

Lessons learned from pre-accession funds

Peep Mardiste

Estonian Green Movement-FoE

(Bankwatch / FoEE)

Pre-accession funds: 2.6 billion EUR for 2000-2006

- To help future Member States to catch up with EU standards and legislation
- To serve as learning process in preparation for the use of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds

Pre-accession funds 2000-2006

ISPA	Transport 50% environment 50%	540 mEUR
Sapard	Agriculture	1 040 mEUR
Phare	Institutional strengthening, investment projects	1 500 mEUR
TOTAL		2 600 mEUR

What Bankwatch and FoEE have been doing?

Monitoring of the programming and implementation of the EU pre-accession funds since 1999:

- Working on ground with cases in 8 countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia)
- Participating in programming processes and in monitoring committees
- Recommendations for the improvement of the EU pre-accession aid, published in series "Billions for Sustainability"
- New collection of ISPA case studies with policy recommendations to be published in March 2004

Problems (1)

Unsustainable policy focus

- SAPARD focuses on implementation of the *acquis* based on "old" Common Agricultural Policy
- ISPA transport can only be used for extending the Trans-European Networks into the CEE region
- ISPA transport promotes car dependent development in transport sector
- ISPA environment focuses on big end-of-pipe projects

Problems (2)

Access to information, appraisal

- Guidelines for pre-accession funds do not demand public participation (*'where appropriate'*)
- Consultations with the public and NGOs during setting up the frameworks of funds has been poor
- No consultations with NGOs during project identification and selection
- Access to important and timely information is difficult (e.g. in some countries ISPA transport strategies were kept confidential)
- Quality of EIAs is often poor, only very few Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are done

Problems (3)

NGOs in monitoring committees

- SAPARD – NGOs represented in almost all countries
- ISPA environment – NGOs represented in few countries
- ISPA transport – no NGO representation is known

What should be changed?

- Financing of projects should be based on national sectoral policies and be subject of SEA
- Guidelines for pre- accession funds should be revisited in the spirit of EU Strategy on Sustainable Development
- Transparency and public participation in decision-making should be one of the key and obligatory rules for funding
- Know-how should be transferred, as well as resources dedicated for the better preparation of projects and more efficient utilization of EU funding

Lessons learned from pre-accession funds

Peep Mardiste

Estonian Green Movement-FoE
(Bankwatch / FoEE)