

# Operational Programme

for the User of the  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
in the Free State of Thuringia  
from 2007 to 2013

## Abstract

Update: 26th September 2007



*Nutzen Sie Ihre Chancen*



## **1. General Framework**

### **The EU-Structural Policy**

Based on the EU sustainability strategy and the „Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs“, the European Council has approved the „European Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007 to 2013“ which contain the following programme policy guidelines:

- **Strengthening of Europe’s appeal and its regions for investors and labour forces**
  - Development and improvement in the traffic infrastructure
  - Increase of the synergies between environmental protection and growth
  - A common solution for Europe’s intensive User of traditional energy sources
- **Promotion of know-how and growth**
  - Higher and better-directed investment in research and technological development
  - Facilitating innovation and promoting entrepreneurial initiative
  - Promoting the information society for everyone
  - Better access to financial means
- **More and better jobs**
  - Leading more people to the working life and updating social protection systems
  - Improving the adaptability of the labour forces and the businesses and increasing the flexibility of the labour markets
  - Increasing investment in human resources by means of offering improved education and qualification
  - Modernising administration capacities
  - Safety and occupational health

In total, €308 billion (in prices of 2004) will be made available by the EU for the structural funds within the funding period from 2007 to 2013, whereof €251 billion are being allotted to the convergence regions to which the Free State of Thuringia belongs too.

Since January 2007, funding has been executed from two structural funds: the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** and the **European Social Fund (ESF)**. While the ESF is supporting the member states in terms of employment policy reform projects and tries to fight discrimination on the job market, the ERDF addresses programmes which bring economic change and regional development forward.

### **The National Strategic Reference Framework of the Federal Republic of Germany (NSRP)**

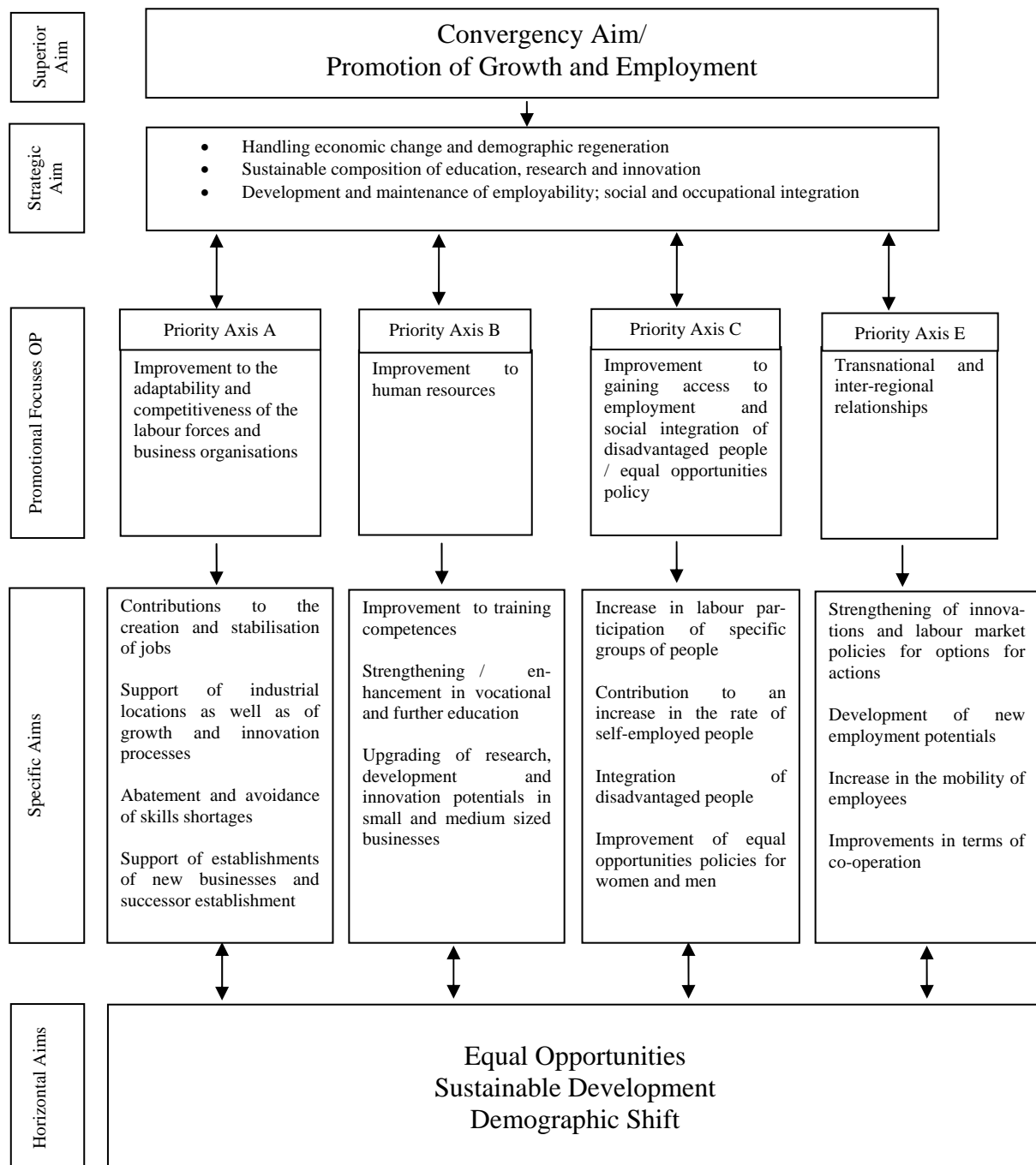
Germany will get a total of €26.3 bn from the EU structural fund within the current funding period. The National Strategic Reference Framework is an overall concept of strategies for Germany for the User of EU financial means coming from the structural fund. This document contains thematic specifications for the German Federal Lands for the User of such financial means. The National Strategic Reference Framework is in compliance with the regulations of the European Commission and with the reform programme of the Federal Government of Germany and was approved by the Commission in May 2007. The National Strategic Reference Framework finalises three aims for the convergence regions:

- Innovation and development of the know-how society as well as the consolidation of the competitiveness of the economy
- Rise of the attractiveness of the regions for investors and inhabitants by means of sustainable regional development
- Biasing the labour market on new challenges – more and better jobs

## 2. Overview of the Operational Programme ESF Thuringia

On 17 July 2007, the European Commission approved the Operational Programme for the User of the ESF in the Free State of Thuringia from 2007 to 2013.

The system of corporate objectives for ESF uses in Thuringia from 2007 to 2013 is structured as follows:



The promotional focuses of the ESF are defined in the Priority Axes and activities as follows:

## Main Emphases of the OP ESF Thuringia

<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>A</b> „Improvement to the adaptability and competitiveness of the labour forces and business organisations“	<b>B</b> „Improvement to human resources “	<b>C</b> „Improvement to gaining access to employment and social integration of disadvantaged people / equal opportunities policy“	<b>E</b> „Transnational and inter-regional relationships“
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>A.1</b> Extra-occupational qualification; improvement to the competitiveness of businesses</p> <p><b>A.2</b> Promoting entrepreneurial spirit and establishment of new businesses that help create jobs by means of advisory support and coaching</p>	<p><b>B.1</b> Promoting vocational education</p> <p><b>B.2</b> Promoting life-long learning and improvement to the competences for career choices</p> <p><b>B.3</b> Promoting human resources in research and innovation as well as in networking activities with universities, research institutions, technology centres and business organisations</p>	<p><b>C.1</b> Improvement to gaining access to employment</p> <p><b>C.2</b> Social integration of disadvantaged people by means of improving their employability</p> <p><b>C.3</b> Improvement to equal opportunity policies of women and men / work – life balance</p>	<p><b>E.1</b> Promoting relationships, agreements and initiatives through networking through relevant corporative actors such as corporate and social partners, non-governmental organisations on a local and transnational level in order to mobilise reform projects in the field of employment and on the labour market</p>
<b>Planned Financial Means</b>	A.1: €87.0 million A.2: €45.0 million	B.1: € 95.6 million B.2: €111.5 million B.3: € 30.0 million	C.1: €102.0 million C.2: € 78.6 million C.3: € 35.1 million	E.1: €19.0 million

In addition to the four Priority Axes mentioned above, there is Priority Axis D „**Technical Assistance**“, which supports the administration, control and evaluation of the implementation of the Operational Programmes as well as activities that deal with publicity issues.

In total, Thuringia is receiving € 2.1bn from the structural fund of which approximately € 629 million are ESF allotted means. The main focus is put on the issue „Improvement to Human Resources“ to which nearly 38 % of the ESF-financial means are provided for.

<b>Main Focus/Priority Axes</b>	<b>ESF-financial means in €million</b>	<b>percentage rate %</b>
Improvement to the adaptability and competitiveness of the labour forces and business organisations	132.0	21.0
Improvement to human resources	237.1	37.7
Improvement to gaining access to employment and social integration of disadvantaged people / equal opportunities policy	215.7	34.3
Transnational and inter-regional relationships	19.0	3.0
Technical Assistance	25.2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>629.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **3. Contact Persons**

Contact persons can be reached at the following institutions:

- Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Technologie  
(Thuringian Ministry of Economy, Labour and Technology)  
Dept. „Verwaltungsbehörde ESF“ (Administrative Authority ESF)  
Phone: + 49 (0) 361/ 37 97 999  
Web: [www.thueringen.de/de/tmwat/](http://www.thueringen.de/de/tmwat/)  
[www.esf-thueringen.de](http://www.esf-thueringen.de)
  
- Gesellschaft für Arbeits- und Wirtschaftsförderung des Freistaats Thüringen (GFAW) mbH  
Dept. 2 „Regionaler- und Förderservice ESF“  
Phone: + 49 (0) 361/ 22 23 0  
Web: [www.gfaw-thueringen.de](http://www.gfaw-thueringen.de)
  
- Thüringer Aufbaubank  
Dept. „Transferförderung“  
Phone: 0361/ 74 47 0  
Web: [www.aufbaubank.de](http://www.aufbaubank.de)

FREISTAAT THÜRINGEN  
Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Arbeit und Technologie



EUROPEAN UNION  
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