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STRATCULT-REGIO.NET

***Europe-wide network
of territorial authorities
in favour of culture
in the framework of EU Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas***

Invitation for territorial authorities to join STRATCULT-REGIO.NET

Objective of STRATCULT-REGIO.NET

*“Cultural Heritage and Identity is both
the basic input for a region’s competitiveness and
in the same time the glue that keeps the society together.”
(ESPON project 1.3.3 – The Role and the Spatial Effects
of Cultural Heritage and Identity – Final Report, May 2006, page 5)*

The Europe-wide network “STRATCULT-REGIO.NET” aims at fully integrating all cultural development potentials into the Lisbon and Gothenburg agenda of the European Union. Specific focus will be given to the related regional and rural development policies in the framework of EU Structural Funds.

Target groups:

The network is established by **territorial authorities** who are in favour of the objectives of the network.

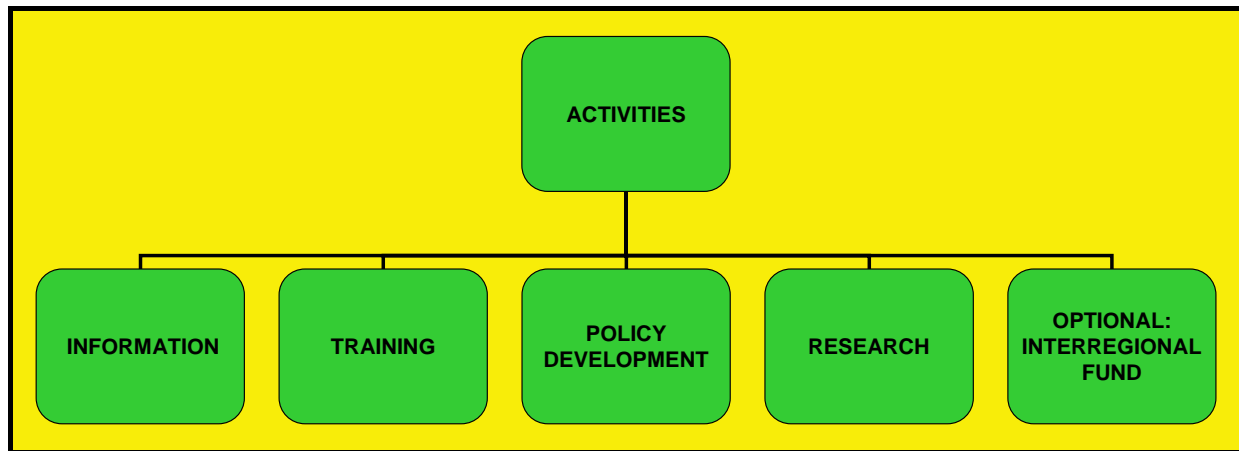
A membership in the network is possible for local, regional and national authorities aiming at actively integrating culture within the EU-related development policies in their territory.

Within the network a think tank will be established inviting **universities** – especially specialized institutes in partner regions - to actively co-operate with the network.

Furthermore, specific activities will be developed by the network for project promoters in order to guarantee the integration of **NGOs** (Non-Governmental Organizations) and the **private sector**.

Activities:

STRATCULT-REGIO.NET activities are based on four (five) pillars:



1 INFORMATION:

Regular briefing: A regular update for territorial authorities providing relevant information for the integration of culture in EU-related regional development policies.

Annual conference: Annual Europe-wide exchange of territorial authorities aiming at integrating culture into EU-related regional development policies and of experts and project promoters providing valuable input.

2 TRAINING:

STRATCULT-REGIO academy: Europe-wide training programme for civil servants engaged in the integration of culture in EU regional development programmes (funding programmes, financial management, legal issues, programming, project management, etc.).

Expert pool: Experts having specific knowledge necessary for cultural regional and rural development and cooperating with STRATCULT-REGIO.NET.

Project development assistance: Organization of regular partner search activities on different topics of common interest in order to build up interregional cooperation projects with the support of EU Funds (e. g. Leader Interregional).

3 POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

STRATCULT-REGIO fact sheets: Common selection of the topic of the year (e. g. Culture as factor of innovation in the framework of EU Lisbon strategy) and elaboration of related fact sheets for use on regional, national and on EU level.

Major events: Cooperation with other Europe-wide networks on topics of common interest.

4 RESEARCH:

Research projects (e. g. case study on comparable statistics for culture as regional development factor; Europe-wide research on models for public-private partnership for the implementation of Structural Funds programmes in the field of culture).

Think tank: Annual meeting of representatives of universities which co-operate with the network.

5 OPTIONAL: INTERREGIONAL FUND

Project fund for common interregional projects & **Travel grants system** for promoters of interregional projects

Partnership:

The partnership of the ongoing STRATCULT-INTERREG IIIC operation includes partners from Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Finland. STRATCULT-REGIO.NET aims at co-operating with territorial authorities from all European countries.

Time frame:

STRATCULT-REGIO.NET will start its activities in 2007 and aims at covering the whole EU-funding period until 2013.

Advantages for territorial authorities from STRATCULT-REGIO.NET:

Major problems	STRATCULT-REGIO.NET provides ...
Lack of access of civil servants in territorial authorities to culture-related information in the framework of Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas as well as in the framework of implementation of EU Structural Funds programmes	... regular information especially for those working in the implementation of cultural projects, programmes or initiatives.
Lack of knowledge for the practical culture-related implementation of EU Structural Funds programmes and projects	... training and seminars for civil servants so that know-how available Europe-wide is shared and that programmes and projects can be implemented efficiently.
Lack of statistical information in order to support the arguments for the integration of culture into the programmes and for the implementation of cultural projects within regional development as such.	... studies and data on the basis of targeted research in order to support implementation of programmes and agendas as well as policy action.
Lack of a strong and common voice for the integration of culture in the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas as well as in the EU regional and rural development policy	... policy papers and Europe-wide related activities in order to emphasize the importance of culture for innovation, sustainability and regional development.
Lack of inter-regional projects in the field of culture between territorial authorities in Europe and therefore insufficient use of available EU Funding programmes.	... project development assistance between network partners in order to guarantee the effective use of available EU funding for cultural co-operation projects.

Provisional annual budget:

(Calculation based on draft work plan – excluding optional - and on the basis of 5 partners from old and 5 partners from new member states, 1 partner from Liechtenstein, Switzerland or Norway; 1 partner from a neighbouring country outside the EU)

	Partner contribution	ERDF contribution	Total budget
Old Member States (max. Euro 15.000,-/year and per partner*)	Euro 75.000,-	Euro 225.000,-	Euro 300.000,-
New Member States (max. Euro 7.500,-/year and per partner*)	Euro 37.500,-	Euro 212.500,-	Euro 250.000,-
Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway (max. Euro 20.000,-/year and per partner*)	Euro 20.000,-	Euro 0,-	Euro 20.000,-
Neighbouring Countries, e. g. Croatia, Russia, Morocco, etc. (max. Euro 10.000,-/year and per partner*)	Euro 10.000,-	Euro 0,-	Euro 10.000,-
Total budget per year to implement the whole work programme			Euro 580.000,-

STRATCULT-REGIO.NET aims at submitting a project application in 2007 in order to obtain ERDF co-financing for all partners.

* The final partner contribution is still subject to negotiations and will be calculated on the basis of final work programme as well as by taking into consideration regional particularities.

Next steps:

Mid-January 2007	February 2007	Spring 2007	2007/2008
Declaration of interest of territorial authorities (not yet binding)	Meeting of potential network partners in order to decide on the common work plan	(1) Participation in final presentation of current STRATCULT-project (2) Signature of co-operation agreement and co-financing statement	Planned start of STRATCULT-REGIO.NET

Contact & more information:

Sylvia Amann, Tel: +43-7235-660-5411, Email: office@strategyforculture.net

More information on ongoing STRATCULT-project: <http://www.strategyforculture.net>