

Report on Advisory Service

Programme Benefiting from Individual Advisory Service: Greece/Cyprus Cross Border Programme

Name of the Expert: Mrs Sheila Maxwell

Name of the Participants: Ms Marilena Ayiomamitou and 17 colleagues

Introduction

The role of the expert was to provide practical advice to the Cyprus office of the Planning Bureau (responsible for Interreg activities in Cyprus) with participants from the Planning Bureau and other Ministries with an interest in cross border co-operation in the next programming period, on the implementation of INTERREG programmes, in particular the implementation of the new INTERREG IIIA Programme. This Programme is expected to be led by the Greek Authorities with Cyprus as the cross border partner. The CIP is being drawn up at present.

The advice given was divided into the following broad categories

Programmes and programming including new regulations

Programme implementation

Programme management including financial tables

Programme financial flows

Programme promotion, information and publicity

The report follows the format given in the contract on topics to be covered and expected outputs. All topics were covered during the course of the 1.5 days. Some were examined in more depth than others according to the needs of the client. The officials attending the meetings are as per the attached participants list.

1) Topics covered

On the first day the topics covered included:

- An outline of Interreg activities in Cyprus – current and future
- Confirmation of the topics to be covered and discussion on which topics were most important
- Discussions and advice following the format in the attached presentation
- Preparation for the workshop to be held the following day

Activities	Main topics for discussion	Outcomes	Action for follow up (if any)
Advice	Situation regarding the current Interreg programmes	An understanding of the greater involvement of Cyprus in the future cross border	

	Situation for future Interreg programmes	programme with a more even distribution of funds and the possibility that Cyprus could set up the Joint Managing Authority	
	The new Objective 3 – policy priorities A discussion on the types of actions to be supported in the new programme	Identification of areas of activity which would be appropriate and meaningful for CBC	
	New regulations – presentation and questions and answers on the new regulations and how procedures differ for the new programme period	A greater understanding of the changes proposed and how they can be addressed in the CBC programme	
	Programming – discussion of the main features of drawing up new programmes means of co-operation, partnership involvement, implementation issues including indicators.	A greater understanding of the practicalities of drafting a programme document, involving partners, drawing up an implementation system and measuring outcomes	
	Technical issues – discussion on technical issues regarding programme implementation including eligibility rules, financial flows, co-financing etc Answers given to a number of detailed questions	Information and answers to allow a better understanding of technical issues	
	Information and publicity – discussion on regulatory requirements and good practice	A better understanding of information and publicity matters	

2) Friday 16th June

On the following day I facilitated a workshop for the members of the Office of the Planning Bureau and other Ministry staff. The workshop followed the topics covered in the attached presentation. There was a very lively debate and discussion about the types of projects which would be appropriate for the new Cyprus Greece CBC Programme.