

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME "ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

The total budget of the Operational Programme amounts to EUR 2,250,000,000, of which EUR 1,800,000,000 is from Community Resources and EUR 450,000,000 from National Resources. In addition to this amount, it is estimated that National Resources amounting to EUR 519,000,000 will be earmarked to cover the cost of projects that are not co-funded by the E.U., such as expropriations, (larger than a certain percentage of the project's cost) anticipated earnings, etc. The total sum is estimated to reach EUR 2,769,000,000.

1. Formulation of the strategies, general goals and priority axes of the O.P.

The Strategic Goal for the Environment and Sustainable Development Sector during 2007-2013 is:

The Safeguarding, Amelioration and Sustainable Management of the Environment, so that it can provide the foundation for the protection of public health, the improvement of citizens' quality of life, as well as constitute a primary factor contributing to the enhancement of the competitiveness of the economy.

The Programme's strategy mainly focuses on the effort to integrate Community Directives on urban waste water and urban solid waste, as well as on the implementation of Directive 60/2000, the promotion of green transportation and the construction of anti-flooding infrastructure and water supply systems.

The Programme's strategy can be broken down into **seven primary strategic priorities / choices:**

- 1) Protecting the Atmospheric Environment – Increasing 'Green' Transportation – Managing Climate Change - Renewable Energy Sources. (Priority Axes 1 and 6)
- 2) Protecting and managing water resources. (Priority Axes 2 and 7)
- 3) Preventing, mitigating and managing environmental hazards. (Priority Axes 3 and 8)
- 4) Protecting soil systems and managing solid waste. (Priority Axis 4)
- 5) Protecting Nature and Biodiversity. (Priority Axis 9)
- 6) Developing Institutions and Mechanisms for the efficient implementation of environmental policy and raising citizen awareness. (Priority Axis 10)
- 7) Technical Assistance (Priority Axes 5 and 11)

The general goals are outlined below:

GENERAL GOAL 1

- ❑ The Sustainable Management of environmental resources, natural reserves and Urban Centres (Soil, Marine Environment, Atmosphere, Nature).

GENERAL GOAL 2

- ❑ Improvement of the efficiency of Public Administration in planning and implementing environmental policy and improving Society and Citizen response to Environmental Protection issues.

2. Priority Axes, Summary Content, Main Projects/Actions

In order to achieve the general objectives laid down under the present Operational Programme, it is divided into distinct intervention sectors that are operationally organised into two Priority Axes Groups (A and B), one for each Community Fund funded by the O.P., the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), respectively. These Axes are organised in such a way as to encompass actions that contribute towards the achievement of the general objectives adopted.

Thus, the following **Priority Axes** are formulated:

Specific goals have been set for each Priority Axis.

GROUP A PRIORITY AXES – FUNDING FROM THE COHESION FUND

A1. Protecting the Atmospheric Environment & Urban Transportation – Managing Climate Change - Renewable Energy Sources.

A2. Safeguarding and Managing Water Resources

A3. Preventing & Mitigating Environmental Hazards

A4. Protecting Soil Systems – Managing Solid Waste

GROUP B PRIORITY AXES – FUNDING FROM ERDF

B1. Protecting the Atmospheric Environment – Managing Climate Change

B2. Safeguarding and Managing Water Resources

B3. Preventing & Mitigating Environmental Hazards

B4. Protecting the Natural Environment and Biodiversity

B5. Institutions and Mechanisms