



BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH

# **The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme: Its potential and contribution to the development of the Central Europe Area**

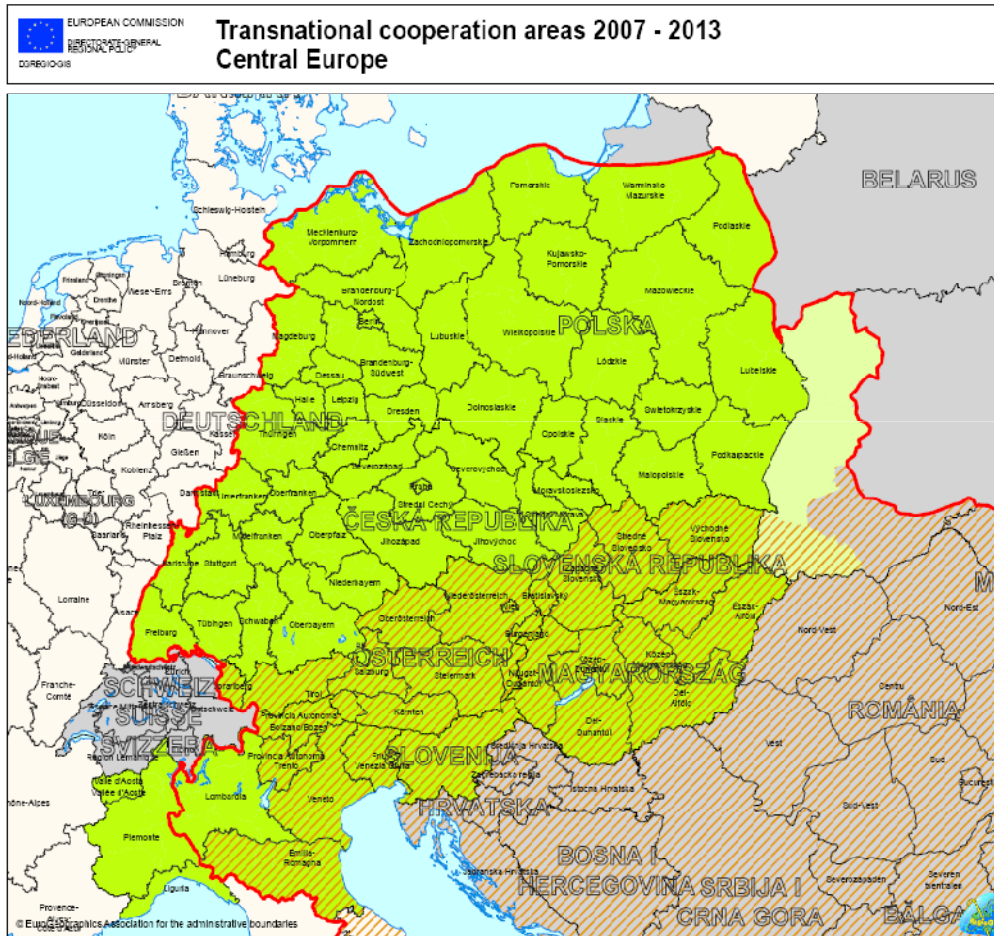
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## **Partner Search Forum**

Poznán, 16-17 December 2008

Alexandra DEIMEL, Federal Chancellery of Austria

# The Central Europe Programme area



8 MS + 1 NMS

Poland

Germany

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Hungary

Slovenia

Italy

Austria

+

Ukraine

**Budget:** total: 298,3 Mio €

ERDF: 246,0 Mio €

## Some characteristics of the area (strengths/opportunities)

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- + more than 145 Million inhabitants
- + high concentration of population in capital agglomeration;
- + demographic trends are very heterogeneous between and within Central European countries
- + more than 12 different languages are spoken
- + high economic potential with industrial tradition
- + dynamic catching-up process in some new MS areas
- + mobile work force
- + high cluster portfolio strength in the capital regions
- + access to two seas (Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Sea)
- + high share in urban public transport
- + catching up process of ICT infrastructure
- + high potential for the production of renewable energy
- + polycentric system
- + small and medium sized cities as centres of economic development
- + coordination of the urban-rural division of labour and functions

## Some characteristics (weaknesses/threats)

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- neglected and underused infrastructure (e.g. transport infrastructure, housing)
- growing disparities with countries (capital regions – rural regions)
- different speed of development process (between countries and regions)
- strong dependencies on special branches (mining, shipping, agriculture,...) in some parts of Central Europe area
- high centralisation of innovation activities in urban-areas
- low catching-up process regarding qualification level
- ICT-infrastructure, esp. in rural areas is lagging behind
- high density and increasing traffic flows (urban areas, transnational routes, increasing mobility..)
- high energy dependency and low share of renewable energy
- intensive land use and dispersed settlement structure
- functions of the metropolitan areas are still weakly developed
- social and spatial segregation
- increasing commuting activities

## Programme Strategy + Goal

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*“Programme strategy aims at strengthening the transnational character of cooperation across MS on matters of strategic importance”*

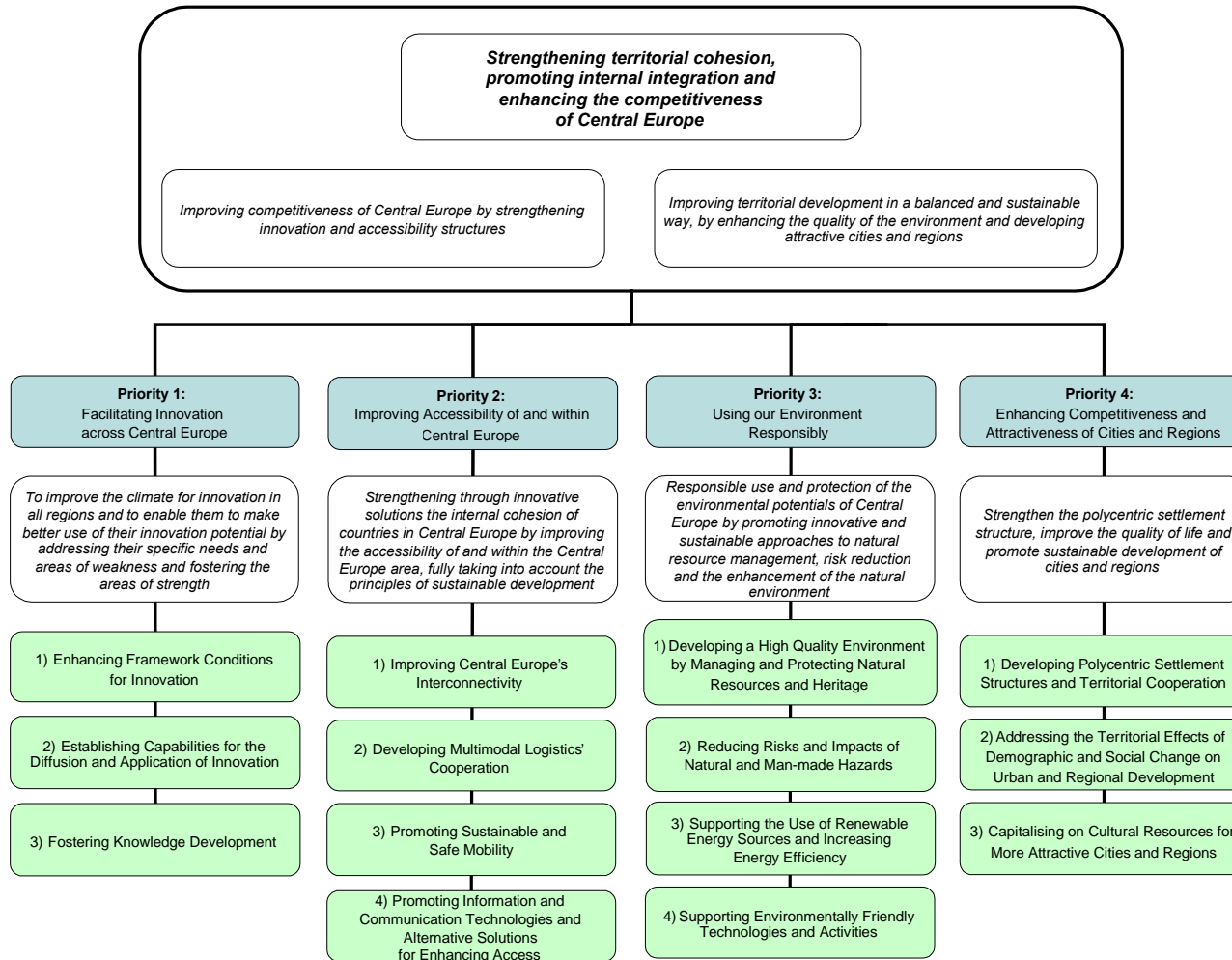
### Programme

- is coherent to EU policies (Lisbon + Gothenborg Agenda)
- builds on the analysis of the territorial needs of Central Europe
- gives responses to the identified weaknesses

### Programme Goal:

*“Strengthening territorial cohesion, promoting internal integration and enhancing the competitiveness of Central Europe”*

# Objective Tree (from Programme Goal to Areas of Intervention)



## Programme implementation focuses on...

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- broad set of areas of intervention → room to react on challenges (even to current turbulent economic situation)
- emphasis of programme is given on the preparation of concrete investment - smaller investment (pilot projects) are possible
- ensure compliance with convergence and competitiveness objectives with NSFR and other programmes

## General quality characteristics - for projects

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All projects receiving funds have to meet the following quality criteria:

- Transnational thematic focus
- Coherent approach
- Transnational partnership
- Effective management
- Effective knowledge creation and transfer
- Concrete outputs and results