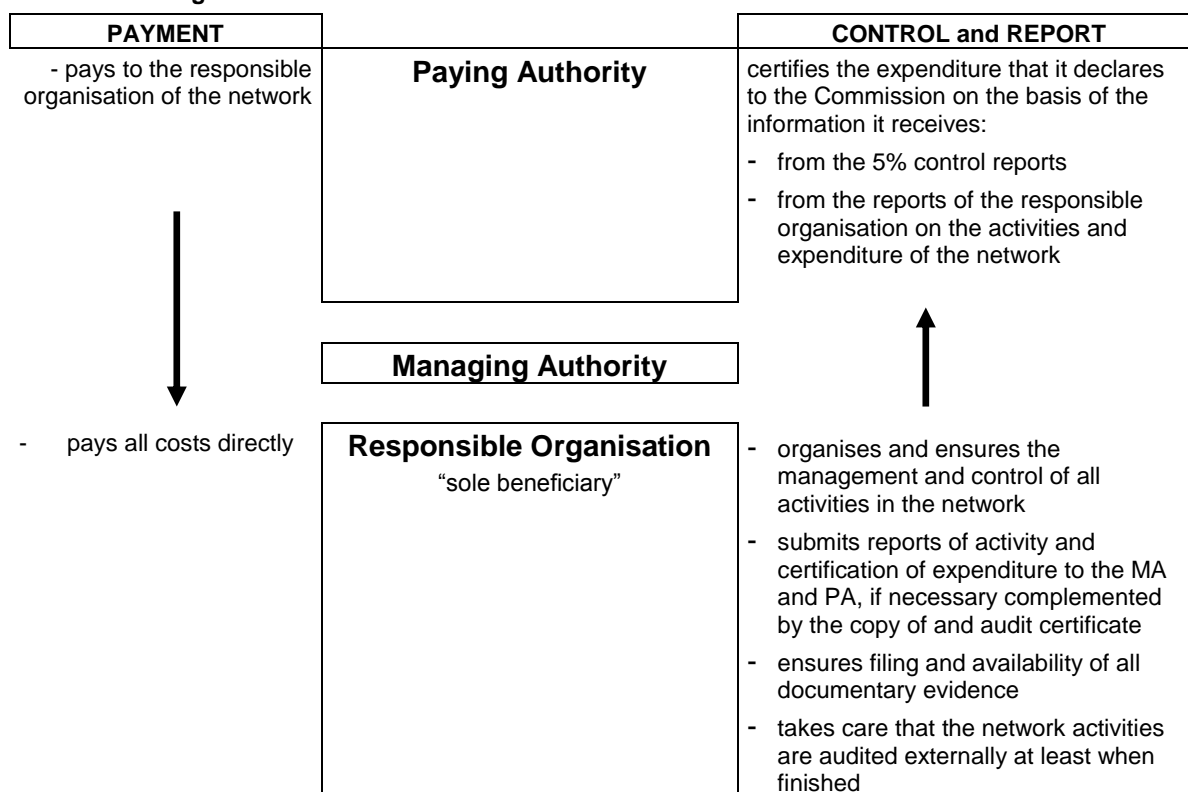


c) Financial Management of Networks

All aid will be paid by the Paying Authority to the responsible organisation of the networks (in accordance with Paragraph 37 of the INTERREG III C guidelines). The responsible organisation of the network will pay the costs of the network directly to the participants. The responsible organisation of the network should be regarded as the sole beneficiary of the grant. It carries out all the payments in compliance with national rules. He organises and ensures the management and control of all activities of the network.

The responsible organisation is exclusively in charge of contacts with the Managing and Paying Authority. The checks on financial matters will be carried out according to the rules of the Member State, in which the responsible organisation is located. The Managing Authority may ask the responsible organisations to submit together with the activity report, the certification of expenditure, which is supported by copies of audit certificates from an independent body.

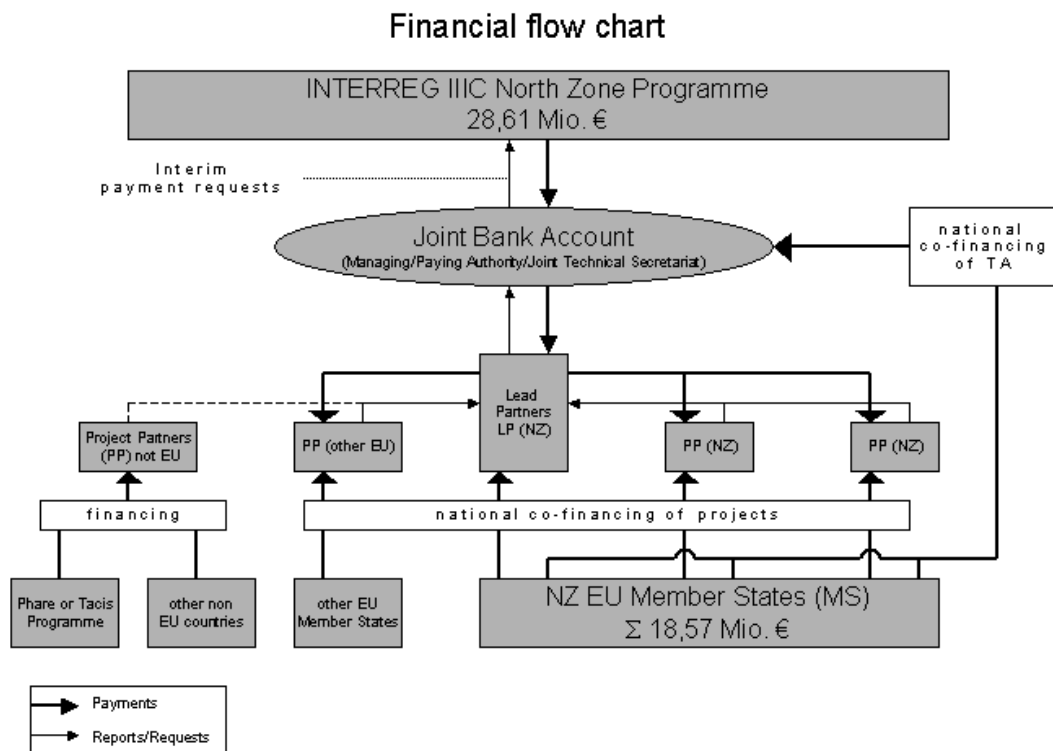
Financial Management of Networks



After receiving an initial ERDF advance payment on account from the European Commission (EC), the Paying Authority has to submit requests for specific payments to

the EC. The Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as Paying Authority will certify the interim payment claims and sign relevant certificates of expenditure.

The EU Member States will transfer the national co-financing of technical assistance to the Paying Authority. After the expenditure of the individual technical assistance activities will have been settled, the Paying Authority has to seek INTERREG III C co-financing by submitting an interim payment request to the EC.



3.3.2 Financial responsibility and control

As stated in chapter 3.1, the EU Member States designate the „Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, Zentralbereich der Landesbank Schleswig-Holstein Girozentrale“ (IB) to act as Managing Authority within the meaning of Articles 9 (n) and 34 of Structural Funds Regulation, point 24 of the INTERREG III C Communication and point 25 of the INTERREG Guidelines, as Paying Authority within the meaning of Articles 9 (o) and 32 of the pre-mentioned Council Regulation and as host of the Joint Technical Secretariat for the operational management of the programme (Memorandum of Understanding). The responsibilities of the IB have already been stated in Chapter 3.1. More precise rules for

the services, rights and duties of the IB shall be laid down in agreements between the EU Member States and the IB.

Pursuant to Art. 38 (1) of the Structural Funds Regulation Member States shall take responsibility in the first instance for the financial control of assistance. Each Member State bears the possible financial consequences of irregularities committed by the partners and participants located on its national territory, even for the partners and participants of projects financed by other INTERREG III C zones.⁶ Among other things the measures the Member States take shall include recovering any amounts lost as a result of an irregularity detected. In such cases it may happen that the Member State has to reimburse the Community funds if it is impossible to get the funds back from the final beneficiary.

The IB is regularly audited and controlled by the Ministry of Finance and Energy as well as by the Court of Auditors ("Landesrechnungshof") of the Land Schleswig-Holstein. The certified accountant responsible for the auditing of the IB will check the compliance of the management and control systems of the Community Initiative Programme "INTERREG III C North Zone" with the relevant rules, in particular Chapter IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001. More precise rules for the auditing rights shall be laid down in agreements between the EU Member States and the IB.

Taking into account that neither the IB nor the Federal Republic of Germany as host country of the MA/PA has the competence to check the proper utilisation of the Community funds on the territory of other EU Member States, the EU Member States shall take the necessary measures to control the utilisation of the funds on their territory as well as to prevent and to take action against irregularities. The results of their actions shall be reported in sufficient detail to the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Scharnhorststraße 34-37, D-10115 Berlin, Germany.

Sample checks on operations according to Chapter IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001 will be carried out at even intervals, spread over the years 2003 to 2008. The basis for the selection of projects checked will be a risk analysis. Based on this risk analysis, a representative sample of approved projects will be selected every second year by a Task Force, composed of the representatives of the Member States and authorised by the Monitoring Committee. The method for selecting projects for sample checks will be described in more detail in a special agreement between the 15 Member States. The

⁶ Concerning financial liability, the Member States responsible for this programme favour the solution described here. They are aware that the precondition for this solution is that the other Zones adapt the same approach. At the time this programme is being submitted to the Commission, the other Zones did not yet confirm the solution proposed here.

sample checks on operations will be carried out by the authorities mentioned in Annex D as far as concerns the national territory of the respective Member State.

The checks on operations will proceed under the responsibility of the appropriate authority, in the country, in which the lead partner has its seat. The reports of the sample checks will be sent via the Joint Technical Secretariat to the department designated to issue declarations on winding-up of the assistance.

Irregularities will be communicated to OLAF.

Declarations on winding-up of the assistance according to Chapter V of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001 will be issued by the

Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
Scharnhorststraße 34-37
D-10115 Berlin
Germany

Contact Person:

Mr. Axel Senftleben

Phone: + 49 1888 615-7120

Fax: + 49 1888 615-7019

E-mail: Senftleben@bmwi.bund.de

3.4 Monitoring and evaluation

3.4.1 Information flow

The Lead Partners will submit a project activity report and a financial report every six months. These reports will be the central source for the Joint Technical Secretariat / Paying Authority to monitor project implementation. The Lead Partners are responsible for co-ordinating the overall project including all partners.

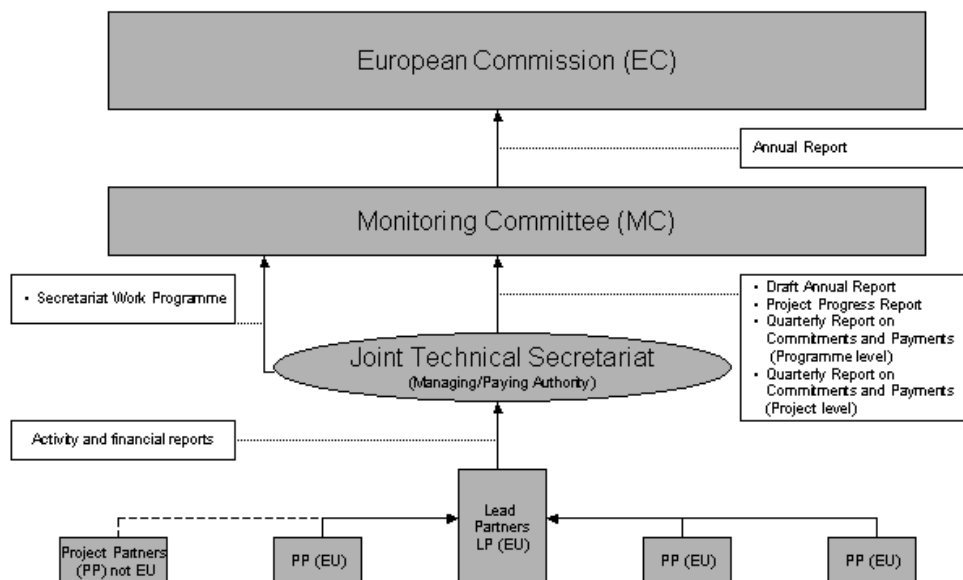
The Joint Technical Secretariat / Paying Authority will provide all relevant information to the Member States to ensure a proper implementation of the programme:

1. For monitoring of progress of projects, the Joint Technical Secretariat / Paying Authority shall provide a project progress report to the Monitoring Committee on a regular basis;

2. On quarterly basis, the Joint Technical Secretariat / Paying Authority has to report to the Monitoring Committee on commitments and payments at programme level as well as at project level;
3. Furthermore, the Joint Technical Secretariat / Paying Authority will draft the annual report to be submitted to the European Commission by the Managing Authority (Council Regulation (EC) 1620/1999, Art 37). The annual report is to be drawn up following the requirements set by the EC. The chairman of the Monitoring Committee will forward the final annual report to the EC;
4. Twice a year, the Monitoring Committee will receive the Joint Technical Secretariat's work plan for approval.

At this stage, it will not be required to present quantified monitoring indicators. These indicators (including environmental indicators) will, however, have to be developed when a sufficient number of applications have been approved and in any case will have to be provided in the annual report in accordance with the Annex B of INTERREG III C Communication.

Information flow chart



3.4.2 Database

As stipulated in the Structural Funds Regulation, Art 23 c, for management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme, computerised systems have to be installed, operated and interconnected. This data base system has to meet special requirements. The database should be prepared for the input and the processing of the following data at project level as well as at project partner level:

- Project number, title, priority and measure
- Result of application assessment
- Approval date, contracting date, starting date and duration of the project
- Eligible expenditure and ERDF co-financing for the project
- Address information of the Lead Partner and all other project partners including name and address of the institution and the contact person, telephone, fax, e-mail and objective area
- Bank account information of the Lead Partner

Furthermore the database must be prepared for the input and processing of information received by the Lead Partner's activity and financial reports:

- boxes to monitor the deadlines for the delivering of reports
- for each report an individual input sheet for the assessment of the reported activities and the reported expenditure in the individual budget lines;
- automatic calculation of the cumulated used budget and indication of exceeded budget lines;
- Information of transferred payments.

To support the Joint Technical Secretariat in meeting its monitoring and reporting duties, the database has to deliver the following data report sheets:

- Commitments and payments on programme level
- Commitments and payments on project level (project by project and project by measure)
- Reporting status
- Project budget overview
- Activity and financial report overview

- Financial status of project and project partner.

The database provides the form and content of accounting information as requested in Article 18 and Annex IV of Commission regulation (EC) No 438/2001. Also use will be made of the code given for the "Classification of Areas of Intervention" as described in the above mentioned Annex IV.

In order to transfer computer files to the Commission, the administration system of the database will have the ability to create interface files in accordance with Article 18 and no. 1.2. of the Annex V of the Commission regulation (EC) No 438/2001 of 2 March 2001. The computer files will be provided in the preferred standard for the compilation of an extract as given in no. 2 of the already mentioned Annex V.

3.4.3 Evaluation

The programme will be subject of a mid-term evaluation in accordance with Article 42 of the Structural Funds Regulation. An independent expert will be appointed to examine the implementation of the programme against its rationale, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The mid-term evaluation will start with taking stock of the initial results of the programme, their relevance and the extent to which these results are in line with the Programme objectives. It will assess the adequacy of the system for the financial management and administration. The evaluation will provide recommendations for the remainder of the programme.

The Secretariat will provide the evaluator with the required information and make sure that he or she can use all available information, e.g. from the monitoring and Annual Implementation Reports. The results of the evaluation will be forwarded to all members of the co-operation structure and the Commission. The Monitoring Committee will discuss and comment all recommendations of the evaluator. It will decide on the necessity of reprogramming, including reallocation of funding.

Having in mind the fact that the eligible area is the same for all four INTERREG III C-programmes, there is a strong argument that a good co-ordination of the evaluations makes sense. The Monitoring Committee will be responsible to try to co-ordinate its evaluation efforts, in terms of terms of reference, etc. as good as possible with the other zones.

In Compliance with Art.43 of the Structural Funds Regulation, the ex-post evaluation is the responsibility of the Commission together with the Member States and the Managing Authority. It will also be carried out by an independent evaluator.

3.5 Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance will be spent on activities necessary for the effective and smooth management and implementation of the programme. An important element for this is a competent and efficient day-to-day work that holds together the flow of information between the bodies involved, prepares the decision making properly, oversees the information collected and its use in the programme management. To fulfil these tasks, a highly skilled and professional Joint Technical Secretariat is needed.

Besides the information and advice given to potential applicants, a broader dissemination of the achievements of this programme is foreseen under the Plan for information and publicity. Activities necessary to do so are also part of the TA.

External advice may be needed to assist the gathering and processing of data, implementing a computerised management system, and so on. Additional advice may be necessary on specific questions of managing a programme to assist international co-operation, concerning e.g. the development of projects and drafting of the legal documents that form the basis for the organisational framework of the co-operation projects.

Another element that will need spending of the TA budget is the tasks of evaluation.

The rate of ERDF - assistance for Technical Assistance will be 50%.

Breakdown of the TA budget

Calculation TA Budget			
	Total	Co-financing ERDF	% of Total IR III C NZ ERDF
A. Expenditure for Management, Implementation, Monitoring and Control			
A. Total	2,325,100	1,162,550	4.06%
B. Other Expenditure			
B. Total	120,000	60,000	0.21%
A. + B. Total	2,445,100	1,222,550	4.27%

3.6 Interplay with other programme-zones

The eligibility of projects with partners from all over Europe leads to projects that overlap different programming zones. A minimum co-ordination on programme level is inevitable and needs to be foreseen concerning selection criteria, financial control, rate of assistance, eligibility, monitoring and evaluation.

The Joint Technical Secretariat will keep the contact to the Secretariats of the other zones. The Monitoring Committee will furthermore nominate a person who will act as representative of the zone in cases where a detailed agreement on co-ordination needs to be developed.

For measures on co-ordination of financial responsibility see section 3.3.2.

3.7 Coherence with EU policies

The activities of INTERREG III C focus on issues being part of other Structural Funds programmes. This coherence with structural funds is a core element of this programme and guarantees that the activities are in line with EU-policies in content (as given in item 25 of the III C Communication). It will be one of the central tasks of the evaluations of this programme to analyse the value-added in terms of the EU-policies, including the horizontal policies like environment and equal opportunities.

The Member States confirm that any state aid that might be provided under this programme will either be in conformity with the de minimis rule or with aid schemes implemented under one of the block exemption regulations or other exemption regulations or will be notified to the Commission in accordance with notification rules. Especially the following regulations will be observed: Commission regulation (EC) No. 68/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to training aid, Commission regulation (EC) No. 69/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to de minimis aid, Commission regulation (EC) No 70/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Art. 87 and 88 of the EC treaty to state aid to small and medium-sized enterprises, all of them published in the Official Journal L 10, 13.1.2001.

To avoid double funding of measures, which could be eligible under the INTERREG as well as under the LEADER+ or the rural development scheme, the same institutions should be involved for advising and approving project applications. In case of any support of projects falling in the scope of agriculture the Common Agricultural Policy, in particular the Regulation (EC) No. 1257/1999 has to be respected. Also the Community Guidelines for State Aid in the Agricultural Sector (2000/C28/02) do apply, meaning that only projects in the frame of approved state aids could be supported. New state aids have to be notified and approved by the Commission. The above mentioned Community Guidelines do not apply for projects concerning diversification of agricultural activities pursuant to article 33 of Regulation (EC) No. 1257/1999, which are not related to "Annex 1 of the Treaty", like projects concerning rural tourism or creation of craft activities. These projects are supported only in the frame of the "de minimis rule" block exemption regulation."

To be eligible for funding, projects under this programme must take into account equal opportunities for men and women, must contribute towards sustainable development and be coherent with the objectives of protection and improvement of the environment foreseen by the Treaty and EU legislation.

3.8 Plan for information and publicity

With regards to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 on information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning assistance to the Structural Funds, a communications action plan will be implemented under the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The communications action plan will include the information and publicity measures to be carried out in the framework of the CIP covering the overall programme period.

As INTERREG III C opens the funding by ERDF to a new field of activity one can not rely to the same degree as in already established programmes on project promoters experience with the development of applications. Instead it is likely to be necessary to provide for assistance and support to those developing projects. The support under this programme comprises the following elements:

- The stakeholders of this programme will take care of spreading the information on the funding to potential applicants through their networks of national and regional authorities involved in regional policy and Structural Funds operations;
- The Joint Technical Secretariat will establish a website specifically tailored to the needs of potential applicants from the North Zone but in close co-operation with all the other four zones. The website will be the main source of information. All documents included in the applicants' pack will be published there. In the course of implementation, the website will be constantly extended and kept updated;
- The Joint Technical Secretariat will spread information by printing leaflets and brochures, which will be distributed at public events;
- The Joint Technical Secretariat will assist the implementation of information events for potential applicants at the whole eligible territory.

3.9 Financing of Action

3.9.1 Indicative financing

The total budget for the EU part of the North Zone programme is 48,090,850 EUR, of which 28,610,000 EUR (including indexation for 2000-2003) is EU-financing from the ERDF. 19,480,850 EUR is national financing from the Member States, including an amount of 912,915 EUR from private actors.

The contribution from the ERDF shall be calculated in relation to the total eligible expenditure, which has been calculated as 48,090,850 EUR. The average ERDF co-funding rate for operations is 60.0 %. The main rule for the co-financing of operations is 50%. In order to encourage participation from the Objective 1 areas, ERDF co-funding rates of up to a maximum of 75% of eligible expenditure can be applied. No indicative allocation of funds is made for the Objective 1 areas. The ERDF co-financing of Technical Assistance will be 50.0% for all regions. The budget for technical assistance in general and especially the Joint Technical Secretariat is based on what can be foreseen now. Changed prerequisites might occur in the coming years and the mid-term evaluation will be an important point to decide on eventually needed changes in the level of technical assistance. The member-states will contribute to the technical assistance budget in proportion to their indicative share of total ERDF funding.

The programme is intended to not only cover the EU Member States but also neighbouring Non-Member States. Basically, financing for the participation of Non-Member States will have to come from sources other than EU Structural Funds. However, travel and subsistence expenses of project partners from outside the European Union can be eligible costs for a project when the meeting or seminar takes place in the European Union and is part of an approved project.

Norway and the other Non-Member States are invited to participate in the INTERREG III C North Zone programme in the same way, as they are already involved in the BSR INTERREG III B programme. At this stage, it is not possible to define exactly the amounts allocated from these programmes to match INTERREG III C North Zone. However, Norway has already indicated to participate with 6 Mil Euro of national and regional funds. The allocation of PHARE, Tacis and other funds is unknown yet.

The Strand C – co-ordination actions described in chapter 2.2.6 consist of 2,000,000 EUR ERDF funds and 222,222 EUR of national funds, totalling to 2,222,222 EUR.

Concerning the operations on border regions with the candidate countries described under 2.2.7 the total budget sums up to an amount of 3,205,714 EUR. The ERDF contribution is 2,200,000 EUR; the amount of national co-financing is 1,005,714 EUR, including 44,784 EUR from private actors. The ERDF contribution is based on the total eligible expenditure. Project partners from the Objective 1 areas can apply for an ERDF co-financing rate of up to 75 % of eligible expenditure. For project partners in other areas the maximum ERDF co-financing is 50 % of the eligible expenditure. The average indicated ERDF co-financing rate for operations shall be 70 %. For Technical Assistance of the operations on border regions the ERDF co-financing rate will be 50 % for all regions. As for the INTERREG III C operations, the budget is based on what can be foreseen now. The regions as mentioned in chapter 2.2.7 will contribute to the technical assistance budget in shares based upon the population in the border region.⁷

⁷ This has still to be confirmed by the respective regions.

3.9.2 Financial table (EUR)

Priority	Total eligible expenditure					Norway	Third countries (not decided yet)
	Total costs	Public expenditure			Private ⁸		
		Total public elig. cost	ERDF ⁹	National, regional or local			
1	2=3+6	3=4+5	4	5	6	7	8
Operations	45,645,750	44,732,835	27,387,450	17,345,385	912,915	5,700,000	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	6,752,123	6,617,081	4,051,274	2,565,807	135,042	950,000	
2002	7,790,932	7,635,113	4,674,559	2,960,554	155,819	950,000	
2003	7,727,113	7,572,571	4,636,268	2,936,303	154,542	950,000	
2004	7,800,302	7,644,296	4,680,181	2,964,115	156,006	950,000	
2005	7,800,302	7,644,296	4,680,181	2,964,115	156,006	950,000	
2006	7,774,978	7,619,478	4,664,987	2,954,491	155,500	950,000	
Technical assistance	2,445,100	2,445,100	1,222,550	1,222,550	0	300,000	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	361,690	361,690	180,845	180,845	0	50,000	
2002	417,336	417,336	208,668	208,668	0	50,000	
2003	413,918	413,918	206,959	206,959	0	50,000	
2004	417,838	417,838	208,919	208,919	0	50,000	
2005	417,838	417,838	208,919	208,919	0	50,000	
2006	416,480	416,480	208,240	208,240	0	50,000	
Total	48,090,850	47,177,935	28,610,000	18,567,935	912,915	6,000,000	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	7,113,813	6,978,771	4,232,119	2,746,652	135,042	1,000,000	
2002	8,208,268	8,052,449	4,883,227	3,169,222	155,819	1,000,000	
2003	8,141,031	7,986,489	4,843,227	3,143,262	154,542	1,000,000	
2004	8,218,140	8,062,134	4,889,100	3,173,034	156,006	1,000,000	
2005	8,218,140	8,062,134	4,889,100	3,173,034	156,006	1,000,000	
2006	8,191,458	8,035,958	4,873,227	3,162,731	155,500	1,000,000	

⁸ The indicative financial contribution from private actors is difficult to estimate in advance. If the indicative 5 % private contribution is not realised, the Member States will guarantee the total national co-financing from public resources.

⁹ The average co-financing rate for operations in INTRREG III C North Zone is calculated with 60 % since partners and participants in Objective 1 areas can apply for ERDF co-funding rates of up to a maximum of 75 %.

Priority	Total eligible expenditure					Norway	Third countries (not decided yet)
	Total costs	Public expenditure			Private ¹⁰		
		Total public elig. cost	ERDF ¹¹	National, regional or local			
1	2=3+6	3=4+5	4	5	6	7	8
Other priorities							
Strand C Co-operation (see chapter 2.2.6 of this programme)							
	2,222,222	2,222,222	2,000,000	222,222			
2001	555,555	555,555	500,000	55,555			
2002	1,666,667	1,666,667	1,500,000	166,667			
Border regions operations (see chapter 2.2.7 of this programme)							
	2,985,714	2,940,930	2,090,000	850,930	44,784	0	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2002	597,142	588,186	418,000	170,186	8,956	0	
2003	597,143	588,186	418,000	170,186	8,957	0	
2004	597,143	588,186	418,000	170,186	8,957	0	
2005	597,143	588,186	418,000	170,186	8,957	0	
2006	597,143	588,186	418,000	170,186	8,957	0	
Technical assistance	220,000	220,000	110,000	110,000	0	0	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2002	44,000	44,000	22,000	22,000	0	0	
2003	44,000	44,000	22,000	22,000	0	0	
2004	44,000	44,000	22,000	22,000	0	0	
2005	44,000	44,000	22,000	22,000	0	0	
2006	44,000	44,000	22,000	22,000	0	0	
Total	3,205,714	3,160,930	2,200,000	960,930	44,784	0	
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2002	641,142	632,186	440,000	192,186	8,956	0	
2003	641,143	632,186	440,000	192,186	8,957	0	
2004	641,143	632,186	440,000	192,186	8,957	0	
2005	641,143	632,186	440,000	192,186	8,957	0	
2006	641,143	632,186	440,000	192,186	8,957	0	

¹⁰ The indicative financial contribution from private actors is difficult to estimate in advance. If the indicative 5 % private contribution is not realised, the Member States will guarantee the total national co-financing from public resources.

¹¹ The average co financing rate for the priority border regions is calculated with 70 % since partners in Objective 1 areas can apply for ERDF co-funding rates of up to a maximum of 75 %.

Annexes:

- A: Information to be provided in proposals for a regional framework operation**
- B: Definition of regions**
- C: Programming Area - North Zone**
- D: Bodies responsible for the financial control of Interreg III C-operations**

Annex A: Information to be provided in proposals for a regional framework operation

Regional framework operation proposals should contain the following information to help the Programme Monitoring Committee decide on a contribution from the ERDF budget for a regional framework operation. Proposals should not exceed 20-25 pages as a rule and should be submitted by the region being the lead partner.

Introduction

A brief description of the regions, identifying their particular strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and threats to development.

Content

A description of the proposed operation, its scope including geographic coverage, its specific aims, its duration and the composition of the partnership involved in preparing the regional framework operation proposal.

- Objectives and expected results (quantified if possible),
- a description of the interregional strategy to promote cooperation targeting a limited number of subjects,
- the subjects for cooperation,
- a description of the types of projects to be funded (studies, pilot projects, strategic planning, participation in networks, etc.),
- the number of partners and other participants,
- the division of financing among regions (not more than 40% for the lead partner) and the justification for the division and the total budget,
- a detailed work plan and timetable for the implementation of the operation,
- a description of the potential influence of the regional framework operation on other structural funds programmes co-financed by the ERDF,
- compatibility and synergy with other Community policies,
- indicative project selection criteria,

- procedures and conditions for applications by potential beneficiaries,
- main target groups.

Management and implementation

This section should include arrangements for cooperation between the regional authorities responsible for the preparation and implementation of the proposal and the managing authorities for other structural funds programmes co-financed by the ERDF.

- Lead partner to be designated by the partners as the managing body for the operation,
- the composition of the Steering Committee which oversees the implementation and monitoring of the operation, including the selection of projects,
- a description of the implementation system,
- a description of the financial system,
- a description of the control system,
- practical arrangements for exchange of information and cooperation between the partners,
- monitoring and evaluation provisions.

Financing plan

- Total cost: the ERDF contribution and public and private contributions broken down by the subjects to be covered by the operation,
- rate(s) of assistance envisaged for actions (broken down by Objective 1, Objective 2 and non-objective areas where different rates of assistance are used).

Partnership

- Description of the consultation procedure at the operation drafting stage.

Information and promotion

- A description of publicity and information activities to promote the operation.

Annex B: Definition of Regions

The list given here comprises the definition of territorial units forming a region eligible to present a Regional Framework Operation under this programme.

Regional authorities at a geographically lower level can present a RFO – and thus be partners in such a RFO - to the MA on behalf of the region defined in following list.¹² This list includes not only the countries of this programme, but all Member States. Regions belonging to the North Zone are marked.

Country	Name	NUTS level	Objective (including phasing out)
BE	BELGIQUE-BELGIË	P000	
BE1	REG. BRUXELLES-CAP. / BRUSSELS HFDST. GEW.	0123	02
BE2	VLAAMS GEWEST	0100	02
BE3	RÉGION WALLONNE	0100	01 and 02
DK	DENMARK	P120	
DK 1	Jylland - Fyn		02
DK 2	Hovedstadsregionen		02
DK 3	Vestsjællands, Storstrøms og Bornholms Amter		02
DE	DEUTSCHLAND	P000	
DE1	BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG	0100	02
DE2	BAYERN	0100	02
DE3	BERLIN	0120	01 and 02
DE4	BRANDENBURG	0120	01
DE5	BREMEN	0120	02
DE6	HAMBURG	0123	02
DE7	HESSEN	0100	02
DE8	MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN	0120	01
DE9	NIEDERSACHSEN	0100	02
DEA	NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	0100	02
DEB	RHEINLAND-PFALZ	0100	02
DEC	SAARLAND	0120	02
DED	SACHSEN	0100	01
DEE	SACHSEN-ANHALT	0100	01
DEF	SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	0120	02
DEG	THÜRINGEN	0120	01
GR	ELLADA	P000	
GR11	ANATOLIKI MAKEDONIA, THRAKI	0020	01
GR12	KENTRIKI MAKEDONIA	0020	01
GR13	DYTIKI MAKEDONIA	0020	01
GR14	THESSALIA	0020	01
GR21	IPEIROS	0020	01

¹² Given that a region before the midterm review should only participate in two RFO's, a regional authority at a geographically lower level can present a RFO only with the acceptance of the whole region.

GR22	IONIA NISIA	0020	01
GR23	DYTIKI ELLADA	0020	01
GR24	STEREA ELLADA	0020	01
GR25	PELOPONNISOS	0020	01
GR3	ATTIKI	0123	01
GR41	VOREIO AIGAIO	0020	01
GR42	NOTIO AIGAIO	0020	01
GR43	KRITI	0020	01
ES	ESPAÑA	P000	
ES11	GALICIA	0020	01
ES12	PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS	0023	01
ES13	CANTABRIA	0023	01
ES21	PAIS VASCO	0020	02
ES22	COMUNIDAD FORAL DE NAVARRA	0023	02
ES23	LA RIOJA	0023	02
ES24	ARAGÓN	0020	02
ES3	COMUNIDAD DE MADRID	0123	02
ES41	CASTILLA Y LEÓN	0020	01
ES42	CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	0020	01
ES43	EXTREMADURA	0020	01
ES51	CATALUÑA	0020	02
ES52	COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	0020	01
ES53	ISLAS BALEARES	0023	02
ES61	ANDALUCÍA	0020	01
ES62	REGIÓN DE MURCIA	0023	01
ES63	CEUTA	0020	01
ES63	MELILLA	0020	01
ES7	CANARIAS	0120	01
FR	FRANCE	P000	
FR1	ÎLE DE FRANCE	0120	02
FR21	CHAMPAGNE-ARDENNE	0020	02
FR22	PICARDIE	0020	02
FR23	HAUTE-NORMANDIE	0020	02
FR24	CENTRE	0020	02
FR25	BASSE-NORMANDIE	0020	02
FR26	BOURGOGNE	0020	02
FR3	NORD - PAS-DE-CALAIS	0120	01 and 02
FR41	LORRAINE	0020	02
FR42	ALSACE	0020	02
FR43	FRANCHE-COMTÉ	0020	02
FR51	PAYS DE LA LOIRE	0020	02
FR52	BRETAGNE	0020	02
FR53	POITOU-CHARENTES	0020	02
FR61	AQUITAINE	0020	02
FR62	MIDI-PYRÉNÉES	0020	02
FR63	LIMOUSIN	0020	02
FR71	RHÔNE-ALPES	0020	02
FR72	AUVERGNE	0020	02

FR81	LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON	0020	02
FR82	PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR	0020	02
FR83	CORSE	0020	01
FR91	GUADELOUPE	0023	01
FR92	MARTINIQUE	0023	01
FR93	GUYANE	0023	01
FR94	RÉUNION	0023	01
IE	IRELAND	P000	
IE01	BORDER, MIDLAND AND WESTERN	0020	01
IE02	SOUTHERN AND EASTERN	0020	01
IT	ITALIA	P000	
IT11	PIEMONTE	0020	02
IT12	VALLE D'AOSTA	0023	02
IT13	LIGURIA	0020	02
IT2	LOMBARDIA	0120	02
IT31	TRENTINO	0020	02
IT31	ALTO ADIGE	0020	02
IT32	VENETO	0020	02
IT33	FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA	0020	02
IT4	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	0120	02
IT51	TOSCANA	0020	02
IT52	UMBRIA	0020	02
IT53	MARCHE	0020	02
IT6	LAZIO	0120	02
IT71	ABRUZZO	0020	02
IT72	MOLISE	0020	01
IT8	CAMPANIA	0120	01
IT91	PUGLIA	0020	01
IT92	BASILICATA	0020	01
IT93	CALABRIA	0020	01
ITA	SICILIA	0120	01
ITB	SARDEGNA	0120	01
LU	LUXEMBOURG (GRAND-DUCHÉ)	P123	02
NL	NEDERLAND	P000	
NL11	GRONINGEN	0020	02
NL12	FRIESLAND	0020	02
NL13	DRENTHE	0020	02
NL21	OVERIJSEL	0020	02
NL22	GELDERLAND	0020	02
NL23	FLEVOLAND	0023	01
NL31	UTRECHT	0023	02
NL32	NOORD-HOLLAND	0020	02
NL33	ZUID-HOLLAND	0020	02
NL34	ZEELAND	0020	02
NL41	NOORD-BRABANT	0020	02
NL42	LIMBURG (NL)	0020	02
AT	ÖSTERREICH	P000	
AT11	BURGENLAND	0020	01

AT12	NIEDERÖSTERREICH	0020	02
AT13	WIEN	0023	02
AT21	KÄRNTEN	0020	02
AT22	STEIERMARK	0020	02
AT31	OBERÖSTERREICH	0020	02
AT32	SALZBURG	0020	02
AT33	TIROL	0020	02
AT34	VORARLBERG	0020	02
PT	PORTUGAL	P000	
PT11	NORTE	0020	01
PT12	CENTRO (P)	0020	01
PT13	LISBOA E VALE DO TEJO	0020	01
PT14	ALENTEJO	0020	01
PT15	ALGARVE	0023	01
PT2	AÇORES	0123	01
PT3	MADEIRA	0123	01
FI	SUOMI/FINLAND	P000	
FI13	ITÄ-SUOMI	0020	01 and 02
FI14	LÄNSI-SUOMI	0020	01 and 02
FI15	POHJOIS-SUOMI	0020	01 and 02
FI17	ETELÄ-SUOMI	0020	02
FI2	AHVENANMAA/ÅLAND	0123	02
SE	SVERIGE	P100	
SE01	STOCKHOLM	0020	02
SE02	ÖSTRA MELLANSVERIGE	0020	02
SE04	SYDSVERIGE	0020	02
SE06	NORRA MELLANSVERIGE	0020	01 and 02
SE07	MELLERSTA NORRLAND	0020	01 and 02
SE08	ÖVRE NORRLAND	0020	01 and 02
SE09	SMÅLAND MED ÖARNA	0020	02
SE0A	VÄSTSVRIGE	0020	02
UK	UNITED KINGDOM	P000	
UKC	NORTH EAST	0100	02
UKD	NORTH WEST (INC. MERSEYSIDE)	0100	01 and 02
UKE	YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER	0100	01 and 02
UKF	EAST MIDLANDS	0100	02
UKG	WEST MIDLANDS	0100	02
UKH	EASTERN	0100	02
UKI	LONDON	0100	02
UKJ	SOUTH EAST	0100	02
UKK	SOUTH WEST	0100	01 and 02
UKL	WALES	0100	01 and 02
UKM	SCOTLAND	0100	01 and 02
UKN	NORTHERN IRELAND	0120	01
UK	GIBRALTAR		02

Annex C: Programming Area - North Zone

Member State	Eligible areas
Denmark	Whole country
Finland	Whole country
Germany	Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Sweden	Whole country

Annex D: Bodies responsible for the financial control of Interreg III C-operations

The following bodies are nominated as responsible for the financial control of all III C-operations in the territory of the EU Member States:

- **Austria:** to be submitted later;
- **Belgium:** to be submitted later;
- **Denmark:** Danish Agency for Trade and Industry;
- **Finland:** Ministry of the Interior;
- **France:** to be submitted later;
- **Germany:** Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle;
- **Greece:** to be submitted later;
- **Ireland:** to be submitted later;
- **Italy:** to be submitted later;
- **Luxembourg:** Inspection Générale des Finances (IGF) – Ministère des Finances;
- **Netherlands:** to be submitted later;
- **Spain:** to be submitted later;
- **Sweden:** Swedish Business Development Agency (Nutek);
- **Portugal:** to be submitted later;
- **UK:** to be submitted later.