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Jaspers

Joint Assistance to
Support Projects in European Regions



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What is JASPERS ?



- ❖ 'Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions'
- ❖ A technical assistance partnership to prepare major projects between DG REGIO, EIB and EBRD in the 10 'new' countries and Romania and Bulgaria
- ❖ Objective: increasing the capacity of the beneficiary countries to make the best use of EU funding
- ❖ Value added: drawing on past experience and expertise of the EIB and the EBRD in a more structured and coordinated way than in the past.
- ❖ For administrative reasons, JASPERS will be a unit within the EIB but separated from its lending activities

JASPERS Priorities

- ❖ priority countries: the 10 'new' member states plus Romania and Bulgaria
- ❖ JASPERS concentrates on major projects supported by the Cohesion Fund and the ERDF :
 - Transport and other sectors €50 M >
 - Environment €25 M >
- ❖ « Large projects » to be interpreted flexibly in the smaller countries
- ❖ horizontal issues covering more than one country/sector

How will JASPERS operate?

- ❖ Assistance as required from the early stages of a project through to the decision to grant assistance (by the Commission or the Member State depending on the size of project) e.g.
 - Advice on conceptual development and project structuring
 - Advice on project preparation e.g. cost-benefit analysis, financial analysis, environmental issues, procurement planning.
 - Review of documentation: feasibility studies, technical design, tender documents.
 - Advice on compliance with EU law (environmental, competition and others) and conformity with EU policies

JASPERS: free and voluntary

- ❖ JASPERS assistance will be provided free of charge to the beneficiary
- ❖ There is no obligation on the Member States to use JASPERS
- ❖ There is no obligation on a Member State which benefits from JASPERS to borrow from the EIB or the EBRD
- ❖ There is no obligation on the EIB or the EBRD to lend to projects prepared using JASPERS
- ❖ There is no exclusion of EIB or EBRD lending to projects benefiting from JASPERS

Legal Responsibilities



- ❖ JASPERS does not change existing legal responsibilities
- ❖ JASPERS is an input to the preparation of applications for EU funding
- ❖ Member States are the 'owners' of the project, not JASPERS; they submit the standard applications as required by the Regulations
- ❖ Preparation of a project by JASPERS does not guarantee approval of the project by the Commission
- ❖ The ultimate legal responsibility to grant assistance will remain with the Commission



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16 professionals

30 professionals
+ 10 support

5 to 8 professionals



LUXEMBOURG

WARSAW

VIENNA

BUCHAREST

Organisation and Recruitment

- ❖ Regional hubs for JASPERS:
 - Warsaw: Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
 - Vienna: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia
 - Bucharest: Romania, Bulgaria

- ❖ Internally: EIB and EBRD core teams in place

- ❖ External recruitment: candidates already interviewed for Luxembourg, Warsaw, Bucharest: staff at full strength in 2007

- ❖ Warsaw office started operations on 13 November; other offices will be fully operational in early 2007

- ❖ Two external consultancy contracts in place

2006 Action Plans: status

- ❖ Priorities of JASPERS are set out each year in an **Action Plan** agreed between JASPERS and the beneficiary country
- ❖ All beneficiary countries submitted draft Action Plans; 11 Action Plans signed for 2006
- ❖ Over 90 projects identified (44 environment, 39 transport) and support requested in wide range of relevant horizontal issues
- ❖ 2007 Action Plans under development

Examples

- ❖ POLAND – Warsaw Ring Road, Public Transport in Krakow and Lublin, Flood Protection, Broadband, Energy Efficiency
- ❖ LATVIA – Depollution of contaminated sites
- ❖ ROMANIA – Rolling Stock, Regional Airports, Regionalisation of Water and Solid Waste Mgmt. Companies ,
- ❖ BULGARIA – PPP Motorway, River Navigation
- ❖ HUNGARY – Provincial Urban Transport, 2 Water schemes
- ❖ SLOVENIA – ERTMS installation, Flood Management
- ❖ SLOVAKIA – Motorways, Water Supply and Treatment
- ❖ MALTA – Ports upgrades, Solid waste management
- ❖ CYPRUS – New Urban Transport in Nicosia

Main Horizontal Issues

- ❖ 9 horizontal issues identified
- ❖ PPP best practice / model approaches
- ❖ PPP+EU grant blending approaches
- ❖ Support with state aid in new sectors
- ❖ Structuring projects in new sectors (eg. power, energy efficiency, renewables, urban transport, flood protection, rolling stock)
- ❖ Grouping small projects (eg. energy efficiency, water)
- ❖ Guidance on new Regulations (eg. eligibility, revenue generating projects, grant rate calculation)

Case 1: Grant Rate calculation for Water Projects

- ❖ Project: Puszcza Zielonka Landscape Protection Area Sewerage - Poland (Cohesion Funds)
- ❖ JASPERS task:
 - Review financing gap analysis in already-submitted application
 - Remodel financial analysis
 - Recommend grant co-financing rate
- ❖ JASPERS output:
 - Recommend adjusting grant rate from 81% to 76%
 - Application resubmitted by Polish authorities to EC



Case 2: Complex Solid Waste Project (Sofia Waste)



❖ Current Situation:

- City has closed existing landfill; waste is baled and stored
- Waste incineration being considered by City

❖ JASPERS recommendations

- Identify long term landfill solution (needed whether or not incineration proceeds)
- Identify landfill for temporary storage or re-open existing facility
- Treat project as a national as well as local priority



❖ Next steps:

- Project now included in Operational Programme
- Once landfill site identified, JASPERS will support further project preparation on a phased basis

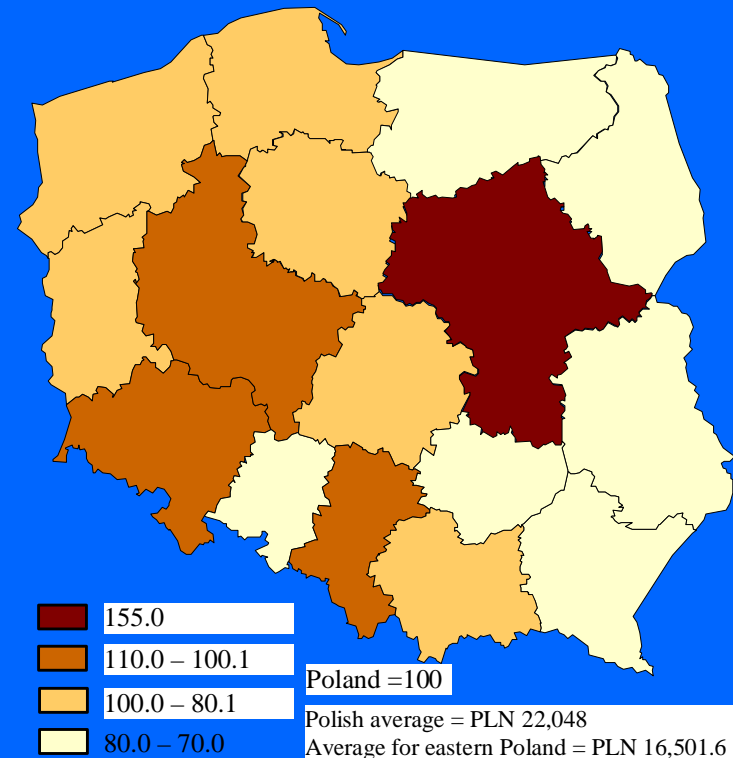
Case 3: Broadband Telecom Concept Development



- ❖ Project: Broadband development in Eastern Poland (covers 9 million people)
- ❖ JASPERS on-going actions:
 - Help prepare project outline
 - Consultant recruited to develop project concept
 - Review meeting with DG Regio / Competition / Info re structuring and state aid
- ❖ JASPERS 2007 actions:
 - Draft ToR for feasibility study
 - Help supervise feasibility study
 - Help prepare ERDF application



OP Development of Eastern Poland



Case 4: Rail Rolling Stock Project Support

- ❖ Project: Romania Rail Rolling Stock Funding (ERDF)
- ❖ JASPERS task completed: Support Romanian authorities prepare ToR for:
 - Rolling stock needs assessment
 - Feasibility study
 - Prepare ERDF application
 - Prepare tender documentation
- ❖ JASPERS on-going activity: support supervision of selected consultant, review outputs, review draft application.

Case 5: Horizontal Issue – PPP and grant blending

❖ JASPERS task:

- Review impact of new regulations
- Identify models for CF/ERDF blended projects
- Identify potential cases from Ops
- Input to structuring for selected projects

❖ On-going actions:

- Working paper on implication of new regulations under development