



Being situated in the heart of Europe the region of Thuringia offers excellent possibilities for transnational and interregional cooperation with other European regions. Many Thuringian players – companies, R&D outfits etc. – are already involved and have gained hands-on experience in transnational and interregional cooperation. In order to promote these activities, around EUR 28 million in assistance from the ESF and ERDF Structural Funds will be available in Thuringia during the program period from 2007 to 2013.

The *Thuringian Coordination Office for Transnational and Interregional Activities (Thuringian Coordination Office TNA)* at LEG – the State Development Corporation of Thuringia - supports the transnational and interregional activities co-funded by the European Structural Funds on behalf of the Thuringian Ministry for Economy, Technology and Labor.

Only Thuringian players are eligible to apply for funding.

Responsibilities of the Thuringian Coordination Office TNA:

For applicants:

- Provide guidance and advice on funding options and procedures
- Consult with cooperation regions to coordinate project issues and partnerships
- Work with applicants to find partners and to research issues already funded by the EU



The European Social Fund (ESF) in Thuringia enables the implementation of transnational and interregional projects, e.g. strategic partnerships, targeting the following actions:

- Action A1: Career-integrated training, increase companies' competitiveness
- Action A2: Provide advice and guidance to promote entrepreneurial spirit and job-creating business start-ups
- Action B1: Vocational training based on need
- Action B2: Promote lifelong learning and improve career selection skills
- Action C1: Improve access to employment
- Action C2: Social integration of disadvantaged people by raising their employability
- Action C3: Improve equal opportunities for women and men / reconciliation of work and family

The ESF also co-funds *conferences* and *initiatives*, i.e., preliminary activities for transnational and interregional activities that aim to establish project consortia for carrying out projects with European partners. An initiative is limited to a period of three months. Maximum co-funding is EUR 30,000.

The Gesellschaft für Arbeits- und Wirtschaftsförderung des Freistaats Thüringen mbH (GFAW) publishes *calls for expression of interest* on certain topics that are aimed at establishing transnational strategic partnerships.

Co-financing rate:

As a rule, the contribution from ESF is up to 75 % of eligible total expenditure; it can be increased to a maximum of 85 % for projects supported under priority axis E of the ESF Operational Program.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) promotes transnational and interregional projects, particularly in research and development, and innovation.

Once a year, a call for proposals is issued in order to support transnational and interregional cooperation. In this respect, topics, actions eligible for funding, and evaluation criteria are published. The call is announced in the *Thüringer Staatsanzeiger*, in press releases, at information events and on the website of the Thuringian Coordination Office TNA.

The submission process consists of two stages. In the first stage, applicants submit a project outline. This outline is put through an evaluation process, leading either to the project proposal being rejected or the applicant being invited to proceed to stage two. In the second stage, the applicant is required to prepare and submit a complete project application. This application also goes through an evaluation process, after which it is rejected or approved.



Co-financing rate:

The maximum co-financing rate is set at 75 % of total eligible expenditure. The project costs should be anywhere from EUR 250,000 to EUR 500,000. The total amount of ERDF assistance available during the program period from 2007 to 2013 is around EUR 9 million.

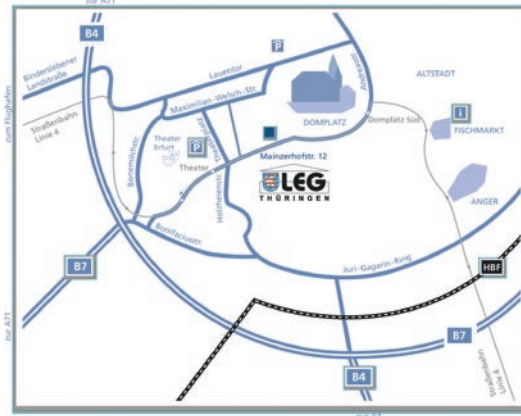
Cooperation regions:

The primary objective is to promote transnational and inter-regional projects with regions identified in the „Innovation through Cooperation“ development concept:

- Castilla y León (Spain)
- Franche-Comté (France)
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)
- Carinthia (Austria)
- Länsi-Suomi (Finland)
- Lithuania
- Małopolska (Poland)
- Moravskoslezsko (Czech Republic)
- Picardy (France)
- Styria (Austria)
- Hungary
- Vestlandet (Norway)
- West Wales (United Kingdom)
- West Ukraine (Ukraine)



How to reach us:



State Development Corporation of Thuringia
 Site Management for Industry, Business & Conversion
 EU Cooperation
 Thuringian Coordination Office TNA
 Mainzerhofstrasse 12
 99084 Erfurt
 Germany

Lars Wrage, Project Manager, EU Cooperation
 Phone: +49 (0) 361 5603 395

Kathrin Wagner, Project Assistant, EU Cooperation
 Phone: +49 (0) 361 5603 394
 Fax: +49 (0) 361 5603 335

E-mail: tna@leg-thueringen.de
 Website: www.tna-thueringen.de

www.leg-thueringen.de
www.thueringen.de/eu



Promotion of Transnational and
 Interregional Activities
 in the Free State of Thuringia

