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GROW SECRETARIAT. Cross Lanes, Guildford, GU1 1YA, England
Tel: +44 1483 484 200 Fax: +44 1483 484 247 email: grow@seeda.co.uk

GROW Newsletter 1/1

January 2006

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What is the GROW programme?

Grow is a joint programme worth **€7.5 million** partly funded under InterregIIIC between South East of England, Emilia-Romagna in Italy, Andalucia in Spain, Noord- Brabant in the Netherlands and Malopolska in Poland.

Five European High Growth regions and one common goal - to achieve a more balanced, sustainable and economic growth.

Regions with relatively high growth rates have to deal with some of the negative consequences of success such as transport congestion, pressure on land and resources, skills shortages and an often uneven rate of development characterized by pockets of deprived areas. All these regions are being at different stages

of development but sharing the same vision of not "growth at all cost" but the achievement of "Smart growth".

The five regions have joint forces to work towards a joint implementation of the Lisbon and Gothenberg agenda balancing social, environment and economic constraints to achieve sustainable growth.

The programme comprises 3 main pillars:

- ◆ **Green growth** for environment,
- ◆ **Business Growth** for innovation and business co-operation,
- ◆ **Inclusive Growth** for employment and social inclusion.

GROW is identifying and encouraging the transfer of good practices in sustainable development.

By December 2007, the GROW programme will support up to 25 multinational projects under a strategic regional framework driving balanced economic growth and influencing future regional policies.

The partner regions intend to establish a strategic long term partnership, which will continue beyond the INTERREGIIIC funding opening new avenues for sustainable development in high growth regions.

Events

Grow Information Day for UK applicants

7.02.06 Guildford
Information on how to improve your application form.

Partnerfair, 17.01.06, The Netherlands

Around 80 delegates from the 5 Grow regions attended this networking event.

New comer !

Janet Borgers is the new Regional Correspondent for South East England. She will assist potential and successful applicants.

+441483484200
janetborgers@seeda.co.uk



Results of the first call

Twenty four multinational projects have applied for funding under the first call, from which **eight projects** have been approved by the steering committee on 8 November 05 for funding, therefore one in three projects have been selected.

All regions have participated in the 1st call: the UK involved in 8 projects, Spain in 7 projects, Poland in 4 projects, and both Italy and the Netherlands with 2 projects.

6 sub-themes out of the 18 sub-themes open under the GROW Programme have been taken-up with successful projects.

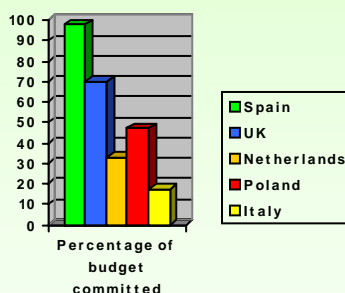
These sub-themes are: Sustainable Construction, Flood Risk Management, Incubation, Technology Transfer, Trading and Social Inclusion.

The second call is now open and

The second call is now launched !

will close on 24 February 06.

The total commitment of the budget after the first call is 58%.



The priorities for the second call are given to the sub-themes of the programme not yet taken-up.

Regarding budget constraints, the priorities for the 2nd call of each region are as follow:

Spain will fund exclusively projects under Inclusive Growth (third strand of the programme)

For the UK: the priority is given to the sub-themes of the programme being not yet taken up but we will also consider other sub themes if fund available,

For Italy: All themes

For the Netherlands: priority given to Green Growth and Inclusive Growth projects but will also consider Business Growth Projects if fund available,

For Poland: priority given to Green Growth and Inclusive Growth projects but will also consider Business Growth Projects if fund available.

Did you know..?

- ◆ You can register your project idea on the GROW website on http://www.grow3c.com/partners_admin.php
- ◆ We are running a Partner Search facility on the GROW website to help potential applicants to find partners overseas. You can search this database per country, theme or sub-themes.

Tips to apply !

- ◆ Contact the regional correspondent of your region; he will help you with your partner search and with the development of your project.
- ◆ New application forms have been developed for the 2nd call, they are available now on the GROW website.
- ◆ A number of information events are organised in your region, please contact your correspondent for further details.



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GROW Newsletter 1/2

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The Netherlands

The province of Noord-Brabant is situated in the south of the Netherlands and covers an area of 5000 square kilometres. About 2,5 million inhabitants are living in 70 municipalities. The Province of Noord-Brabant is a regional government body responsible for social and culture affairs, ecology, economy, mobility and spatial planning. "The major challenge in the policy of the Province of Noord-Brabant is to find the balance between people, planet and profit and to become a place where it is nice to life, work and relax." explains Rob de Groot, the Regional correspondent in the Netherlands. The regional priorities lie on youth unemployment, education, safety, innovation and healthy environment. The region is participating in two projects in Business Growth in the first call of Grow. "The projects is a great opportunity to learn from other regions. But it also gives a good impulse on activities we are developing."

For the second call the highest priority is given to project in Green Growth (especially Brownfield regeneration, environmentally-friendly means of travel and environmental management system) and in the inclusive Growth thematic (especially Labour Market).

Italy

Emilia Romagna has the highest average income in Italy. Since the early '90s, the Region has engaged into sustainable territorial development. The region wishes to pursue this integrated work on Policy development sharing knowledge with other high growth regions on constraints & challenges to achieve regional sustainable development. Maria Paola Dosi is Emilia-Romagna's GROW Program Coordinator. She is a regional executive with a cultural background as a statistician, expert in Policy assessment tools. She explains that for the second call her region priorities are for the Green Growth the creation of an energetic certification system for residential buildings, the Promotion of the Strategically Environmental Assessment (SEA) process and a tool box to account the effectiveness of sustainability policies at each stage of the policy decision process. For Business Growth the region is focusing on the Science-industry collaboration and innovative start offs. For Inclusive growth, it is strategic to deepen social economy topic as a tool for participation in the labour market. Priority is given to the development of good practises in the field of social economy enterprises ; setting up and sustainability & support of a stable network among institutional bodies and social economy enterprises.

Poland

Malopolska has the most varied landscape in Poland and has eight sites designated as UNESCO World Heritages. The region contributes to 6.5% GDP in Poland, and comprises 26 higher education establishments with the Jagiellonian University in Kraków being a source of pride for the city's inhabitants.

Exploring methods of developing a knowledge-based economy is particularly relevant to this region in transition and is one of the priority of Malopolska's Regional Development Strategy for 2000-2006.

Polish organisations are involved in 4 of the projects approved under Grow ; one in Sustainable built environment and 3 in Business Growth. The projects will contribute to Malopolska's Regional Innovation Strategy after their implementation.

"In the second call Malopolska will concentrate on Inclusive Growth and Green Growth" explains Aneta Widak. Aneta is working for the Regional Government since 1999. She used to manage the Info Point of the Community Initiative Programme INTERREG III A between Poland & the Slovak Republic and is now responsible for the implementation of GROW project in Malopolska.

Spain

"The region of Andalusia is a melting pot of cultures and the bridge between two continents. With 7.6 millions habitants and an annual growth rate of 3.4% the Andalusian Government is developing global strategies to address social inclusion and encourage sustainable growth." explains Miguel Presencio, the Grow regional correspondent for Andalusia. Andalusia has been actively involved in the Grow programme since its start, organising the Launch of the Grow programme on the 24th of June 2005 in Seville in the prestigious Monastery of the Cartuja. Over 200 delegates from across the Grow regions attended the event to hear the Andalusian Minister for Social Affairs' call for inter-regional cooperation. The seminar introduced as well the programme to potential project managers.

Andalusia is involved in 7 of the approved projects under the first call and has committed a big proportion of its total funding, Miguel will therefore exclusively fund projects under the inclusive growth thematic.

England

The South East of England, with £130 billion economy and 8 million people is the UK's largest region apart from London in terms of employment. While successful, the South East suffer from transport congestion, pressure on land and resources, skills shortage and an uneven rate of development. The new drafted Regional Economic strategy for 2006-2016 has identified 6 key drivers through which prosperity will be achieved, Employment, Enterprise, Innovation and creativity, Skills, Competition and business regulation, Investment in infrastructure. The South East has a central aim 'to deliver stronger, lasting growth and create more and better jobs in the context of sustainable development'. The South East is the lead partner of the Grow funding programme and is interested in delivering the Lisbon Strategy at regional, national and European levels.

The region is participating in all the projects recommended for the first call. For the second call, "the priority is given to the sub-themes of the programme not yet being taken up but we will also consider other sub themes if funds are available" explains Kathy Vuillaume, the Grow programme manager.

Rob de Groot

Province of Noord Brabant
5200 MC 's-Hertogenbosch
The Netherlands
☎+31 (0)73 6812693
✉rdgroot@brabant.nl



Maria Dosi

Regione Emilia-Romagna
viale A.Moro, 64,
40127 Bologna, It.
☎+39 (051) 6397935
✉ ergow@regione.emilia-romagna.it



Aneta Widak

Urząd Marszałkowski
Wojewodztwa
Malopolskiego
ul. Basztowa 22,
31-156 Krakow,
Poland
☎ +48(12) 29 90 700
✉ awid@malopolska.mw.gov.pl



Miguel Presencio Fernandez

Junta de Andalucia
Avenida Hytasa n14,
41171 Sevilla, Spain
☎+34 955 04 82 66
✉ mi-guel.presencio@juntadeandal



Kathy Vuillaume

SEEDA,
Cross lanes,
GU1 1YA
Guildford, UK
☎+44(0) 1483 484 200
✉kathyvuillaume@seeda.co.uk



Meet the GROW secretariat...



Kathy Vuillaume
Project Manager
Tel: +44 1483 500 788
kathyvuillaume@seeda.co.uk

Alison Partridge
Contract Manager
Tel: +44 1483 500 788
alisonpartridge@seeda.co.uk



Pascale Waschnig
Network officer
Tel: +44 1483 484 238
pascalewaschnig@seeda.co.uk



Kathy joined SEEDA (the South East England Development Agency) in 2001 securing major EC programmes for the region. She is currently managing the GROW Secretariat.

Alison is responsible for both programme & project level reporting, auditing processes and grant payment.

Pascale joined the European and cultural policy team in SEEDA in 2004. She is responsible for communication, PR activities & the Grow website.