



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 16-X-2007
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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 16-X-2007

adopting the operational programme "Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme" for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in Ireland

CCI 2007 IE 16 2 PO 002

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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adopting the operational programme "Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme" for Community assistance from the European Regional Development Fund under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective in Ireland

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, and in particular Article 32(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 6 March 2007, Ireland submitted to the Commission a proposal for an operational programme for the Southern and Eastern Region fulfilling the conditions for the Regional competitiveness and employment objective pursuant to Article 6.
- (2) The operational programme has been drawn up by Ireland within the framework of the partnership referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (3) The Commission has appraised the proposed operational programme and considers that it contributes to the achievement of the objectives set out in Council Decision 2006/702/EC of 6 October 2006 on the Community strategic guidelines on cohesion² and in the national strategic reference framework³.
- (4) The proposal for an operational programme contains all the components referred to in Article 37(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, with the exception of an indicative list of major projects referred to in point (h) of Article 37(1) of that Regulation, as it is not expected that major projects will be submitted under this operational programme.
- (5) In accordance with Article 37(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the operational programme includes a justification for the thematic, geographical and financial concentration on the priorities laid down in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25. Regulation as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1989/2006 (OJ L 411, 30.12.2006, p. 6).

² OJ L 291, 21.10.2006, p. 11.

³ Decision C(2007)3553 of 27 July 2007.

1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999⁴.

- (6) In accordance with Article 37(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the operational programme contains information on the approach to sustainable urban development and, in accordance with Article 37(5) of that Regulation it contains, information on the procedures provided for specific allocations and for the monitoring thereof.
- (7) It is appropriate to fix the maximum rate and the maximum amount of the contribution from the Funds for the operational programme and each priority axis, as referred to in Article 53(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.
- (8) Aid granted under the operational programme should comply with the State aid rules that are in force and any other applicable provision of Community law.
- (9) The proposed operational programme should therefore be adopted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The operational programme for Community assistance Regional competitiveness and employment objective in Southern and Eastern Region of Ireland for the programming period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 as set out in Annex I and containing the following priority axes is hereby adopted :

- (1) Innovation and the Knowledge Economy;
- (2) Environment and Accessibility;
- (3) Sustainable Urban Development;
- (4) Technical assistance.

Article 2

Expenditure actually paid under the operational programme shall be eligible from 1 January 2007.

Article 3

1. The maximum amount of assistance from the European Regional Development Fund granted under the operational programme, as calculated with reference to the public eligible expenditure, is set at EUR 146 603 534 and the maximum co-financing rate

⁴ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 1.

is set at 40%.

2. Within the operational programme referred to in paragraph 1 the maximum amount for assistance and the maximum co-financing rate for each priority axis shall be as set out in the second, third, fourth and fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis 1 Innovation and Knowledge Economy is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 96 000 000.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis 2 Environment and Accessibility is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 26 000 000.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis 3 Sustainable Urban Development is set at 40% and the maximum amount for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 20 000 000.

The maximum co-financing rate for priority axis 4 Technical Assistance is set at 38% and the maximum amount for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund to that priority axis, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 4 603 534.

3. The national counterpart of EUR 220 396 466 may be partly met by Community loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other lending instruments.
4. The corresponding financing plan is set out in Annex II.

Article 4

Any public support under the operational programme shall comply with the procedural and substantive State aid rules applicable at the time when the public support is granted.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to Ireland,

Done at Brussels, 16-X-2007.

For the Commission
Danuta HÜBNER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Operational programme

ANNEX II

Financing plan (in euro)

	Community Funding (a)	National counterpart (b) (= (c) + (d))	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a)+(b)	Co-Financing rate (f) ⁵ = (a)/(e)	For Information	
			National Public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			EIB contributions ⁶	Other funding ⁶
Priorities	€	€	€	€	€		€	€
Innovation and the Knowledge Economy	96,000,000	144,000,000	144,000,000	0	240,000,000	40%	0	37,000,000
Environment and Accessibility	26,000,000	39,000,000	39,000,000	0	65,000,000	40%	0	150,000,000
Sustainable Urban Development	20,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	50,000,000	40%	0	127,000,000

⁵ The precise Rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio between the Community funding and the Total funding.

⁶ EIB and Other funding are for information only.

Technical Assistance	4,603,534	7,396,466	7,396,466	0	12,000,000	38%	0	0
Total	146,603,534	220,396,466	220,396,466	0	367,000,000	40%	0	314,000,000

Financing plan by year (in euro)

	Structural Funding (ERDF)	Cohesion Fund	Total
	1	2	3=1+2
	€	€	€
2007 In Regions without transitional support	19,719,928.00		19,719,928.00
2008 In Regions without transitional support	20,114,327.00		20,114,327.00
2009 In Regions without transitional support	20,516,613.00		20,516,613.00
2010 In Regions without transitional support	20,926,946.00		20,926,946.00
2011 In Regions without transitional support	21,345,484.00		21,345,484.00
2012 In Regions without transitional support	21,772,394.00		21,772,394.00
2013 In Regions without transitional support	22,207,842.00		22,207,842.00
Total	146,603,534.00	0.00	146,603,534.00