

NW Objective 2 Programme 2000-2006

Application Pack

Retrospection

(April 2001)

RETROSPECTION

Background

1. The time required for the preparation of the SPD and approval by the Commission caused an inevitable delay to the launch of the Programme. To compensate for this, Structural Funds regulations allow retrospection of eligible expenditure back to the effective date of receipt of the SPD by the Commission ie. 1 January 2000. This only applies to projects coming forward under the first available bidding round (more of which later).
2. A prompt start to the programme is crucial to avoid possible financial penalties imposed by the Commission through the de-commitment principle. Also, allocation of the performance reserve to the programme will be based on delivery during the first three years.
3. All projects seeking retrospective funding will be subject to the normal appraisal and selection tests. But while the principle of retrospection to some extent puts on hold the need, under certain circumstances, to demonstrate additionality at project level there should be some way to sift out projects which would have clear difficulties in showing a need for funding support.
4. Retrospection should be available to projects which meet the following circumstances:-

Eligibility

5. Projects submitted in time for consideration/approval by the first relevant approval body meeting (county working group or PM/RC) convened to consider such bids.
6. Projects submitted under an Action Plan which are approved under the first sitting of that Plan provided the plan itself was formally approved by 30 April 2002.

Additionality

7. Projects which can show that the ERDF bid for will not replace private sector contributions which have been secured as part of the match funding package.
8. Projects which can show that where the ERDF bid for replaces other public match, the public match will be used to support other regeneration activity within the Objective 2 area.
9. Projects which were financially completed by the date of the formal adoption of the SPD by the PM/RC are not eligible for ERDF support.
10. For those successful projects which fail to satisfy these criteria, the eligible start date for expenditure will be the **date of acceptance** of any offer of grant.