



Structural funds 2007-2013: presentation and opportunities for social housing

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April 19, 2007



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Brief presentation

Purpose of EU's cohesion policy:

- Reduce the economic, social and territorial disparities in Europe
- Tool for Lisbon strategy: reinforce competitiveness, develop employment and sustainable development



- 3 objectives:

- Convergence objective: support economic convergence of the poorest regions whose GDP per inhabitant does not exceed 75% of the community average
- Régional competitiveness and employment objective: to support competitiveness and employment in the more prosperous regions
- Territorial cooperation objective: to support cross border and transnational cooperation projects



The main financial instruments that will be used to implement the cohesion policy are:

- ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)
- ESF (European social fund)
- Cohesion fund

For each of these fund and instruments, there are European regulation (legislative texts).

(It is necessary to have a good knowledge of these texts if you want to be successful in your project!)



• Strategic and programmatic approach to the cohesion policy

- European union level: adoption of European regulations and community strategic guidelines (suggest how structural funds have to be used)
- Member state level: adoption of national strategic reference framework (present members State's priorities regarding cohesion policy and the strategy)
- Regions: adoption of operational programs (present local priorities and multi-annual measures)



- Budget for Baltic Countries (euros 2004):
 - Eesti: 3 058 billions
 - Latvija: 4 090 billions
 - Lietuva: 6 097 billions



- Opportunities for social housing providers:
 - For the new member states: article 7 of ERDF regulation will allow them to dedicate a maximum of 3% of the allocated funds to the operational programs for housing



- Subject to fairly strict conditions:
 - The beneficiaries must be multi-family residential buildings, as well as social housing organization
 - Be located in areas that meet specific economic and social criteria




- Only following interventions will be eligible:
 - The renovation of multi-family residential buildings, notably the refurbishment of the main structural parts of the building (roof, façade, windows, doors, elevator, common parts) technical installations (electric installations, waste disposal system etc...), actions related to energy efficiency (changing the heating and heat distribution systems, thermal insulation, promotion of renewable sources of energy)



- New financial instrument available: JESSICA, Joint european support for sustainable investment in city areas
 - Joint initiative of the Commission, the European investment bank and the Council of Europe
 - Aim: promoting sustainable investment in urban areas
 - Provide a possibility to allocate a part of structural funds to create urban development funds, which could be used to support urban projects, particularly through loan guarantees



- What strategy?
 - Become familiar with European regulation on structural fund
 - Be involved in the operational programs
 - Express your opinion on the contents of the program
 - Submit request to the managing authorities



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