

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

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## **Lecture 10**

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

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U. Lecture 10

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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## Lecture 10

### 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