



HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2

WHAT'S NEW IN BRUSSELS

Czech Regional Operational Programmes for Structural Funds 2007-13 launched

PAGE 3

WHAT'S NEW IN BRUSSELS

Communication campaign of EC on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

PAGE 4

FOCUS ON EU PROGRAMMES

SF 2007-13: Guide on best practices and successful projects. This time we deal about best technologies

PAGE 5

SHORTS FROM BRUSSELS

Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the tender for internet portal of the Czech Presidency

PAGE 6

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

PAGE 7

VACANCIES IN EUROPE

Don't forget to have a look at our calendar of EU events and at the vacancies currently published by the EC

Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

As a Christmas gift to all of us, the European Commission has finalised the procedure for the approval of the Regional Operational Programmes for the Structural Funds 2007-13 in Czech Republic.

This is for sure a positive news, as we can now count on the imminent starting up of the disbursement of a consistent flow of fresh funds from Brussels to the national and regional authorities.

In synthesis, the budget of the Regional Operational Programme for Central Moravia is assigned to three priority axes, namely the basic infrastructures for the transport sector (and here especially to the local road network), to the restructuring and development of urban areas, including the medium and rural municipalities, the promotion of the tourism sector, with direct helps to hotels, spa resorts and sport facilities.

An important effort has been made by the Region, with the assistance of the Representative Office in Brussels, to negotiate with the European Commission a specific budget also for the realisation of an efficient regional airport, even if there was a strong competition with the air terminals in Ostrava and Brno.

The responsibility for the distribution of the funds is now in the hands of the Regional Council of Central Moravia, that is presently preparing the documents for the future calls for the project proposals.

We can reasonably expect that those calls will be published at the beginning of next year, lest's say in between February and March 2008. After then, the Regional Council will manage the requests for the project financing and proceed to the evaluations and payments of the grants.

It will be thus up to us to profit of this unique opportunity coming from Europe for the development of our Regional economy.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels

WHAT'S NEW IN BRUSSELS?

The Czech Republic will benefit from investment worth € 23 billion from the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund for 2007-2013.



"I firmly believe that the Czech regions will quickly master their new role in being directly responsible for managing EU funds and grasp the huge opportunities available", declared Mrs. Danuta Hubner, EC Commissioner responsible for the Regional Policy.

Czech Regional Operational Programmes for 2007-13 have been launched

On the 5th of December 2007, Mrs. Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, announced the adoption of eight operational programmes to be implemented in the Czech Republic over the 2007-2013 programming period.

Together, they represent more than € 7.6 billion of investment from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). A further six ERDF and Cohesion Fund programmes will be approved shortly, making a total of €23 billion to improve conditions for economic growth and welfare.

The eight operational programmes announced by Mrs. Hubner will be followed by a further six, making a total of 14. In addition, € 3.7 billion has been made available from the European Social Fund for three programmes on human resources, already adopted.

Commissioner Hubner welcomed the emphasis that the Czech Operational Programmes put on boosting jobs and growth and appreciated that the Czech Republic has earmarked 93% of investment available for the Enterprise and Innovation programme in the key Lisbon objectives.

Information about the adopted programmes

- Enterprise and Innovation: € 3.04 billion for setting up and developing companies, improving their innovative potential, use of modern technologies and renewable energy resources, improving infrastructure and services for business, and building cooperation between companies and research institutions. This programme applies to the entire country.
- Central Bohemia: € 559 million for transport, tourism and integrated development of the territory, including the modernisation and redevelopment of public services infrastructure.
- Northeast: € 656 million for three regions, Liberecký, Kralovohradecký and Pardubický. The programme comprises transport infrastructure, tourism, development of urban and rural areas, as well as development of entrepreneurship.
- Southeast: € 704 million for Vysočina and Jihomoravský. This programme aims to improve accessibility with better transport, and to boost tourism and sustainable development in both urban and rural areas.
- Northwest: € 746 million for Karlovarský and Ústecký. The priorities are regeneration of towns, support for local development, transport accessibility and tourism.
- Southwest: € 619 million for Jihočeský and Plzeňský. Regional authorities will concentrate on improving accessibility of urban centres, development of urban and rural areas and tourism, for instance, by promoting the use of the Information and Communication technologies in the tourism industry.
- Central Moravia: € 657 million for Olomoucký and Zlínský. This will be invested in transport, tourism and development through improving the quality of the education, social and health care infrastructure.
- Moravia Silesia: €716 million. This region is a traditional black coal producer. Priorities include regeneration of brownfield sites, regional infrastructure, urban and rural development.

Regional Councils of Cohesion Regions have been designated as the Managing Authorities for the Czech Republic's regional operational programmes under the new decentralised management system, which ensures EU programmes are tailor-made for each individual region.

Further information on the Common regional policy and the Czech Regional Operational Programmes is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

<http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/>

2008: European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and its communication campaign

On 4 December 2007, the European Commission launched the communication campaign for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 with the slogan 'Together in Diversity'. The event also saw the inauguration of the website www.dialogue2008.eu. The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Training and Youth, Ján Figel', was joined by 'European Ambassadors for Intercultural Dialogue', famous personalities of the cultural scene in Europe and beyond. The event was animated by the presence of Brussels school pupils from a variety of ethnic backgrounds as a joint expression of the benefits of diversity on the eve of 2008.

Contributing to mutual understanding and better living together

The Intercultural Year will explore the benefits of cultural diversity, active civic participation in European affairs and seek to foster a sense of European belonging. It is a joint initiative of the European Union, the Member States and European civil society. The Year has been allocated a EUR 10 million budget, supporting the information campaign, surveys and studies on intercultural dialogue, the co-financing of the seven flagship European projects and 27 national projects – one per each member state - on intercultural dialogue across the EU.

On the eve of the campaign launch, the Commissioner Ján Figel' said: "Europe clearly faces significant challenges that have their roots in intercultural relations. The European Year 2008 gives us a valuable opportunity to explore ways to improve our intercultural dialogue, and our intercultural relations. This may seem to be an extremely difficult task. But 50 years ago the idea of bringing our continent's diverse populations together under one umbrella, the European Union, also seemed to be beyond reach. Now we can see the achievement of the European Union, and its remarkable success in uniting Europe's countries. Therefore, we can and should face up to the challenges of our continent's cultural and religious mix. That is why we have chosen the slogan 'Together in diversity' for the Year."

Present at the event were the promoters and representatives of the seven flagship projects which were recently selected to receive Community funding support following an open call for proposals earlier this year. The projects covered the areas of urban culture, popular arts, participation of young people, migration, media, exchange of local initiatives, video project or activities of immigrant communities. All included participants from several member states. The results of the projects will be presented in the second half of the year.

The campaign website www.dialogue2008.eu, which has been developed together with civil society organizations, aims to promote a joint European space for intercultural dialogue. It includes a partner section, aimed at stimulating networking and exchanges of best practices at EU level. Already prior to the launch, it hosts more than 500 profiles of individuals and organisations working within the field of intercultural dialogue.

Establishing a foundation for sustained EU policy



The European Year 2008 is also an active expression of the impact of the new European agenda for culture in a globalizing world, in which promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are one of three key objectives. In this respect, among other activities, six Brussels debates (one every two months) will be organized during 2008. Each debate takes a specific sectoral view on intercultural dialogue, and will cover such topics as media, arts and heritage, the workplace, inter-religious dialogue, education and youth, migration and integration.

More information:
www.dialogue2008.eu

FOCUS ON EU PROGRAMMS



Special Section on Innovation

Within this section, you can find some examples of successful projects realized in the field of innovation. A good source of inspiration for new initiatives in the Region.

CASE 4 Mobile culture

Located in the most developed area of northern Finland, Oulu is the heart of a pole of excellence in mobile telecommunications, the source of a 'mobility culture' at the forefront of innovation. Given this context, it is scarcely surprising that successive meetings between the representatives of sector companies, the city of Oulu and educational and research institutes resulted, in 2002, in the Octopus project, with the aim of researching and developing mobile telecom applications and services.

Octopus is not just any network. It is different to commercial operators in that it is essentially what we can consider a 'closed' network of paying subscribers, to date numbering over 40 companies and institutions as well as many students. It is this that enables Octopus to offer its members — wherever they are located — the most advanced technological environment in which they benefit from the very latest research even before the applications are commercially available.

In this way, companies are able to create innovative products, researchers can explore new avenues and students can use real services rather than laboratory simulations.

Octopus project established a closed mobile phone operator environment where companies can test their new technology and equipment on a genuine network.



The cases presented in this special section, have been selected among those published by the EC in "Regions for Economic Change". The first sheet has been published in the edition of 31 of October 2007.

At the heart of the project is a platform for developing and experimenting with the latest generations of mobile systems. On this basis, Octopus provides its members with specialized support — expertise, advice, planning — that permits access in real situations to technological innovations within a national network in which thousands of terminals can connect up to the platform simultaneously. In return, members provide Octopus with their own skills in developing the project.

Octopus also runs a network open to partners and potential customers.

The principal partners are the constructor Nokia that provides the technology, the mobile operators TeliaSonera and Oulun Puhelin that provide online access, Oulu Polytechnic that provides technical support and training, Oulu Innovation Ltd that makes premises and equipment available to members and finally the city of Oulu, the Octopus managing authority.

By the time of the planned project completion (2004), Octopus had made it possible to develop a range of new applications, to extend the use of mobile technologies to sparsely populated regions in Finland's far north, to create dozens of permanent jobs and to train hundreds of students, contributing to the completion of 150 university or polytechnic theses. These were all good reasons to extend the project for a further two years in a more international context, at the end of which Octopus plans to set up as a company.

In the rapidly evolving sector of mobile telecommunications, Octopus stands out as a network with a unique ability to anticipate innovation by allowing its members to benefit from the latest technologies before they become commercially available.

Details of the project

Project: Octopus Network

Programme: Objective 2
Finland 2002–06

Total cost: EUR 1 830 428

EU contribution: EUR 709.000

Fund: EU Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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SHORTS FROM BRUSSELS

„The importance of the Internet communication rapidly raised in last years and it will be double stand during Czech Presidency of the EU in 2009. That is why we hurry up with the registration of the main web domain of Czech Presidency eu2009.cz,“ said Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs Alexandr Vondra.

The portal, or more precisely, his limited version containing information for journalist will be start up during November or December 2008 according to previous presidency practise. The full version will be launched 1st January 2009, so in the same day when the Czech republic take command after France.

Communication strategy of Czech Presidency: Tender for the Internet portal announced

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic initiated public procurement under the title „The portal of Czech Presidency of the Council to the European Union“ .

The subject of the tender is to conclude a contract for creation of the official portal of Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, granting of editorial system and his technical management and servicing, as well as hosting of the portal and user´s support for realization team during Presidency.

The websites will be available in Czech, English and French and their design will be fully agreeable with the unique visual style of Czech Presidency.

The public procurement was announced by Information System About Public Procurements www.isvzus.cz under the registration number VZ60013230 from 30th November 2007.

The offers should be sent by interested parties up to 21st January 2008, 12 a.m.

European Regional Champions Award at the Committee of the Regions

Secondary school: Združená stredná škola stavebná Prievidza (Joint Secondary School of Construction, Prievidza)

Country: Slovakia

Type of project: Program Leonardo da Vinci, Mobility measure

Subject of co-operation: Building/Construction

Description: The School is focusing students´ set-up (14-18 years old) in all construction professions. The Joint Secondary School of Construction has 55 years of history, 600 students and 88 employees. They participate to the international projects of Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, EURONach...

Among School partners: Saxony Education Institution (Dresden, Germany), CKP School (Poland), Secondary School specialized in Construction (Sumperk, Czech Republic).

The School is looking for partners to co-operate in mobility project of Leonardo da Vinci 2007-2013 with special focus on the field of construction.

Contact: Mr. Jozef Kobela, Schoolmaster

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The European enterprise awards 2007 has been assigned

Hand picked from a line-up of 48 projects, all competing for the EU's prestigious business awards, Bilbao's local development agency Lan Ekintza stood out as the most creative and inspiring initiative. Its strategy involves buying commercial properties, recruiting local unemployed people to renovate them and then auctioning them to viable start-up projects. Having created 129 small companies and 270 new jobs, the project got an extra thumbs up from judges for its potential as a sustainable model for urban regeneration.

Enterprise commissioner Günter Verheugen, presenting the awards in Porto on 6 December, hailed this year's projects as "highly innovative" and stressed the crucial role of local and regional public authorities in promoting entrepreneurship and creating favourable business environments.

On the occasion, other four more awards have been assigned, and notably the entrepreneurial trailblazer (were it was awarded a coaching project from Vejle, Denmark for ethnic entrepreneurs), the enterprise support award (that went to Luxembourg's 1,2,3,GO project, a network of experts and entrepreneurs that helps people with novel ideas develop successful business plans), the investment in people award for education and training in entrepreneurship (given to Cap'Ten from Wallonia, Belgium) and the responsible entrepreneurship award (assigned to Fabrica Ethica from Tuscany, Italy for its work promoting corporate social responsibility).

Calls for proposals

Agriculture	Financial support to information measures relating to the common agricultural policy Deadline: 30. 11. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:238:SOM:EN:HTML
Media 2007	Development, distribution and promotion of EU movies – Slate funding and individual projects (selective scheme) Deadline: 15. 11. 2007 / 15. 04. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:277:SOM:EN:HTML
Media 2007	Initiative i2i - Development of EU films Insurance for audiovisual production Deadline: 14. 01. 2008 / 07. 07. 2008 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:205:SOM:EN:HTML
Media 2007	Development, distribution and promotion of EU movies – Slate funding and individual projects (selective scheme) Deadline: 15. 11. 2007 / 15. 04. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:204:SOM:EN:HTML
Culture Program	Support for bodies and cultural actions, cooperation and networks Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:184:SOM:EN:HTML
CIP	Competitive & Innovation Program - Services for Business Innovation Deadline: February 2008 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:227:SOM:EN:HTML
Life Plus Program	Annual Call 2007 Innovation and environment protection Deadline: 30. 11. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:232:SOM:EN:HTML
FP7	Capacities Program – Development of research policies (OMC-NET) Deadline: 06. 03. 2008 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:245:SOM:EN:HTML
FP7	Cooperation Program – Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:288:SOM:EN:HTML
FP7	Cooperation Program – Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies and Production Technologies Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:288:SOM:EN:HTML
FP7	People Program – Support to researcher careers Deadline: 13. 03. 2008 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:275:SOM:EN:HTML



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CALENDAR

DECEMBER

5-6. 12. 2007

Animal Feeding non-OGM
International Conference
Committee of the Regions
Brussels, Belgium

10. 12. 2007

CEEP Project conference
Public services restructuring
and modernisation
European Economic and
Social Committee

14. 12. 2007

Kick-off meeting for the
Open Days 2007
Committee of the Regions
Brussels, Belgium

18. 12. 2007

20 years of the Erasmus
Programme
International Conference and
Celebrative Event
Committee of the Regions
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

European Investment Bank

• Internship Opportunities

Strategy and Corporate Centre – Information Technology

Vacancy notice: IN07WWW20

Grade: Stagiaires

Place of work: Luxembourg

Deadline: 10. 03. 2008

Info: <http://www.eib.org/about/jobs/index.htm>

European Investment Bank

• Internship Opportunities

Architecture Support Unit – Information Technology

Vacancy notice: IN07WWW22

Grade: Stagiaires

Place of work: Luxembourg

Deadline: 18. 12. 2007

Info: <http://www.eib.org/about/jobs/index.htm>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

• Internship Opportunities

Banking Department

Vacancy notice: 60000000

Grade: Stagiaires

Place of work: London (UK)

Deadline: 31. 12. 2007

Info: http://www.ebrdjobs.com/fe/tpl_ebrd01.asp



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Form closed:
14. 12. 2007

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