



CENTURIO INTERREG III C PROGRAMME

Exchanging experiences, fostering interregional co-operation and strengthening Regions' self-development

2004-2006

I. THE IDEA

The Regions of Europe have to take up the new challenges of a rapidly changing European and global context. Growth and competitiveness depend on the capacity of the Regions to enhance their self-development based on sustainability. To achieve this goal, the Centurio Interreg III C Programme, gathering almost 50 Regions and lead by the Assembly of European Regions, provides an interregional platform for exchange of know-how and experience in three key areas of regional sustainable development: sustainable quality tourism, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. The Programme also offers an opportunity for developing initiatives in these priority fields.

II. THE OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen interregional co-operation and exchange of experiences between Regions all over Europe.
- To contribute to regional management and securing appropriate implementation of future Cohesion Policy.
- To support Regions' participation in EU cohesion policy, in particular with regard to objective 1 and 2 policies, and interregional co-operation
- To encourage social, economic and territorial cohesion in Europe
- To improve Regions' sustainable development
- To provide ad hoc knowledge and methodology tools, fostering a sustainable development approach by promoting close co-operation with experienced organisations such as the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- To ensure mutual knowledge of partners
- To foster the implementation of a long-lasting network
- To support Regions' self-development in the three selected areas of co-operation
- To ensure durability of the operation by achieving recognisable results and disseminating them at the public wider level
- To strengthen Regions' administrative capacities in order to foster regional governance

III. THE PARTNER REGIONS

1. Assembly of European Regions: Lead Partner
2. Upper Austria (A)
3. Olomuc Region (CZ)
4. Zlin Region (CZ)
5. County of Fyn (DK)
6. Vejle County (DK)
7. Regional Council of Lapland (FI)
8. Alsace County Council (FR)
9. Champagne-Ardenne Region (FR)
10. Eure-et-Loir County Council (FR)
11. Upper Normandie Regional Council (FR)
12. Limousin Region (FR)
13. Heritage Malta (MT)
14. Local Government of Hajdu-Bihar County (HU)
15. Heves County Government (HU)
16. Self-government of Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok County (HU)
17. Regional Development Agency of North Great Plain (HU)
18. Veszprém County Council (HU)
19. Region of Calabria (IT)
20. Regional Council of Emilia-Romagna (IT)
21. Regional Council of Molise (IT)
22. Province of Asti (IT)
23. Region of Puglia (IT)
24. Autonomous Province of Trento (IT)
25. Umbria Region (IT)
26. Region of Valencia (ES)
27. Province of Flevoland (NL)
28. Pomerania Region (PL)
29. Regional Government of Azores (PT)
30. Durham County Council (UK)
31. Wiltshire County Council (UK)
32. Canton of Zurich (CH)
33. Regional Council of Berat (AL)
34. Regional Council of Fier (AL)
35. Imereti Region (GE)
36. Government of Herzegovina-Neretva County (BH)
37. Municipality of Gabrovo (BG)
38. Region of Sliven (BG)
39. Region of Stara Zagora (BG)
40. Vratsa District Administration (BG)
41. Pazardjik Regional Administration (BG)
42. Bacau County Council (RO)
43. Covasna County Council (RO)
44. Harghita County Council (RO)
45. Iasi County Council (RO)
46. Maramures County Council (RO)
47. Prahova County Council (RO)
48. Tulcea County Council (RO)
49. Vaslui County Council (RO)

IV. THE KEY AREAS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Key areas of the Programme

- Sustainable quality tourism
- Environmental protection
- Sustainable economic development

Centurio partnerships

- Interregional network of 49 Regions all over Europe
- Participants from EU 25 member countries and third countries
- The Partner Regions form 22 partnerships in the 3 key areas
- The partnerships are both bi-lateral and multi-lateral

Partnerships operating in the key areas of the Programme

Sustainable quality tourism

- Malta / Wiltshire
- Champagne-Ardenne / North Great Plain
- Jasz-Nagykun / Harghita / *Hame* / *Somme* / *Nord-pas-de-Calais* / *Brandenburg* / *Durham* / *Asti*
- Trento / Bacau / Olomouc
- Puglia / Sliven / Vaslui
- Lappland / Veszprem / Covasna

Environmental protection

- Trento / Vratsa / Maramures / Pazardjik
- Vejle / Olomouc / Mostar
- Limousin - Poméranie
- Umbria / Imereti / Berat / Fier

Sustainable economic development

- Alsace/Zlin/ Gabrovo
- Calabria / Zürich / Valencia
- Zurich / Maramures
- Zurich / Lviv
- Upper Austria / Heves / Zlin / Olomouc / Funen / Stara Zagora
- Funen / Iasi
- Flevoland / North Great Plain / Olomouc / Maramures
- Haute-Normandie - Poméranie
- Calabria / Tulcea
- Assemblies of Emilia-Romagna / *Molise* / Iasi / Prahova
- Calabria / Valencia
- Hajdu-Bihar / Eure-et-Loire / Bihor

V. THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Components of the Programme

The Programme consists of the following components:

Component 1 - Management and Coordination

Component 2 - Sustainable quality tourism as a key tool for regional development

Component 3 - Environmental protection: our environment, our capital

Component 4 - Investing in the Regions' economic potential and in their human resources for fostering sustainable self-development and competitiveness

Component 5 - Centurio dissemination Conferences and partnership 'bridge' activities

Component 1: with the help of two Centurio Coordinators (seconded civil servants from two Partner Regions) to ensure the efficient administrative and financial management of the operation and to help to gain recognisable results in the Regions

Component 2, 3 and 4: the earlier mentioned key areas of the Programme

- These are functioning through the Partnership activities among the Partner Regions
- The exchanges of experience will be bi-lateral and/ or multi-lateral
- Each exchange of experience starts with a first-step activity and is followed by several other activities
- Typical forms of the Partnership activities: regular partners' meetings, study-visits, seminars, common mid-term or end-of-term seminars, workshops, conferences

Component 5: consist of Dissemination Conferences and “Bridge” activities

- The Conferences are organised every six months.
 - Their main goal is to gather all the network's actors, carry out an evaluation and thus strengthen the network
 - The conferences give opportunity to in-depth reflection, debate on specific aspects of Centurio topics and assessing partners' progress on their policies in these areas
- The ‘Bridges’ will be established between the partnerships in order to enable regular contacts between the ‘Centurions’
 - Partnership activities will be open to all Centurio partners even beyond the specific 'members' of the partnerships
 - Each partner will thus benefit from other approaches and experiences and optimise its own capacities