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**Final Report - ERDF and CF Regional Expenditure  
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**SWECO**  
Vasagatan 36  
P.O. Box 415  
SE-101 28 Stockholm, Sweden  
Telephone +46 8 613 08 00  
Fax +46 8 613 08 08

**Dr Kai Böhme**  
Telephone direct +46 8 613 08 60  
Mobile +46 730 39 73 30  
kai.boehme@sweco.se

SWECO INTERNATIONAL AB  
Reg. No. 556079-1336  
[www.sweco.se](http://www.sweco.se)

## Preface

This is the final report of the study on the regional expenditure of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) for the 2000-2006 period.

Following an open tendering procedure in July 2007, the contract for this study was, in September 2007, awarded to an international consortium led by SWECO. The project team began its work in October 2007 with a feasibility assessment which was followed by the actual data collection including the filling of gaps and verification of the final data. A draft final report and two databases were filed in May 2008 and have been improved in accordance to the minutes from the Steering Group meeting on 29 May 2008.

The main deliveries from this work are the two databases and this final report. The first database contains data for ERDF and CF commitments at NUTS 2 level for 1 digit expenditure categories. The second database contains data at NUTS 3 level for 2 digit expenditure categories for the Cohesion Fund, ERDF Objective 1, ERDF Objective 2, URBAN and INTERREG IIIA – altogether 120,500 cells of information.

The total amount mapped in the database is EUR 157,015,234,820, which is 98% of the total CF and ERDF budget for 2000-2006.

This report shows that commitment data is more suitable for the establishment of a comparable database than payment data, given the fact that not all payments have thus far been made. Furthermore the report provides an overview of the commitment data at NUTS 3 level for 2 digit expenditure categories which are contained in the two databases, as well as the methodologies applied to addressing the data gaps and the necessary metadata.

The report and the database was prepared by SWECO with input from Archidata, AUREX, BGI Consulting, Charles University, Dea Baltika, E-Cubed Consultants, EuroFutures Finland, IESE, Infyde, IPoP, LogiPlan, Net Effect, ÖAR, OTB, PhDB Consultant, Politecnico di Milano, Systema, TAURUS, Tersyn, and the University of Sheffield. The team wishes to express its gratitude towards all those in the national and regional programme administrations who provided the necessary data.

Stockholm, July 2008

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## Summary

The European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund had altogether a budget of EUR 160 billion for the years 2000-2006. This study has established a database on ERDF and CF commitment data at NUTS 3 level (1,205 regions) for the 2 digit expenditure categories (20 categories). The aim of the database is to provide an overview of spending during the 2000-2006 programming period, i.e. where it was focussed geographically and on what it has been spent? The programmes covered are the Cohesion Fund, ERDF Objective 1, ERDF Objective 2, URBAN and INTERREG IIIA. The total amount mapped in the database equals 98% of the 2000-2006 budget.

Actual spending may of course only be accurately mapped when all programmes are closed and all payments made. As such, the measurement of payments will not provide comparative information at this moment in time, as differences exist between the EU15 and the EU10 in respect of start dates and between the ERDF and the CF as regards closure dates.

Commitment data is then viewed as the more accurate indicator when measuring where, and on what, the funding was used. Comparisons of payment and commitment data have shown that only minor differences exist in respect of their regional patterns and their distribution across expenditure categories.

Commitment data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories has been established for 99 % of the available Objective 1 funding, 96 % of the available Objective 2 funding, 94 % of the available Cohesion Funding and 88 % of the available URBAN funding. In only 10.7 % of the cases has the need arisen for NUTS 3 data to be modelled with the help of other indicators. As data availability is more restricted for INTERREG and the regionalisation of funding data is not in line with the basic principles and philosophy of cross-border co-operation, it was decided to model the regional data for all INTERREG IIIA programmes in a harmonised manner based on commitment data available at the programme level.

The exercise shows that it *is* possible to establish ERDF and CF data at NUTS 3 level and indeed, in some cases it has been *more difficult* to establish data on the 2 digit expenditure categories than on the regional level. In addition to the issue of access to data, the main challenges were the quality and reliability of the existing databases, differences in data depending on cut-off days and exchange rates, as well as commitments which exceed the actually available amount of ERDF funding. These challenges have however been overcome by means of the double checking of data sets and through various other steps in respect of data verification.

The necessary metadata is provided in chapter 5 of this report.

## 1 Database content

### 1.1 Total ERDF and CF commitments 2000-2006 at regional level

The overall purpose of the study was to determine the regional breakdown of 2000-2006 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) data at NUTS 2 and 3 levels for each general category of expenditure.

Based on programme and national monitoring databases and on project information commitment data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories was collected.

#### **Structural Funds: Areas of Intervention by category and sub-category (1 and 2 digits)**

##### **1. PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

- 11 Agriculture
- 12 Forestry
- 13 Promoting the adaptation and the development of rural areas
- 14 Fisheries
- 15 Assisting large business organisations
- 16 Assisting SMEs and the craft sector
- 17 Tourism
- 18 Research, technological development and innovation (RTDI)

##### **2. HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 21 Labour market policy
- 22 Social inclusion
- 23 Developing educational and vocational training not linked to a specific sector 24  
Workforce flexibility, entrepreneurial activity, innovation, information and  
communication technologies
- 25 Positive labour market actions for women

##### **3. BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 31 Transport infrastructure
- 32 Telecommunications infrastructure and information society
- 33 Energy infrastructures (production, delivery)
- 34 Environmental infrastructure (including water)
- 35 Planning and rehabilitation
- 36 Social and public health infrastructure

##### **4. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 41 Technical assistance and innovative actions

The main delivery of this study are the two databases, one containing commitment data at NUTS 2 level for the 1 digit expenditure categories, and the other containing commitment data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories.

In technical terms the databases have been provided in the form of two Oracle 10g files which can be integrated into the overall database system of the Commission Services. During the kick-off meeting between DG Regio and

SWECO, on 30th November 2007, the technical issues of project delivery were discussed. Here DG Regio informed SWECO that the delivery of a database, as mentioned in the terms of reference and the tender, was no longer needed, but instead the data had to be delivered as Oracle 10g files which can feed into a domestic DG Regio database. The work plan has been altered accordingly.

The actual data collection was preceded by a feasibility study assessing the issue of data availability. This highlighted the fact that databases containing this information existed in some countries. In other countries however it was necessary to collect this information from the programme co-ordination units themselves or carry out additional estimations. In some cases it seemed to be uncertain whether the required data would be possible to collect.

In the end it proved possible to establish data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories with slightly better results than was initially envisaged by the feasibility assessment. Indeed, in only 10.7% of the cases, excluding INTERREG, was the modelling of NUTS 3 data needed, while in all other cases it could be established by other means.

The exercise shows that it is possible to establish ERDF and CF data at NUTS 3 level and indeed, in some cases it has been more difficult to establish data on the 2 digit expenditure categories than on the regional level. Thus it can be concluded that NUTS 3 is feasible as the basic unit of this exercise.

At the same time the study shows that commitment data is more readily available than actual payment data, particularly where the final payments have not thus far been made.

With regard to the distribution of the 1 digit expenditure categories the picture is as follows:

<b>Overview of data in the database</b>					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Category 1 Prod.Environment</b>	<b>Category 2 Human Resources</b>	<b>Category 3 Basic Infrastructure</b>	<b>Category 4 Miscellaneous</b>
<b>Total</b>	157 015 234 820 €	47 125 161 101 €	3 398 757 574 €	103 740 166 483 €	2 751 149 659 €
<b>ERDF Obj 1</b>	100 464 656 691 €	32 924 759 687 €	2 373 934 500 €	63 496 839 851 €	1 669 122 653 €
<b>ERDF Obj 2</b>	21 080 503 609 €	12 538 936 563 €	564 944 336 €	7 498 024 000 €	478 598 709 €
<b>CF</b>	30 772 714 543 €	0 €	0 €	30 634 213 680 €	138 500 861 €
<b>ERDF Urban</b>	643 522 199 €	117 616 543 €	130 682 223 €	355 451 335 €	39 772 098 €
<b>ERDF IR IIIA</b>	4 053 837 778 €	1 543 848 308 €	329 196 515 €	1 755 637 617 €	425 155 338 €

This table – as well as the other tables in this report – provides only an overview of the data in the database files. The database files contain data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories.

The maps below provide an initial picture as regards regional differentiation.

The first map shows the total commitment for the 2000-2006 period differentiated for the expenditure categories 1 (Productive Environment), 2 (Human Resources) and 3 (Basic Infrastructure).

The second map shows the total commitment divided by the years for which the programmes have run. This picture differs from the first map, as the Member States which joined the European Union in 2004 became eligible for ERDF funding in the year they entered.

The third map shows the predominant expenditure category at 1 digit level. Regions where no expenditure type amounts to more than 50 % of the total expenditure, are marked as *mixed*.

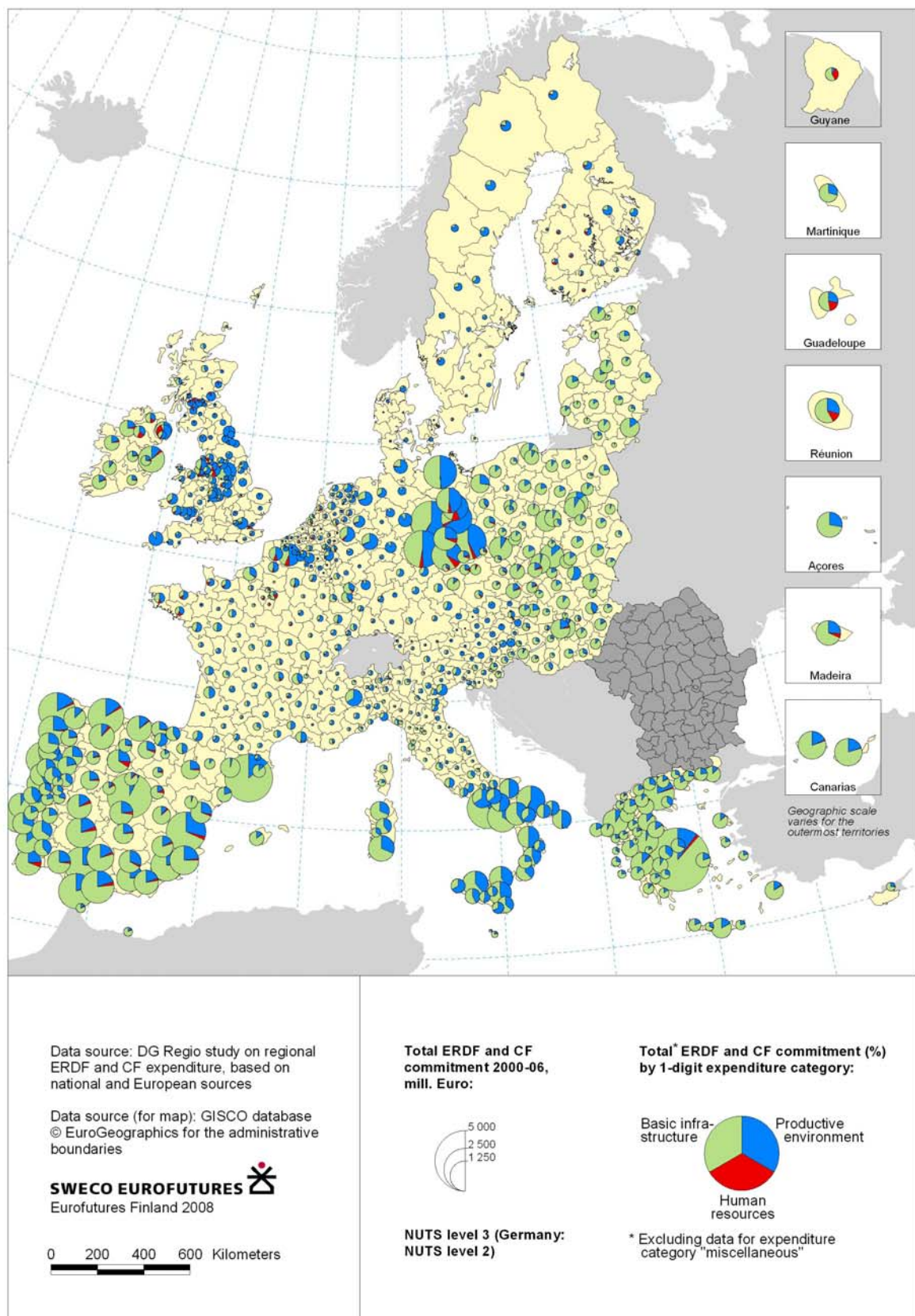
The fourth map shows how the total commitment is composed by the different programme types.

The fifth map shows the annual average commitment per inhabitant, taking into account the year in which a region became eligible for funding.

The sixth map shows the annual average commitment as a share of the regional GDP in 2003, taking into account the year in which the region in question became eligible for funding.



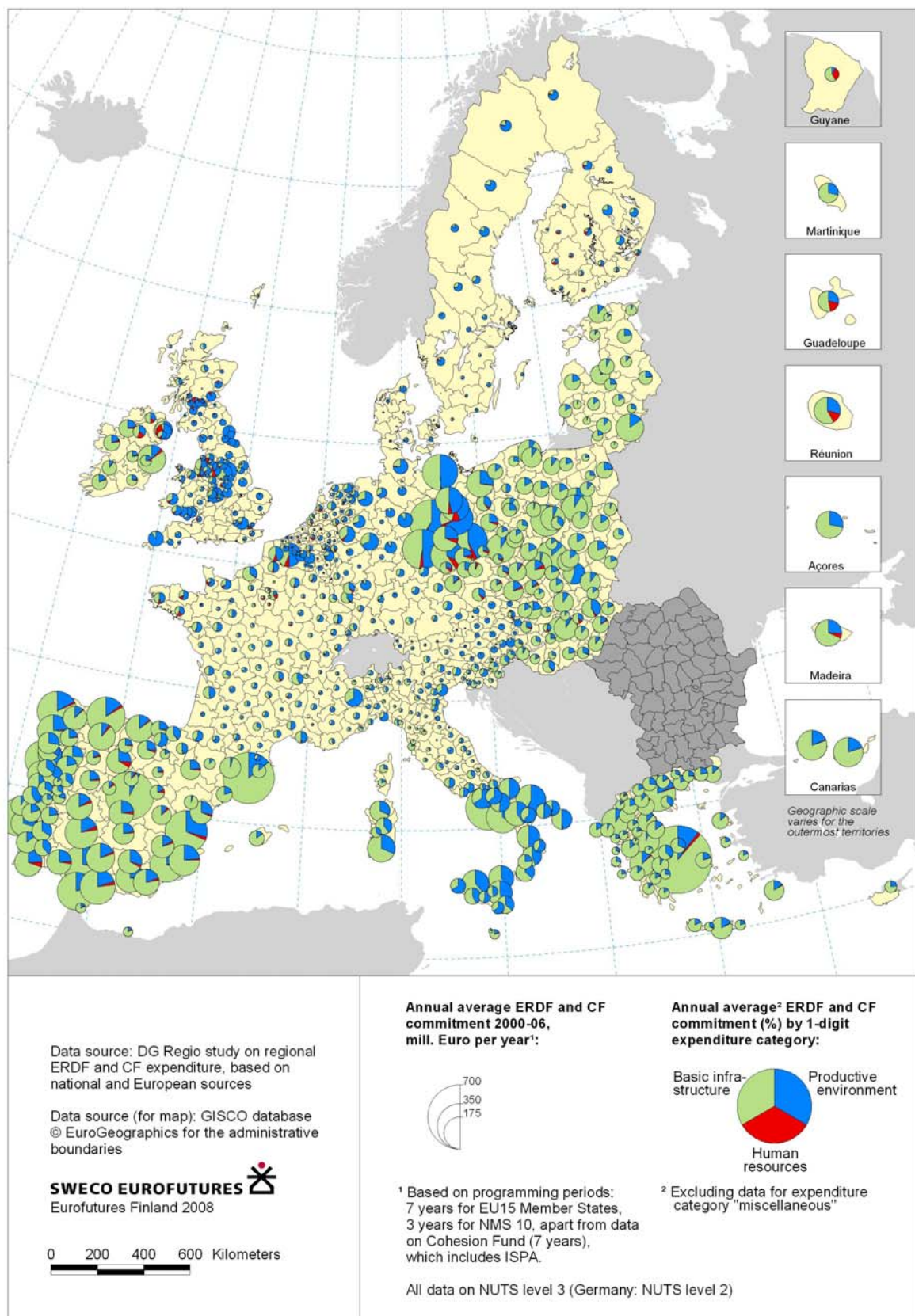
**Map 1: Total ERDF and CF commitment, 2000-2006, mill. Euro**



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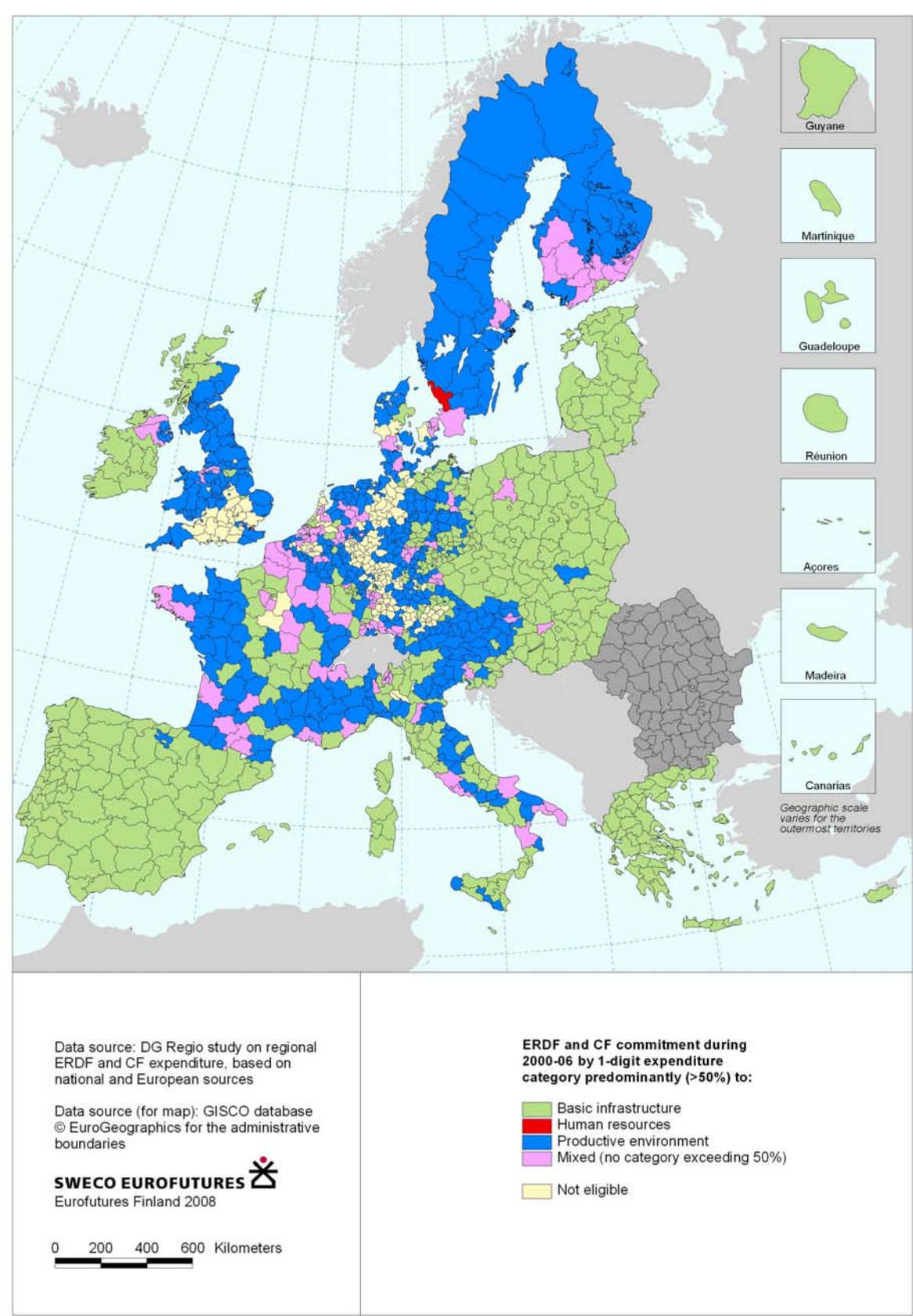


**Map 2: Average annual ERDF and CF commitment 2000-2006, mill. EUR**



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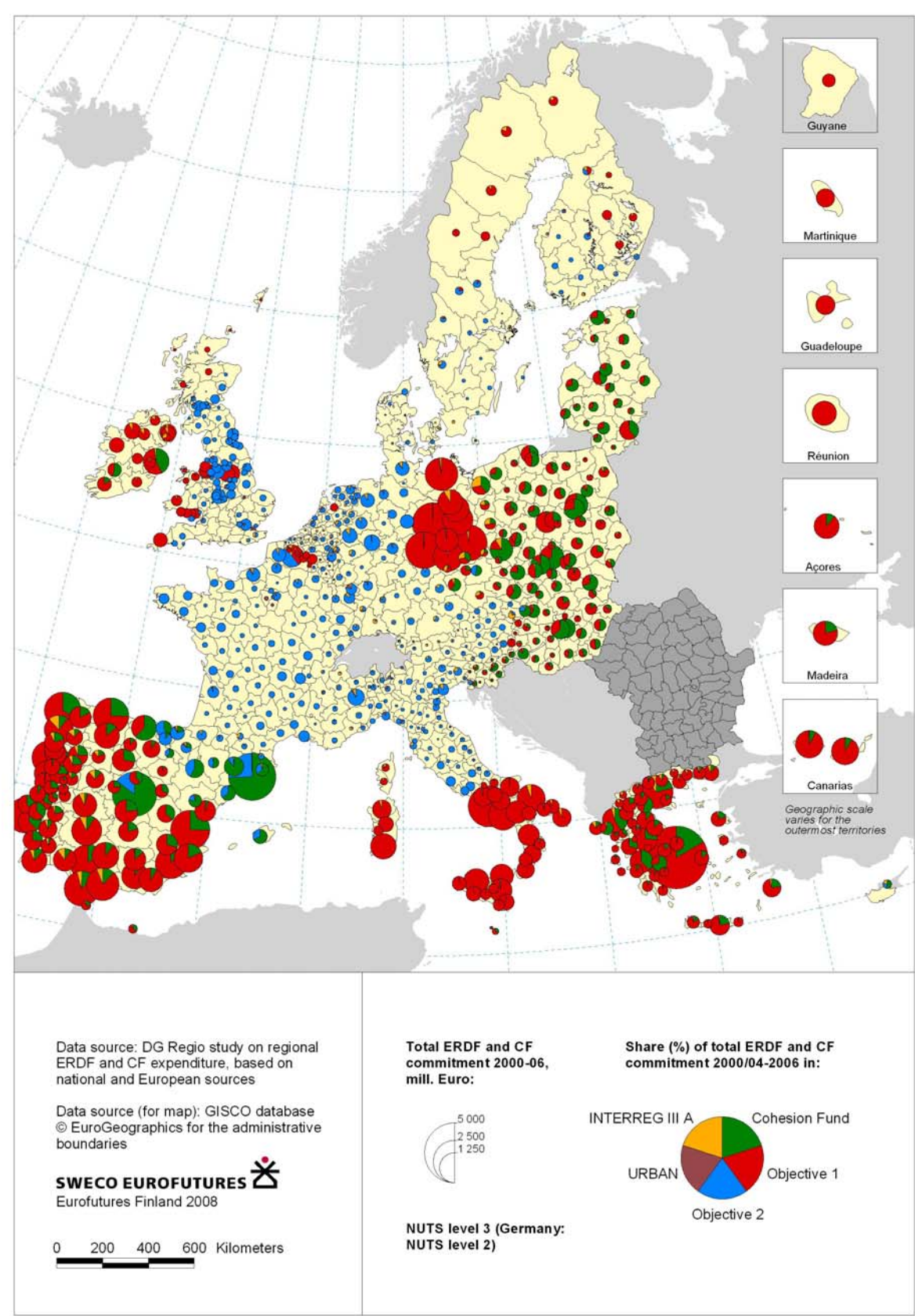
Map 3: Predominant expenditure type for ERDF and CF



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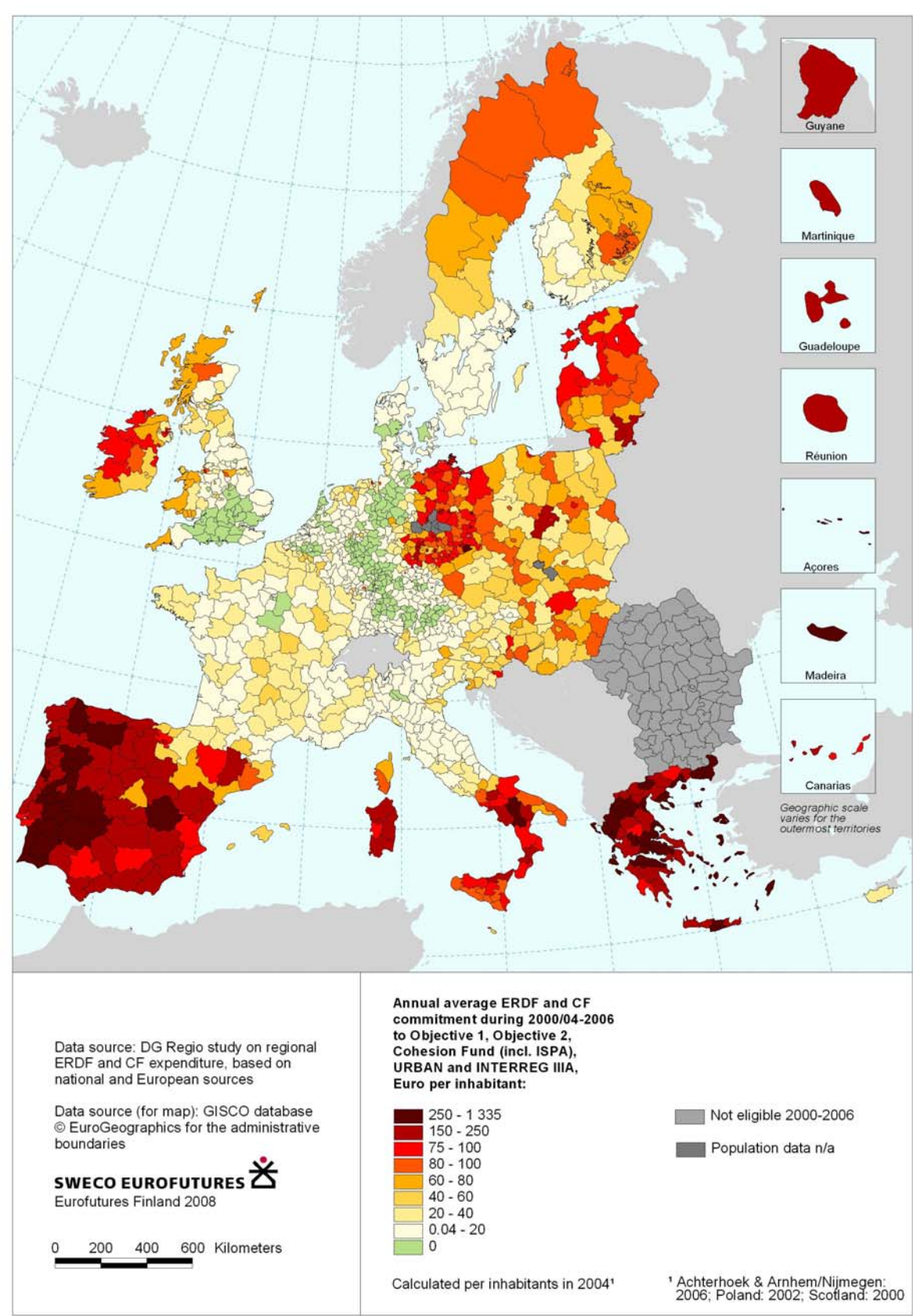


Map 4: Composition of the total commitment by programme types



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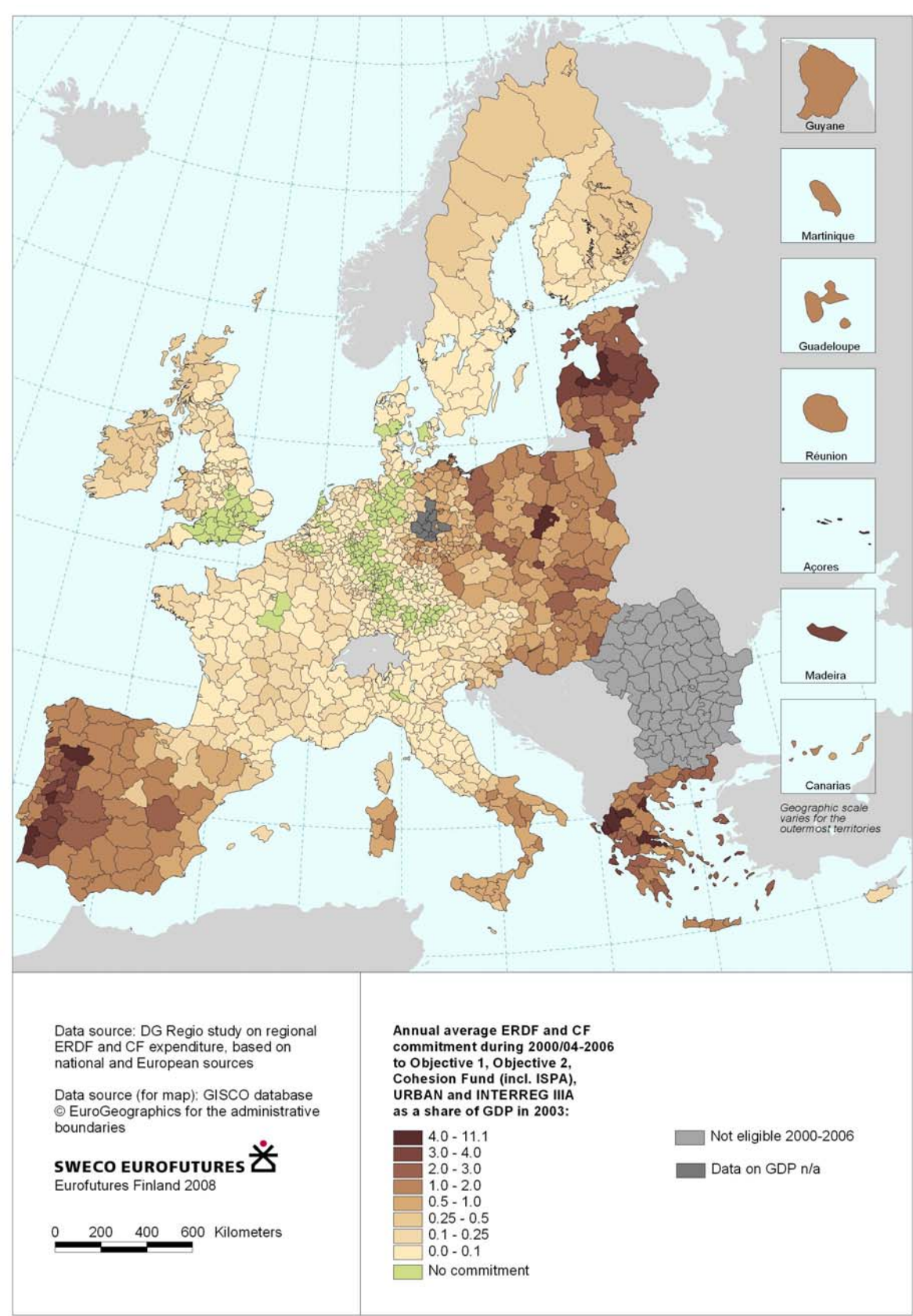
Map 5: Annual average ERDF and CF commitment in Euro per capita



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Map 6: Annual average ERDF and CF commitment as share of GDP



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In general, it can be concluded that it is possible to establish ERDF and CF data at NUTS 3 level. Indeed, establishing data at the 2 digit expenditure categories appeared, on occasion, to be more challenging than establishing regional data. With regard to this type of information, the national and programme monitoring systems seem to work better than they did during the 1994-99 period, although it appears that particularly in cases where the systems are decentralised, complete certainty as to exactly what data has actually been inserted does not exist. The main challenges in this respect were the quality and reliability of the existing databases, differences in data depending on cut-off days and exchange rates, and commitments which exceeded the actually available level of ERDF funding.

A series of checks were carried out in order to verify and improve the data collected. This included, among other things, checks (a) on the eligibility of regions for which commitment has been registered, (b) of national sums of collected data against the sums provided by DG Regio, and (c) of the share reported for expenditure category 4, plus (d) the production of national maps sent to national experts for a plausibility check.

Taken together these measures confirmed the data, and in some cases helped to improve its quality substantially. The statistical checks highlighted obvious mismatches and triggered a series of questions and adjustments. In particular the production of national maps at NUTS 3 level and the 1 digit expenditure categories made visible a number of incoherencies thus, ultimately, leading to the compilation of better data.

## 1.2 Expenditure by programme category

### 1.2.1 ERDF Objective 1

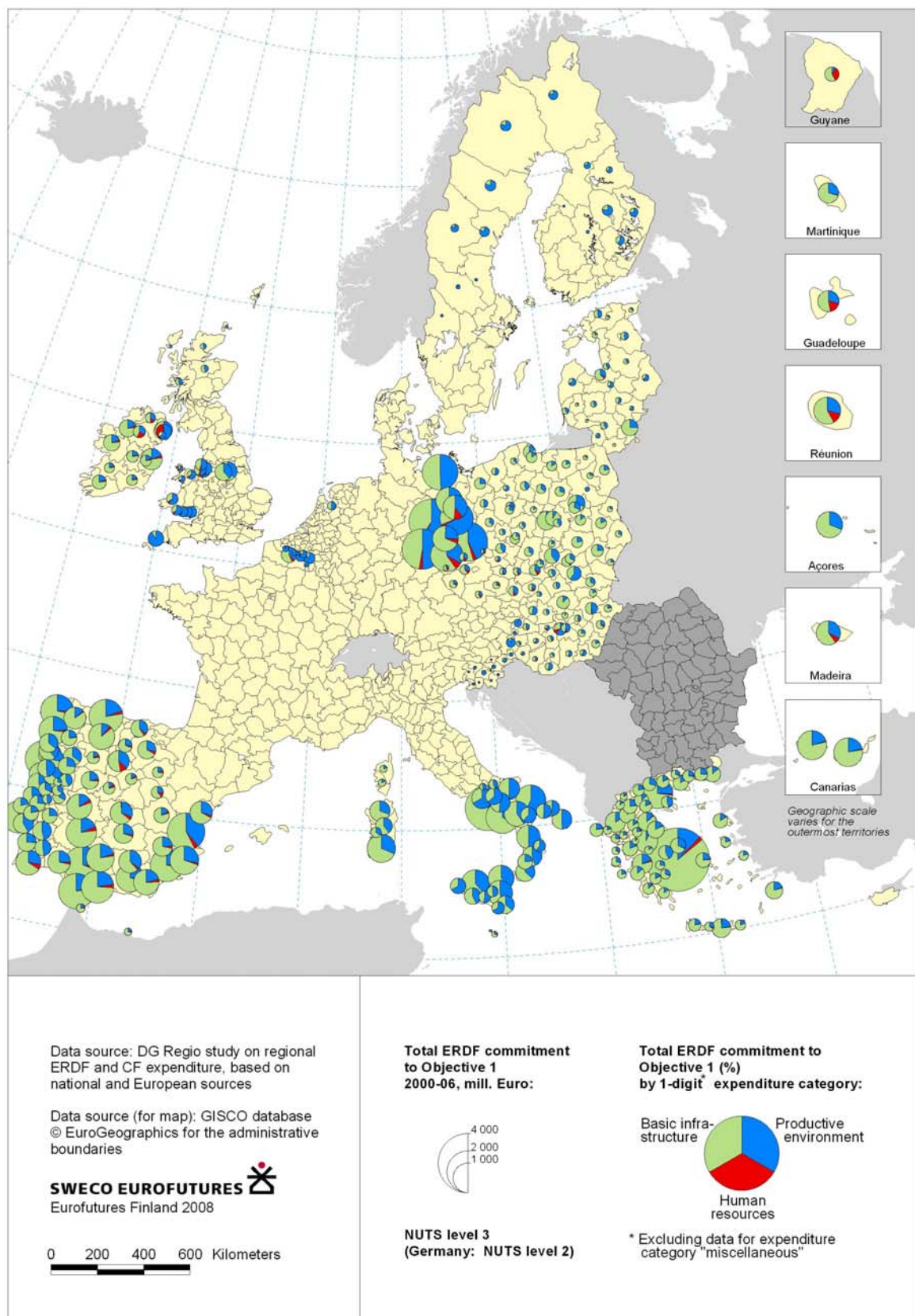
In the 2000-2006 period EUR 100,984,803,090 was made available under ERDF Objective 1. It has been possible to localise commitments for EUR 100,464,656,691 at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories. Thus the database contains 99% of the available ERDF funding for Objective 1, the remaining amounts have most likely not been committed. Some deviations can be caused by varying exchange rates. The table below provides an overview, by country, of how much of this commitment has been localised, how it is distributed over the 1 digit expenditure categories, and how much it is in relation to the ERDF funding available to the country concerned.

ERDF Objective 1 Commitment						
		Amounts committed				
	Total	Category 1 Productive Environment	Category 2 Human Resources	Category 3 Basic Infrastructure	Category 4 Miscellaneous	Share of total funding
EU	100 464 656 691 €	33%	2%	63%	2%	99%
Austria	175 307 336 €	91%	0%	8%	1%	97%
Belgium	419 735 930 €	85%	0%	14%	0%	98%
Cyprus	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Czech Republic	903 339 647 €	32%	11%	56%	1%	99%
Denmark	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Estonia	232 820 142 €	35%	0%	56%	9%	100%
Finland	496 773 608 €	75%	0%	23%	2%	100%
France	2 429 835 051 €	27%	12%	60%	2%	99%
Germany	11 970 317 468 €	48%	3%	48%	1%	98%
Greece	15 074 613 957 €	17%	1%	79%	3%	99%
Hungary	1 239 381 188 €	39%	5%	52%	4%	100%
Ireland	1 946 313 000 €	19%	4%	74%	3%	100%
Italy	15 918 088 813 €	40%	0%	58%	2%	100%
Latvia	382 043 677 €	44%	3%	48%	4%	100%
Lithuania	583 939 739 €	33%	0%	64%	3%	100%
Luxembourg	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Malta	46 697 639 €	25%	6%	69%	0%	100%
Netherlands	81 660 000 €	50%	0%	47%	3%	100%
Poland	4 972 788 583 €	27%	0%	70%	3%	100%
Portugal	13 234 986 863 €	36%	1%	62%	1%	100%
Slovakia	566 422 960 €	29%	0%	66%	5%	99%
Slovenia	136 523 478 €	72%	0%	16%	12%	100%
Spain	25 358 547 444 €	24%	3%	72%	0%	100%
Sweden	485 540 353 €	79%	0%	18%	2%	99%
United Kingdom	3 808 979 816 €	50%	7%	40%	3%	96%

The map provides an initial picture as regards the regional differentiation for 1 digit expenditure categories. Data on 2 digit expenditure categories at NUTS 3 level is available in the database.



**Map 7: Total commitment to ERDF Objective 1 in 2000-2006**



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## 1.2.2 ERDF Objective 2

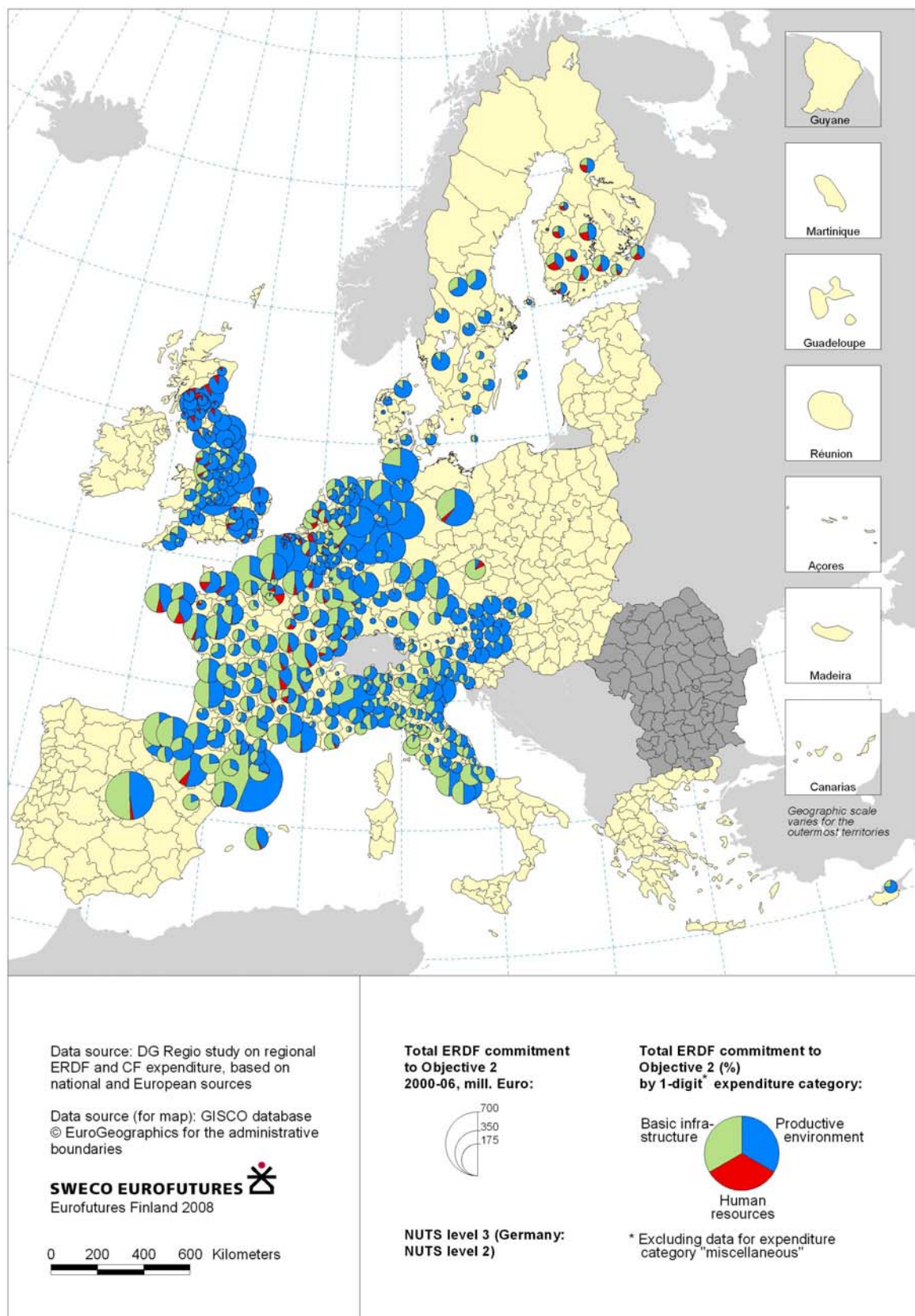
In the 2000-2006 period EUR 21,867,260,025 was made available under ERDF Objective 2. It has been possible to localise commitments for EUR 21,080,503,609 at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories. Thus the database contains 96.4% of the available ERDF funding for Objective 2, the remaining amounts have most likely not been committed. Some deviations can be caused by varying exchange rates.

The table below provides an overview, by country, of how much of this commitment has been localised, how it is distributed over the 1 digit expenditure categories, and how much it is in relation to the ERDF funding available to the country concerned.

ERDF Objective 2 Commitment						
	Total	Amounts committed				Share of total funding
		Category 1 Productive Environment	Category 2 Human Resources	Category 3 Basic Infrastructure	Category 4 Miscellaneous	
<b>EU</b>	21 080 503 609 €	59%	3%	36%	2%	96%
<b>Austria</b>	678 212 429 €	86%	0%	13%	1%	96%
<b>Belgium</b>	391 104 021 €	68%	6%	26%	1%	94%
<b>Cyprus</b>	28 022 807 €	72%	0%	24%	4%	100%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	71 262 016 €	8%	10%	80%	3%	100%
<b>Denmark</b>	126 545 463 €	80%	0%	18%	2%	89%
<b>Estonia</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Finland</b>	376 386 676 €	44%	20%	34%	2%	91%
<b>France</b>	5 591 606 246 €	48%	4%	46%	3%	98%
<b>Germany</b>	3 219 806 568 €	68%	0%	27%	4%	99%
<b>Greece</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Hungary</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Ireland</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Italy</b>	2 721 000 000 €	51%	0%	47%	3%	100%
<b>Latvia</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Lithuania</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	43 794 121 €	36%	0%	63%	1%	100%
<b>Malta</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Netherlands</b>	694 776 042 €	52%	5%	41%	2%	81%
<b>Poland</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Portugal</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Slovakia</b>	36 167 028 €	66%	0%	31%	3%	98%
<b>Slovenia</b>	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Spain</b>	2 553 579 057 €	51%	2%	47%	0%	100%
<b>Sweden</b>	381 371 932 €	73%	0%	24%	3%	99%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4 166 869 201 €	76%	4%	18%	2%	92%

The map provides an initial picture as regards the regional differentiation for 1 digit expenditure categories. Data on 2 digit expenditure categories at NUTS 3 level is available in the database.

**Map 8: Total commitment to ERDF Objective 2 in 2000-2006**



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### 1.2.3 Cohesion Fund

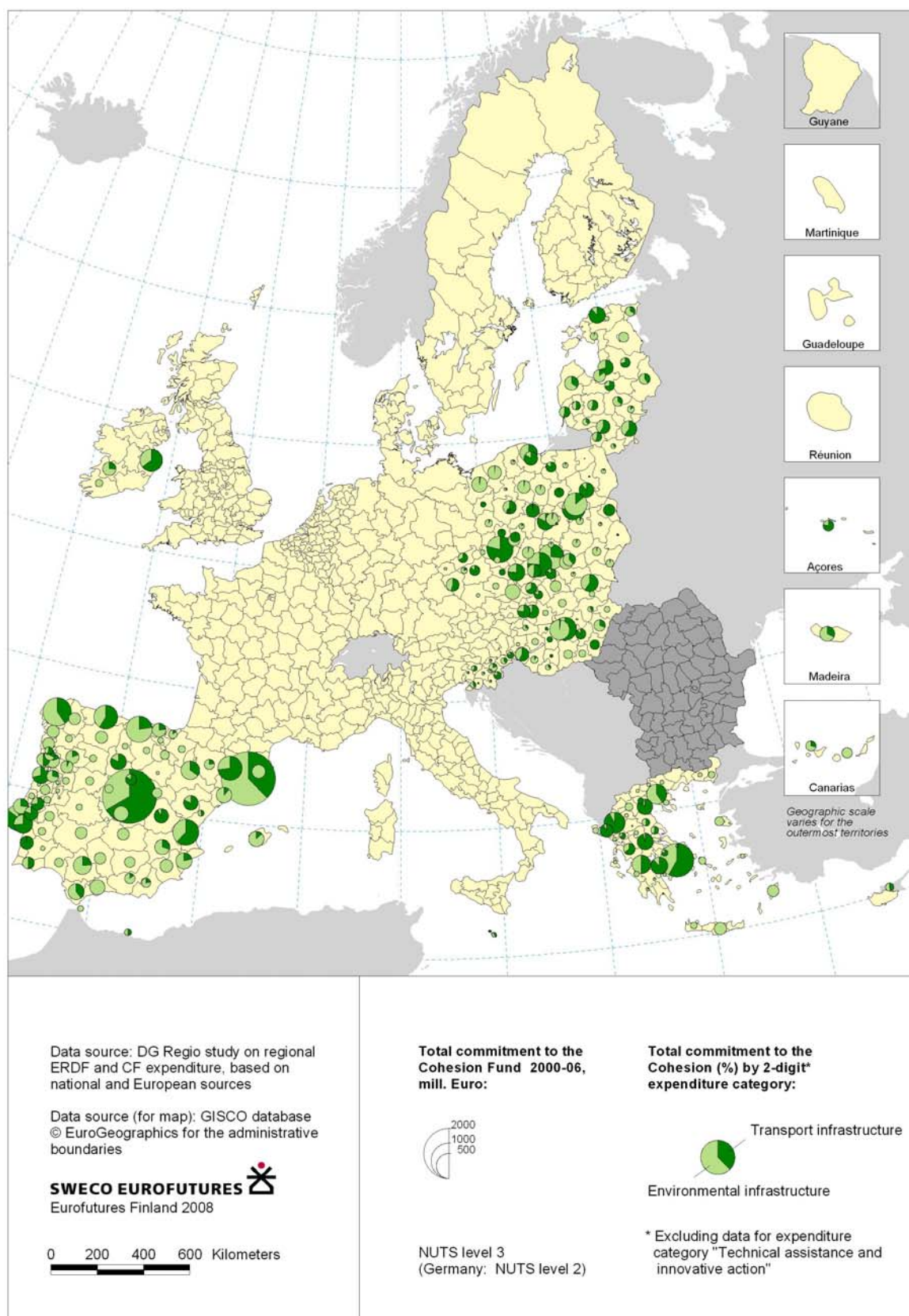
In the 2000-2006 period EUR 32,686,210,985 was made available under the Cohesion Fund, including ISPA projects which have been completed out of Cohesion Fund resources. It has been possible to localise commitments for EUR 30,772,714,543 at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories. Thus, the database contains 94% of the available Cohesion Fund, the remaining amounts have most likely not been committed. Some deviations can be caused by varying exchange rates. The table below provides an overview, by country, of how much of this commitment has been localised, how it is distributed over the 1 digit expenditure categories, and how much it is in relation to the Cohesion funding available to the country concerned.

Cohesion Fund Commitment						
	Total	Amounts committed				Share of total funding
		Category 1 Productive Environment	Category 2 Human Resources	Category 3 Basic Infrastructure	Category 4 Miscellaneous	
EU	30 772 714 543 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,6%	0,4%	94%
Austria	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Belgium	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Cyprus	54 014 695 €	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100%
Czech Republic	1 100 869 907 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,7%	0,3%	89%
Denmark	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Estonia	430 555 481 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,6%	0,4%	100%
Finland	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
France	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Germany	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Greece	3 580 398 004 €	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	90%
Hungary	1 478 658 566 €	0,0%	0,0%	98,6%	1,4%	100%
Ireland	585 575 802 €	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	92%
Italy	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Latvia	707 260 462 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,6%	0,4%	100%
Lithuania	825 950 073 €	0,0%	0,0%	96,0%	4,0%	97%
Luxembourg	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Malta	21 940 000 €	0,0%	0,0%	96,3%	3,7%	100%
Netherlands	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
Poland	5 531 545 011 €	0,0%	0,0%	98,8%	1,2%	98%
Portugal	3 317 124 145 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,8%	0,2%	92%
Slovakia	766 500 642 €	0,0%	0,0%	99,8%	0,2%	100%
Slovenia	254 312 402 €	0,0%	0,0%	98,9%	1,1%	100%
Spain	12 118 009 353 €	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	93%
Sweden	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%
United Kingdom	0 €	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0%

The map shows the regional differentiation for the two relevant expenditure categories at 2-digit level, i.e. for transport infrastructure and environmental infrastructure. Data is available in the database.



**Map 9: Total Cohesion Fund commitment (incl. ISPA) in 2000-2006**



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### 1.2.4 ERDF Urban

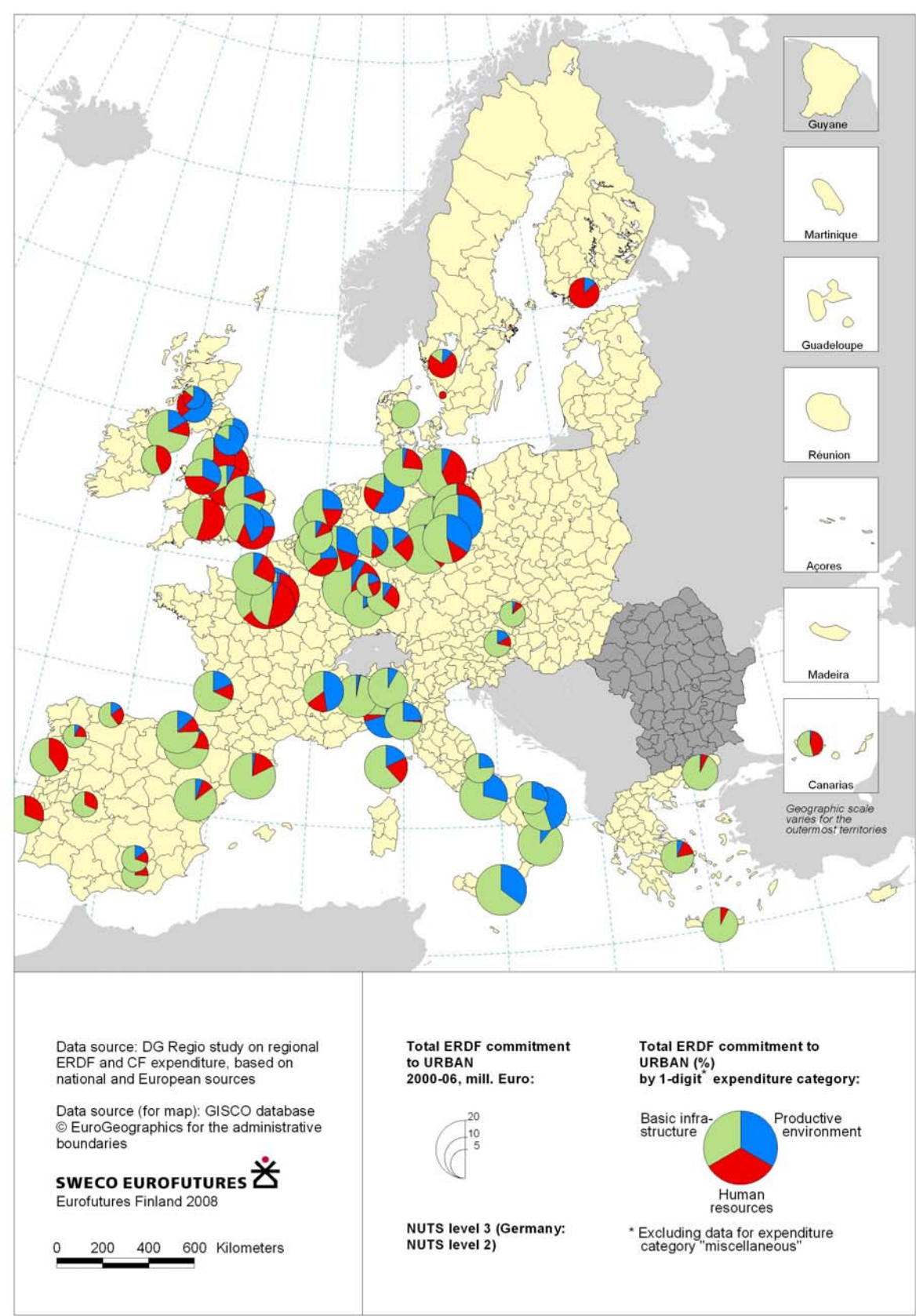
In the 2000-2006 ERDF period EUR 736,031,857 was made available under the Urban Initiative. It has been possible to localise commitments for EUR 643,522,199 at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories. Thus, the database contains 87% of the available ERDF URBAN funding, the remaining amounts could not be identified and have most likely not been committed. Some deviations can be caused by varying exchange rates.

The table below provides an overview, by country, of how much of this commitment has been localised, how it is distributed over the 1 digit expenditure categories, and how much it is in relation to the ERDF funding available to the country concerned.

ERDF URBAN Commitment						
	Total	Amounts committed				Share of total funding
		Category 1 Productive Environment	Category 2 Human Resources	Category 3 Basic Infrastructure	Category 4 Miscellaneous	
EU	643 522 199 €	18%	21%	55%	6%	87%
Austria	8 169 963 €	10%	10%	74%	6%	96%
Belgium	21 168 297 €	10%	18%	69%	3%	99%
Cyprus	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Czech Republic	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Denmark	4 580 722 €	0%	0%	96%	4%	85%
Estonia	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Finland	5 380 115 €	13%	81%	0%	6%	100%
France	96 092 947 €	18%	26%	50%	6%	94%
Germany	145 968 607 €	18%	18%	56%	7%	98%
Greece	20 989 896 €	2%	9%	82%	7%	82%
Hungary	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ireland	5 214 386 €	0%	41%	53%	6%	97%
Italy	103 248 990 €	28%	1%	66%	6%	89%
Latvia	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lithuania	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Luxembourg	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Malta	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Netherlands	30 250 462 €	24%	19%	51%	7%	100%
Poland	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Portugal	17 133 456 €	0%	34%	61%	5%	88%
Slovakia	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Slovenia	0 €	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Spain	68 391 789 €	8%	16%	72%	4%	60%
Sweden	5 260 224 €	10%	69%	13%	8%	98%
United Kingdom	111 672 343 €	25%	35%	33%	7%	89%

The map provides an initial picture as regards the regional differentiation for 1 digit expenditure categories. Data on 2 digit expenditure categories at NUTS 3 level is available in the database.

Map 10: Total ERDF commitment to URBAN in 2000-2006



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### 1.2.5 ERDF INTERREG IIIA

Cross-border co-operation between adjacent regions aimed at developing cross-border social and economic centres through common development strategies. In total there have been 64 INTERREG IIIA programmes promoting cross-border co-operation between neighbouring regions.

The focus of INTERREG IIIA activities is always on the benefit for the cross-border area. Considering expenditure at NUTS 3 level is thus not in line with the overall philosophy and thus is often viewed as counter productive, as it might shift the focus of the debate away from the cross-border approach. Accordingly NUTS 3 data is not envisaged in the INTERREG accounting system.

It has been possible to collect data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories in some areas<sup>1</sup>. The available regionalised data were not coming from accounting activities but from different ways of internal projections. Accordingly, it differed as regards the approaches with which the regional data has been established. Indeed, the programming areas have applied different internal estimations and projections. Consequently, the available data was not suitable for the provision of a comparative picture across programming areas.

To allow for the creation of a comparable picture on regional INTERREG data and to avoid discussion of the actual location of commitments and expenditure, the NUTS 3 data for INTERREG has been modelled in four steps:

- The regions eligible for participation in every one of the 64 programmes have been identified, the total population in the programme area was calculated and the population share of each NUTS 3 region established.
- The total programme budget was distributed to the eligible regions in proportion to their population share.
- The division between expenditure categories was made on the basis of the programme budget information made available by DG Regio.
- For each NUTS 3 region, the total ERDF funding was calculated by adding the amounts for each of the programmes they participated in.

The modelled data was then compared to the regional data available. This showed that the modelling does not give less reliable results than other estimations but indeed allows all programming areas to be covered and applies a transparent and equally applicable method.

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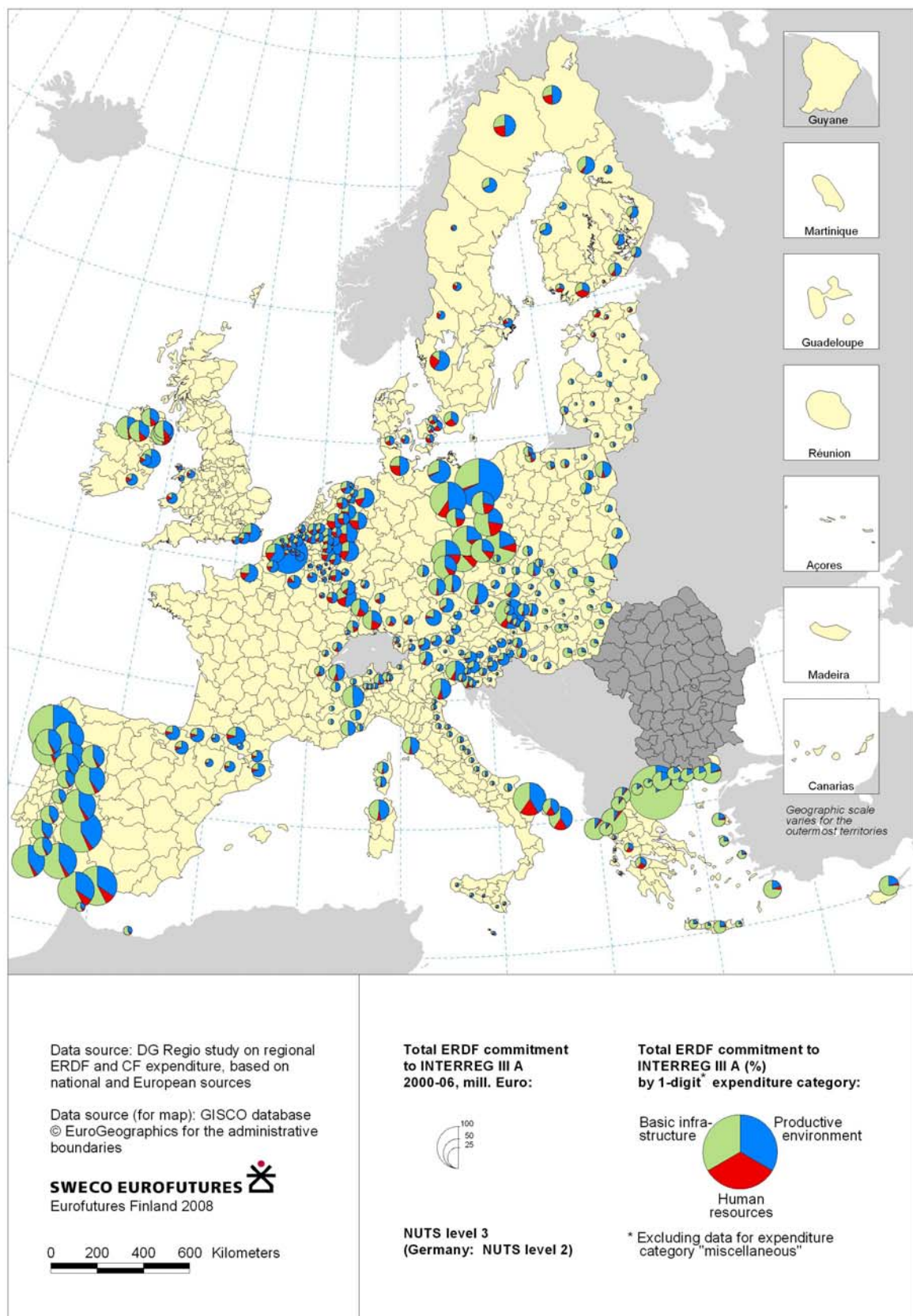
<sup>1</sup> Commitment data for 2 digit expenditure categories at NUTS 3 level was only received for Belgium (except for data from the German speaking community), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany (only Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Brandenburg and Sachsen), Denmark, France (6 out of 10 programmes)<sup>1</sup>, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and the UK (only Northern Ireland plus Wales at NUTS 2 level). Furthermore, INTERREG commitment data was available at the national level in Spain and at the programme level in Austria and Germany (in the case of the remaining *Länder*).

The table below provides an overview, by country, of ERDF commitments to INTERREG IIIA programmes, and how they are distributed over the 1 digit expenditure categories.

<b>ERDF INTERREG IIIA Commitment</b>					
	Total	Amounts committed			
		Category 1 Productive Environment	Category 2 Human Resources	Category 3 Basic Infrastructure	Category 4 Miscellaneous
<b>EU</b>	<b>4 053 837 778 €</b>	38%	8%	43%	10%
<b>Austria</b>	<b>133 098 323 €</b>	57%	6%	31%	6%
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>82 071 657 €</b>	56%	13%	22%	9%
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>21 863 576 €</b>	20%	4%	73%	4%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>196 191 868 €</b>	34%	9%	51%	6%
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>31 997 115 €</b>	35%	22%	26%	16%
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>8 654 712 €</b>	23%	32%	36%	9%
<b>Finland</b>	<b>100 656 821 €</b>	47%	14%	32%	7%
<b>France</b>	<b>309 646 311 €</b>	54%	11%	24%	11%
<b>Germany</b>	<b>436 782 360 €</b>	41%	12%	39%	8%
<b>Greece</b>	<b>438 829 585 €</b>	15%	3%	79%	3%
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>60 040 559 €</b>	29%	5%	56%	10%
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>63 416 537 €</b>	52%	13%	31%	5%
<b>Italy</b>	<b>307 632 075 €</b>	34%	9%	33%	24%
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>8 072 393 €</b>	43%	3%	48%	6%
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>13 810 838 €</b>	33%	6%	55%	6%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>8 134 452 €</b>	46%	17%	22%	15%
<b>Malta</b>	<b>907 431 €</b>	38%	10%	23%	29%
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>115 029 970 €</b>	49%	18%	25%	8%
<b>Poland</b>	<b>365 456 497 €</b>	42%	8%	44%	6%
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>319 518 431 €</b>	36%	3%	50%	11%
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>34 905 611 €</b>	35%	5%	49%	11%
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>38 263 638 €</b>	54%	5%	26%	14%
<b>Spain</b>	<b>718 996 717 €</b>	34%	4%	44%	18%
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>88 287 637 €</b>	51%	20%	22%	8%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>151 572 663 €</b>	42%	11%	41%	6%

The map provides an initial picture as regards the regional differentiation for 1 digit expenditure categories. Data on 2 digit expenditure categories at NUTS 3 level is available in the database.

**Map 11: Total ERDF commitment to INTERREG IIIA in 2000-2006**



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## **2 Degree of absorption and commitments as proxy for payments**

Determining the regional breakdown of ERDF and CF at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 levels for each general category of expenditure raises the question as to whether to use payment or commitment data for this.

In this study it was decided to focus in the main on commitment data. The reasons for this are twofold.

- Firstly, the presumption made in the Terms of Reference, that commitment data is more readily available than payment data can be confirmed. In five countries it has not been possible to establish a complete picture of payment data following the two digit expenditure categories at NUTS2 or NUTS3 level.
- Secondly, for the 2000-2006 period not all payments have as yet been made, which is why commitment data provides a more complete picture. This is particularly the case as the absorption rate differs between countries and programme types.

The regional and thematic divisions of payment and commitment data furthermore show only minor deviations when considering NUTS 3 level data and the 2 digit expenditure categories.

Based on the analysis of absorption and the division between NUTS 3 regions and 2 digit expenditure categories presented below, it can be concluded that commitment is a suitable proxy for expenditure. Indeed, for the time being it is perhaps the more robust indicator of the two.

### **2.1 Degree of absorption**

The European Union contributes to territorial cohesion by providing co-funding for development programmes. The funding actually received depends on the absorption capacity of the Member States and their regions, i.e. their ability to use the financial resources made available from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund on the agreed actions and according to the agreed timetable.

The 2000-2006 programming period covers seven years, which is the timeframe for the budget allocations to individual programmes. For the EU15 implementation started on 1 January 2000 and for the 10 new Member States from 1 January 2004. The programmes were however still in preparation in the first few months of this initial period. Programmes were then individually submitted and subsequently approved following the completion of the negotiation procedures. At the other end of the programme period, payments were made after the financial period expired at the end of 2006. The payment deadline is at the end of 2008 for ERDF programmes and 2010 for Cohesion Fund programmes. The actual time period for programme implementation is

therefore different for each programme, and thus does not strictly follow the 2000-2006 budget framework. This must of course be taken into consideration when the degree of absorption is assessed.

In the EU15, we would expect to see that commitments both for the ERDF and the CF programmes were, by the end of 2007, close to 100% of the available budget. Payments should be close to 85% for ERDF programmes, but could be lower for Cohesion Fund programmes. They may also be lower for Greece, since programme closure there was extended by one year due to the occurrence of large fires across the territory in the summer of 2007.

For the majority of 2004-2006 ERDF programmes in the EU10 implementation could not begin before 2005, although for some programmes it commenced as early as 2004. The first payments were made in 2004, mainly out of the advance payment that the Commission paid to the Member State authorities at the beginning of the period. However, significant absorption of the funds started only in 2005. Programmes have a payment deadline for the end of 2008, which in reality means that most commitments should have been made by the end of 2007. For these programmes we would expect a commitment ratio close to 100%, while payments must be expected to be significantly lower – down to about 65% of the available budget if payments are made at the same ratio every year.

The 2004-2006 Cohesion Fund programmes have a payment deadline for the end of 2010, and commitments should therefore be made at the latest by the end of 2009. The Cohesion Fund is designed for infrastructure investments, and as such usually focuses on large projects with a long planning and implementation periods. The Member States invested in project pipeline work in the pre-accession period using *Phare* funding and started to commit resources shortly after programme approval, with a focus on financial absorption. Major public bodies such as ministries were often project applicants. All of these factors contributed to high commitment figures at the end of 2007. Large infrastructure projects do however take time to conclude, which means that payments may be substantially lower than commitments.

Commitment and payment figures have been examined based on the Member States where both types of data were available following the 2 digit categories of expenditure at NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level. The table below shows the share of payments made by the end of 2007 for each Member State and programme type. *N.a.* here means that payment data was not available following the 2 digit categories of expenditure at NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level. *Partial* here means that payment data was only partially available at the requested level of detail.

Payments as share of committed funding				
	ERDF Objective 1	ERDF Objective 2	Cohesion Fund	ERDF URBAN
Austria	82%	86%	-	80%
Belgium	89%	80%	-	75%
Cyprus	-	73%	56%	-
Czech Republic	62%	39%	34%	-
Denmark	-	90%	-	92%
Estonia	partial	-	partial	-
Finland	82%	80%	-	65%
France	69%	79%	-	69%
Germany	partial	partial	-	partial
Greece	72%	-	57%	86%
Hungary	79%	-	n.a.	-
Ireland	89%	-	-	88%
Italy	69%	77%	-	81%
Latvia	54%	-	n.a.	-
Lithuania	58%	-	45%	-
Luxembourg	-	79%	-	-
Malta	n.a.	-	n.a.	-
Netherlands	84%	25%	-	70%
Poland	56%	-	n.a.	-
Portugal	74%	-	49%	71%
Slovakia	43%	55%	52%	-
Slovenia	partial	-	34%	-
Spain	87%	partial	partial	partial
Sweden	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.
United Kingdom	39%	59%	-	59%

Payment data is from 31 December 2007, with the exceptions of Belgium (different dates for each programme), Finland (30 Sept 07), Hungary (Feb 08), Italy (Oct 07), Latvia (15 Dec 07), Slovakia (30 Nov 07).

Considerable differences exist between available ERDF and CF funding and the degree to which this funding has already been paid out to finalised project activities.

In general however, the degree of absorption seems to be in line with what we could expect. Cohesion Fund programmes in the EU10 in particular are lagging behind in terms of payments made – which is not so surprising given the fact that the projects are often large relating as they do to significant investments in physical infrastructure projects.

This can be shown by reference to the prevailing situation in Austria and Slovakia as illustrated in the tables below.

For Austria, between 89% and 100% of available ERDF funds were committed by 31 December 2007, while payments were made that amount to between 63% and 91% of the available funds. For Slovakia, between 97% and 100% of available ERDF funds were committed and between 43% and 55% paid at the end of 2007.



Commitment and payment in Austrian and Slovak programmes						
		Available EU funds (in EUR)	Committed EU funds (in EUR)	Paid EU funds (in EUR)	% Com- mitted of Available	% Paid of Available
<b>AUSTRIA</b>						
ERDF Obj1	Burgenland	181 519 085	175 307 335	146 017 287	97	80
ERDF Obj2	Niederösterreich	184 967 000	177 688 121	155 174 317	96	84
ERDF Obj2	Wien	14 181 212	12 676 214	8 990 973	89	63
ERDF Obj2	Kärnten	84 991 000	82 805 430	72 467 671	97	85
ERDF Obj2	Steiermark	204 711 606	196 260 033	167 245 854	96	82
ERDF Obj2	Oberösterreich	127 164 000	123 434 951	107 518 133	97	85
ERDF Obj2	Salzburg	18 533 000	17 962 909	16 095 507	97	87
ERDF Obj2	Tirol	46 654 000	44 950 083	39 210 178	96	84
ERDF Obj2	Vorarlberg	23 695 000	22 434 684	20 341 788	95	86
ERDF URBAN	Graz	4 326 975	4 276 996	3 269 585	99	76
ERDF URBAN	Wien	4 200 000	3 892 966	3 296 871	93	78
ERDF INTERREG	ABH	17 874 592	17 464 134	13 615 345	98	76
ERDF INTERREG	AT-CZ	38 270 864	36 731 779	27 265 645	96	71
ERDF INTERREG	AT-HU	41 463 428	40 480 500	30 526 451	98	74
ERDF INTERREG	AT-SI	33 424 832	33 422 962	26 074 043	100	78
ERDF INTERREG	AT-SK	35 271 992	35 261 496	25 393 027	100	72
ERDF INTERREG	AT-DE	47 319 167	45 603 292	36 726 475	96	78
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>						
ERDF Obj1	Slovakia	573574135	566 422 957	241 447 343	99	42
ERDF Obj2	Bratislava	37032713	36 167 028	19862341	98	54
Cohesion Fund	Slovakia	766500642	766 500 641	396 215 195	100	52

## 2.2 Commitments as proxy for expenditure

The aim of the database is to provide an overview of the 2000-2006 period spending, i.e. where funding was targeted and on what it was spent.

Actual spending may of course only be accurately mapped when all programmes are concluded and all payments made. The measurement of payments will at this point in time not provide comparative information, since differences exist between the EU15 and the EU10 in respect of start dates and between the ERDF and the CF as regards closure dates. These differences are however considerably smaller in respect of commitment data, since most available funds have been committed by now even if they have, for obvious reasons, not yet been paid out. We have therefore based the database on commitment data, both because the data is more comparable and also because commitment data is more readily available than payment data. The assumption here is that commitment data is an acceptable proxy for actual expenditures. But is it so?

Both commitment data and payment data exist for a number of countries. The question that emerges then is how large the differences are between the commitments made and the actual recorded spending when projects are finalised.



We have investigated this both for the regional distribution and the expenditure categories. Differences may exist between commitment and payment data in both cases, though we expect the differences to become smaller as programmes approach their closure point. The main potential source of error here is that parts of an adopted project never actually will be fulfilled. This has however, in the 2000-2006 period, been less of a problem due to the N+2 rule where allocations were de-committed where available resources were not used.

## 2.2.1 Commitments as a proxy for categories of expenditure

We would expect some differences in commitment rates between spending categories, as infrastructure investments tend to be large projects with longer implementation times and thus tend to be committed early but paid later. This is checked for a number of countries as shown for Italy, Finland, Slovenia and Lithuania in the tables below, where commitments and payments are compared for each of the four categories of expenditure at 1-digit level. The following table presents the variations for Objective 2 programmes in Finland at 2-digit level.

We cannot, however, find any clear patterns in the material. The general conclusion then is that only minor differences exist between the spending profiles of commitments and payments.

Division of commitment and payments over 1 digit expenditure categories								
	Productive environment		Human resources		Basic infrastructure		Miscellaneous	
	Comm	Paym	Comm	Paym	Comm	Paym	Comm	Paym
<b>ITALY</b>								
ERDF Obj. 1	43%	40%	0%	0%	55%	58%	2%	2%
ERDF Obj. 2	51%	49%	0%	0%	47%	48%	3%	3%
URBAN	28%	25%	1%	1%	66%	68%	6%	6%
<b>FINLAND</b>								
ERDF Obj. 1	73%	71%	0%	0%	25%	27%	2%	2%
ERDF Obj. 2	44%	42%	21%	21%	33%	35%	2%	2%
ERDF URBAN	13%	22%	81%	69%	0	0%	6%	10%
<b>SLOVENIA</b>								
Cohesion Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	99%	97%	1%	3%
<b>LITHUANIA</b>								
ERDF Obj. 1	35%	30%	0%	0%	62%	68%	3%	2%
Cohesion Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%	97%	98%	3%	2%

Division of commitment and payments over 2 digit expenditure categories		
FINLAND ERDF Objective 2, expenditure at 2 digits	Commitments	Payments
16 Assisting SMEs and craft sector	44%	42%
23 Developing education and vocational training	21%	21%
31 Transport infrastructure	10%	11%
34 Environmental infrastructure	11%	12%
35 Planning and rehabilitation	12%	12%
41 Technical assistance	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%

## 2.2.2 Commitments as a proxy for regional distribution

The other question is whether significant differences exist in payments and commitment levels when compared across regions. The table below compares the regional distribution of commitments to the regional distribution of payments for two countries at NUTS 2 level, Belgium and Hungary, and for the Netherlands at NUTS 3 level.

There are only minor differences here. The conclusion is therefore, again, that commitment data may safely be used as a proxy for payments also concerning regional variations.

Division of commitment and payments over regions			
		Commitments	Payments
<b>BELGIUM, ERDF Objective 2</b>			
BE10	Région de Bruxelles-Capitale	10.5%	12.1%
BE21	Prov. Antwerpen	10.7%	10.2%
BE22	Prov. Limburg (B)	21.3%	18.6%
BE23	Prov. Oost-Vlaanderen	3.1%	3.0%
BE24	Prov. Vlaams-Brabant		
BE25	Prov. West-Vlaanderen	8.0%	8.0%
BE31	Prov. Brabant Wallon		
BE32	Prov. Hainaut		
BE33	Prov. Liège	33.5%	34.3%
BE34	Prov. Luxembourg (B)	2.8%	2.7%
BE35	Prov. Namur	10.1%	11.0%
<b>HUNGARY, Cohesion Fund</b>			
HU10	Közép-Magyarország	22.0%	21.8%
HU21	Közép-Dunántul	8.4%	9.4%
HU22	Nyugat-Dunántul	7.7%	6.9%
HU23	Del-Dunántul	9.7%	9.2%
HU31	Eszak-Magyarország	20.9%	18.8%
HU32	Eszak-Alföld	17.3%	18.9%
HU33	Del-Alföld	13.9%	15.0%
<b>NETHERLANDS, ERDF Objective 2</b>			
NL213	Twente	9.9%	9.2%
NL221	Veluwe	6.7%	6.6%
NL222	Achterhoek	6.2%	6.7%
NL223	Arnhem/Nijmegen	23.4%	23.7%
NL310	Utrecht	7.4%	7.6%
NL321	Kop van Noord-Holland	2.9%	1.3%
NL326	Groot-Amsterdam	11.4%	11.8%
NL332	Agglomeratie 's-Gravenhage	10.6%	10.7%
NL335	Groot-Rijnmond	11.5%	12.0%
NL414	Zuidoost-Noord-Brabant	3.7%	4.0%
NL423	Zuid-Limburg	6.3%	6.5%

### 3 Filling data gaps and the modelling of estimations

Significant emphasis was placed on collecting commitment data at the lowest geographical level possible, i.e. NUTS 3. As indicated above in some areas it has been necessary to regionalise commitment data which only exists at NUTS 1, NUTS 2 or at programme level. In order to break this information down to commitment information at NUTS 3 level various approaches were used depending on the actual data available and the amount of data to be regionalised.

The main body of the commitment data collected, i.e. 80.1% (excluding INTERREG), was received at NUTS 3 level or as project data at an even more detailed (e.g. municipal) level which could easily be aggregated to NUTS 3.

For the remaining data different approaches were used to establish information on the NUTS 3 level:

- Firstly, information on large projects was used to regionalise additional data. This approach helped to regionalise an additional 2.2% of the data.
- Secondly, in cases where there were no large projects or the information on large projects did not allow for a localisation at NUTS 3 level, the commitment data was regionalised by statistical means. If less than 10% of commitment data could not be located at NUTS 3 level, this amount has been distributed proportionally to existing data at NUTS 3 level. Additional 7.2% of the data was regionalised using this approach
- Thirdly, when none of the above approaches could be employed as a substantial share of commitment data could not be located at NUTS 3 level, the regional data was modelled. This approach was used to regionalise the remaining 10.7%.

Taken together the final data in the database was composed as follows:

Data availability (excluding INTERREG)			
Data available at NUTS 3 level	Data regionalised to NUTS 3 level by different means		
	Large projects	Proportional distribution	Modelling
80.1%	2.2%	7.2%	10.7%

#### 3.1 Large projects

Firstly, project data has been investigated where this was possible. Here large projects above 10 million Euros, and in some cases above 50 million Euros, were regionalised manually identifying the regions in which they were implemented. Where a project was implemented in several regions the share

of the individual regions has been identified. In cases of motorways, this could, for example, be the length of the motorway in each of the regions concerned.

This approach has mainly been used in Poland to regionalise additional data, in Germany in the case of Niedersachsen and for the German federal transport programme and to a minor degree it has also been used in Italy.

### 3.2 Proportional

In cases where there was a large amount of regionalised data and only a limited share (less than 10%) of non-regionalised data, the non-regionalised data was distributed over the eligible regions concerned in proportion to the already existing regional data

This approach was used when it was otherwise not possible to disaggregate the data based on large project information. It has been used in almost all countries to varying degrees, ranging from less than 1% e.g. in the case of Sweden up to 10% e.g. in Italy and some German *Länder*.

### 3.3 Modelling

In cases where there was no information on large projects and insufficient regionalised data at NUTS 3 level to allow for a proportional distribution a modelling approach was applied. In total, 10.7 % of commitment data in the database was modelled following this approach.

Initially a rather elaborate modelling approach was presented using various proxy indicators for each 2 digit expenditure category. During the First Steering Group Meeting it became obvious however that a more transparent approach was needed in order to be able to better communicate the results particularly as the proxy indicators for which data is available at the necessary level of detail were not always optimal.

Following this discussion we tested a composite indicator of GDP, unemployment and population to be used for all expenditure categories. Different compositions of these three indicators were then tested against existing data. This implies that data has been modelled from NUTS 2 to NUTS 3 and compared to actually available data at the NUTS 3 level.

The weight of a Nuts 3 belonging to a Nuts 2, i.e. the share of Nuts 2 funds which have to be attributed to that specific Nuts 3, can be rigorously determined with the use of the following formula:

$$W_i = W_{GDP} \frac{E_i GDP_i}{\sum_{j \in N3} E_j GDP_j} + W_{Un} \frac{E_i Un_i}{\sum_{j \in N3} E_j Un_j} + W_{Pop} \frac{E_i Pop_i}{\sum_{j \in N3} E_j Pop_j}, \text{ where } i \in N3$$

The testing process showed that it appears sensible to use different compositions for different programme types in order to ensure the best possible quality of the estimations. The results were as follows:

- **ERDF Objective 1:**  
The best results were achieved using a weighting of 2/3 for GDP, 0 for unemployment and 1/3 for population. In total 11% of the commitment data for Objective 1 was modelled following this approach.
- **ERDF Objective 2:**  
The best results were achieved using a weighting of 0.5 for GDP, 0.5 for unemployment and 0 for population. In total 26% of the commitment data for Objective 2 was modelled following this approach.
- **Cohesion Fund:**  
For the Cohesion Fund modelling was not necessary.
- **ERDF Urban II:**  
For Urban II, modelling was not necessary.
- **ERDF INTERREG IIIA:**  
Population figures were used to calculate the regional distribution and the budget data to divide funding on expenditure categories.

The approach developed also takes into account eligibility issues. This involved the formal eligibility of NUTS 3 regions within a larger NUTS 2 or NUTS 1 region. Furthermore, the intelligence of national experts was used to check the logical eligibility, and to see whether any expenditure categories exist in regions which appear not to make sense.

These approaches have been further developed using French and Polish data, as they were the first countries for which coherent datasets could be established. Thereafter the approaches were tested using Austrian and Italian data.

For ERDF Objective 2 the deviation between modelled data and reported data was 17 %, for Austria 26 % and for Italy 33 %.

For ERDF Objective 1 the average deviation is higher, since the eligibility of Objective 1 is less strict and hence the results are less precise. Total inconsistency is about 25 % for Poland, 42 % for Austria and 14 % for Italy.

In conclusion, the following remarks have to be borne in mind:

- The use of more than one indicator appears to improve the reliability of results, but less substantially than may initially have been expected.

- As is obvious, given its structure, this methodology does not allow us to estimate any zeros, except when a NUTS 3 is not eligible. For this reason, the results produced are 'flatter' than the real values.
- The role of national experts was crucial since they were needed to check for "economic eligibilities" in order avoid absurd data results in terms of the type expenditure categories allocated to a region.



## 4 Metadata

The main task of the project was the development of two databases detailing the regional ERDF and CF commitments in the 2000-2006 period. The first simple database contains commitment data on 1 digit expenditure categories on the NUTS 2 level. The second database contains commitment data on 2 digit expenditure categories on the NUTS 3 level. Both databases are provided as Oracle 10g files.

The development of the database and collection of data was preceded by a feasibility study on which data can be obtained.

For Objective 1 the feasibility study suggested that data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories will be available for 96 % funding. The final database contains 99 % of the ERDF amount available, 77 % of which was available at NUTS 3 level or below.

For Objective 2 the feasibility study suggested that data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories is available for 57 % of the funding and that most of the remaining amounts can be modelled though it seemed impossible to establish regional information for 4 % of the funding. The final database contains 96 % of the ERDF amount available, 67 % of which was available at NUTS 3 level or below.

For the Cohesion Fund the feasibility study suggested that NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories is available for 39 % of the Cohesion Funding, 18 % of the data estimations can be modelled while for 43 %, the situation appeared to be uncertain. The final database contains 94 % of the ERDF amount available, 96 % of which was available at NUTS 3 level or below.

For URBAN the feasibility study suggested that data at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories is available for 91 % of the URBAN funding and 85 % of the programmes. The final database contains information on all programmes which are – due to under-commitment - 87 % of the ERDF amount available, 99.8 % of which was available at NUTS 3 level or below.

For INTERREG the feasibility study suggested that for 39% of the cases INTERREG IIIA data can be received at NUTS 3 level for 2 digit expenditure categories. As for the rest the situation appeared to be uncertain. As the regionalisation of funding data is not in line with the basic principles and philosophy of INTERREG, it was decided to model the regional INTERREG IIIA data for all programmes in a harmonised manner based on commitment data available at programme level.

For the establishment of the databases, to a large degree the data was obtainable from project databases at the programme or national level. To

varying degrees the information then needed to be translated into the NUTS system and/or the categories of expenditure. In addition, it was partially necessary to locate larger projects manually and to develop estimations for commitment data where the corresponding NUTS 3 regions could not be identified.

In addition to the question of the mere access to information, the main challenges faced here were the quality and reliability of the existing databases, differences in data depending on cut-off days and exchange rates, and commitments which exceeded the actually available ERDF funding.

Another challenge in terms of regionalisation related to the changing of NUTS divisions in some countries during the 2000-2006 programming period. Here a pragmatic approach was adopted and information collected following the NUTS division used in the respective monitoring system. Some of the EU Member States which joined the Union in 2004 and one German *Land* reported in the “new” NUTS division whereas the remaining ones reported in the “old” division which was in place when the programmes were initially set up. This implies that the transformation of some of the data will be necessary for a cross-analysis with other NUTS-based databases.

Following the Steering Group meeting on 29 May 2008 the data and metadata have been double checked, improved and partly corrected. Furthermore, additional efforts have been undertaken to obtain data on category 4.1 (technical assistance and innovation actions) in cases where this data was not in place and to obtain a higher level of original regional data in particular as regards Objective 2 and countries such as Portugal and Spain. These efforts have led to minor changes in the databases for Estonia and the UK. In the other countries, neither additional data on category 4.1 nor further regionalised commitment data could be obtained. For Spain a change from commitment data to payment data seemed to offer a possibility for a higher share of regionalised data. However, it has not been possible to establish reliable information by combining commitment and payment data.

The necessary metadata on the sources, years and possible treatments of data is provided below.

## Austria

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31.12.2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Central ERDF Monitoring System (CMS)
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	4.1% was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been distributed over the corresponding eligible NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing regional data.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The Austrian ERDF Central Monitoring System provides data on 2-digit intervention codes and (for most projects) on NUTS3 level in a complex project database, with decentralised input by the responsible programme authorities. Necessary data treatment included (plausibility) checks and reprocessing enabled data to fit the requested database formats.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31.12.2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Central ERDF Monitoring System (CMS)
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	5.4% was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been distributed over the corresponding eligible NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing regional data.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Cf. Objective 1.

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31.12.2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Central ERDF Monitoring System (CMS)
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Cf. Objective 1.

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Belgium

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	undated data received on 26/02/2008
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Direction des Programmes Européens (DPE), DG Economie et Emploi (DGEE), Ministère de la Région wallonne (MRW)
<b>Missing data:</b>	-
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The data was received in the form of Excel files. Amounts for projects operated across the whole eligible area are distributed according to the population of the concerned NUTS 3 units; amounts concerning aids to businesses and financial engineering are distributed according to the NUTS 3 location of the firms receiving aid.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Brussels-Capital Region: 30/11/2007 (AATL / BROH) Antwerpen: sub-programme Anno: undated (received 01/02/2008 + 14/02/2008); sub-programme Kempen: 08/01/2007 (EWI) Limburg: apparently 15/11/2007 (EWI) Oost-Vlaanderen: sub-programme Gent: undated (received 01/02/2008 + 14/02/2008); sub-programme Meetjesland: 10/10/2007 (EWI) West-Vlaanderen: sub-programme Kust: 19/06/2007; sub-programme Westhoek: 01/10/2007 (EWI) Meuse-Vesdre: 03/01/2008 (DPE) Namur-Luxembourg: 10/12/2007 (DPE)
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Brussels-Capital Region: Administration de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Logement (AATL) - Ministère de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (MRBC) / Bestuur Ruimtelijke Ordening en Huisvesting (BROH) - Ministerie van het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (MBHG) - Walloon Region: Direction des Programmes Européens (DPE), Direction Générale Economie et Emploi (DGEE), Ministère de la Région wallonne (MRW) - Flemish Region: Afdeling Europa Economie, Departement Economie, Wetenschap en Innovatie (EWI), Vlaamse overheid
<b>Missing data:</b>	-
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data received in the form of paper reports, Excel and/or text files. Amounts for projects operated across the whole eligible area are distributed according to the population of the concerned NUTS 3 units; amounts concerning aids to businesses and financial engineering are distributed according to the NUTS 3 location of the firms receiving aid. Some data required additional processing, e.g. in order to take into account external co-financing (Brussels-Capital Region) or for estimating ERDF commitment data (Ghent sub-programme in Oost-Vlaanderen programme).

### ERDF Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Missing data:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	- Brussels-Capital Region: 30/11/2007 (AATL / BROH) - Antwerpen: latest data of 14/02/2008 (EWI) - Sambreville: 10/12/2007 (DPE)
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Brussels-Capital Region: Administration de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Logement (AATL) - Ministère de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (MRBC) / Bestuur Ruimtelijke Ordening en Huisvesting (BROH) - Ministerie van het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (MBHG) - Walloon Region: Direction des Programmes Européens (DPE), Direction Générale Economie et Emploi (DGEE), Ministère de la Région wallonne (MRW) - Flemish Region: Afdeling Europa Economie, Departement Economie, Wetenschap en Innovatie (EWI), Vlaamse overheid
<b>Missing data:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data received in the form of paper reports, Excel and/or text files. Processing needed to take into account external co-financing (Brussels-Capital Region).



#### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Cyprus

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** the Planning Bureau of the Republic of Cyprus

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** the Planning Bureau of the Republic of Cyprus

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Czech Rep.

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 29/12/2006 -1 EUR = 30 CZK)  
**Source:** Department of SROP (JROP) and JPD2 (SPD2), Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Transport

**Missing data:**

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The conversion from EUR to CZK and back to EUR posed a considerable challenge. The strengthening of the CZK against the EUR during the programme period made a perfect fit with the original figures in the programme documents impossible. In some, the location of funds was additionally challenging as for some projects the location of the final beneficiary (e.g. of the firm charged with implementation of the project) was given, instead of location of the project itself. Likewise, in the cases of some projects millions of CZK were transposed into thousands. These problems were solved with the help of the data from detailed financial tables on the measure level.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 29/12/2006 -1 EUR = 30 CZK)  
**Source:** Department of SROP (JROP) and JPD2 (SPD2), Ministry for Regional Development  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%  
**Main challenges:** Availability of data for all programmes and regionalisation based on project information.

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 29/12/2006 -1 EUR = 30 CZK)  
**Source:** Dept. of EU Funds, unit of evaluation, coordination and of methodology. Ministry of Transport (for transport section of CF),  
Dept. of Managing Authority of CF, Ministry for Regional Development (for environmental section of CF).

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** In general, the main challenges were the same as for Objective 1.

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency** (exchange rate):  
**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR  
**Source:** DG Regio  
**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.  
The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.  
**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Denmark

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** 1 February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 31/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 7.45 DKK)

**Source:** Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority

**Missing data:**

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** Data was available by project and municipality and has been aggregated from that level to NUTS 3.

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** 1 February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 31/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 7.45 DKK)

**Source:** Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.



## Estonia

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 31.12.2007.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate – 1 EUR = 15.6466 EKK)

**Source:** Structural Funds Information System. Compilation of data from the databases of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Interior as well as from the county administration level.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 26.2% of the data was only available at NUTS 2 level – one third of which related to expenditure category 4 - and has been modelled to NUTS 2.

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 31.12.2007.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate – 1 EUR = 15.6466 EKK)

**Source:** Structural Funds Information System. Compilation of data from the databases of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Interior as well as from the county administration level.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The total amount provided was 100.5% of the amount available for Estonia. Therefore, the figures have been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Finland

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** FIMOS = national monitoring system available at:  
[https://fimos2k.atbusiness.com/FIMOS-tietopalvelu\\_pub/pubframe\\_frameset.html](https://fimos2k.atbusiness.com/FIMOS-tietopalvelu_pub/pubframe_frameset.html).

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 3.2% was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been regionalised in accordance with existing data at NUTS 3 level.

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** FIMOS = national monitoring system available at:  
[https://fimos2k.atbusiness.com/FIMOS-tietopalvelu\\_pub/pubframe\\_frameset.html](https://fimos2k.atbusiness.com/FIMOS-tietopalvelu_pub/pubframe_frameset.html).

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Data is available on the most general level, only through the programme homepage and as part of the information provided in connection with reporting (mid-term update etc.)

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The commitment data amounted to 110% of the ERDF funding available for URBAN in Finland and has been reduced proportionally to the ERDF amount actually available.

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## France

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR  
**Source:** National database on structural funds expenditure  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 13.2% was only available at NUTS 2 and was distributed according to population following the advice of French Structural Funds authorities.

#### Main challenges:

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR  
**Source:** National database on structural funds expenditure  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 6.6% was only available at NUTS 2 and was distributed according to population following the advice of French Structural Funds authorities.

#### Main challenges:

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency (exchange rate):**  
**Source:** Not applicable  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** December 2007  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR  
**Source:** National database on structural funds expenditure  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 1.5% was only available at NUTS 2 and was distributed over the corresponding eligible areas proportional to existing data.

#### Main challenges:

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR  
**Source:** DG Regio  
**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.  
The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.  
**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Germany

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Ranges from 31 <sup>st</sup> of October to 31 <sup>st</sup> of December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Wirtschaftsministerium des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt, Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit, Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Arbeit, Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Frauen, Berlin, Ministerium für Wirtschaft des Landes Brandenburg, Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	11.3%, mainly commitment data for the programme of Sachsen-Anhalt has been distributed in accordance with existing data.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0.3%, i.e. minor amounts addressing several NUTS 3 areas e.g. in the national transport programme was distributed in accordance with existing data at the national regional level.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Decentralised structures for Structural Fund management posed a particular challenge during the data collection process. All programme authorities had to be contacted. The quality of the data received for objective 1 regions has been very good. There was almost no need for further calculations.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Ranges from 30 <sup>th</sup> of September 2007 to 14 <sup>th</sup> of February 2008
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Ministerium Ländlicher Raum Baden-Württemberg, Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Technologie, Senator für Wirtschaft und Häfen der Freien Hansestadt Bremen, Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Landesentwicklung, Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Verkehr, Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Mittelstand und Energie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Wirtschaft und Verkehr Schleswig-Holstein, Freie Hansestadt Hamburg, Wirtschaftsbehörde, Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Frauen Berlin, Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr, Landwirtschaft und Weinbau Rheinland-Pfalz, Ministerium für Wirtschaft und Wissenschaft Saarland
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	30.3% needed to be broken down from NUTS 1 to NUTS 3.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	6.1% needed to be broken down from NUTS 2 to NUTS 3.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	In Germany, the situation differed considerably between the <i>Länder</i> . Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Baden-Württemberg provided data at the requested level of detail. In Nordrhein-Westfalen, Hessen and Bayern most of the data was available but some was only available at NUTS 1 or NUTS 2 level and thus had to be allocated to NUTS 3 regions in proportion to the data available at that level. In the case of Bremen however data was only available at NUTS 2 and needed to be modelled down to NUTS 3. In Niedersachsen, data was only available at NUTS 1 and could, in part, be regionalised using large projects while in addition also being modelled down. In the case of Saarland no commitment data was available. However, expenditure data and the absorption rate could be obtained at NUTS 1 level and this allowed us to develop estimations for NUTS 3 data. In Rheinland-Pfalz the data has been regionalised manually according to the location of project beneficiaries. In some cases it was necessary to apply a methodology to extract information regarding the categories of expenditure. The first step was to identify the initial link between the programme measures and the corresponding fields of intervention. The second step was to distribute the real expenditures/ commitments according to this initial link.

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Ranges from 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006 to 26 <sup>th</sup> of February 2008
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Staatskanzlei Brandenburg, Senator für Wirtschaft und Häfen der Freien Hansestadt Bremen, Magistrat der Stadt Kassel, Dezernat VI, Verkehr, Umwelt, Stadtentwicklung, Bauen, Wirtschaftsministerium des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Ministerium für Bauen und Verkehr des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Stadtverwaltung Ludwigshafen, EU-Verwaltungsstelle, Haus Berlin (Landeshauptstadt Saarbrücken), Ministerium für Landesentwicklung und Verkehr des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt, Sächsisches Staatsministerium des Innern, Landeshauptstadt Kiel, Stadtplanungsamt, Abt. Stadt- und Regionalentwicklung, Thüringer

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Main challenges:**

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Arbeit,  
Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung Berlin,  
Stadt Mannheim, Fachbereich Wohnen und Stadterneuerung

0%  
0%

The quality of data was not satisfactory in several cases. Often the data had to be extracted from the annual reports and had to be recalculated. In most cases it was necessary to apply a methodology to extract information regarding the categories of expenditure. The first step here was to identify the initial link between the programme measures and the corresponding fields of intervention. The second step was to distribute the real expenditures/ commitments according to this initial link.

#### **ERDF INTERREG IIIA**

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency** (exchange rate):  
**Source:**  
**Share of data at programme level only:**

Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

EUR

DG Regio

Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:**

The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.



## Greece

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Monitoring Information System of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 7.8% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 1 level and has been distributed over NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing data at regional level.

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 3.9% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been distributed over NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing data at regional level.

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Monitoring Information System of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 2.8% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 1 level and has been distributed over NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing data at the regional level.

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 1.9% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been distributed over NUTS 3 areas in accordance with existing data at the regional level.

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Monitoring Information System of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Hungary

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	February 2008
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate as applied in the programming complements of the OPs - 1 EUR = 255 HUF)
<b>Source:</b>	the Single Monitoring Information System (SMIS, Egységes Monitoring Információs Rendszer - EMIR).
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The data was obtained from the official monitoring system for Objective 1 and INTERREG. All data was available on the project level, NUTS3 and NUTS2 data was obtained by aggregation of the project data. The project commitment data provided by the national monitoring system amounted to 111 % of the ERDF funding available for Objective 1 in Hungary. Consequently, the amounts have been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	February 2008
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio database on Cohesion Fund projects
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	For the Cohesion Fund projects, no access to the official system was granted, therefore the database received from DG Regio was used for approximation. The relatively low number of projects allowed individual regional breakdown for each project, based on the location of the project.

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, was used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution was calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Ireland

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Data provide by the various OP Managing Authorities, along with reports submitted to Monitoring Committees.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 100% of the commitment data needed to be modelled based on data available at NUTS 2.

**Main challenges:** The commitment data available amounted to 102.8 % of the ERDF funding available. Consequently, the data has been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Data provide by the various OP Managing Authorities, along with reports submitted to Monitoring Committees.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Data provide by the various OP Managing Authorities, along with reports submitted to Monitoring Committees.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Italy

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 20 February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** IGRUE (Ispettorato Generale per i Rapporti Finanziari con l'Europa) which is the national authority in charge of the data collection for the Structural Funds. IGRUE is a department of the Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 4% related to multi-regional programmes and some measures covering several regions and this has been regionalised in accordance with existing data.

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 8%

**Main challenges:** The total commitment amounted to 107 % of the ERDF funding available and thus the commitment data has been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** 20 February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** IGRUE (Ispettorato Generale per i Rapporti Finanziari con l'Europa) which is the national authority in charge of the data collection for Structural Fund. IGRUE is a department of the Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 10% was available only at national level regions and has been regionalised in accordance with existing data.

**Main challenges:** The total commitment amounted to 104 % of the ERDF funding available and thus the commitment data has been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** 20 February 2008

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** IGRUE (Ispettorato Generale per i Rapporti Finanziari con l'Europa) which is the national authority in charge of the data collection for Structural Fund. IGRUE is a department of the Ministry of Economy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Latvia

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** Data on NUTS 2 level is valid for 15/12/2007. Data on NUTS 3 level is valid for 15/01/2008.  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR (exchange rate of 15/12/2007 -1 EUR = 0.6967 LAT)  
**Source:** the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia - the Managing Authority of SF in Latvia  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%  
**Main challenges:** NUTS 2 data was available and the classification according to the 2 digits expenditure categories was undertaken based on project information. The work was carried out by the project team and approved by the managing authority. NUTS 3 data was created bottom-up by localising project data.  
The total commitment data amounted to 100.9 % of the ERDF funding available and thus the figures have been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency (exchange rate):**  
**Source:** Not applicable  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 15/01/2008  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR (exchange rate of 15/12/2007 -1 EUR = 0.6967 LAT)  
**Source:** the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Latvia - the Managing Authority of SF in Latvia  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%  
**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency (exchange rate):**  
**Source:**  
**Missing data:** Not applicable  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Data treatment**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Data treatment:**  
**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.  
**Currency (exchange rate):** EUR  
**Source:** DG Regio  
**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.  
The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.  
**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.



## Lithuania

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate -1 EUR = 3.45 LTL)  
**Source:** the Ministry of Finance (LT)  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%  
**Main challenges:** The commitment data amounted to 101.9 % of the ERDF funding available. Consequently the figures have been reduced proportionally to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency** (exchange rate):  
**Source:** Not applicable  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 31 December 2007  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate -1 EUR = 3.45 LTL)  
**Source:** the Ministry of Finance (LT)  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%  
**Main challenges:** Large projects have manually been located to the corresponding NUTS 3 regions. An additional challenge was to split up ISPA and CF funding, especially in those cases where a single project had a mixed funding envelope.

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**  
**Currency** (exchange rate):  
**Source:** Not applicable  
**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**  
**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**  
**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.  
**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR  
**Source:** DG Regio  
**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.  
The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.  
**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## **Luxembourg**

### **ERDF Objective 1**

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### **ERDF Objective 2**

**Date of the data:** 31.12.07

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Ministère de l'economie

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### **Cohesion Fund**

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### **ERDF URBAN**

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### **ERDF INTERREG IIIA**

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Malta

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** The Policy Priorities and Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The commitment data provided amounted to 110 % of the ERDF funding available. Accordingly the figures have been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** December 2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** The Policy Priorities and Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister.

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The commitment data provided amounted to 100,1 % of the ERDF funding available. Accordingly the figures have been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## The Netherlands

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2006
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Province of Flevoland
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data was available at NUTS 3 level but not for the expenditure categories. Data was classified following the programme priorities which needed to be translated into the 2 digit expenditure categories. The total commitment data amounted to 102 % of the ERDF funding available and has been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	December 2006
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Province of Gelderland 31.12.06, Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland 01.01.07, Stimulus Programme Management 31.12.06 the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) 18.12.06, The North Programme is not integrated at present
<b>Missing data:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	55.3%, i.e. for the North Programme data has been modelled from NUTS 1 to NUTS 3.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	In parts of the Netherlands data was in the main only available for NUTS 1 and did not follow the expenditure categories. An exception here is the South Netherlands where data was available at NUTS 3 level for the 2 digit expenditure categories. For the East Netherlands, the national expenditure categories could be converted into European 2 digit expenditure categories and by the use of project information the data could be regionalised at NUTS 3 level. In the North Netherlands data was only available at NUTS 1 and for national expenditure categories. The expenditure categories could be translated and the data has been modelled down. For the Steden Programme, the data was available at NUTS 3 but did not follow the expenditure categories. However this could be overcome using budget information provided by DG Regio for a remodelling of the data.

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31.12.06
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Data provided by all the municipalities eligible for URBAN II funding (Amsterdam, Heerlen and Rotterdam)
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The original data did not follow the expenditure categories which needed to be established based on information from DG Regio.

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Poland

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	18 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate of 29/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 3.83 PLN)
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Regional Development
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	30.8% related to multi-regional programmes and some measures covering several regions needed to be regionalised. Projects larger than 10 million Euro have been regionalised manually in Poland, with the remaining data being distributed proportionally to the already regionalised data.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	<p>The Ministry of Regional Development maintains a database with all projects and the NUTS regions covered by them, which is the only source of regionalised information on Structural Funds activities. The data was obtained in the NUTS 4 setting, which required aggregating it to the higher-rank statistical units. Further, some of the entries lacked the thematically category attribution, which was done manually by comparison with similar projects. Another problem here related to the shortage of territorial address with regard to about 40 thousand projects, which was mitigated partly by manual treatment (for large projects exceeding 10 million Euro of EU co-financing), and partly by a proportional allocation to respective NUTS 3 areas.</p> <p>The information provided in the Polish database is in PLN. The final results have been about 24% higher than the amount available for Objective 1 in Poland. The reasons for this are manifold. Partly the data in the database has been transferred from <i>Zloty</i> to Euro at different moments in time, using different exchange rates, partly it has been argued that there is an over-commitment and furthermore, there is a risk that projects are registered twice if they cover more than one region. To calibrate the data, in a first step it has been proportionally reduced to the commitment data reported by the programmes to DG Regio. As these sums are still higher than what is available, the data has, in a second step, been proportionally reduced to the ERDF amount available for Objective 1 in Poland.</p>

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	18 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate of 29/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 3.83 PLN)
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Regional Development
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	2.9% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 1 and has been distributed according to existing data at NUTS 3 level.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Projects larger than 10 million have been manually regionalised manually.

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Missing data:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	<p>Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.</p> <p>The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.</p>
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.



## Portugal

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2006
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	OP Management Cabinets
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	4.9% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 1 and has been distributed in accordance with existing regional data.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	16.2% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 2 and the corresponding NUTS 3 data has been modelled.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The level of territorial aggregation proved the main challenge here. Considerable effort was necessary to match existing data with the NUTS and expenditure categories systems. The total commitment data amounted to 105.8 % of the ERDF funding available. Consequently, the figures have been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2006
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	OP Management Cabinets
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	1.5% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 1 level. This relates to complementary actions of USR, reports, projects and consultancy (1st phase) and partly also to technical assistance. The amount has been distributed to NUTS 3 regions in accordance with existing regional data.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The level of territorial aggregation was again the main challenge here. Considerable effort was necessary to match existing data with the NUTS and expenditure categories systems.

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2006
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	OP Management Cabinets
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The level of territorial aggregation again proved to be the main challenge. Considerable effort was necessary to match existing data with the NUTS and expenditure categories systems.

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Slovakia

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 31/12/2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate for EC affairs -1 EUR = 38 SKK)

**Source:** ITMS provided by Monitoring Unit, Department for EU Funds Coordination of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** It was possible to distribute the data on file in accordance with the NUTS units and categories of expenditure. A major challenge here was the technical assistance in Bratislavsky kraj. Under Objective 2, this was too high, because it also comprised amounts of TA from operational programmes which did not concern the Objective 2 area. We divided the total amount of TA between Obj1 and Obj2 in accordance with the operational programmes (Sectoral Operational programme Industry and Services and Operational programme Basic Infrastructure for Obj1 and JPD NUTS 2 Bratislava for Obj2). (It was possible to do this within the data file we received from ITMS). The amount of TA for Obj2 now comprises only the TA projects which concern the area of Obj2. We divided the rest of the TA amount, previously assigned to Obj2 area, between 7 NUTS units of the Obj1 area in accordance with population.

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** 31/12/2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate for EC affairs -1 EUR = 38 SKK)

**Source:** ITMS provided by Monitoring Unit, Department for EU Funds Coordination of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** Cf. Objective 1.

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:** 31/12/2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (fixed exchange rate for EC affairs -1 EUR = 38 SKK)

**Source:** Programme Management Department Section of Regional Development Strategy at the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:** The data was provided separately for each project so we divided it into regions and expenditure categories in accordance with their type (infrastructure/environment) and location. In two cases of railway reconstruction projects which overreached the borders of NUTS 3 the distribution of funds at NUTS 3 level was provided by the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication of the Slovak Republic.

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## **Slovenia**

### **ERDF Objective 1**

**Date of the data:** 31.12.2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 16.3% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 2 and the corresponding NUTS 3 data has been modelled.

**Main challenges:** The total commitment data was 21 % higher than the ERDF funding available. According to the responsible ministry this is because of a considerable amount of over-commitment. The figures have been proportionally reduced to the amounts actual actually available.

### **ERDF Objective 2**

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### **Cohesion Fund**

**Date of the data:** 31.12.2007

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 1.1% has been distributed in accordance with existing regional data.

**Main challenges:**

### **ERDF URBAN**

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### **ERDF INTERREG IIIA**

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

**Main challenges:** The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Spain

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	13 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Economics
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	19.9%, i.e. some data related to multi-regional programme measures covering several regions could not be regionalised and NUTS 3 data has instead been modelled. A higher level of regionalisation might be achieved using payment data instead of commitment data. However, it has not been possible to create a reliable mix of payment and expenditure data. Further efforts to obtain a higher share of regionalised data have shown that this might be possible only by shifting from commitment to payment data. Attempts to establish reliable information by using both commitment and payment data have not been successful.
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	10.7%, i.e. some data related to measures covering several regions could not be regionalised and has instead been distributed in accordance with existing data at NUTS 3 level.

#### Main challenges:

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	13 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Economics
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	23% of the data was only available at NUTS2 level. For 19% NUTS3 level data has instead been modelled and for the rest the data has been distributed in accordance with existing data.

#### Main challenges:

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	13 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Economics
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	7.6% of the data was only available at NUTS 2 level and has been distributed to NUTS 3 in accordance with existing data.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The total commitment data amounted to 100.4 % of the ERDF funding available. Consequently, the figures have been proportionally reduced to the amount actually available.

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	13 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	Ministry of Economics
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## Sweden

### ERDF Objective 1

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate of 31/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 9.4415 SEK)
<b>Source:</b>	NUTEK, STINS database
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0,01%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data was available by project and municipality and has been aggregated from that level to NUTS 3.

### ERDF Objective 2

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate of 31/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 9.4415 SEK)
<b>Source:</b>	NUTEK, STINS database
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0,01%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data was available by project and municipality and has been aggregated from that level to NUTS 3.

### Cohesion Fund

<b>Date of the data:</b>	
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	
<b>Source:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	
<b>Main challenges:</b>	

### ERDF URBAN

<b>Date of the data:</b>	31 December 2007
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR (exchange rate of 31/12/2006 - 1 EUR = 9.4415 SEK)
<b>Source:</b>	NUTEK, STINS database
<b>Share of data at NUTS 1 only:</b>	0%
<b>Share of data at NUTS 2 only:</b>	0%
<b>Main challenges:</b>	Data was available by project and municipality and has been aggregated from that level to NUTS 3.

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

<b>Date of the data:</b>	Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.
<b>Currency</b> (exchange rate):	EUR
<b>Source:</b>	DG Regio
<b>Share of data at programme level only:</b>	Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories. The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.
<b>Main challenges:</b>	The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

## United Kingdom

### ERDF Objective 1

**Date of the data:** 31.01.08

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 21/02/2008 – 1 GBP = 1.32 EUR;  
Northern Ireland fixed by the MA – 1 GBP = 1.45 EUR)

**Source:** EFMS database / the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework (CSF)

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 67.5%, i.e. commitment data for England, Scotland and Wales. This data could be modelled down to the NUTS 3 level. For Northern Ireland the information was available at NUTS 3 level.

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF Objective 2

**Date of the data:** 31.01.08

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 21/02/2008 – 1 GBP = 1.32 EUR;  
Northern Ireland fixed by the MA – 1 GBP = 1.45 EUR)

**Source:** EFMS database / the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework (CSF)

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 100% of the commitment data was only available at NUTS 2 level and the NUTS 3 data has been modelled.

**Main challenges:**

### Cohesion Fund

**Date of the data:**

**Currency** (exchange rate):

**Source:** Not applicable

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:**

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:**

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF URBAN

**Date of the data:** 31.01.08

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR (exchange rate of 21/02/2008 – 1 GBP = 1.32 EUR;  
Northern Ireland fixed by the MA – 1 GBP = 1.45 EUR)

**Source:** EFMS database / the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework (CSF)

**Share of data at NUTS 1 only:** 0%

**Share of data at NUTS 2 only:** 0%

**Main challenges:**

### ERDF INTERREG IIIA

**Date of the data:** Expenditure data is as budgeted, registered at programme approval.

**Currency** (exchange rate): EUR

**Source:** DG Regio

**Share of data at programme level only:** Expenditure data at programme level, registered at programme approval by the Commission, is used to calculate the expenditure categories.

The regional distribution is calculated on the basis of the eligible regions' share of the population in the programme area.

The outcome after programme implementation is different from the budget, and this is not taken into consideration. The data sources are however the same for all programmes, which gives comparability across regions.

**Main challenges:**