



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Regional Policy

Environment in the new Programming Period 2007-2013: The Water Issue

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Structural & Cohesion Funds support renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and better jobs by focussing on innovation and environment

- ✓ With the Community Strategic Guidelines establishing the priorities;
- ✓ With the new Cohesion Regulations;
- ✓ With the National Strategic Reference Framework, which will replace the Community Support Framework



Cohesion/Structural Funds supported constantly environmental policies

Spain has received, between 1986 and 2006, from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, some 136.000 million €.

Spain will continue receiving, for the next programming period, a substantial amount of assistance (31.457 million €) which places the country as the 2nd larger recipient of Community assistance.



Cohesion/Structural Funds supported constantly environmental policies

From the +/- 60.000 million € of assistance of the Structural Funds, for the current period 00-06, some 16.741 million were foreseen to co-finance environmental actions

For the next period, environment will receive 3.338 million € in the Convergence regions and 242 Million € for the competitiveness regions, or in total 3.580 million €



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

For the next programming periode (2007-2013):

Relevant legislation (Strategic guidelines; regulations) fosters a sustainable development model for the regions by recommending:

- To tackle the most urgent needs in infrastructure in order to comply with the environmental legislation;
- The Regions to guarantee attractive working and living conditions for the businesses and their qualified staff;
- To respect the country's international commitments (like the Kyoto Protocol)
- To be proactive in risk hasards prevention



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

For the next programming periode (2007-2013), the «Lisbon» targets should be «earmarked» as follows:

- 75% of the assistance for the «Competitiveness» regions, and
- 60% for the «Convergence» regions
- Subject to a negotiation agreement, «Phasing out» and «Phasing in» regions will receive less restrictive eligibility constraints; like, for example, these Regions can «shop» from the «Convergence» eligibility list, but they are subject to respect the 40% ceiling («Phasing out») and the 25% ceiling («Phasing in»)



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

- *Considerable efforts have been undertaken over the last decade in Spain to tackle environmental deterioration and for better compliance with the relative EU legislation.*
- *However, as Spain continues growing, unavoidably continues to face serious environmental challenges.*
- ***Demand of water resources, production of waste water and solid waste are constantly increasing every year.***



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

The Water resources management issue:

There is no doubt that the implementation of the AGUA programme should receive adequate support,

*However, it should be **avoided** to **focus again** mainly on the “**supply**” side and bias the management of the “demand”.*

Action is urgently needed on the demand side, as some projections establish the increase of demand for water resources per year at nine times higher than the quantities to be supplied by the full implementation of the AGUA programme (1.100 Hm³/year).



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

The Water resources management issue:

*Remediation of the failure in taking into account the principle of **cost recovery** (Article 9 of WFD), for example by proper water pricing, especially in irrigation, would be a valuable tool for introducing sustainable water supply policies.*

*As some 70-80% of the total water consumption per year goes to the agriculture, a **review of the agricultural practices** would stem the significant impact on water supply policies*



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

The Water resources management issue:

Improve Waste water treatment plants;

Increase their capacity and ensure adequate maintenance is necessary to face the growing volume of waste water (projected to grow by 600 Hm³ within the next ten years).

Increase quality of treated waste water and targeted re-use of it for irrigation purposes or other needs might contribute to better tackle an issue which is taking dramatic dimensions, especially in years of extreme drought, like the present one

Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

Integral management of resources (especially water) should help to avoid dramatic consequences from natural risks, like drought.



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

Regarding Solid waste:

recycling should receive the major attention, as today 90% of the municipal solid waste goes to the landfills.



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

Eco-innovation should be sufficiently explored as a key element for preventing pollution, limit waste increase and enhance innovation and job creation.

*It should be included within an **Environmental Technologies Action Plan** to be elaborated, aiming to promote eco-innovation; promote environmental technologies in the SMEs, as well as promoting restructuring of traditional industries by diffusing the use of clean technologies (e.g. set their use as a condition to access financing).*



Cohesion/Structural Funds continue supporting innovation and environment

Last but not least:

*A real integration of environmental aspects in a development policy will inevitably consider the **integration of environment issues in education and training as a permanent effort to keep society in general aware of environmental concerns** and how these affect their normal lives and well being, which should not be taken for granted without a personal contribution from each citizen.*

*Moreover, **awareness campaigns about environmental business opportunities should be developed together with business associations and other key regional players.** Given that in the current programming period Spain has been one of the Member States that has made a greater effort in this sense, this effort should be continued and reinforced in the next programming period.*



The issue of Governance/ Community Strategic Guidelines

- **Consultation and participation of stakeholders:** competent authorities, economic and social partners, and representatives of civil society including non-governmental organisations.
- **Partnership** provides a basis for openness and transparency in the preparation and implementation of programmes



Spain is catching up

- Spain had remarkable success over the last decade in converging with the most advanced EU economies, as regards in particular GDP/capita and unemployment reduction.
- **but, sustainability of the catching-up process depends on advances**



Spain is catching up

- in productivity
- and reducing unemployment by creating more and better jobs through active labour market policies and better training
- as well as by focusing on a few strategically important priorities such as R&D, innovation and the deployment of the information society
- while continuing improving accessibility and increasing attractiveness by better connectivity and development of environmental potential



Spain is catching up

- Spain should take advantage of the new generation of the cohesion policy programmes to shift from a growth model based on low labour costs and low value added activities

to a sustainable development pattern more focused on innovation

in order to be able to generate and attract investments, find new market niches and compete in international markets with higher value added products and services



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2007-2013

Thank you for your attention

For further information, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

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