

Regional Policy and Aid Coordination

Introduction

The main legal acts¹ constituting the EU legislation in the field of regional policy and aid coordination aim at coordinating the assistance provided to Member States or relevant countries during the pre-accession period. Thus, this legislation currently is not applicable in the Republic of Armenia, and in the current stage of measures undertaken, there is no need for approximation of these legislative acts.

However, the European Commission offers the acceding countries to adopt a strategy paper defining the principles and priorities of regional policy. Adoption of these documents and achievements in this field receive special consideration in the reports of the Commission on the progress made by the countries in the process of accession. Although in Armenia there are a number of regional programmes, such as the Earthquake Zone Recovery Programme, Development Programme for Bordering Regions, the RoA Law on Financial Equalization², etc, however, there is no single framework legal act in the field of regional policy of Armenia defining the overall objectives of regional policy and/or aid, criteria and procedures for aid, which would serve as a framework law in the field of regional policy.

Furthermore, the EU legislation in this field provides for the regulation of issues relating to the classification of territorial units for statistics. Particularly, the EU legislation stipulates classification of territorial units according to the provided criteria to ensure the collection, compilation and provision of statistical data on these units. At the same time, the EU legislation aims at making the territorial division in different EU Member States comparable by means of developing a common approach. It is worth mentioning that according to the EU approach, the regional policy is pursued by the division mentioned above, which provides opportunities to settle economic, demographic and other issues (See National Programme, Chapter 10, Statistics).

Y2009

To coordinate regional assistance in the Republic of Armenia and in view of defining common basis and procedures for the provision of assistance, a draft law on Territorial assistance shall be elaborated.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1267/1999 of 21 June 1999 establishing an Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession, Council Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999 of 21 June 1999 on Community support for pre-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of central and eastern Europe in the pre-accession period, Council Regulation (EC) No 1266/1999 of 21 June 1999 on coordinating aid to the applicant countries in the framework of the pre-accession strategy and amending Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89, Commission Regulation (EC) No 2760/98 of 18 December 1998 concerning the implementation of a programme for cross-border cooperation in the framework of the PHARE programme.

² HO-262 11.24.1998

1. Legislative Approximation

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
NN	Measure	EU Legal Source	Responsible Institution	Submission Date	Necessary Resources (man/ days)	EU Technical Assistance
2009						
1.	Elaboration of a draft law on regional assistance		Ministry of Territorial Administration	1 st quarter	35	Consultancy, provisional expertise
TOTAL					35	

2. Institutional Capacities

0	1	2	3	4
NN	Institution	Reorganization	Training Needs	Technical Assistance Needs
1.	RoA Ministry of Territorial Administration	-	Training courses on Regional Policy Development (10 days/2007)	Consultancy, development of a strategy programme