

proforbiomed

Promotion of residual forestry
biomass in the Mediterranean basin

**MODEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT SCHEMES AND FINANCING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN
FOREST BIOMASS CHAINS**

Work package 3: Capitalization and long lasting effects

September 2014



“This publication is co-financed with ERDF within the Project “PROFORBIOMED, Promotion of Forest Biomass in the Mediterranean Basin” No. Ref. (1S-MED 10-009).

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1. Introduction

1.1. Aim and Scope of the Report

This document presents a compilation of public support schemes and also gathers information regarding financing opportunities for both public and private investments in forest biomass chains in the Mediterranean area.

As a report included in the WP3 of the PROFORBIOMED project, it is focused on describing and understanding the particular case of the Mediterranean area, the environmental characteristics of which are very particular and require a special approach.

In this document, information concerning six different Mediterranean countries is included: Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Portugal.

The purpose of this document is to collect information on the current situation of the public support programs and financing opportunities of forest biomass projects as an energy resource in the Mediterranean area.

Mediterranean forests have traditionally been used with thermal purposes, but fell into disuse with the imposing arrival of electricity in households.

Technological advances that make more efficient thermal and electric boilers allow such use. For this reason, it is necessary to give a new impulse to forest harvesting, both politically and economically.

Given the peculiarities and complications of Mediterranean forestry areas, to create a production forest biomass as a sustainable energy source in the Mediterranean, it is necessary to develop policies to facilitate the establishment of a biomass market based on standard economic principles.

This emerging market is currently being driven by the European Union through sustainable development policies as well as giving financial support through the use of structural funds and the creation of financing structures that facilitate investment in biomass projects in critical economic times like the present.

This document will attempt to collect the economic tools that have been provided, so far, by public and private agencies for the development of the forest biomass market.

1.2. Current Status of each partner Country

The European Funds are scheduled periodically. The 2007–2013 programming period coincided, entirely, with the global economic crisis. For this reason, public support schemes and financing opportunities in forest biomass chain have been affected.

The whole system of investment, both public and private, is subject to the current global economic situation.

The 2008 financial crisis, caused by the housing bubble in the United States in 2006, is considered by many economists to be the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. This financial crisis has had extremely serious repercussions in the international financial system triggering an economic crisis internationally.

The crisis that began in 2008 has been noted by many international experts as the "crisis of the developed countries", and that its consequences are observed mainly in the richer countries of the world.

In 2010, the global financial crisis caused a crisis in the Euro system, making it necessary for the European Central Bank to rescue the economies of Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

The European economies of the Eurozone countries are affected by the lack of credit, unemployment, raised inflation, public debt reduction, etc. to a greater or lesser extent.

Within this context, there is the new programming period set for 2014–2020.

1.3. National Strategic Reference Framework

According to the new strategic approach to the Cohesion Policy of the European Union, a National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) was elaborated upon for each one of the Member States, as a new requirement of the Structural Funds regulations for the 2007–2013 period. Therefore, the NSRF constitutes the reference document for the programming of European Funds at the national level for the aforementioned period and should ensure that the assistance from the Funds is consistent with the Community strategic guidelines on cohesion and identifies the link between Community priorities, on the one hand, and the national reform programme on the other. Thus, Operational Programmes in each country are structured based on their respective NSRFs, as they provide an overview of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the Member State's regions and set out the approach to future Structural Funds for spending across each country.

Regarding forest biomass chain investments (as well as initiatives on other fields), which could aim to receive European funds, must firstly fit the NSRF of the country in question. The National Strategic Reference Framework for each of the five countries involved in the elaboration of this report, can be found in the document "Cohesion Policy 2007–2013 – National Strategic Reference Frameworks" by the European Union Regional Policy (January 2008). Specifically, this is the location of a summary for each NSRF: Slovenia pages 67–68, Greece pages 30–32, Spain pages 33–35, France pages 36–38 Italy pages 39–41 and Portugal pages 61 and 62.

2. National Public Support Schemes

Each of the six Mediterranean countries collaborating in this section has its own organizational structure. Therefore, in order to analyze the existing public aids and/or grants throughout these countries in an organized and comparable way, they have been classified according to the following general outline:

2.1 Public Support from Departments related to the Environment or Rural Affairs

2.1.1 Grants for asset investment

2.1.2 Grants for financial costs

2.1.3 Grants for operating costs

2.1.4 Grants for soft loans (public credits)

*2.2 Public Support from Departments related to Energy or Industry**

2.2.1 Grants for asset investment

2.2.2 Grants for financial costs

2.2.3 Grants for operating costs

2.2.4 Grants for soft loans (public credits)

2.2.5 Grants for power generation (electricity, heating, cooling)

2.3 Public Support from Departments related to Business or Innovation

2.3.1 Grants for asset investment

2.3.2 Grants for financial costs

2.3.3 Grants for operating costs

2.3.4 Grants for soft loans (public credits)

2.4 Public Support from Departments Related to Employment or Labour Issues

2.4.1 Grants for asset investment

2.4.2 Grants for financial costs

2.4.3 Grants for operating costs

2.4.4 Grants for soft loans (public credits)

The analysis of each particular grant also includes, when possible: the grant's amount, regulatory framework and the origin of the funds (European, national, regional or local).

*In France and some other regions, the departments in charge of Energy and Environment are one at the same. In these cases, the grant appears in section 2.1 (*Departments Related to Environment or Rural Affairs*).

2.1. Public Support from Departments related to Environment or Rural Affairs

2.1.1. Grants for asset investment

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: “Exoikonomo” Program for energy efficiency in Local Authority organizations

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European Funds

AMOUNT: 75.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Improvement of environment and countryside and of the Programme of Rural Development of Greece 2007–2013 (PRDG)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European Funds

AMOUNT: 4.730.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2011–2013

COUNTRY: Italy

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Rural Development Plan

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: European Programme (Measures 123F and 311)

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European Funds

AMOUNT: Budget fixed every year by region

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa formativo sobre Gestión Energética de la Biomasa; Curso “Gestión de Biomasa Rural” y curso “Instalaciones de Biomasa” / Educational Programme about Biomass Energy Management; Course “Rural Biomass Management” and course “Biomass Installations”

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: “Sustainable Local Development Plan” which is one out of the five programmes from the “Provincial Strategic Framework of Economic Development of Cádiz” (Andalucía)

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European and Regional Funds (charged against the “Comprehensive Project of Local and Urban Development”)

AMOUNT: Cost of 2 courses

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: July, 2013 (Alcalá de los Gazules, Cádiz). September, 2013 (Olvera, Cádiz)

COUNTRY: Slovenia

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: 2nd axis: improving the environment and the countryside

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2013, period 2007– 2011– 2013, (Official Gazette of RS, no. 28/11, 37/11–popr., 103/11 and 87/12)

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

AMOUNT: 470.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Rural Development Plan – 1st Axis – Competiveness. Forest Competiveness Promotion. Action 1.3.1 – Forested Areas Productivity Improvement

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Rural Development Programme of the Portuguese Republic (2007 – 2013), (Ordinance n.º 828/2008, of 8th of August).

FUNDS’ ORIGIN: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

AMOUNT: 63.697 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Rural Development Plan – 1st Axis – Competiveness. Forest Competiveness Promotion. Action 1.3.3 – Forest Enterprises Capacitating and Modernization

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Rural Development Programme of the Portuguese Republic (2007 - 2013), (Ordinance n.º 846/2008, of 12th of August).

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

AMOUNT: 41.484 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007-2013

2.1.2. Grants for financial costs

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Resolution of 25th of February 2013, of the Sub-Secretariat, which sets periods for the submission of aid applications of susceptible projects being financed by the European Union's Financial Instrument LIFE+, on the thematic areas of the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance and LIFE+ Information and communication, call 2013.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 23 May, 2007, concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: 278.000.000 € (Maximum financed percentage 50% of eligible cost)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (last call 25th of June)

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: European Union's Financial Instrument LIFE+. Thematic areas of LIFE+: Nature and Biodiversity, Environmental Policy and Governance and Information and communication.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 23 May 2007, concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: 278.000.000 € (Maximum financed percentage 50% of eligible cost)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (last call 26th of June)

2.1.3. Grants for operating costs

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Order 12/2012, of the 19th of July, of the Regional Ministry for Infrastructures, Territory and Environment, which modifies the Order of the 1st of December, 2009, of the Regional Ministry for Environment, Water, Urban

Development and Housing by which the regulatory basis of a premium regime for the valuation of forest biomass residue in forest lands of the Comunidad Valenciana are approved

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Under axis 2, measure 226 - restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions within the Rural Development Programme of the Comunidad Valenciana 2007–2013

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: 51 €/t (Forest biomass residue harvested)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2012–2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Resolution of the 17th of July ,2013 of the Director of the Valencian Agency for the Development and Guarantee Fund (AVEGA), which calls for a premium regime for 2013 financed by FEADER, for the valuation of residual forest biomass in forest lands of the Comunidad Valenciana region

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Order 1/2013, of the 14th of January by which the regulatory basis of a premium regime for the valuation of residual forest biomass in forest lands of the Comunidad Valenciana region are approved (Under axis 2, measure 226 - restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions within the Rural Development Programme of the Comunidad Valenciana 2007–2013)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: 51 €/t (Forest biomass residue harvested)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013–2015

2.1.4. Grants for soft loans (public credits)

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Exoikonomo kat'oikon" Programme

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European Funds

AMOUNT: 396.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

2.2. Public Support from Departments Related to Energy or Industry

2.2.1. Grants for asset investment

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Financement régional pour l'environnement et l'énergie (FREE) – Accord cadre Etat-Région-ADEME / Regional fund for environment and energy; fund meant for the creation of biomass fueled heating plants and heat networks.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: State-Region-ADEME framework agreement

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional funds

AMOUNT: from 30% to 60% of total eligible costs or from 1.200 to 2.450 €/toe, depending on both the type of project and the type of project leader. Can also be used to fund pre-project studies, with rates going from 50% to 70%

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Criteria for 2013 – apparently, should continue after 2013

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Subvention globale FEDER ADEME PACA/ Global grant ERDF ADEME PACA

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: ERDF programme. Axis 3-1-4 of the European operational programme, for the development of renewable energies

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: from 25% to 50% of total eligible costs. 30M€ in total.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007-2013

COUNTRY: Italy

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Tax deduction

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Decree N 63/2013

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: from 50% to 65% of total eligible costs

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (It might be extended)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: BIOMCASA II - Programa para la ejecución de proyectos de biomasa térmica en edificios / Programme for executing thermal biomass projects in buildings

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of the 12th of December, 2012, of the Secretary of State for Energy, which published the Resolution of 13th of November, 2012, of the Management Board of the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving (IDAE), which establishes the call and the regulatory basis for the authorization of collaborative companies within the programme for executing thermal biomass projects in buildings (BIOMCASA II)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European and National Funds

AMOUNT: 5.000.000€

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From December, 2012 (while funds last)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: GIT - Financiación a empresas habilitadas de Grandes Instalaciones Térmicas a partir de fuentes renovables en edificación (biomasa, solar térmica y geotermia) / GIT - Financing of authorized companies for Big Thermal Installations from renewable sources in buildings (biomass, thermal solar and geothermal)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 7th of April, 2011, of the Secretary of State for Energy, which establishes the call and the basis corresponding to the authorization of collaborative companies within the GIT programme with companies belonging to the renewable energies sector for executing Big Thermal Installations in buildings

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European and National Funds

AMOUNT: 17.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From April, 2011 (while funds last)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Call for aid in renewable energies use in Castilla la Mancha región 2013, of the Regional Ministry of Promotion of the Castilla la Mancha region

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Order of 29 of April, 2013 of the Regional Ministry of Promotion, which calls for aid in renewable energies use in Castilla la Mancha region and establishes a regulatory basis for its donation

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional Funds

AMOUNT: 786.000 € in total, 476.000 € for thermal biomass installations, 30.000 € for hybridization installations (biomass + solar thermal), 30.000 € for equipment for biomass treatments in the field. Financed percentage of a maximum 30% of the eligible cost (max. 30.000 €/ project, beneficiary and/or technology)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Call for aid in energy saving and efficiency in public, industrial and building sectors 2013, of the Regional Ministry of Promotion of the Castilla la Mancha region

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Order of 29 of April, 2013 of the Regional Ministry of Promotion, which calls for aid in energy saving and efficiency in public, industrial and building sectors and establishes a regulatory basis for its donation

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional Funds

AMOUNT: 1.337.000 € in total, 350.000 € applicable for projects related to biomass. Financed cost percentage depending on the kind of project; maximum 22% for investment in industrial equipment, and 75% for industrial energetic audits.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013

COUNTRY: Slovenia

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Energy renovation of public buildings

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Government of Republic of Slovenia, Operational Programme of Environmental and Transport Infrastructure 2017–2013.

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Operational Programme of Environment and Transport 2007–2013, Development priority 6: The preferred orientation: Sustainable renovation of the building Cohesion Fund.

AMOUNT: 59.600.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Slovenia

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Efficient use of electrical energy

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Operational Programme of Environmental and Transport Infrastructure 2017–2013.

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Operational Programme of Environment and Transport 2007–2013, Development priority 6: The preferred orientation: efficient use of electrical energy

AMOUNT: 30.000.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Slovenia

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Innovative measures for local energy supply

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Operational Programme of Environmental and Transport Infrastructure 2017-2013.

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Operational Programme of Environment and Transport 2007-2013, Development priority 6: The preferred orientation: innovative measures for local energy supply

AMOUNT: 46.700.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007-2013

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Operational Program Competitiveness Factors (NRSF) - COMPETE - Priority Axis 1 - Knowledge and Technologic Development

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Strategic Reference Framework (Ministry Council Resolution n.º 86/2007, of July 3rd)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European Rural Development Fund (ERDF) - 71,7 % co-funding

AMOUNT: 894.998.887 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007-2013

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Energetic Efficiency Fund

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Decree-Law n.º 50/2010, of 20th May. National Energetic Efficiency Plan

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: 350.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: March, 2014

2.2.2. Grants for financial costs

No grants were found

2.2.3. Grants for operating costs

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Subvention globale FEDER ADEME PACA/ Global grant ERDF ADEME PACA

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: ERDF programme. Axis 3-1-4 of the European operational programme, for the development of renewable energies

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European funds

AMOUNT: from 25% to 50% of total eligible costs. €30M in total.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Tax deduction scheme, that considers all small domestic RES systems to be eligible for a 20% tax deduction

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: L.2364/95 and L.3522/2006

FUNDS' ORIGIN:

AMOUNT: capped at € 700 per system

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 1995–2020

2.2.4. Grants for soft loans (public credits)

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Commission de régulation de l'énergie – Appels d'offre CRE 4 / Energy regulation commission (CRE) – Call for tenders CRE 4; the fund guarantees a buying price of the produced electricity from the State during the elected period (defined initially and then updated each year)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Variable

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Last call was in 2010 – could be renewed in the future

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Fondo JESSICA-F.I.D.A.E. / JESSICA-F.I.D.A.E. Fund

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: The enabling framework for JESSICA is provided by general and specific regulations, which allow Member States to use some of their Structural Fund allocations to take advantage of financial engineering mechanisms to support investment in integrated urban renewal and regeneration schemes.

All the relevant regulations can be found at the site of DG REGIO:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/instruments/jessica_legislation_en.cfm#1

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European, Regional and private local funds

AMOUNT: 123 M€ (for revolving funds)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Until 30th of April, 2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Proyectos CLIMA a través del Fondo de Carbono FES-CO2, Convocatoria 2013/ CLIMA Projects through the Carbon Fund FES-CO2, call 2013

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 2/2011, Royal Decree 1494/2011

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Depending on the project (the financing support offered comprises the acquisition of verified emissions' reductions)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (Last call - 15th of May)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa PANEER - Programa de ayudas para la Rehabilitación Energética de Edificios existentes en el sector Residencial (uso vivienda y hotelero) / PANEER Programme - Aid Programme for Energy Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in the Residential Sector (dwelling and hotel use)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 25th of September, 2013, of the Secretary of State for Energy, which publishes the Resolution of 25th of June, 2013, of the Management Board of the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving (IDAE), which established the regulatory basis and the call for aid programme for the energy rehabilitation of existing buildings in the residential sector (dwelling and hotel use)

Resolution of 9th of September, 2013, of the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving, which complements the Resolution of 25th of September, 2013.

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Total for the programme = 125.000.000 € (31.250.000 € for biomass thermal installations) - Refundable loans (interest rate = Euribor + 0,0%, maximum repayment term = 12 years)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013-2015 (last call 30th of October 2015)

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Operational Program Competitiveness Factors (NRSF) - COMPETE - Priority Axis 2 - Innovation and Renovation of the Business Model and the Specialization Standard

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Strategic Reference Framework (Ministry Council Resolution n.º 86/2007, of July 3rd)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: European Rural Development Fund (ERDF) – 75 % co-funding

AMOUNT: 1.224.205.950 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–2013

2.2.5. Grants for power generation (electricity, heating, cooling)

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Fonds Chaleur Renouvelable – volet national. Appels à projet BIACT / Renewable Heat Funds – national part. Call for BIACT projects; funding programme to promote the production of renewable energies through heat installations (including biomass)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Maximum funding ranges from 45% to 65%, depending on the size of the companies (the smallest ones get the highest rates). The amount will also depend on the actual heat production of the chain.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Not specified

COUNTRY: France

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Fonds Chaleur Renouvelable – volet regional / Renewable Heat Funds – regional part; funding programme to promote the production of renewable energies through heat installations (including biomass)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional funds (regional part of a national fund)

AMOUNT: From 300€ to 1.750€ (depending on the size of the project). In total (national and regional parts), the Renewable Heat Fund is allowed 1,2G€ up to 2013, and 800M€/year after 2013.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Not specified

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Feed in tariff scheme per Kwh of electricity produced by RES

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: L. 2773/99, L. 2244/94, L.3468/06

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Special Tax for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases, former Renewable Energy Sources Fund

AMOUNT: It depends on the amount of RES production (820 M€ in 2012)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 1994–2020

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Royal Decree 661/2007 of 25th of May, which regulates electric energy generation activity under the Special Regime

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Incentive payments for each sold MW, for reactive power generated and for high efficiency. Amount for each of these incentives varies depending on the type of installation.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2007–today (waiting for the development of the new regulations, which are being processed)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Royal Decree–Law 1/2012, of 27th of January, which proceeds to the elimination of the retribution's pre-assignment procedures and to the elimination of economic incentives for new electric power generation installations from cogeneration, renewable sources and waste

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: 0 € (It eliminates the preceding incentives)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From January, 2012 on

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Law 15/2012, of 27th of December, of tax measures for energy sustainability

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: 7% tax rise over power generation installations net benefit

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From December, 2012 on

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Royal Decree–Law 2/2013, of 1st of February, of urgent measures in the power system and the financial sector

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: It changes the way we update access tariffs for power generation installations

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From February, 2013 on

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Order IET/221/2013, of 14th of February, which establishes access tariffs from 1st of January, 2013 and tariffs and incentives for Special Regime installations

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Varies with the type of installation

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From February, 2013 on

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Royal Decree-Law 9/2013, of 12th of July, from which urgent measures are adopted in order to guarantee the energy sector stability

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Law 54/1997 of the Energy Sector

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Varies with the type of installation

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Depending on the measure. Regarding biomass installations, the sector is waiting for the development of new regulations, which are being processed (probably until December 2013)

COUNTRY: Slovenia

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Feed in tariff scheme per Kwh of electricity produced by RES

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: [Regulation on support for electricity produced from renewable energy sources \(Of.g. RS, No. 37/2009, 53/2009, 68/2009, 76/2009 17/2010, 94/2010, 43/2011, 105/2011, 43/2012, 90/2012\)](#)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National and EU funds

AMOUNT: 100.000.000 EUR in 2013

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2010-2020

2.3. Public Support from Departments Related to Business or Innovation

2.3.1. Grants for asset investment

COUNTRY: Greece

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Law 4146/13 - Amendments of the Investment and Development Law

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: L. 2773/99, L. 2244/94, L.3468/06, L.3734/2009, L.3851/2010, L. 3855/2010, Special Physical Planning Framework for the Development of RES and Land Management, L.3661/2008, OG 1122/B/2008, L. 3423/2005, L.3653/2008, L.3769/2009, Guidelines and directions for the licensing of RES-E based on the energy mix included in the NREAP

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: incentive for investment plans exceeding 100.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Order of non-refundable direct incentives on energy matters (Andalucía)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Order of 7th of December, 2010, which establishes a regulatory basis for the incentives programme for sustainable energy development in Andalucía and calls for aid during the 2009-2014 period.

Within the Andalucías' Programme for sustainable energy development (Andalucía A+)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional and European funds

AMOUNT: 60% for big companies, 70% for medium companies or non-company beneficiaries and 80% for small companies (maximum financed percentage)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2009-2014

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa de Ayudas Energías Renovables y biocarburantes para los ejercicios 2012 y 2013 / Programme of aid for renewable energies and biofuels for the 2012 and 2013 financial years

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 28th of June, 2013, of the President of the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE), which opens the call for aid in renewable energy matters and biofuels for the 2013 financial year

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 1.237.750 € for electric/thermal biomass, machinery for chipping or packing biomass, pellets/briquettes plants and hybrid installations (thermal biomass and thermal solar)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2012 and 2013 (Last call 7th of August 2013)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa de Ayudas en ahorro y eficiencia energética en la empresa para los ejercicios 2012 y 2013 / Programme for aid in company energy saving and efficiency for the 2012 and 2013 financial years

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 6th of June, 2013, of the President of the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE), which opens the call for aid in energy saving and efficiency for companies, the building sector, cogeneration and energy diversification for the 2013 financial year

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 2.950.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (Last call 26th of July)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa de Ayudas en ahorro y eficiencia energética en la edificación para los ejercicios 2012 y 2013 / Programme for aid in the building sector energy saving and efficiency for the 2012 and 2013 financial years

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 6th of June, 2013, of the President of the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE), which opens the call for aid in energy saving and efficiency for companies, the building sector, cogeneration and energy diversification for the 2013 financial year

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 850.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (Last call 26th of July)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa de Ayudas en ahorro y eficiencia energética en el sector de transformación de la energía para los ejercicios 2012 y 2013 / Programme of aid in energy saving and efficiency for the energy transformation sector for the 2012 and 2013 financial years

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 6th of June, 2013, of the President of the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE), which opens the call for aids in energy saving and efficiency for companies, the building sector, cogeneration and energy diversification for the 2013 financial year

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 127.100 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (Last call 26th of July)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Programa de Diversificación Energética / Programme of Energy Diversification

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Resolution of 6th of June, 2013, of the President of the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE), which opens the call for aid in energy saving and efficiency for companies, the building sector, cogeneration and energy diversification for the 2013 financial year

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 300.000 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (Last call 26th of July)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Order of 4th of June, of the Regional Ministry of Universities, Business and Research, which establishes the regulatory basis and calls for aid for companies, families or natural persons, non-profit institutions and local corporations for the execution and exploitation of projects related to installations using renewable energy resources in the fields of eolian, solar photovoltaic, biomass/biogas, biofuels, geothermic, mini-hydraulics and energy efficiency for the 2013 financial year

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Operational programme FEDER of the Murcia region for the 2007-2013 period

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional (20%) and European (80%) funds

AMOUNT: 775.172 €

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013 (last call 8th of July)

COUNTRY: Portugal

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Innovation Support Fund - Renewable Energies

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Dispatch n.º 32276-A/2008, of the 17th of December

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Enterprises who won two public tenders to establish wind power

AMOUNT: 47.550.074€

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013

2.3.2. Grants for financial costs

No grants were found

2.3.3. Grants for operating costs

No grants were found

2.3.4. Grants for soft loans (public credits)

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Líneas de Crédito ICO (Instituto de Crédito Oficial) – Empresas y emprendedores 2013 (también para rehabilitación de viviendas) / Credit Lines ICO (Official Credit Institute) – Companies and entrepreneurs 2013 (also for the rehabilitation of dwellings)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Royal Decree 706/1999 of 30th of April

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: Depending on the projects (leasing/loans for investment and liquidity loans)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: Until 16th of December, 2013

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Call for proposals on Research and Development projects co-financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA-GRANTS)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Programme for Science and Technology in Environment and Climate Change operated by the Centre for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI)

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein

AMOUNT: 18.255.000 € for climate change and renewable energy projects (Project's budget admitted between 175.000 € and 5.000.000 €; maximum financed percentage 75%)

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: From 10th of June, 2013 to 30th of April, 2017

2.4. Public Support from Departments related to Employment or Labour Issues

2.4.1. Grants for asset investment

COUNTRY: Spain

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Renova'tt Project; Programme of aims for innovative and experimental projects of biomass or energy efficiency (Guidance to companies and local government and educational programmes in Gerona (El Ripollès) and Barcelona (Castell de Montesquiú) about biomass production and sustainable forest management)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Order EMO/312/2012, of 8th of October which establishes the regulatory basis for the grant awards of innovative and experimental projects co-financed by the European Social Fund opening the call for aid for the year 2012

FUNDS' ORIGIN: Regional and European funds

AMOUNT: Varies depending on the project

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2012-2013

2.4.2. Grants for financial costs

No grants were found

2.4.3. Grants for operating costs

COUNTRY: Italy

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Renewable Heating Incentive up to 1 MWth (Conto Termico)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Decree linked to Directive 28/2009/EC transposed in Italy with National Decree 28/2001

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: 900 Billion € per year

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013-2023

COUNTRY: Italy

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Renewable Power Incentive up to 5 MWeI (Conto Elettrico)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Decree linked to Directive 28/2009/EC transposed in Italy with National Decree 28/2001

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: every year a number of CHP plants are founded up to 170 MWeI/y, in 2014 and 2015 it became 160 MWeI

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013-2015

COUNTRY: Italy

GRANT/PUBLIC SUPPORT: Energy efficiency certificates (Certificati Bianchi)

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: National Decree linked to Directive 28/2009/EC transposed in Italy with the National Decree 28/2001

FUNDS' ORIGIN: National funds

AMOUNT: It is a revolving fund. Based on the toe (ton oil equivalent) that the energy players have to save in the period 2013-2016

PERIOD OF VALIDITY: 2013-2016

2.4.4. Grants for soft loans (public credits)

No grants were found

3. Status of private financing

Due to the lack of sources of public finance, private financing is the only option for increasing energy efficiency and incorporating renewable energy sources into the public sector and, consequently, in households. According the data in Table 1, non-renewable fuels have a high cost in comparison to renewable ones. For example, the normal price for heat provided by district heating systems is between 0.080 EUR/kWh and 0.11 EUR/kWh. If the heat is produced in the CHP with biomass, the price can be reduced to 0.06 EUR/kWh.

Type of fuel	Calorific value in kWh/unit	Unit	Price in EUR/kWh
LPG - propane (in tank)	6.71	L	0.170
LPG - propane - butane (in tank)	7.23	L	0.160
Heating oil	10.25	L	0.130
Natural gas	9.17	Sm ³	0.100
Woodchips	800	nm ³	0.030
Wood pellets	4.73	kg	0.06
Firewood	2,410	prm	0.031
Electricity	1	kWh	0.140
Heat pump air/water (COP = 3.4)	1	kWh	0.041
Heat pump land/water (COP = 4.5)	1	kWh	0.031
Heat pump water/water (COP = 5.5)	1	kWh	0.025

Table 1. Average energy prices in MED countries.

There are several possibilities when considering a heat supply:

- ④ Individual biomass heating systems: biomass storage systems, boiler house, pipes and heating devices (radiators, convectors, etc).
- ④ Micro biomass district heating systems. One boiler house heats several buildings.
- ④ Normal biomass district heating systems. One or more biomass boilers supply heat to several buildings (public buildings, households, services) and/or industries.
- ④ A biomass cogeneration plant with a district heating system. Biomass is used for the combined production of heat and electricity.

Heating prices depend on investment costs, operating costs (costs of biomass have a great influence on the heating prices), maintenance costs and the prices of the electricity produced in a cogeneration plant. On the other hand, the following biomass cogeneration technologies are available, which also influence the heating prices of the end users:

- ③ ORC technology (18–20 % electrical efficiency);
- ③ steam/condensate Rankine Cycle (10–30 % electrical efficiency);
- ③ gasification technology (with a steam turbine, with a steam/ORC turbine, with a gas turbine or with an engine), (18–40 % electrical efficiency);
- ③ pyrolysis with a gas treatment plant or plasma device (tar removing) and gas engine (up to 40 % electrical efficiency).

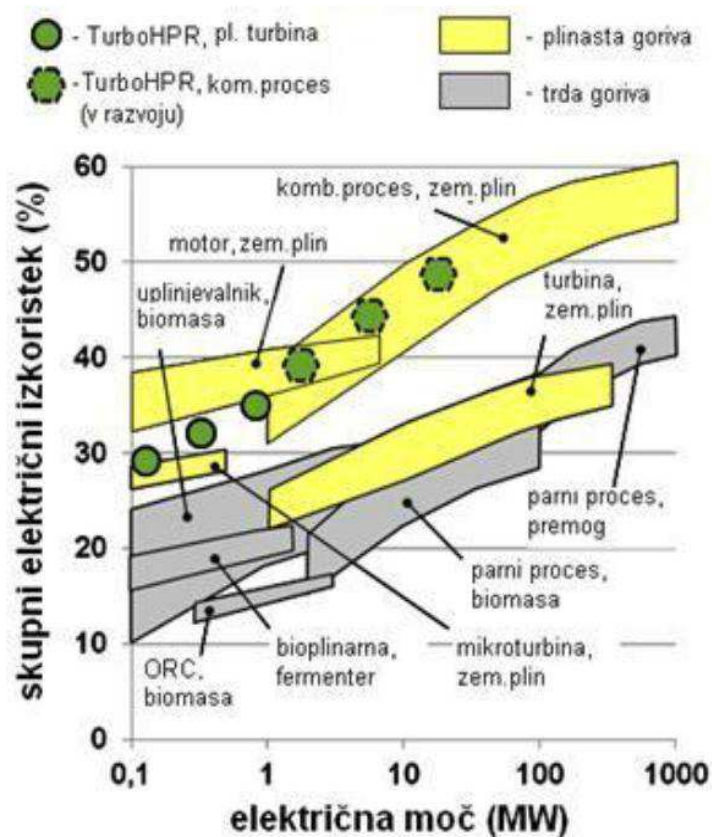


Figure 1. Electrical efficiencies of the various CHP plants.

Usually, in the public sector, the district heating price consists of the following:

- ③ the variable part of the price, which covers production and distribution costs of the heat in EUR/kWh;
- ③ the fixed part of the price, which covers the depreciation and amortization of the investment.

An investor (private or public heat producer), is obliged to get conformation of the heating price from the government after signing the concession contract. Also, every increase in prices should meet the approval of the government.

There are two possibilities in the case of private financing for biomass district heating systems or other investments in the energy sector:

3.1. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

A public-private partnership (PPP) is a government service or private business venture which is funded and operated through a partnership of a public administration and one or more private sector companies. These schemes are sometimes referred to as PPP, or P3.

PPP involves a contract between a public sector authority and a private party, in which the private party provides a public service (heat production and supply) and assumes a substantial financial, technical and operational risk in the project. In the heat supply through PPP (notably the private finance initiative), capital investment is made by the private sector on the basis of a contract with the government to provide the agreed-upon services and the cost of providing the service is borne wholly or in part by the government. Government contributions to a PPP may also be in kind (notably the transfer of existing assets). The contractor has to be chosen through public procurement.

PROCEDURES for PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP - PPP:

1. The uncovering of public interest by a representative body of the Municipality.
2. Preparing the investment documentation for the PPP model.
3. The implementation of a procedure by a representative body.
4. The adoption of the Act on PPP by a representative body of the Municipality.
5. The preparation and publishing of the tender and the tender documents.
6. The selection of a concessionaire (PPP).
7. The signing of the contract EPC (Energy Performance Contract).

After the period defined in the contract, the equipment installed is owned by the public contractor.

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC):

A private investor takes the following responsibilities (Figure 2):

- ① Carrying out the analysis of the site and establishing the feasible, economical energy savings in the area of the contracting (buildings, biomass district heating systems, public lightening systems etc.).
- ② Entirely invested money in the replacement of equipment and renovation should depreciate from the energy and energy related savings.
- ③ Providing the amount of energy savings agreed upon with the public partner throughout the entire contract period.

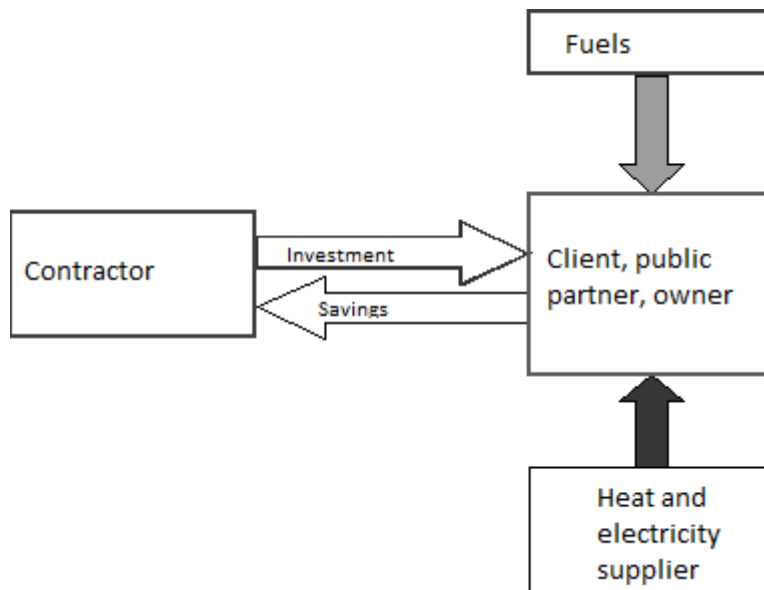


Figure 2. Basic principle of Energy Performance Contracting.

Energy Performance Contracting is a procedure which links investment and operating activities. The contractor finances and implements the energy savings measures and implements those activities during the entire contracting period. As the payment depends on the energy (and operating) costs, the main risk is on the contractor's side.

The procedure for the establishing the Energy Performance Contracting consists of the following legislative steps:

- consideration of public interest (representative municipal body);
- preparation of the investment feasibility study;
- implementation of the preliminary procedure (confirmation from a representative municipal body);
- adoption of the private-public partnership act;
- preparation and publication of the public tender;
- selection of the concessionaire;
- contract signing.

3.2. ESCO (Energy Service Company)

Companies engage in a performance based contract with the public and/or private sector and/or industry-services to implement a biomass district heating investment in a technically and financially viable manner. In case of the heat supply to the public sector, the private company may grant a concession for heat production and distribution.

Figure 3 shows a possible ESCO implementation procedure which, beside private investors, includes funds from the European Investment Bank and ELENA program. The important issue is that a local energy agency or other public body (municipality, research organization, other kinds of agencies...) prepares a list of the possible projects suitable for the ESCO procedure. There are various possible procedures for the ESCO use of the energy supply in the public sector. The final results include the decrease of energy costs and the use of biomass for energy production. The ESCO methodology may consist of the following steps:

PROCEDURES for PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP - ESCO:

1. Consideration of public interest by a representative municipal body.
2. Producing investment documentation for the PPP model.
3. Procedure implementation by a representative body.
4. The adoption of the Act on PPP by representative municipal body.
5. The preparation and publishing of the tender and tender documents.
6. The selection of the concessionaire (ESCO).
7. Signing the ESC contract (Energy Supply Contract).

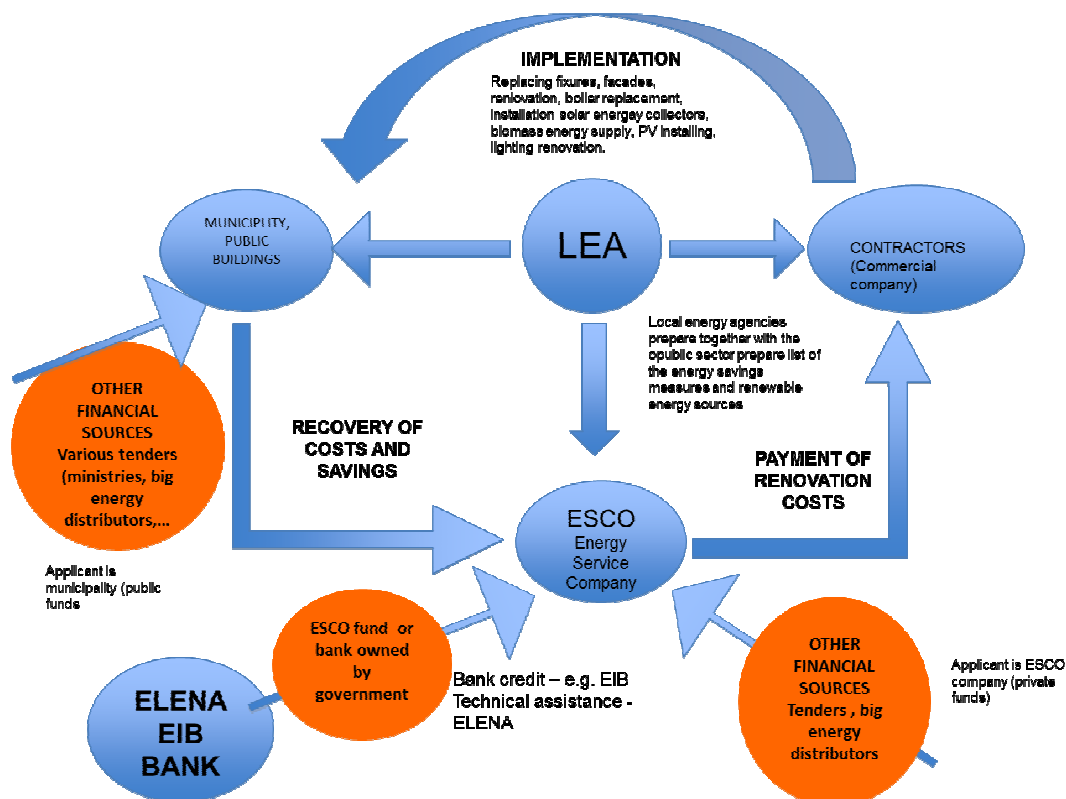


Figure 3. Procedure for the implementation of ESCO.

Private investors provide the funds:

- ④ as their own capital;
- ④ as commercial bank credit;
- ④ as bank credit with a subsidized interest rate;
- ④ as partly subsidized investment costs from the government or from EU funds;
- ④ an equity from private funds (group of financing institutions establish the fund for investments for biomass district heating systems);
- ④ funds from the Venture Capital;
- ④ funds from the European Investment Funds;
- ④ funds from the ELENA program;
- ④ mixed financial funds.

Venture capital is money provided by investors to start-up firms and small businesses with perceived long-term growth potential. This is a very important source of funding for start-ups that do not have access to capital markets. It typically entails a high risk for the investor, but it has the potential to result in above-average returns.

3.3. Examples of Private Funds for Biomass Energy Production and Supply in Slovenia

Country:	Slovenia		
Region:	Podravje		
Investment in EUR:	6 M EUR		
Power of the system (MW):	7 MW		
Type of financial source	Type of investor(s)	Type of financing	Description of the example/case study
4.8 MEUR private capital and 1.2 MEUR Cohesion Fund.	Private company (Austrian investor established the investment company.)	Direct financing (bank credit) and co-financing from the Cohesion fund	District heating system for the Lenart settlement. The investor signed a 30 year concession contract with the Lenart Municipality. Basic Data: Installed biomass (woodchips) 3.5 MW boiler and a 3.5 MW oil boiler (for peak demand and backup boiler). There is no heat storage tank installed.
Country:	Slovenia		
Region:	Primorska		
Investment in EUR:	2.5 MEUR		

Power of the system (MW):	4.5 MW + 9 MW		
Type of financial source	Type of investor(s)	Type of financing	Description of the example/case study
0.5 MEUR from the GEF project and co-financing from the Slovenian government.	Public sector: the Kočevje Municipality	The ECO Fund credit, own capital, the GEF project (EU) and the SLO government.	The existing district heating system was retrofitted and upgraded. New boiler on wood chips was added. Additional heat is provided from the steam boiler plant from nearby company, Melamin. Total heat power installed 13.5 MW.

Table 2. Description of the private funds for biomass energy production and supply in Slovenia.

3.4. Examples of private funds for biomass energy production and supply in France

Country	France		
Type of financial source	Type of investor(s)	Description of financing	Example/case study
Company funding	Local bodies associated with private companies	Sharing of the capital and operating costs	SEM Corse bois énergie (Corsica)
Project funding	Private	Asset investment Electricity buying	Scierie Corse développement CHP plant
Project funding	Private	Securing supply and territory development	E-on call for tenders

Table 3. Description of the private funds for biomass energy production in France

In France, it is possible for public and private bodies to fund a project together, through a type of society called Société d'économie mixte (SEM – mixed economy society), which is a society whose capital is mostly owned by one or more public entities (like the state, local authorities, or any kind of public body), and where at least one private body participates in the capital. Public participation is limited to 85% of the capital today. A SEM guarantees that public interest is taken into account in the objectives while offering the flexibility of a private company.

An example is the SEM Corse bois énergie: in this project, the local authority of Corsica (CTC) and private partners are working together to provide heat from woodchips. Moreover, the company is engaged in sustainable development approach, including the use of wood coming from local supply (from the CTC and other public and private forests) and forest eco-certification (the company is PEFC certified, with a chain of custody).

Moreover, some electricity companies, eager to invest in CHP plants, have started to fund private projects. There is at least one case in South of France, where an electricity provider is funding a small CHP plant, owned by a saw mill, and will then use the electricity produced.

Similarly, the electricity company E-on has currently launched a call for tenders to fund the upstream part of the biomass chain, in order to secure its local supply by improving forestry techniques.

3.5. Examples of Private Funds for Biomass Energy Production and Supply in Spain

Country	Spain		
Type of financial source	Type of investor(s)	Description of financing	Example/case study
Mixed funding: Own capital and bank loan	Private	Project Finance	Construction of a biomass plant
Mixed funding (different in each case)	ESCO company	ESCO	Construction of district heating
Mixed funding: Own capital and bank loan	Private	-	Biomass logistics centers

Table 4. Description of the private funds for biomass energy production in Spain.

The current economic situation makes the financing of projects in Spain very difficult, for all kind of projects.

For electric biomass projects there are one specific limitation: the legal uncertainty generated by the latest legislation and the new one which is expected.

3.6. Examples of Private Funds for Biomass Energy Production and Supply in Italy.

Country	ITALY		
Type of financial source	Type of investor(s)	Description of financing	Example/case study
Bank credit	ESCO	ESCO, energy efficiency certificates	This ESCo (SIRAM) has established a 300 kW chip plant in the Municipality of Podenzano (Piacenza-Italy).
Bank credit	ESCO	ESCO, energy efficiency certificates	This ESCo (Ecodolomiti) has established a 150 kW chip plant for selling heat to a private company (Agordo-Italy).

Table 5. Description of the private funds for biomass energy production in Italy.

Table 6.

In Table 5, two Italian typical examples of private investments for carrying out biomass plants were mentioned.

The financial source for the heating sector, in most of the cases, is bank credit and private funds, however, these kind of investments are triggered by national incentives (Renewable Heating Incentive up to 1000 kW and the Energy Efficiency Certificates (or White certificates).

For electricity production, the situation is similar; in this case the investor gets the feed-in tariff and a further “bonus” based on the level of efficiency reached.

4. European Financing Opportunities

4.1. European Financial Instruments

The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014–2020 amounts to over €650 billion. The Commission has presented a set of regulations laying down the objectives and management of the EU funds in the 2014–2020 period, covering the cohesion policy, maritime affairs and fisheries, research and innovation, environment and climate change and competitiveness. The new proposals are designed to ensure that EU investments are targeted at Europe's long-term goals for growth and jobs.

Regarding the management of EU funds, there are funds which are managed by the EU and the Member States and others which are managed centrally by the European Commission. The Structural and Cohesion Funds, the EMFF and the EAFRD fall under the first category, whereas research, the environment and external action funds fall mostly under the second. The bulk of EU spending (76% of the EU budget) involves funds which come under shared management by the EU Member States.

The total proposed budget for the 2014–2020 period will be **€376 billion**, including funding for the new Connecting Europe Facility, which is designed to enhance cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology. The legislative architecture comprises:

- a general regulation setting out common rules for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF);
- three specific regulations for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund. These three fund-specific regulations include provisions specific to each Fund (ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund), in particular regarding the scope of the Funds, investment priorities, and indicators; and
- two further regulations on European territorial cooperation and the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

The General Regulation is divided into two parts. The first part lays down a series of common provisions for the five funds with structural aims covered by the Commission's Common Strategic Framework (ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD, and EMFF). It outlines the common elements on strategic planning and programming; the thematic objectives linked to Europe 2020 (the basis for the structuring of the Funds), and provisions concerning the Common Strategic Framework and the Partnership Contracts with each Member State. Common rules will also cover eligibility, financial instruments, management and control principles. The second part of the General Regulation sets out specific provisions for the ERDF, the ESF, and the Cohesion Fund. These relate to the mission and goals of the cohesion policy, the financial framework, specific programming and reporting arrangements, major projects and joint action plans. It also sets out the detailed management and control requirements under the cohesion policy and the specific arrangements for financial management. Every European region may benefit from the support of ERDF and ESF. However, a distinction between "less developed", "transition" and "more

developed” regions will exist in order to ensure the concentration of the funds according to the level of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Some benefits of financial instruments are:

- ④ leverage resources and an increased impact of European Structural and Investment Funds.
- ④ efficiency and effectiveness gains due to the revolving nature of funds, which stay in the programme area for future use for similar objectives.
- ④ better quality of projects as investments must be repaid.
- ④ access to a wider spectrum of financial tools for policy delivery and private sector involvement and expertise.
- ④ move away from “grant dependency” culture.
- ④ attracting the private sector support and financing to public policy objectives.

In relation to the priorities, investments under the thematic objective “Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors” in ERDF and Cohesion Funds, shall contribute to the following investment priorities related to renewable energy and smart grids:

- ④ Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable resources.
- ④ Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises.
- ④ Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector.
- ④ Developing and implementing smart distribution systems at low and medium voltage levels.
- ④ Promoting research and innovation, and the adoption of low-carbon technologies.
- ④ Promoting the use of high-efficiency, co-generation heat and power based on the useful heat demand.

There may also be a scope for investment in renewable energy under:

- ④ promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal, urban mobility and the mitigation of relevant adaption measures.

Further info:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/fin_inst/index_en.cfm

4.1.1. *European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):*

The ERDF aim is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between regions. The ERDF supports regional and local development to contribute to all thematic objectives, by setting out detailed priorities to increase focus on:

- ④ research, development, and innovation;
- ④ improving access to and the quality of information and communication technologies;
- ④ climate change and the move towards a low-carbon economy;
- ④ business support for SMEs;
- ④ services of general economic interest;
- ④ telecommunication, energy, and transport infrastructures;
- ④ enhancing the institutional capacity and effective public administration;
- ④ health, education, and social infrastructures; and
- ④ sustainable urban development.

4.1.2. European Social Fund (ESF):

While contributing to the economic, social and territorial cohesion, the ESF is the European Union's main financial instrument for investing in people. It increases the employment opportunities for European citizens, promotes better education, and improves the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty. The regulation proposes targeting the ESF on four thematic objectives throughout the Union:

- ④ promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;
- ④ promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- ④ investing in education, skills and lifelong learning; and
- ④ enhancing the institutional capacity and efficient public administration.

However, the ESF should also contribute to other thematic objectives such as supporting the shift towards a low carbon, climate-resilient and resource efficient economy, enhancing the use of information and communication technologies, strengthening research, technological development and innovation, and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

4.1.3. The Cohesion Fund (CF)

The Cohesion Fund is aimed at Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the EU average. It aims to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development. It is now subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ERDF and ESF through the Common Provisions

Regulation. For the 2014–2020 period, the Cohesion Fund concerns Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The Cohesion Fund allocates a total of € 63.4 billion to activities under the following categories:

- Trans-European transport networks, notably priority projects of European interest as identified by the EU. The Cohesion Fund will support infrastructure projects under the [Connecting Europe Facility](#);
- Environment: the Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodal transport, strengthening public transport, etc.

There are some initiatives financed through the Structural Funds (ERDF+ESF) which support the implementation of the scopes of regional policy and territorial cooperation, such as the:

- Community Initiatives: JEREMIE, JASPERS, JESSICA and JASMINE
- INTERREG
- URBACT
- ESPON

4.2. European Programmes 2014–2020



4.2.1. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF):

Programme 2007–2013 → Trans-European transport, energy and digital networks (TEN-T; TEN-E; INFSO)

It is a new, integrated instrument that shall enable the preparation and implementation of projects of common interest within the framework of the trans-European networks (TEN) policy in the sectors of **energy**, transport and telecommunications. In particular the Connecting Europe Facility **shall support the implementation of projects aiming at the development and construction of new or the upgrading of existing infrastructure** in these fields.

It will provide €40 billion in funding (plus €10 earmarked in the Cohesion Fund) to improve transport, energy and digital networks across Europe.

Objectives:

- Contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by developing modern and high performing trans-European networks, thus bringing forward benefits for the entire European Union in terms of competitiveness and economic, social and territorial cohesion within the Single Market and creating an environment more conducive to private and public investment through a combination of financial instruments and Union direct support and by exploiting synergies across the sectors. The achievement of this objective will be measured by the volume of

public and private investment in projects of common interest, and in particular the volume of public and private investments in projects of common interest realised through the financial instruments under this Regulation.

- Enable the Union to achieve its targets of a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a 20% increase in energy efficiency and **raising the share of renewable energy to 20%** by 2020, while ensuring greater solidarity among Member States.

The activities supported in relation with energetic issues are those that:

- promote the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders.
- enhance the Union security of supply.
- contribute to sustainable development and the protection of the environment (fostering the uses of renewable energies).

Further info:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/mff/facility/connecting_europe_en.htm

4.2.2. LIFE

Programme 2007-2013 → LIFE+



The new LIFE Programme consists of two sub programmes: Environment and Climate Action. The creation of a sub programme for Climate Action, upgrades the former thematic "climate change" strand under the LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance component. The LIFE Programme is a catalyst for promoting the implementation and integration of environmental and climatic objectives in other policies and Member State practice.

- The sub-programme for Environment: consists of three priority areas (Biodiversity, Environment and Resource Efficiency and Governance) focusing on implementation and integration.
- The sub-programme for Climate Action supports efforts contributing to three specific priority areas: Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Governance and Information.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, **low-carbon** and climate resilient **economy**, the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss;
- To improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, as well as stimulating and promoting the integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including increasing their capacity;

- To support better environmental and climate governance at all levels.

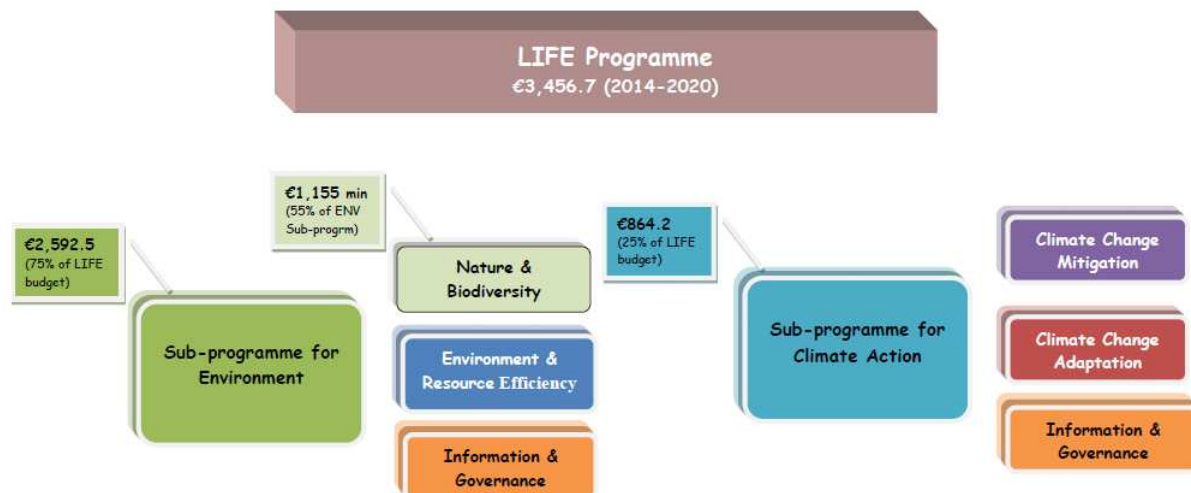


Figure 4. Life Programme budget and structure for 2014-2020. Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/documents/life2014-2020.pdf>

Supported Activities

Sub-programme for Environment (€2,592 million)

Environment and Resource Efficiency

- To develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches, good practice, and solutions to environmental challenges, which can be replicated, transferred or mainstreamed, including, with respect to the link between the environment and health, and in support of **resource efficiency-related policy and legislation**, and including the Roadmap to a “Resource Efficient Europe”;
- To support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, waste and air;
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union environmental policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the environment both inside and outside of the Union.

Nature and Biodiversity

- To contribute to the implementation of Union policy and legislation in the area of biodiversity, including the Union Biodiversity Strategy stretching to 2020, in particular by applying, developing, testing and demonstrating approaches, good practice and solutions;

- ④ To support the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network set-up, in particular the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of the Prioritised Action Frameworks;
- ④ To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the European Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact the biodiversity both inside and outside of the Union.

Environmental Governance and Information

- ④ To promote the raising of awareness in the case of environmental matters, including generating public and stakeholder support in Union policy-making within the field of environment, and to promote education for sustainable development;
- ④ To support communication, management, and the dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including through the development of cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;
- ④ To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental legislation, in particular, by promoting the development and dissemination of good practice and policy approaches;
- ④ To promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation

Sub-programme for Climate Action (€ 864 million)

Climate Change Mitigation

- ④ To contribute to the implementation and development of the Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating **policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation**;
- ④ To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective mitigation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge to practice;
- ④ To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national levels;
- ④ To contribute to the development and demonstration of **innovative mitigation technologies**, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Change Adaptation

- ④ To contribute to the development and implementation of the Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation;

- ④ To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective adaptation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice;
- ④ To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national levels;
- ④ To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that could be replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

Climate Governance and Information

- ④ Stakeholder support to Union policy-making in the field of climate, and to promote education for sustainable development;
- ④ To support communication, management, and the dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including the development of cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;
- ④ To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of good practice and policy approaches;
- ④ To promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation

Type of projects:

At least 81% of the budget will fund the following kind of projects:

- ④ **Traditional projects:** best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+)
- ④ **Integrated projects:** projects aiming at the implementation of large territorial scale plans, programmes or strategies required by EU environmental or climate legislation. •

They will have to be inclusive: stakeholders must be involved as associated beneficiaries and they will be focused primarily on the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation.

Sustainability will be important as well as the mobilisation of other funds (EU or other).
- ④ **Preparatory projects:** projects identified by the Commission to support the specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy as well as legislation•
- ④ **Capacity building projects:** financial support for activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE

Two pilot actions regarding “green” financial instruments are to be performed with the overall objective of widening financing opportunities for “green investments”. These are called:

- Private Financing for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE): M€ 80 from LIFE. Climate Action. Link with the EIB's initiative "DEEP Green". Objectives of the PF4EE are:

 - To make energy efficiency lending a more sustainable activity across financial institutions (FIs) in Europe;
 - To encourage private commercial banks and other financial intermediaries to address the energy efficiency sector as a distinct market segment;
 - To increase lending for energy efficiency in response to priorities identified by Member States' National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.
- Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCFF): M€ 30 from LIFE Environment and M€ 30 from LIFE Climate Action; plus matching funds from EIB of M€ 50. The objectives of NCFF are:

 - To encourage investments in revenue-generating or cost-saving projects, promoting the conservation of natural capital to meet biodiversity/adaptation objectives and support green growth;
 - To demonstrate the attractiveness of natural capital projects to private investors;
 - To build a project pipeline.

Further info:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>

4.2.3. Horizon 2020 (former FP7 / CIP (IEE/ICT/Eco-innovation))

Programme 2007-2013 → FP7 / CIP (IEE/ICT/Eco-innovation)



Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with an €80 billion budget, the EU's new programme for **research and innovation** is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. Horizon 2020 provides major simplification through a single set of rules. It will combine all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 will tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprises to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed. International cooperation will be an important cross-cutting priority of Horizon 2020. In addition to Horizon 2020 being fully open to international participation, targeted actions with key partner countries and regions will focus on the EU's strategic priorities. Through a new strategy, a strategic and coherent approach to international cooperation will be ensured across Horizon 2020.

Objectives:

EU funding for research and innovation will be focused on three key objectives (excellent science, competitive industries and better society), implemented through specific programs and a dedicated financial contribution to the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology). The primary aim of Horizon 2020 is to strengthen the EU's position as a world leader in science, to help make Europe a more attractive location to invest in research and innovation and to bring excellent research results to a market which will deliver direct benefits to citizens, such as affordable health-care, protection against cyber crime, and the **transition to a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy**.

The Horizon 2020 programme consists of the following parts:

- ④ “Excellent Science”
- ④ “Industrial Leadership”
- ④ “Societal Challenges”
- ④ In addition, there is also a specific programme entitled „Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)”.

“Excellent Science”, “Industrial Leadership” and “Societal Challenges” will be implemented by the Commission, which will adopt annual work programmes that contain descriptions of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action, indicative implementation timetables, as well as a multi-annual approach and strategic orientation for the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing per project.

The Work Programme for **“Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy”** (developed under “Societal Challenges”) “for 2014–2015 has a budget of €5.931 million and consists of the following focus areas: **Energy Efficiency, Competitive Low-Carbon Technologies** and **Smart Cities and Communities**. The Market uptake measures, which can be considered as the continuation of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, are incorporated in the programme under the two first priorities. These address market failures and governance gaps are currently slowing down progress, in particular, in energy efficiency across all sectors.

- ④ The call for Energy Efficiency is divided into 4 sections. Within the section ‘Buildings and Consumers’, 12 topics can be found including, for instance, high energy performing buildings, the renovation of historic buildings, public procurement and consumer engagement. The section ‘Heating and Cooling’ addresses **district heating/cooling**. Under ‘Industry and Products’, several topics are directed at organizational innovation, new technologies and the effective implementation of EU product efficiency legislation. Finally, **‘Finance for Sustainable Energy’** looks at innovative financing solutions, aggregated sustainable energy investments schemes and the market uptake (see innovative financing below).
- ④ The call for Low Carbon Technologies aims at developing affordable, cost-effective and resource-efficient technology **solutions to decarbonize the energy system in a sustainable way**, secure the energy supply and complete the internal energy markets. The call on Competitive Low-Carbon Energy includes priorities on new knowledge and technologies, **renewable electricity, biofuels, smart grids** and energy storage.
- ④ The Smart Cities and Communities call aims at commercial-scale solutions with a high market potential. Sustainable development of urban areas requires new, efficient, and user-friendly technologies and services, in

particular, in the areas of energy, transport and ICT. The priority areas for Smart Cities and Communities are nearly zero or low energy districts, integrated infrastructures and sustainable urban mobility.

The Work Programme for “**Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy**” (developed under “Societal challenges”) for 2014–2015 has a budget of €300 million and the following focus areas: *Agriculture and forestry, Agri-food sector for a safe and healthy diet, aquatic living resources and marine research, bio-based industries*. The Call for an Innovative, Sustainable and Inclusive Bioeconomy, includes the following topics: sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable and competitive bio-based industries and cross-cutting activities. Many specific calls are related to the biomass and its final utilization in a society that evolves towards the bioeconomy, a solution, in particular of great importance for rural development.

Further info:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

4.2.4. Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)



Programme 2007–2013 → CIP

The programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) aims at strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union’s enterprises, including the tourism sector, encouraging an entrepreneurial culture, and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs. It has a total allocation of €2.5 billion for the 2014–2020 period. It largely continues the activities started under the former Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and also ensures its continuity with initiatives and actions already undertaken under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), such as the Enterprise Europe Network.

Objectives:

- 🔗 Improve the framework conditions to make for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, including in the tourism sector.
- 🔗 Encouraging an entrepreneurial culture and promoting the creation and growth of SMEs.
- 🔗 Improving access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt.
- 🔗 Improving access to markets both inside the Union and globally.

Further info:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/cosme/index_en.htm

4.3. European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG Programme)

European Territorial Cooperation is one of the goals of the cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. For Member States, the actions are financed by the Structural Funds, mostly ERDF.

European Territorial Cooperation provides resources for cooperation activities at the external borders of the Union, to be supported under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Synergies and complementarities between programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation goal and programmes financed under external instruments shall be promoted.

Objectives

- ④ Trans-boundary problems can be most effectively solved with the cooperation of all regions concerned to avoid disproportionate costs for some, and free-riding by others (e.g. cross-border environmental pollution).
- ④ Cooperation can provide an effective mechanism for sharing good practice and learning to spread know-how (e.g. enhancing competitiveness).
- ④ **Cooperation** can ensure that a solution to a specific problem becomes more effective due to the economies of scale and the achievement of a critical mass **establishment of clusters** to foster research and innovation).
- ④ Governance can improve as a result of the coordination of the sector policies, actions and investments on a cross-border and transnational scale.
- ④ Relations with EU neighbours through cooperation programmes on the EU's external borders can contribute to safety and stability, and mutually beneficial relationships.
- ④ In some contexts, such as sea basins and coastal regions, cooperation and transnational action are indispensable for the support of growth, employment and ecosystem-based management

The implementation modalities have been streamlined for cooperation programmes. The number of authorities involved in programme implementation has been reduced and roles and responsibilities further clarified.

The European Territorial Cooperation objective covers three types of programmes:

- ④ 53 [cross-border cooperation programmes](#) along internal EU borders. ERDF contribution.
- ④ 13 [transnational cooperation programmes](#) covering larger areas of co-operation such as the Baltic Sea, Alpine and Mediterranean regions.
- ④ The [interregional cooperation programme](#) and 3 networking programmes (Urbact II, Interact II and ESPON) covering all 28 Member States of the EU. They provide a framework for exchanging experience between regional and local bodies in different countries.

4.3.1. Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes (former INTERREG IVa)

The main aim of cross-border cooperation is to reduce the negative effects of borders as administrative, legal and physical barriers, to tackle common problems and exploit untapped potential. Through the joint management of programmes and projects, mutual trust and understanding are strengthened and the cooperation process is enhanced. Cross-border cooperation deals with a wide range of issues, like:

- ③ encouraging entrepreneurship, especially the development of SMEs, tourism, culture and cross-border trade;
- ③ improving the joint management of natural resources;
- ③ supporting links between urban and rural areas;
- ③ improving access to transport and communication networks;
- ③ developing the joint use of infrastructure;
- ③ administrative, employment and equal opportunities work.

Whether the challenge relates to infrastructure (building bridges), markets and services (linking universities to businesses to clients) or to cultural or linguistic barriers, cross-border co-operation is meant to address them.

As far as the future of INTERREG VA is concerned, very little information is currently available. Current discussions and expert meetings on the content and organization of INTERREG VA are taking place.

4.3.2. Transnational Cooperation Programmes (former INTERREG IVB)

The transnational programmes add an important extra European dimension to regional development, developed from analysis at a European level, leading to agreed-upon priorities and a coordinated strategic response.

This allows for meaningful work to be done between regions from several EU Member States on matters such as communication corridors, flood management, international business and research linkages, as well as the development of more viable and sustainable markets. The themes covered include:

- ③ innovation, especially networks of universities, research institutions, SMEs;
- ③ the environment, especially water resources, rivers, lakes, sea;
- ③ accessibility, including telecommunications, and in particular the completion of networks;
- ③ sustainable urban development, especially polycentric development.

13 [transnational co-operation programmes](#) are currently covered (2007-2013) which represent the following regions:

Northern Periphery, the North Sea, Central Europe, South East Europe, the Indian Ocean Area, the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic Coast, South West Europe, the Caribbean Area, North West Europe, the Alpine Space, the Mediterranean, Acores-Madeira, Canarias (Macaronesia).

Some of the transnational programmes that affect the Mediterranean countries are mentioned below.

The MED programme → The transnational cooperation programme, **MED 2014-2020**, is currently being finalised.

The MED programme is a transnational programme of European territorial cooperation. It is financed by the European Union as an instrument of its regional policy and of its new programming period. It resembles the European programmes for cooperation (previously known as Interreg). It aims at strengthening the region's economy in order to ensure growth and employment for future generations. It also aims to support territorial cohesion and improve the region's environmental protection and sustainable development credentials.

The transnational setup allows the programme to become the outreach interface for challenges beyond national boundaries, such as environmental risk management, international business or transport corridors.

Further info:

<http://www.programmemed.eu/en/the-programme/programming-2014-2020.html>



Figure 5. The MED Programme area. Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/transnational/index_en.cfm

SUDOE → The Territorial Cooperation Program for the **European Southeast Space (SUDOE) 2014–2020** is being shaped.

SUDOE is a program focused on the regional development through the co-financing of transnational projects by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).

Public actors and non-profit organizations from the Spanish, French, Portuguese and British (Gibraltar) regions can contribute to the growth and sustainable development of the Southwest Europe area by developing transnational cooperation projects on

topics like innovation, the environment, new information technologies and sustainable urban development. Working together, these regional actors contribute to allowing Southeast Europe to reach the European Union's strategies for growth, employment and sustainable development.



Figure 6. The SUDOE Programme area. Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/transnational/index_en.cfm

Further info:

<http://interreg-sudoe.eu/ESP/d/172/EI-Programa-SUDOE/SUDOE-2014-2020>

SEE → The **South East Europe Programme** aims to develop transnational partnerships in matters of strategic importance, in order to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to the cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the region. For this purpose, the programme seeks to realize high quality, result oriented projects of

strategic character, relevant for the programme area. The South East Europe Programme helps to promote better integration between the Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries as well as neighboring countries.

According to the proposal, the European Commission has proposed that the present area of the South East Europe Programme Transnational Cooperation Programme will be covered in the next programming period, 2014–2020, by two transnational programmes: the [Danube](#) and South East Gateway. These two new programmes will support the development and implementation of two Macro Regional Strategies: the Danube and [Adriatic-Ionian Regions](#). The European Commission proposal on 2nd August, 2013, revised the geographic scope as well as the name of one of those programmes, from the South East Gateway to the Adriatic Ionian Programme, in order to ensure coherence with the respective forthcoming EU macro-regional strategy. A third transnational programme in the area was proposed by the EC in December 2013: [Balkan-Mediterranean](#).

The objectives, priorities and the amount of funding allocated to the future transnational cooperation Programme for the 2014–2020 period are still in the negotiation phase,



Figure 1. The DANUBE area. Source: <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>



Figure 2. The ADRIATIC-IONIAN area. Source: <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>

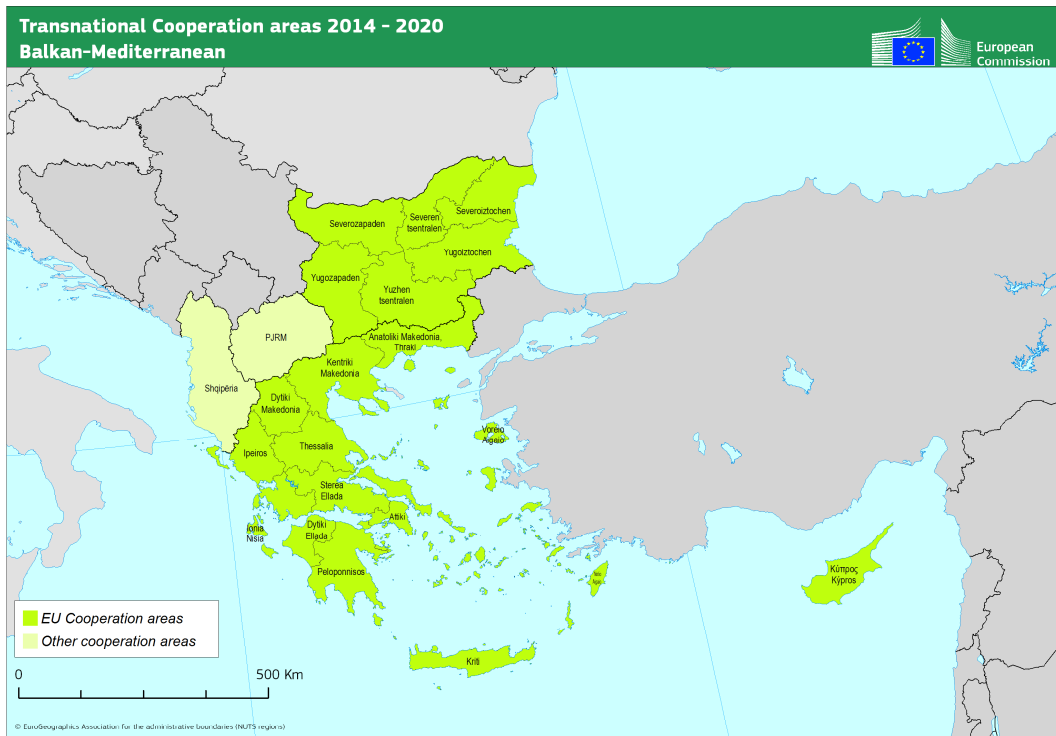


Figure 3. The BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN area. Source: <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>

Further info:

http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/adriaticionianprogramme/

http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/balkanmediterranean/

http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danubeprogramme/

ATLANTIC AREA programme → Within the priorities set by the European territorial cooperation objective, the main goal of the Operational Programme is to contribute to the territorial cohesion of the Atlantic Area through the reinforcement of the cooperation between the participating Member States. In order to consolidate existing cooperation structures and to achieve tangible results in terms of development of the knowledge economy, the "Atlantic Area 2007-2013" programme seeks to:

- ④ enhance the Atlantic maritime heritage;
- ④ valorise the maritime resources of the Atlantic area;
- ④ contribute to the emergence of new economic activity clusters;
- ④ promote accessibility and logistic conditions;
- ④ contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of the Atlantic area.

The **Atlantic Area 2014–2020** Transnational Programme is being prepared. The cohesion policy and the Programme future have been under discussion and development for a while now, namely within the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy, for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Atlantic Area Programme 2007–2013 is now looking at its future for the 2014–2020 period. For this purpose, a specific working group has been created and is drafting the new Operational Programme (OP). It is composed of representatives from all member states participating in the current programme.

The summary draft version of the OP was released for public consultation. The consultation is addressed to all stakeholders and potential beneficiaries, the objective being that the Working Group verifies the relevance of the choices made in relation to the defined strategy for the Operational Programme, the Priority axes and Specific Objectives selected to respond to the identified challenges and needs of the Atlantic Area.

Further info:

<http://atlanticarea.ccdr-n.pt/presentation/2014-2020>



Figure 4. The Atlantic Area Programme. Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/transnational/index_en.cfm

ALPINE SPACE programme → The Programme aims to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the cooperation area by developing joint actions in fields where a transnational cooperation is more effective and is also required for sustainable solutions.

After three years of joint preparation and stakeholder consultations, the programming process for **the Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020** has reached an important milestone: the Cooperation Programme has now been endorsed by the partner states and submitted to the European Commission for approval.

Further info:

<http://www.alpine-space.eu/about-the-programme/asp-2014-2020/about-the-asp-2014-2020/>



Figure 5. The ALPINE SPACE Programme area. Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/transnational/index_en.cfm

CENTRAL EUROPE programme → CENTRAL EUROPE is a European Union programme that encourages cooperation among regions of nine central European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Ukraine.

CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 will continue to support regional cooperation among central European countries: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as parts of Germany and Italy. The overall objective of the programme is “to cooperate beyond borders to make central European cities and regions better places to live and work” by implementing smart solutions answering to regional challenges in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport

Further info:

<http://www.central2013.eu/about-central/wwwcentral2020eu/policy-background/>



Figure 6. The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area. Source:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/transnational/index_en.cfm

4.3.3. Interregional Cooperation Programme

Interregional cooperation works at the pan-European level, covering all EU-27 Member States, and more. It builds networks to develop good practice and facilitates the exchange and transfer of experience by successful regions. It showcases what regions do well, to the benefit of those still investing.

- ④ The former INTERREG IV C programme enables EU regions to work together and is structured around two priorities, which address: innovation and the knowledge economy, and environment and risk prevention. It will continue under the name of **INTERREG EUROPE**.

- 🔗 The former URBACT II programme brings together actors at local and regional levels to exchange experience and to facilitate learning on urban policy themes. The programme supports thematic networks and working groups between cities, conferences and the development of tools.
- 🔗 The "**European Spatial Planning Observation Network**" (ESPON) provides scientific information for the development of regions and larger territories through applied research, analysis and tools.

ERDF	contribution:	€34	million.
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Countries: EU-27, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- 🔗 The former INTERACT II programme provides training, services and tools for programme managers and administrators of co-operation programmes in order to improve the management of these programmes.

Implementation:

Funding is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and varies between 50 and 85% depending on the country. However, the fund does not provide pre-financing (only reimbursements).

4.3.3.1. INTERREG EUROPE (former Interreg IVc)

Period: 2014–2020

Budget: €359 million

Legal basis: Council Regulation No 1083/2006: legal background for Cohesion Policy, Council and Parliament Regulation No 1080/2006: legal background for ERDF, Commission Regulation No 1828/2006: rules for implementing Cohesion Policy funds

The interregional cooperation programme 2014–2020, 'INTERREG EUROPE', is currently being formed. Its objective is to help European regions design and implement regional policies and programmes more effectively, in particular, the EU Structural and Investment Fund programmes for Growth and Jobs, but also, where relevant, the programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal. The programme aims to do so through enabling an exchange of experience, knowledge and good practice among relevant stakeholders from different European regions. The programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Thematic Objectives:

- 🔗 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.
- 🔗 Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs.
- 🔗 Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.
- 🔗 Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.

Supported activities:

-  Interregional cooperation projects which allow partners from the different EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland to work together on a shared regional policy issue under the four supported thematic objectives. By adopting successful approaches from other project partners, the regions involved in these projects should improve the way their programmes and policies are implemented.
-  The programme will provide assistance to all European regions through policy learning platforms covering the four thematic objectives.

Further info:

<http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/2014-2020/>

4.3.3.2. URBACT III (former URBACT II)

The URBACT II programme has been in operation since 2007 and will continue funding ongoing projects until well into 2015. URBACT activities will continue in the next programming period (2014-2020). The URBACT III programme is being drafted.


The draft regulations for European Territorial Cooperation, which will govern URBACT III, state that "ERDF supports interregional cooperation to strengthen the effectiveness of the cohesion policy in promoting the exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practice on sustainable urban development, including urban-rural linkages".

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme (*) promoting sustainable urban development enabling cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes; helping cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions; enable cities to share good practice and lessons learned with all professionals involved in the urban policy throughout Europe.

Objectives:

The Urban Development Network Programme, URBACT II, aims to improve the effectiveness of urban development policies and to strengthen the shared concept of integrated urban development. It supports the capitalisation and dissemination of knowledge and actively contributes to the implementation of the (renewed) Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

The programme's main focus is to provide an exchange and learning tool for policy decision-makers, practitioners and other bodies involved in developing urban policies. URBACT II is an exchange platform used to set up Thematic Networks and Working Groups ("projects") - each project is essentially composed of cities, but local authorities, universities and research centres can also get involved;

-  Learn from the exchanges between URBACT partners that share experience and good practice, draw conclusions and build on them using a thematic approach and expertise;

- ④ Disseminate and transfer good practice and lessons learned from exchanges to all European cities;
- ④ Assist city policy-makers, practitioners and managers of operational programmes to define local action plans with direct impact on the local urban development practices and policies.

Supported activities:

URBACT's objectives are to highlight examples of good practice and to draw lessons from the successes and weaknesses identified in these programmes. The target group consists of urban actors from the 216 cities benefiting from the URBAN I and II programmes and Urban Pilot Projects.

URBACT consists of two main priorities:

- ④ The exchange and dissemination of knowledge.

This includes: thematic networks organised by the cities themselves, taking action to build the capacity of urban actors, and studies. EUR 14 million is set aside for this priority, of which 50% will come from the EU and 50% from project partners.

- ④ Capitalisation and information.

This includes a website, the presentation of results, a toolbox and information on illustrative projects. Total funding for this priority is EUR 8.8 million.

In addition, there is a budget of EUR 1.96 million for technical assistance and for the running of the programme.

Further info:

<http://urbact.eu/en/about-urbact/urbact-2014-2020/>

4.3.3.3. ESPON Programme – European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion

ESPON offers substantial territorial evidence on a large number of relevant themes as well as useful tools supporting the necessary analyses positioning the programme area in the European context as well as its potentials and challenges. Managing authorities are invited to make use of the available ESPON research results, analyses, data, indicators and tailor made tools that fit the ideas and visions for their Operational Programme for 2014-2020.

ESPON's mission: Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory by:

- ④ providing comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on territorial dynamics and
- ④ revealing territorial capital and potentials for development of regions and larger territories contributing to European competitiveness, territorial cooperation and a sustainable and balanced development.

Four strategic avenues will guide the implementation of the ESPON 2013 Programme in 2014:

- ④ Emphasising capitalisation and communication activities as well as the wide-spread use of ESPON territorial evidence based on all of the results achieved through the ESPON 2013 Programme, with the particular promotion of new evidence becoming available during 2014.
- ④ Improving the ESPON toolbox through a wide-range of actions on different issues that together constitute a consistent and inter-related set of tools for territorial analyses based on ESPON results.
- ④ Guaranteeing high quality, solid and useful output from active projects, supported by clear executive summaries and applications that can make ESPON even more useful as provider of territorial evidence and tools.
- ④ Continuing efforts to ensure sound financial management with finding-free audits and quality checks as well as preparing for the winding up of the 2013 Programme.

The **actions** carried out under the programme include different, however strongly interrelated operations:

1. Applied research on different themes of European territorial dynamics is the core business, providing scientifically solid facts and evidence at the level of regions and cities. These results make it possible to assess the strengths and weaknesses of individual regions and cities in the European context. The applied research is conducted by transnational groups of researchers and experts.
2. Targeted Analyses together with stakeholders is an important project type that makes use of ESPON results in practice. Stakeholders express their interest and ESPON provides a team of experts that carry out the analysis in close collaboration. Stakeholders then make use of the European perspective for results in policy considerations for their territorial context, in strategic development or other activities that benefit development.
3. Scientific Platform development is supported by an ESPON Database project and actions dealing with territorial indicators and monitoring as well as tools related to territorial analyses, typologies, modelling and updates of statistics.
4. The capitalisation of ESPON results includes media activities and different ESPON publications. Events such as ESPON Seminars and Workshops are regularly organised and a transnational effort in the capitalisation is ensured by a network of national ESPON Contact Points.
5. Technical Assistance, Analytical Support and Communication ensure the sound management of the programme and the ability of processing scientific output towards the policy level.

Implementation:

The programme budget of €47 mill is partially financed at the level of 75 % by the European Regional Development Fund under Objective 3 for European Territorial Cooperation. The rest is financed by the 31 participating countries, 27 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

ESPON uses an open competitive process in the selection of partners for projects. Calls are launched regularly.

Further info:

<http://www.espon.eu/main/>

4.3.3.4. INTERACT

The INTERACT III operation is set up for enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration. It is to:

- ① address the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the Europe 2020 Strategy by supporting Territorial Cooperation Programmes in implementing their activities in the most effective way by giving guidance and area specific expert input in solving implementation bottlenecks;
- ① use networking methods that support cooperation as a means of contributing to an innovative integrated approach.

The INTERACT III Ex Ante evaluation and additional assessments of the requirements set the baseline for the strategic choice made within the INTERACT III programme. The following intervention field/specific objectives have been defined for this programme on the basis of the Regulation for the European Territorial Cooperation Goal, as well as on the input received from the representatives of the Member States, the National Contact Persons and the Monitoring Committee members of INTERACT II. The INTERACT III operational programme, while enhancing the institutional capacity and efficient public administration focuses on 3 specific objectives:

- a) to improve management and control the capacity of ETC programmes,
- b) to improve the ETC capacity in capturing and communicating the programme results,
- c) to improve the cooperation management capacity to implement an innovative app.

INTERACT III will focus its attention on the research, networking and dissemination activities on the innovative tools that can be used for cooperation purposes. Topics such as EGTCs, revolving funds, the alignment of funding, and Integrated Territorial Investments will be the main issues to be addressed. Joint Action Plans and the community-led local development possibilities will be tackled if relevant for cooperation purposes. In addition, links will be established with other programmes and the constant contact with the European Commission will ensure consistency in the messages sent to the ETC community.

Besides these tools, the CPR mentions the cooperation possibilities within the Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal. INTERACT II has already been supporting the regions and Member States that were interested in implementing this kind of cooperation. INTERACT III does explore this possibility of cooperation and focuses on its methodological and innovative aspects. Close links are established through the INTERREG Europe Programme. This implies close coordination in order to ensure full complementarities of action by the two programmes and synergies already established with the networking programmes in INTERACT II.

Further info:

http://www.interact-eu.net/about_us/about_interact/22/2911

4.4. Cross-Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

In the context of the renewed approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) outlined in the Joint Communication of 25 May, 2011, the new **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)**, will, from 2014, provide increased support to 16 partner countries to the East and South of the EU's borders.

Building on the achievements of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (**ENPI**), the new ENI will contribute to strengthening bilateral relations with partner countries and bring tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners in areas such as democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development.

It will continue to provide the bulk of the funding to the European Neighbourhood countries, essentially through bilateral, regional and cross border co-operation programmes.

Main elements of the new ENI

- 🔗 **The application of differentiation and the 'more for more' principle:** this principle is the key aspect of the renewed Neighbourhood Policy and will allow the EU to increase its support significantly for those partners that are genuinely implementing a broad and comprehensive democratisation process. It provides for a much higher level of differentiation in the cooperation with partner countries, reflecting their commitment to universal values, progress in deep democratisation and jointly agreed upon objectives. It will allow the EU to better adjust its assistance to the partner countries' needs and progress.
- 🔗 **Reducing the complexity and length of the programming process.** This will be done in order to streamline, shorten and better focus the programming so support can be delivered faster to our ENP partner countries
- 🔗 **Streamlining the scope of the instrument** through focusing cooperation on the key policy objectives set out, in particular, in the ENP action plans agreed upon with the partners. This will make EU support more relevant and more efficient. Objectives will include, in particular, the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stronger and more inclusive growth, and support to in the progressive economic integration into the EU internal market. Other key areas include promoting confidence building and other measures that contribute to the security, prevention and settlement of conflicts. Support for an increase in people-to-people contact, sectoral cooperation (e.g. energy and climate change) and civil society organisations will also figure prominently.
- 🔗 **Amending the provisions on the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.** Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes aim at reinforcing cooperation between Member States and partner countries along the external border of the European Union. The programmes promote economic and social development in border areas, address common challenges, ensure efficient and secure borders and promote people-to-people cooperation. The new provisions will facilitate effective and fast implementation of the programmes, which will benefit participating EU Member States and partner countries and their citizens.
- 🔗 **Promoting closer links with EU internal instruments and policies.** This will be done, notably, by promoting mechanisms for the pooling of funds from internal and external instruments of the EU budget. The aim is to enable partner countries and their citizens to participate in successful EU internal programmes in areas such as

student mobility, youth programmes or support to Civil Society, while improving the efficiency and simplification of the implementation of assistance.

- ④ **Responding to the evolving relationship with Russia** by amending provisions on Russia's eligibility for ENI funding to reflect the specific status of Russia as an EU neighbour and strategic partner. Russia's eligibility for regional and Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes is retained within the new ENI, but bilateral cooperation will be addressed in the future under the new Partnership Instrument (PI) – a major innovation of the 2014–2020 external instruments package, with a budget of €1.13 billion. The PI's overall objective is to advance and promote EU interests by supporting the external dimension of internal policies (e.g. competitiveness, research and innovation, migration) and to address major global challenges (e.g. energy security, climate change and the environment).
- ④ **Simplifying and mainstreaming the implementation provisions** within a new Implementing Regulation common to all EU external assistance instruments.

Budget and Background

The proposed budget for the new ENIs is €18.2 billion for the 2014–2020 period. This represents a **significant increase** compared to the budget of the previous ENPI instrument. This significant increase reflects the increased priority of the ENP in the overall foreign policy of the EU.

The ENI will build on the achievements of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and bring more **tangible benefits** to both the EU and its Neighbourhood partners. It will provide the **bulk of the funding** to the European Neighbourhood countries through a number of programmes.

The current 16 ENI Partner Countries are:

- ④ ENI South – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya Morocco, Palestine, Syria*, Tunisia
- ④ ENI East – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

** EU Cooperation with Syria is currently suspended due to the political situation*

Further info:

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/ENI>

4.4.1. The Black Sea Basin ENI CBC 2014–2020



The Black Sea Basin is a programme under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) of the EU. It aims to contribute to: “a stronger and sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin”.

The ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme will contribute to the ENI CBC overall aim to '*promote co-operation across the borders between EU Member States and the countries within the European Neighbourhood and Russian Federation*'.

More specifically, the programme will contribute to two of ENI CBC overarching strategic objectives:

- 🕒 Promoting economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders
- 🕒 Addressing common challenges within the fields of the environment, public health, safety and security

The wider Black Sea Basin ENI CBC programme objective can be defined as:

Improving the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection

Further info

: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/FAQ#but1>

4.5. European Investment Bank (EIB)



The EIB is the European Union's bank. It is owned and represented by the interests of the European Union Member States. It works closely with other EU institutions to implement EU policy. It provides finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects, harmonized with the constantly evolving EU policy objectives.

EIB supports projects that make a significant contribution to growth, employment, regional cohesion and environmental sustainability in Europe and beyond. Specifically, its priorities are:

- 🕒 **Small and medium sized enterprises & mid-caps:** the creators of 80% of new jobs
- 🕒 **Regional development:** to address economic and social imbalances
- 🕒 **Environmental sustainability:** including both climate action and investment in the **urban and natural environment** (Funding channelled through JESSICA and JASPERS)
- 🕒 **Innovation:** promoting skills and innovation at every level
- 🕒 **Trans-European Networks:** linking Europe's infrastructure, principally in transport
- 🕒 **Energy:** building a competitive and secure supply (funding by carbon funds like NER-300 and imitative such as ELENA, JEREMIE, JESSICA and JASPERS)

Products that EIB has are:

- 🕒 **Project loans** for large developments in excess of EUR 25m
- 🕒 **Intermediated loans** are made via local banks
- 🕒 **Structured finance** provides additional support to priority projects

- 🔗 **Guarantees**: helping projects attract new investors
- 🔗 **Project bonds**: unlocking infrastructure funding
- 🔗 **Equity & fund investment** to catalyse further activity
- 🔗 **Venture capital**: helping fund managers invest in high-tech and growth SMEs
- 🔗 **Microfinance** has benefited from our long term commitment
- 🔗 **Risk-sharing** in research, development & innovation (RSFF)
- 🔗 **Sustainable energy**: maximising investment (ELENA)
- 🔗 **Green-tech demonstration** support (NER300)
- 🔗 **Infrastructure project advice** for new EU members (JASPERS)
- 🔗 **Urban development** technical assistance (JESSICA)
- 🔗 **Transport infrastructure** cash-flow guarantees (LGTT)
- 🔗 **Public-private partnership** optimisation (EPEC)
- 🔗 **Flexible SME funding** (JEREMIE)

Further info:

<http://www.eib.org/>

4.5.1. European Local Energy Assistance: ELENA



EU towns and regions lack the necessary technical expertise and organisational capacity to implement large energy efficiency and renewables projects. The benefits of cutting energy use and pollution are clear, but the challenge is to guarantee value for money and timeliness, as well as securing extra funding. ELENA (“European Local ENergy Assistance”) is there to help. Run by the EIB, it is funded through the European Commission’s Intelligent Energy–Europe Programme.

ELENA services

ELENA covers up to 90% of the technical support costs needed to prepare, implement and finance the investment programme. This could include feasibility and market studies, programme structuring, energy audits and tendering procedure preparation. With solid business and technical plans in place, this will also help attract funding from private banks and other sources, including the EIB. So whether it is the retrofitting of public and private buildings, sustainable building, energy-efficient district heating and cooling networks, environmentally-friendly transport etc, ELENA helps local authorities get their projects on the right track.

Budget

Funds are currently available to support projects under the Facility. When funds will be exhausted, a notice will be posted on its webpage.

Further info:

<http://www.eib.org/products/elena/index.htm>

4.5.2. JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)



New and future EU Member States often require technical support to prepare major infrastructure schemes financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds. JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) provides technical expertise for any stage of the project cycle, covering technical, economic and financial questions. It is geared to providing advice, ensuring coordination, developing and reviewing project structures, removing bottlenecks, filling gaps and identifying problems. This helps increase the quantity and quality of requests for EU funding. The total investment cost of the more than 550 projects supported, so far, is more than EUR 60bn.

Advice is given on:

- ④ conceptual development and project structuring
- ④ project preparation (e.g. cost-benefit analysis, financial analysis, environmental issues, procurement planning)
- ④ the review of documentation: feasibility studies, technical design, grant application
- ④ compliance with EU law (environmental, competition and others)
- ④ conformity with EU policies

The beneficiary sectors are:

- ④ trans-European transport energy and telecommunications networks (TENs)
- ④ other transport, including road, rail, river, air and sea transport
- ④ clean-urban and public transport
- ④ environmental remediation
- ④ waste management
- ④ renewable energy
- ④ water and sanitation services; water risk management

It is important for a discussion to take place between beneficiaries and their national managing authority before any plans are made for participation. The management of JASPERS is carried out by the EIB and co-sponsored by the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the German state development bank the KfW.

Further info:

<http://www.eib.org/products/jaspers/index.htm>

4.5.3. JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas)



JESSICA is an initiative of the European Commission developed in co-operation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). It supports sustainable urban development and regeneration through financial engineering mechanisms.

EU countries can choose to invest some of their EU structural fund allocations in revolving funds to help recycle financial resources to accelerate investment in Europe's urban areas.

Objectives:

- Coordinating the three institutions' approach
- Providing financing for urban renewal and development actions, as well as social housing by using a mix of grants and loans

Supported activities:

- urban infrastructure – including transport, water/waste water, energy
- heritage or cultural sites – for tourism or other sustainable uses
- redevelopment of brownfield sites – including site clearance and decontamination
- creation of new commercial floor space for SMEs, IT and/or R&D sectors
- university buildings – medical, biotech and other specialised facilities
- energy efficiency improvements.

Implementation:

JESSICA is implemented via one of two possible management options:

Contributions from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are allocated to Urban Development Funds (UDFs) which invest them in public-private partnerships or other projects included in an integrated plan for sustainable urban development. These investments can take the form of equity, loans and/or guarantees.

Alternatively, managing authorities can decide to channel funds to UDFs using Holding Funds (HFs), which are set up to invest in several UDFs.

This is not compulsory, but does offer the advantage of enabling managing authorities to delegate some of the tasks required to implement JESSICA to expert professionals.

Owing to the revolving nature of the instruments, returns from investments are reinvested in new urban development projects, thereby recycling public funds and promoting the sustainability and impact of EU and national public money.

Eligibility:

Applicants can be public, municipal or private sector enterprises from the EU 27, or joint enterprises involving these actors in any possible combination.

Further info:

<http://www.eib.org/products/jessica/index.htm>

4.5.4. JEREMIE (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises)



JEREMIE - Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises, is an initiative of the European Commission developed together with the European Investment Fund. It promotes the use of financial engineering instruments to improve access to finances for SMEs via Structural Funds interventions.

EU countries can use part of their European structural fund allocations to invest in revolving instruments such as venture capital, loan or guarantee funds.

Objectives:

- 🔗 Improving access to finance for SMEs
- 🔗 Developing micro credit in regions supported by ERDF
- 🔗 Overcoming the lack of expertise and access to risk capital by creating a framework for cooperation with the specialised financial institutions
- 🔗 Supported activities:
 - 🔗 the creation of new business or the expansion of existing ones;
 - 🔗 access to investment capital by enterprises (particularly SMEs) to modernise and diversify their activities, develop new products, secure and expand market access;
 - 🔗 business oriented research and development, technology transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship;
 - 🔗 technological modernisation of productive structures to help reach low carbon economy targets;
 - 🔗 productive investments which create and safeguard sustainable jobs

Implementation:

Contributions from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are allocated to loan, guarantee or venture capital funds to invest in enterprises. These investments can take the form of equity, loans and/or guarantees.

Returns from investments are reinvested in enterprises. In this way, a pool of funds can be re-used several times, recycling public funds, leveraging capital and increasing the sustainability and the impact of public resources allocated to SMEs.

Alternatively, managing authorities can decide to channel resources from the programme using Holding Funds (HFs) which are set up to invest in several investment funds. This is not compulsory, but does offer the advantage of enabling managing authorities to delegate some of the tasks required to implement JEREMIE to expert professionals.

Eligibility:

The initiative covers the EU 27 and is not restricted to Convergence Objective regions. All regions of both Convergence and Competitiveness Objectives are eligible, provided that Member States or Managing Authorities have identified the potential need for JEREMIE in their respective operational programmes.

Further info:

<http://www.eib.org/products/jeremie/index.htm>

4.5.5. *Project Development Assistance (PDA)*

The technical assistance grants will be provided to the beneficiaries on feasibility and market studies, project structuring and any other assistance necessary to develop Investments Programmes.

The major objective of the new Project Development Assistance (PDA) is to demonstrate the financial viability and sustainability of large-scale sustainable energy investment projects, providing the market with tangible showcases that should trigger further replication. Proposals must therefore have a 'lighthouse' dimension as well as deliver organisational innovation in the mobilisation of the investments and/or the financial approach. Innovation should be demonstrated taking into account the situation in the targeted country. PDA support will be provided to public and private project promoters such as public authorities or their groupings, public/private infrastructure operators, retail chains and SMEs/industry, leading to bankable and aggregated investment schemes and projects of EUR 6 million – EUR 50 million.

The major objective of PDA is to demonstrate the financial viability and sustainability of large-scale sustainable energy investment projects, providing the market with tangible showcases that should trigger further replication. Proposals must therefore have a 'lighthouse' dimension as well as deliver organisational innovation in the mobilisation of the investments and/or the financial approach. Innovation should be demonstrated taking into account the situation in the targeted country. PDA support will be provided to public and private project promoters such as public authorities or their groupings, public/private infrastructure operators, retail chains and the SMEs/industry, leading to bankable and aggregated investment schemes and projects of EUR 6 million – EUR 50 million.

PDA will fund activities necessary to prepare, and mobilise finances for investment programmes, such as feasibility studies, stakeholder & community mobilisation, financial engineering, business plans, preparation for tendering procedures, preparing and negotiating their financing including, if appropriate, bundling them together to form bankable packages, setting up a specific financing scheme, or linking finance to European cohesion policy funds (e.g. ERDF).

There is no comprehensive list of eligible activities, but only the activities which are required to launch the investments will be considered relevant. Actual hardware investments, basic research or technology development are not covered. Costs for the supervision of works are not covered, unless they are justified by the specificity of a proposal.

Project development assistance activities implemented through this topic will be complemented by the continuation of the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility implemented by the European Investment Bank (EIB). ELENA follows the spirit of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme through the support to the mobilisation of investments in the sustainable energy area, and to address the related market barriers.

Further info:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/project-development-assistance/index_en.htm

5. Conclusions

The Mediterranean area is a territory with many particular characteristics and, as has been noted, calls for a special approach, regarding the development of the biomass market. A major characteristic that defines the financial potential of the Mediterranean countries is the economic crisis, due to which all funding tools and opportunities for the development of the biomass market are affected accordingly.

Besides, in some Mediterranean countries, most decisions are still taken at the national level and the Regional authorities do not have yet full power to decide on a variety of topics and issues. This, for instance, is the case with Greece where anything concerning forest affairs is still centrally regulated by the State, while the Regions can only implement the national directives without any authorization for the decision process.

In agreement with the new strategic approach to the Cohesion Policy of the European Union, a National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) was elaborated for each one of the Member States of the EU. Thus, the Operational Programmes for each country are structured based on their respective NSRFs, since they provide an overview of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the Member States' regions and set out the approach to future Structural Funds spending across each country.

In general, many of the programmes have a short period of validity. Most of them lasted until the end of the previous programming period (that is till 2013), and they are most likely not going to continue to exist in the next programming period (2014-2020). Also, quite frequently these programmes do not ensure funds for the projects, but they regulate the framework, in which those projects can be carried out, which means that they have law or order forms. The majority of the programmes enclose a large variety of environmental projects, where biomass projects only make up a small proportion. Strictly biomass oriented programmes are not yet available and are not likely to be available in the next programming period.

Those programmes or other forms of funding support are not always focused on the needs of the project itself. Usually this work is divided into many segments and each one is handled by a different project. Therefore, there are programmes that support the project from the very beginning, which is planning, and of course there are programmes that fund the final stages of a project, namely building the project.

The funding tools, are summarized, and categorized in a way that one can handle the comparison between them. And when it comes to a comparison, it is clear that more efficient economies support the biomass development with more sophisticated tools than necessary regulations, laws or funding of assets, which are the base line of all progress.

The methods used in funding are the following: strictly public and private (where also public authorities can be involved). Private financing usually takes place due to the lack of public finance sources and the flexibility of the general regulatory frame. It is the only option remaining for an energy efficiency increase and the use of renewable energy sources in the public sector and consequently in households. There are two versions of private financing: A public-private partnership (PPP) and ESCO (Energy Service Company).

The first is a government service or private business venture which is funded and operated through a partnership between the government and one or more [private sector](#) companies. The second is when a company engages in a performance based

contract with the public sector and/or private sector and/or industry-services to implement biomass district heating investment in a technically and financially viable manner. Procedures for both versions of private financing are mentioned, as well as examples from Slovenia and France.

Regardless of the origin of the public funds (either European or national), they are all expected to finish by the end of the current programming period, which is in 2013. The most promising programme, which is expected to be available in the next programming period is Horizon 2020.

The priorities for the first Horizon 2020 work programmes will be to boost competitiveness, support job creation and development. The key drivers for this have been used to identify those areas on which resources and effort will be focused over the first work programmes so as to achieve a maximum impact, and also to identify the priorities of Horizon 2020 which will be rolled-out more rapidly. Those key drivers are: sustainable competitiveness, innovation, growth, the controlled boost of engagement in industry (and SMEs), access to finance, research and development, enabling new technologies, new measures (that enable more efficient research) and strong partnerships between member states.

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- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/call-for-proposals/how-to-apply/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/project-development-assistance/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/public-procurements/index_en.htm
- <http://www.eib.org/products/index.htm>
- <http://www.eib.org/products/elena/index.htm>
- <http://www.jaspers-europa-info.org/>
- <http://www.eib.org/products/jessica/background/index.htm>
- http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/jeremie/index.htm
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- http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/jeremie/faq/index.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/project-development-assistance/index_en.htm#mlei-pda
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/project-development-assistance/index_en.htm#eib-elena
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/project-development-assistance/index_en.htm#kfw-elena
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- http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/INTERREG_IVA_Documents/IIVA_OperationalProgramme.sflb.ashx
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