

Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 10

**Regions and the E.U. policy
process**

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1. What do we mean by 'Regions', plus the importance and growth of Regions in the E.U. integration project.
2. What do we mean by E.U. regional policy;

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1. What do we mean by 'Regions', plus importance and growth of Regions in E.U. integration project

- in E.U. concepts of *regionalism* and
integration linked to concept of *subsidiarity*

- increased pressure on nation-state;

1. internal

2. external

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- 1985 Council of European Regions

-1993 Committee of the Regions
(established in the Maastricht
Treaty)

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2. What do we mean by E.U. regional policy

- aim of E.U. regional policy is to promote *solidarity*
 - produce *cohesion* in E.U.
- more than 254 regions and 450 million people

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- all territories of 10 new Member States of May 2004 designated as falling within *Objective 1* of E.U. Structural Funds
- two-thirds of new E.U. citizens from 2004 accessions lived in regions with GDP per head of less than half average GDP of all 25 E.U. states of 2004

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E.U. Regional funds:

1. The Structural Funds

- a) European Regional Development Fund;
- b) European Social Fund;
- c) Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance;
- d) European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

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94% of Structural Funds for 2000-2006 was concentrated on 3 objectives;

Objective 1: Helping regions whose development was lagging behind to catch up;

Objective 2: Supporting economic and social conversion in industrial, rural, urban or fisheries dependent areas facing structural difficulties

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Objective 3: Modernising systems of training and promoting employment.

2. The Cohesion Fund

- assist least prosperous E.U. countries
i.e. 10 newly acceded 2004 Member States, plus Greece, Spain, Portugal and (until end of 2003) Ireland

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Policy for development of 7 Czech Regions:
“Infrastructure” Operational Programme for
the 2004-2006 period, within Objective 1
framework:

Priority 1: Modernisation and development
of transport infrastructure of national
importance;

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Priority 2: Reducing the negative
environmental impacts of transport;

Priority 3: Environmental infrastructure
improvement