

*The role of regions and cities as mentioned in
the Lisbon Strategy's National Progress
Reports 2008*

**The study was written by
METIS GmbH.
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Committee of the Regions



Editorial by President Luc Van den Brande presenting the analysis of the 2008 NRP progress reports

The need to involve European cities and regions in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs has been stressed by all the EU institutions as a key prerequisite for the effective pursuit of the strategy's goals.

The analysis initiated by the Committee of the Regions and carried out by Metis, set out in the following pages, brings us to the conclusion that, in spite of much useful information, the 27 national progress reports submitted by Member States in 2008, according to the governance provisions of the renewed Lisbon Strategy, are still unsatisfactory in this respect.

Most European regions and cities have for a long time been very active in all the policy fields relevant to the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. In several reports, case studies were used to highlight their role. However, as the Committee of the Regions has repeatedly highlighted through the reports of the Lisbon Monitoring Platform, the agendas of the different government levels are not yet coordinated and synchronised as they should be. This is a consequence of the failure to date to adopt a multilevel governance approach to policymaking for growth and jobs.

In its report to the 2008 Spring European Council, as well as in its outlook opinion on the Growth and Jobs Strategy adopted in November 2008, the Committee of the Regions therefore asked that the Member States report annually on the involvement of EU regions and cities in the implementation of the national reform programmes.

However, there is a clear gap between this assessment and the overall quality of the national reports, which continues to be unsatisfactory. Only six reports out of 27 devote specific sections to the role of local and regional authorities. The amount of information given on the role played by local and regional authorities varies enormously. Often, poor or missing information leaves unanswered key questions concerning which authorities are actually undertaking the relevant actions, the policy instruments they are using and how they are funding their actions. Last but not least, how cooperation between the different government levels is actually shaped and what is it achieving has not been answered.

Based on these findings, we, the Committee of the Regions, reiterate our request to the European Commission and the Council to ask the Members States to report in a more systematic and structured way on the role of local and regional authorities in their progress reports on the Lisbon Strategy.

We are in the final two years of the strategy as it was planned in 2000. Structural reforms are one of the pillars of the European Economic Recovery Plan, adopted by the Council in December 2008 to face the huge challenge of the economic and financial crisis, and this effort, supported by a new strategy for sustainable growth and better jobs, will have to last well beyond the 2010 deadline.

Europe's regions and cities are key actors in innovation, research and education policies and must play a bigger role in the delivery of the EU's jobs and growth strategy. The Committee of the Region is ready to play its part and regularly report on the implementation to the Council.



Luc Van den Brande
President of the Committee of the Regions

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Executive summary

The Lisbon Strategy is the key political expression of the European Union goal to become “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”. Since 2006 three dimensions of cohesion, addressing the Lisbon Strategy, have been emphasised: economic, social and territorial.

In delivering the growth and jobs agenda, the European Union has a sizeable financial leverage in the form of its Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund. Many of the levers for growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, such as research, business, risk capital and skilled workers, are inherently regional and regions have distinct assets and offer growth opportunities.

It is important to note that this report is based on an analysis of the role of regional and local authorities (LRAs) in achieving these goals, from the 27 National Progress Reports, submitted by the Member States in October 2008. It is therefore possible that a number of actions which might seem relevant to local and regional authorities are not mentioned in this report if they were not, for whatever reason, included in the National Progress Reports.

Regionalisation is steadily growing across the EU in terms of national reforms, in the greater use of platforms such as regional development agencies, and in the regional application of EU programmes and funds. This pattern is reflected in the fact that some 70% of operational programmes in the current 2007-2013 funding period are “regional” in one form or other. This is not, however, a uniform trend across all 27 Member States.

Local and regional authorities (LRAs) are increasingly active in, and essential for, the realisation of the Lisbon Strategy, as the following examples demonstrate.

The quality and content of the National Progress Reports 2008

In 2008 Member States have both updated their National Reform Programmes with an orientation towards the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010) and have reported on the implementation in form of the National Progress Reports 2008.

The National Progress Reports do, in a general way, take into account the LRA contribution to the Lisbon Strategy. The frequency with which that contribution is mentioned and whether it is described in a useful or accessible way varies widely between Member States.

Most reports are written from a Member State perspective, with LRA roles, actions and contributions more mentioned than described. The Netherlands

and Belgium are examples of where LRAs have directly contributed to the preparation of the reports.

Local and regional authorities took part in the drafting of the National Reform Programmes and Progress Reports 2008 to differing degrees: In some countries specific structures have been set up to guarantee vertical and horizontal coordination between the different administrative levels (e.g. liaison office in Austria; National Advisory Committee in Cyprus, Standing Lisbon Committee in Greece etc.) other countries have made use of various consultation mechanisms (a seminar and a web-based consultation in the UK; in Ireland consultation under the social partnership framework, etc.).

In some countries there are indications for an even stronger involvement of LRAs in future (e.g. the coordination of the Regional Reform Programmes of the Autonomous Communities in Spain; in Italy the Government and the Regions' intention to intensify cooperation in order to amplify the increased relevance of the regional contributions, in the perspective of better highlighting those regional initiatives).

Table 0. Assessment of the quality of the National Progress Reports 2008 with regard to LRA descriptions

Country	Quantitative criteria					Quality of descriptions with respect to...		
	total pages	no. of relevant LRA sections	regional mention	local mention	own LRA section	LRA role and contribution	LRA cooperation betw. gov. levels	LRA financing of actions
Austria	47	++	+++	++	N	+	++	++
Belgium	142	+++	+++	+	Y	+++	++	+++
Bulgaria	28	+	++	++	N	+	+	+
Cyprus	174	++	+	++	N	+	++	++
Czech Republic	85	+	++	+	N	+	++	+
Denmark	117	++	+++	++	N	++	++	++
Estonia	115	+	+	++	N	+	+	+
Finland	117	+++	++	+++	Y	++	+++	+
France	75	++	++	++	Y	++	+++	++
Germany	76	++	++	++	Y	+++	+++	+++
Greece	88	++	+++	++	N	++	++	+
Hungary	169	+	++	+	N	++	++	+
Ireland	97	++	++	++	N	++	+++	++
Italy	137	+++	+++	++	Y	++	+++	+++
Latvia	137	+	++	+++	N	++	++	+
Lithuania	67	+	++	++	N	+	+	+
Luxembourg	67	+	++	+	N	+	+	+
Malta	101	+	+	++	N	+	+	+
Poland	54	+	++	++	N	+	++	++
Portugal	343	+++	++	++	N	++	+	+++

Country	Quantitative criteria					Quality of descriptions with respect to...		
	total pages	no. of relevant LRA sections	regional mention	local mention	own LRA section	LRA role and contribution	LRA cooperation betw. gov. levels	LRA financing of actions
Romania	160	+	++	++	N	++	+	+
Slovakia	46	+	++	++	N	++	++	+
Slovenia	130	+	++	++	N	++	++	++
Spain	225	+	++	+	N	+++	+++	++
Sweden	128	++	++	++	Y	+++	+++	++
Netherlands	76	+++	++	+++	N	+++	+++	++
United Kingdom	44	++	++	++	N	++	+++	+++

Explanation: +++ = high; ++ = medium; + = low; ◀ = good practice; ◁ = poorly developed

Good practices are considered those National Progress Reports, which show a high number of relevant sections on LRAs' activities (either reported in own sub-chapters, case studies or consistently mentioned throughout the whole report), taking properly into account the contribution of LRAs (roles, instruments), the cooperation between different government levels and LRAs' financial contributions.

Case studies were used in several reports to illustrate the kind of involvement of local and regional actors. A *good practice example of the use of local case studies* was the report from the Netherlands, where under each sub-chapter text-boxes demonstrate with well-described examples how local actors have been involved in a Lisbon-related action. The Italian progress report offers an example of good practice in terms of demonstrating the contributions of regional authorities.

Cooperation between different levels of government is frequently emphasised, but the form of that cooperation is rarely described.

The National Progress Reports 2008 show various activities of local and regional authorities across all of the four policy priorities set by the 2008 Spring European Council to push forward the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs.

The strongest activity of local and regional authorities in 2008 has been reported for Policy Priority 3 - Investing in people and modernising labour markets. This priority shows very strong LRA involvement across all thematic sub-areas: ‘social dimension, ‘high quality of education’ ‘demographic change’ and ‘labour market’. Policy Priority 2 - Unlocking business potential, especially of SMEs – is the second most important Lisbon Priority in terms of LRA involvement.

LRAs acting to promote Knowledge and innovation (Priority 1):

LRAs are essential when it comes to ensuring the technical pre-conditions such as broadband access and ICT networks that facilitate the free movement of knowledge.

In **Spain** broadband access was extended to 2 192 municipalities, benefiting more than 2.2 million citizens, with a special emphasis on rural areas, where 650 computers with broadband were installed in 90 internet access centres. In the **Netherlands** local authorities promoted ICT in education: The municipality of Amsterdam recently allocated €900,000 to connect Amsterdam schools to the Broadband Network for Amsterdam Schools (BOA). The **Slovak** government has introduced its Operation Programme Informatisation of Society (OPIS) after a survey revealed that around one third of municipalities had no internet connection.

LRAs often play a key role in fostering innovation and cooperation. They can act independently or in cooperation with other bodies and administrative levels. They have a particular record of achievement in the creation of **clusters** for developing cooperation between business and research.

In **Italy** collaboration between districts, research centres, and technological hubs assists the development of innovations, patents and new processes and in introducing SMEs to international markets. The Amsterdam Biomed Cluster is a good example of cooperation in the life sciences sector in the **Netherlands**. All levels of government in **Belgium** (Federal, Community and Regional) have joined with the private sector in the “*Forum Recherche et Innovation*” to stimulate investment in innovation, research and development.

LRAs act to improve e-services for citizens, entrepreneurs and research bodies.

Greece carried out a range of actions to build local governments’ capacity to exploit ICT in 2008. **Portugal’s** *Digital Cities & Regions* initiative supports the use of ICT, network organisation and knowledge through 33 projects including

287 of the country's 308 municipalities and covering 95% of national territory. In the **Netherlands** a new online procedure for applying for licences and permits, Horeca 1, for the hotel and catering industry has been created. Horeca 1 received a European eGovernment Award in Lisbon in September 2007.

In federal states regional authorities have developed, prepared and implemented extensive strategies in the field of research and innovation.

Most **Austrian** Länder have their own RTI strategies, Vienna is one example, Styria's economic strategy is called "Standardised Innovation" while Carinthia's development agency operates as a centre for innovation and technology. **German** Länder and the Federal Government have agreed on a Pact for Research and Innovation, including a €1.9 billion excellence strategy.

Local authorities have streamlined subsidies in the field of research to facilitate access to finance.

In the **Netherlands** local authorities have streamlined subsidies in the field of research through the provincial *Omnibus Decentraal Regeling* approach. In **Portugal** 73 municipal FINICIA funds were created in collaboration with banks and local authorities for micro credit business operations. In **Italy** SMEs' access to financing has been facilitated by several regional initiatives such as the Campania Region's special schemes to finance the development of businesses.

Local and regional authorities are introducing measures to facilitate and encourage research, development and innovation.

German Länder have begun measures to promote mobility of researchers, including contact points contact for young academics. **Lithuanian** authorities are creating eight serviced industry parks to attract investors. An Action Plan has been developed in **Cyprus** for the Regional Innovation Strategy to improve the innovative capacities of SMEs.

LRAs Unlocking Business Potential (Priority 2)

LRAs make a considerable contribution to implementing principles of "Better Regulation".

Abruzzo and Veneto provide examples of the significant progress made in **Italy** at the regional level. 203 out of 407 **Romanian** Community public services for population registration now operate a "one stop shop" system. In **Portugal** six municipal councils participate in a project for the elimination of certificates for

public services. **Bulgarian** municipalities contribute to the improvement of the business environment through the national Better Regulation Programme.

LRA's actively engage in creating attractive business environments.

Latvia has launched a study into business environment improvement measures including the impact of public and local government institutions. In **Spain** more than 500 local governments and Autonomous Communities have been connected to the Central Government through the SARA Network. Local authorities in the **Netherlands** have launched activities to promote the topic of 'entrepreneurship' in education. Local authorities in the UK are working with central government and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to streamline publicly funded business support, increasing take-up, impact and value for money. Local authorities and regions in Greece are supporting "Invest in Greece" (IiG) to identify business opportunities. Enterprise Ireland has established an Entrepreneurship and Regional Development Business Unit to enhance entrepreneurship conditions.

LRA Investments in People and Labour Market Modernisation (Priority 3)

LRA's active in the educational sector to improve employment prospects and to develop life-long-learning strategies.

Five **Austrian** Länder have launched a "new middle school" trial ensuring that pupils are as well prepared as possible to decide their future education path at age 14. The **German** Länder are working on a joint qualification initiative together with the Federal Government to enhance the personal and employment prospects of young people. In the **Czech Republic** all relevant central and regional partners are engaged in the preparation of the Lifelong Learning Strategy.

LRA's strong partnerships with NGOs to provide targeted care programmes matched to local needs.

In **Cyprus** local authorities created partnerships with NGOs in order to provide 31 care programmes for children, the elderly, the disabled and other dependants. Local Government **Denmark** and KTO (Association of Local Government Employees' Organisations) are currently implementing projects to promote the integration of ethnic minorities. **Latvian** LRA's, social partners, and the State Employment Agency are constantly expanding active employment policy measures. A comprehensive system supporting organisations in local governments that work with children and young people is being created in **Slovakia**. In the **UK** the City Strategy has been developed to test different

approaches to partnership working, and provide local control over resources to promote employment is a way that matches local needs in terms of diversity.

Strong multilevel governance marks LRA activities for employment and social integration.

Development of employment partnership and social dialogue on the local government level is a key element of the capacity-building efforts for Latvian local governments. The German Länder and municipalities have agreed on initiative of the Federal Government to raise the number of places at childcare facilities and day-care facilities for children under the age of three nationwide to 750 000 by 2013. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions participates in the Council for Integration in Working Life.

LRA actions on energy and climate change (Priority 4)

LRAs work closely with government to promote energy efficiency.

A package of measures has been successfully employed in **Austria**, at both Länder and federal levels, to boost the use of renewable energies. **German** promotion programmes for energy efficiency in buildings were supplemented by an investment pact between the Federal Government, the Federal Länder and the municipalities in 2008. The Flanders region in **Belgium** has already implemented 97% of the projects foreseen in its 2006-2012 Climate Plan. The Brussels Region has introduced a certificate for energy performance for new and significantly refurbished buildings.

LRAs take a leading role in the field of energy and waste management.

The **Italian** Regions and the Autonomous Provinces exercise strategic planning and coordination in relation to the issue of energy, defining energy system governance measures and building energy certification regulations. The **Czech** Union of Towns and Municipalities together with the Association of Czech Republic Regions has developed a technical document “Strategy for the Development of Waste Management in municipalities and Towns of the Czech Republic”.

LRAs active in raising environmental awareness through participatory local actions

Belgian local authorities are developing and implementing their Local Agenda 21 programmes. 14 projects with a total budget of €575 000 were approved in 2008. In **Cyprus** activities promoting more sustainable modes of transport are

organised by the local authorities with the support and funding of the Environment Service. In **Greece** a co-operation protocol with the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities (KEDKE) and the Ministry of Development has been signed.

LRAs play a leading role in trans-sectoral coordination bodies in the field of energy.

In **Denmark** a Knowledge Centre for Climate Adaptation has been established under the Danish Energy Agency. The **Portuguese** Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage 2007-2013 (PEAASAR II) proposes an extended model of partnership between the State and local authority groupings. **Sweden's** municipalities are playing a leading role in the implementation of the national climate policy for sustainable development. Over 20% of them participate in the "Sustainable municipalities" programme.

Table 0 gives a good overall image of LRA actions and involvement in achieving the Lisbon Growth and Jobs goals. Given the incomplete, or opaque, source material available from the 27 National Progress Reports, it can only be treated as an overall "snapshot".

What it does clearly show is that LRAs, in their many forms, and through a multitude of structures and approaches, are more and more involved in the delivery of programmes and actions within the Lisbon agenda. Although their current level of involvement in designing such programmes and actions, and in contributing to the National Progress Reports, is considerably lower, their participation in these phases is likely to increase.

1 Preface

Increased ownership from the ground up is seen as a key condition for the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs to succeed. Since 2006, in the context of the Strategy's new governance cycle, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) has emphasised the role of the Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in the fulfilment of the Lisbon goals and, more specifically, the need for their full involvement in the implementation of the EU Member Countries' National Reform Programmes (NRPs). The 2006 Spring European Council asked the CoR to submit a report on the involvement of the LRAs in the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy to its 2008 session. To meet this request, the CoR set up the Lisbon Monitoring Platform (LMP)¹ early in 2006. The LMP is a monitoring tool based on the voluntary participation of 104 LRAs across the EU, which accepted (1) to provide information on their Lisbon-related policies, and on their satisfaction in terms of their involvement in the implementation of the NRPs, through a questionnaire, and (2) to appoint experts to participate in several workshops held in Brussels. Against this background this report analyses how the role of Local and Regional Authorities has been mentioned in the 27 National Progress Reports submitted by the Member States to the European Commission by 15 October 2008. This research analyses the 27 Progress reports in greater detail with respect to

- the nature of the acknowledgement of the role Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs);
- the type of information given on the LRA's Lisbon-related activities;
- the institutional framework of multilevel cooperation;
- the possible existence of multilevel governance arrangements.

Methodology

The work has been carried out on the basis of a documentary research and analysis of all 27 National Progress Reports (NPR), which were included in the National Reform Programmes 2008-2010 (NRP). Action Plans (AP) have been considered when available. The reference period is 2008, although the reports sometimes include activities which go back to the beginnings of the Lisbon Agenda.

Difficulties encountered

The main difficulties consisted in the fact several Progress Reports were generally written more from a Member State perspective, rather than from a LRA perspective. Consequently it has been sometimes very challenging to grasp

the specific contribution of LRAs. Further problems considering the quality of LRA descriptions are discussed in several chapters.

Structure of the report

Chapter 2 and 3 present the background to National Reform Programmes, the reporting mechanisms and the institutional framework for the implementation of the Lisbon Priority.

Chapter 4 provides selected examples of activities realised by Local and Regional Authorities for each of the four Lisbon policy priorities.

Chapter 5 provides a detailed assessment of the different National Progress Reports in terms of the reporting quality and relevant content on activities of local and regional authorities.

Chapter 6 draws conclusions on the quality of the National Progress Reports, the degree of involvement of LRAs in the implementation of the Lisbon priorities and the role of LRAs as acknowledged in the National Progress Reports.

2 National Reform Programmes and reporting mechanisms

The Lisbon Strategy is the key political ambition of the European Union to become “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”. The Gothenburg Council of 2001 added sustainable development as another key dimension to the strategy.

In 2005, the Spring European Council in Luxembourg agreed to relaunch the Lisbon Strategy to focus on the key priorities of jobs and growth. The sustainable development strategy of Gothenburg was further developed in the second half of 2005. At the EU Stakeholder Conference in Amsterdam in 2006 the three dimensions of cohesion, addressing the Lisbon Strategy, were stressed: economic, social and territorial.

The **Integrated Guidelines For Growth And Jobs** for the period 2005-2008 brought together, in a single, coherent and simplified text, the Broad Economy Policy Guidelines (BEPGs) and employment guidelines, which are the principal policy instruments for developing and implementing the relaunched Lisbon Strategy. The European Council is putting forward practical guidelines every spring among other to make it easier for the Commission to monitor progress. The Spring European Council of March 2008 launched the 2008-2010 cycle of the Lisbon Strategy, confirming the existing Integrated Guidelines and emphasising four policy priorities:

1. Investing in knowledge and innovation
2. Unlocking business potential, especially of SMEs
3. Investing in people and modernising labour markets
4. Climate change and energy

Every year the Commission carries out a review of the Lisbon Strategy in an annual activity report, which covers the implementation of the partnership for growth and employment at Community and national levels.

National Reform Programmes

National Reform Programmes (NRPs) are developed by the Member States in order to respond to the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs, with the aim of delivering the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. The programmes cover a three-year period and each year Member States produce reports on the implementation of their National Reform Programmes, the so called National Progress Reports (in some Member States also called “Implementation Report”). In 2008 Member States have updated their National Reform Programmes, thus orienting them towards the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010) and they

have also submitted the Progress Reports on the implementation of the Lisbon activities in the last reporting period. Technically, the Progress Reports 2008 were included in the updated National Reform Programmes, sometimes however in separated sections.

While the drafting of the National Reform Programmes is generally done in close partnership between the Commission and the Member State, to a different extent regional and local authorities in the Member States are involved in this process. Similarly, regional and local authorities can be involved also in the process of drafting the National Progress Reports' sections.

3 The institutional framework for the delivery of Lisbon-related activities

Table 1. Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010)²

Macroeconomic guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To secure economic stability for sustainable growth. (2) To safeguard economic and financial sustainability as a basis for increased employment. (3) To promote a growth and employment orientated efficient allocation of resources. (4) To ensure that wage developments contribute to macroeconomic stability and growth. (5) To promote greater coherence between macroeconomic, structural and employment policies. (6) To contribute to a dynamic and well-functioning EMU
Microeconomic guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (7) To increase and improve investment in R&D, in particular by private business. (8) To facilitate all forms of innovation. (9) To facilitate the spread and effective use of ICT and build a fully inclusive information society. (10) To strengthen the competitive advantages of its industrial base. (11) To encourage the sustainable use of resources and strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth. (12) To extend and deepen the internal market. (13) To ensure open and competitive markets inside and outside Europe and to reap the benefits of globalisation. (14) To create a more competitive business environment and encourage private initiative through better regulation.

² http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/european-dimension-200712-annual-progress-report/200712-annual-report-integrated-guidelines_en.pdf

	<p>(15) To promote a more entrepreneurial culture and create a supportive environment for SMEs.</p> <p>(16) To expand, improve and link up European infrastructure and complete priority crossborder projects.</p>
<p>Employment guidelines</p>	<p>(17) Implement employment policies aimed at achieving full employment, improving quality and productivity at work, and strengthening social and territorial cohesion.</p> <p>(18) Promote a lifecycle approach to work.</p> <p>(19) Ensure inclusive labour markets, enhance work attractiveness, and make work pay for job seekers, including disadvantaged people and the inactive.</p> <p>(20) Improve matching of labour market needs.</p> <p>(21) Promote flexibility combined with employment security and reduce labour market segmentation, having due regard to the role of the social partners.</p> <p>(22) Ensure employment-friendly labour cost developments and wage setting mechanisms.</p> <p>(23) Expand and improve investment in human capital.</p> <p>(24) Adapt education and training systems in response to new competence requirements.</p>

3.1 State structures and relevance for the delivery of Lisbon-related activities

The EU working group on multi-level governance³ has described the institutional setting of the Member States in four categories. The types are distinguished by the degree of autonomy of the sub-national levels and the mode of transfer of powers:

- **(Centralised) unitary states** have only a local level infra-national hierarchy. Regional levels may exist for administrative reasons but are subordinate to the central state.
- **Decentralised unitary states** have undertaken a process of reform to establish elected regional authorities above the local level.

³ Report by Working Group on “Multi-Level Governance: Linking and Networking the various Regional and Local Levels”. (Group 4c). 2001.
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/areas/group10/report_en.pdf

- **Regionalised unitary states** are characterised by the existence of elected regional governments with constitutional status, legislative powers and a high degree of autonomy.
- **Federal states** have a power-sharing guaranteed by the constitution.

This typology has been applied within the ESPON programme to include also the New Member States as depicted in table 2.

Table 2. Typology of State Structures

Unitary States	Decentralised unitary states	Regionalised unitary states	Federal States
Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Italy	Austria
Cyprus	Denmark	Malta	Belgium
Estonia	Finland	Poland	Germany
Greece	France	Spain	
Hungary	Latvia	United Kingdom	
Ireland	Slovakia		
Lithuania	Sweden		
Luxembourg	The Netherlands		
Portugal			
Romania			
Slovenia			

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/governance/areas/group10/report_en.pdf and ESPON project 2.3.2. Final Report (for New Member States' classification)

In recent years, considerable movement has been observed between these types and generally the regional level has gained either in importance relative to the central states or has increased its institutional variety, sometimes both. There are a number of reasons for this increasing importance of sub-national levels of government: States such as Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom have introduced devolution to manage national diversity. Italy has strengthened regions in the interests of efficiency and in order to reduce the political, administrative, and financial burdens on the centre. In Germany federalism has been reformed so as to give more responsibility to the Länder, which has been represented as a move from co-operative to competitive federalism. However, among the most remarkable reasons for the growing importance of sub-national levels are the needs of development policy: In this respect the participation of actors both from the public and private sector is considered crucial for the success of growth policies. Innovation policies, fostering entrepreneurship, productivity and a knowledge-based society demand a closer interaction between actor groups, which cannot be sufficiently managed by national governments. This is partly reflected in a changed paradigm of regional development policy from the dominance of equity as its goal to more orientation

towards competitiveness and growth and from regional aid to a more strategic (programming) approach.⁴

The need for co-ordinating mechanisms has increased with the rise of multi-level governance. The territorial approach has shown, that the territory has is the most adequate level of co-ordination, giving more weight again to the regional and local level of government. The “Territorial Agenda” document of the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig in May 2007 stresses the need and options for territorial co-ordination, eventually arguing in favour of new forms of territorial governance.

3.2 The decentralisation level of Cohesion Policy

Cohesion policy and regional policy in the Member States are strongly interrelated. Until the 1970s regional policies tended to be rather centralized and the main aim consisted in ensuring an even development across the territory. However, also besides the federal countries, some states had regional development councils and boards though these bodies tended to have rather weak powers. At the same time, states sought to rationalize and consolidate local government and introduced metropolitan structures to facilitate planning.

The economic crisis of the 1970s called the centralised model of regional policy in question and resulted in strong decentralizing trends. In some countries there has even been an emphasis on the urban level in the 1980s and later on competitiveness and competition. Today, regional development policy comprises of a range of instruments (education, health, planning, infrastructure and state aids etc.). While European and national levels play key roles in regulation and funding, all levels are involved in the policy development and implementation. Within the Member States responsibility for regional development is typically divided among two or more levels of government.

EU regional policy provided significant funds for regional development and has recently also emphasized the importance of human and social capital. In the current programming period, in total, 258 (or 70%) of all 368 Operational Programmes for the period 2007-2013 are implemented at regional level. The number of regional ERDF programmes being more than double of the one for national programmes, in the ESF the respective figures are 39 (national programmes) and 75 (regional programmes) (see table 3).

While cohesion and regional development policies do overlap at the national level, they are far from being synonymous. There are a number of administrative sectors affected by Cohesion Policy that are of little significance for regional development. On the other hand quite a large number of sectoral policies and

⁴ Bachtler, John / Yuill, Douglas (2007): Regional Policy in Western Europe. Taking Stock of the Shift of Paradigm

hence competences are very significant for regional development in sectors not addressed by Cohesion Policy (e.g. Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development, Fisheries, etc.)

Table 3. National and regional Operational Programmes for 2007 to 2013 in EU 27

Source: DG Regio (2008): National Strategic Reference Frameworks

State	Member State	Total Regional			national Programmes				regional Pr.	
		1	al	in %	ERDF	ERDF+ CF	ESF	ERDF	ESF	
Struct.				of total						
Unitary State	Bulgaria	7	0	0%	3	2	2			
	Estonia	3	0	0%		2	1			
	Ireland	3	2	67%			1	2		
	Greece	21	7	33%	5		2	7		
	Cyprus	2	0	0%		1	1			
	Lithuania	4	0	0%		2	2			
	Luxembourg	2	0	0%	1		1			
	Hungary	15	7	47%	3		3	2	7	
	Portugal	14	9	64%	3	1	1	7	2	
	Romania	7	0	0%	3	2	2			
	Slovakia	10	1	10%	5	2	2	1		
Decentralized Unitary State	Czech R.	17	7	41%	6		2	2	7	
	Denmark	2	0	0%	1		1			
	France	36	34	94%	1		1	30	4	
	Latvia	3	0	0%		2	1			
	Netherlands	5	4	80%			1	4		
	Slovenia	3	0	0%	1	1	1			
	Finland	7	5	71%	1		1	4	1	
	Sweden	9	8	89%			1	8		
Regionalized Unitary State	Spain	45	42	93%	2	1		23	19	
	Italy	52	42	81%	7		3	21	21	
	Malta	2	0	0%		1	1			
	Poland	21	16	76%	3	1	1	16		
	UK	22	22	100%				16	6	
Federal State	Belgium	10	9	90%			1	4	5	
	Germany	36	34	94%	1		1	17	17	
	Austria	10	9	90%			1	9		
	Total	368	258	70%	46	18	7	39	183	75
		100%	70%		13%	5%	2%	11%	57%	26%

4 The involvement of local and regional authorities as presented in the National Progress Reports 2008

By 15 October 2008 the Member States submitted their National Progress Reports (NPR) to the European Commission. The following chapters analyse in which way local and regional authorities have been considered in these reports. For that purpose the National Reports and (if available) the action programmes of the 27 Member States have been screened regarding the mention of local and regional authorities (including provincial, county and district level). This step leads to a compilation of more than 400 relevant sections, which report on an active engagement of the above-mentioned authorities.

In this chapter, out of the complete sample of relevant LRA sections from the National Progress Reports 2008, a limited number of particularly illustrative cases is shown. This should give a concrete idea, in what the actual contribution of local and regional authorities to the four Lisbon priorities does consist. For each of the four Lisbon priorities cases with respect to

- activities of regional authorities;
- activities of local authorities;
- activities of local and regional authorities with a strong multi-level-governance aspect.

This selection of presented examples is by no means representative, nor does it cover all the countries of the EU27. The examples in this chapter were selected only with a view of illustrating the kind of involvement, which is then discussed in more abstract and analytic terms in chapter 5 (including a full coverage of the EU27).

4.1 Lisbon-related activities of LRAs in Priority 1: Knowledge and Innovation

4.1.1 Overview

Areas of specific interest to LRAs⁵	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Framework condition for innovation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3% R&D investment target- Promotion of an EU-wide market for venture capital 2. Free movement of knowledge: creation of a fifth freedom<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open and competitive labour market for EU researchers- European passport for cross-border mobility of researchers (and students, scientists, university teaching staff)- University partnerships with the business community- Foster scientific excellence- New generation of world-class research facilities- Mutual recognition of qualifications- High-speed internet (e-infrastructures and next generation networks): improve competition and increased use by the public, ensure that all schools are connected by 2010 3. More effective use of R&D resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase knowledge transfer to industry: optimal use of intellectual property created in public research organisations- Remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers between public and private research centres- Better science-industry linkages and world-class innovation clusters
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4.1.2 Examples of LRA involvement in Policy Priority 1

Activities of regional authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPRs)

- **The Austrian regions (*Länder*) are introducing comprehensive measures in the field of research, development and innovation and are preparing extensive strategies.** By way of example: Vienna's RTI Strategy, Styria's economic strategy entitled "Standardised Innovation" and Carinthia's development agency as a centre for innovation and technology. (see AT-NPR, p.23)

- **The German Federal Länder have commenced measures aimed at promoting the mobility of researchers,** amongst others by setting up points of contact for young researchers willing to return; by enabling foreign nationals to be appointed civil servants; Optimising the efficiency

⁵ These areas of specific interest to local and regional authorities have been identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>)

of institutions of higher education and institutes of the Federal Länder. (see DE-NPR, p.48)

- **In Cyprus an Action Plan for the Regional Innovation Strategy has been developed.** The implementation of the five-year Action Plan for the Regional Innovation Strategy in Cyprus (RISC) which aims at enhancing innovative capacities of SMEs and strengthening the links between academia and enterprises.
- The Italian regions have introduced their research and innovation policy. Its approaches and methods vary widely both in the definition of the objectives and in the choice of the instruments. Some Regions have passed specific legislation on the subject, while others are relying on strategic plans. The regional policies are nonetheless set as part of the implementation of the principal national planning tools. Consistent with such tools, the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces have defined the general single regional policy in the Unitary Planning Document, placing the overall priority on reinforcing a knowledge-based society model that is high-tech oriented and strictly linked to the territory, whose excellencies are exploited. The common objective is to favour integration of research and production, an expanded presence in the international markets, and the use of the results as a driver of development for other sectors (energy, environment, employment, healthcare, agriculture, etc.). The measures to support research and innovation will, in most cases, be financed as part of the 2007-2013 EU Planning (Regional Operational Programmes - European Social Fund (ESF) and Regional Operational Programmes - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)), as supplemented by other regional and national resources, and will mainly be activated through Summary Programme Accords, Protocols of Intent, Area Integrated Projects (PIA), Integrated Planning Tenders, etc. In response to EU guidelines for better regulation, certain Regions have decided to prioritise the restructuring of regulations and the simplification of the public procedures to support research and innovation. Such initiatives are reported as best practices. (see IT-NPR, p.56)
- To promote investment in greenfield projects, Lithuanian regions are creating territories, with pre-installed engineering and communications infrastructures. Based on this, eight municipalities (Alytus, Panevėžys and Šiauliai Cities, Akmenė, Kėdainiai and Radviliškis Regions, Marijampolė and Pagėgiai) are implementing projects to create industry parks: studies have been performed to evaluate possibilities for implementation and development thereof, technical documents for infrastructure development of industry parks have been drafted and the infrastructure is being realised. (see LT-NPR, p.17-18)

- Activities of local authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)
- In the Netherlands local authorities have streamlined subsidies in the field of research. The provinces of Overijssel and Gelderland took the initiative to register the decentralised omnibus scheme (Omnibus Decentraal Regeling): a national support framework for all Dutch local authorities in the field of research, development and innovation. In one go, the decentralised omnibus scheme fulfilled the European Commission's reporting requirement for RD&I initiatives by provinces and municipalities, worth more than €3.7 billion over the coming nine years. The new scheme eliminates a great deal of red tape. Projects can now start without waiting for elaborate approval procedures. With the decentralised omnibus in hand, the provinces can implement regional economic policy more quickly. (see NL-NPR, p. 23)
- In the Netherlands local authorities have stimulated cooperation in the Amsterdam BioMed Cluster. In recent years, the business community, knowledge institutes and the government have successfully cooperated in the life sciences sector under the name Amsterdam BioMed Cluster. To that end, Technology Transfer Bureaus have been set up in the knowledge institutes. These Technology Transfer Bureaus will be working together in the new Life Sciences Centre Amsterdam. One of the most important objectives in this context is to optimally convert the available knowledge into products and launch them on the market. The new Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam will serve as an investment company, focusing on Amsterdam-based life sciences companies. (see NL-NPR, p.26)
- Dutch local authorities have promoted ICT in education: The municipality of Amsterdam recently allocated €900,000 to connect Amsterdam schools to the Broadband Network for Amsterdam Schools (BOA). The money is meant to be put towards the connection costs, as well as to fund information and training for teachers using the system. As a result, some 85% of schools in Amsterdam will have had broadband Internet by 2008. This will make it possible for more children to use audiovisual teaching tools and new forms of education simultaneously. (see NL-NPR, p.32)
- The municipality of The Hague in the Netherlands has designated innovation in municipal services as one of the priority policy themes to improve the services it provides businesses. The Hague is working on a Personal Internet Page (PIP) for entrepreneurs. The PIP would enable entrepreneurs to check the status of procedures and review any applicable settlements and licences. (see NL-NPR, p.33)

- Collaboration between local authorities, research and business is the key innovation priority in the framework of transnational cooperation programmes in Italy. Furthermore the collaboration between districts, between research centres, and between technological hubs is sought in order to foster development and dissemination of innovations, development of patents and new productive processes, improvement of policies for innovation and regional innovation capacity and further strides by SMEs in opening up to international collaboration.(see IT-NPR, p.49)
- In Spain broadband access was extended to 2 192 municipalities, benefiting more than 2.2 million citizens, with special emphasis on rural areas, where 650 computers with broadband were installed in 90 internet access centres. Broadband internet access is now available to 98.8% of the population. Since July 2007, the Avanza Plan has granted 454 million euros in loans to 64 850 households and 39,200 companies to upgrade their technology. (see ES-NPR, p.28)

Activities of local and regional authorities with a strong multi-level-governance aspect

- In Belgium the communities and regions have participated, together with the federal state and the private sector in the “Forum Recherche et Innovation”. A coherent strategy has been elaborated in order to achieve the 3% objective and creating a framework for investments in the field of innovation, research and development. (see BE-NPR, p.11)
- In Germany the Federal Länder and the Federal Government have given crucial impetus for developing science-industry linkages in the German higher education landscape by launching the € 1.9 billion excellence initiative. The Pact for Research and Innovation has also triggered structural changes in the scientific landscape. The cornerstones of the Pact envisage, amongst others, establishing sustainable partnerships between science and industry, promoting young scientists and enhancing global competitiveness by creating flexible general conditions. The Federal Government and Federal Länder will be providing additional funds to the tune of around € 2.3 billion for the Pact between 2006 and 2010. (see DE-NPR, p.10)
- The German Federal Länder have agreed a Pact for Research and Innovation with the Federal Government to increase their funding for the major scientific and research organisations (Max Planck Society, German Research Foundation, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz Scientific Association, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft) by at least 3 percent between 2006 and 2010. • Intensifying competition with a view to concentrating on excellence; • Increased

promotion of young scientists aiming to retain excellent young scientists for German research who can compete at international level; • Increasing cooperation with industry and problem-oriented technology transfer, using the results of research and development in networks. (see DE-NPR, p.48)

4.2 Lisbon-related activities of LRAs in Priority 2: Unlocking the Business Potential, especially for SMEs

4.2.1 Overview

Areas of specific interest to LRAs⁶	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Better regulation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduction of administrative burdens- Simplification and reduction of bureaucracy- Modernisation and transparency of public administration- Impact assessment2. Single Market<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase competitiveness in services (implement Services Directive by 2009)- Integrated financial services market3. EU integrated policy approach for SMEs<ul style="list-style-type: none">- European Small Business Act- Facilitate access to finance (including EU financial instruments)- Facilitate participation of innovative SMEs in clusters and in public procurement4. External dimension of the LS<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Free trade and multilateral trading system- Secure access to energy and strategic raw materials- Regulatory cooperation, convergence of standards and equivalence of rules
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4.2.2 Examples of LRA involvement in Policy Priority 2

Activities of regional authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPRs)

- Regional authorities in Flanders launched an Action Programme for tendering innovation (plan d'action d'adjudications innovantes) in mid-2008. In the framework of this programme (€15m fundng 2008-2010). The authorities acquire or develop innovations in the field of resolving socio-economic problems or improving the quality or productivity of public services. (see BE-NPR, p. 49)
- In Italy significant progress has been recorded over the past 12 months at a regional level, with the introduction of new governance mechanisms for the Provincial and Regional Commissions for the cottage industries, the

⁶ These areas of specific interest to local and regional authorities have been identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>)

definition of guidelines with trade associations in order to favour greater uniformity between laws at a state level and regional law. Abruzzo and Veneto can be cited as examples in this regard. (see IT-NPR, p.38)

- SME access to financing has been facilitated by several regional initiatives in Italy. With Regional Law no. 12/2007, the Campania Region has outlined special regional aid schemes to finance the development of businesses operating in the region. As part of the 2007-2013 Regional Operational Programme, the Veneto Region has spelled out a series of actions to facilitate SMEs' access to credit, and to supply customised financial services to SMEs. In particular, the following have been provided:
 - a system of guarantees for investments in innovation and entrepreneurial undertakings, with the objective of favouring access to credit by SMEs or consortiums of SMEs, through the granting of guarantees on financing for investments in innovation and for the development of the entrepreneurial undertakings and the consolidation of the borrowing consortiums;
 - minority and temporary investments in the risk capital of innovative enterprises;
 - the creation of a revolving fund for the subsidised financing of innovative investments made by SMEs. (see IT-NPR, p.46)
- In Hungary, within the framework of the decentralised regional programmes, each region has developed a region-specific assistance programme underpinning the implementation of the respective innovation strategy of the region. Furthermore, the Innocheck Programme provides support for small and medium enterprises in regions for using innovation services, in order for these enterprises to be able to implement their innovative initiatives. The objective of both programmes targets strengthening the innovation abilities and capacities of regions by supporting the innovation activities of small and medium enterprises, as well as by establishing and developing R+D+I cooperation structures. (see HU-NPR, p.48)

Activities of local authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)

- Several Dutch municipalities have created a new online procedure for applying for licences and permits in the hotel and catering industry. With Horeca 1, the business owner only has to enter the relevant details once to apply for multiple licences simultaneously. In September 2007, the project received a European eGovernment Award in Lisbon. By mid-2008, all the Amsterdam city districts will have joined Horeca 1. Work is being done to introduce the concept in The Hague and Nijmegen. Assisted by national initiatives (such as the eGem programme, GovUnited and the ICTU eGovernment programme), the results of Horeca1 will be reviewed and

adjusted for application by other Dutch municipalities. The Horeca1 methodology will also be followed for combined permit applications for event organising. (see NL-NPR, p.33)

- In Cyprus local authorities are participating in a review of Horizontal Legislation in order to enhance the enforcement of internal market legislation. For this purpose a guide was prepared and circulated to the ministries and to the relevant authorities in order to assist them with the screening exercise. Working groups are being established for each Ministry with representatives from the Law Office of the Republic, the Planning Bureau, other broad public sector organisations, including local authorities, as well as competent bodies of the private sector, according to the Council of Ministers' Decision of 9 July 2008. Information meetings were held in July at the Planning Bureau with representatives from all Ministries. The screening and assessment of the national legislation is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008. (see CY-NPR, p.92)
- In Greece a number of local government capacity building actions for the utilisation of information and telecommunications technology potential was to be completed during 2008. In the framework of the development plan, more than 470 digital gates for smaller municipalities of the country are to be created, while more than 17 500 Mayors and Municipality Counsellors are to be trained in the new technologies, in cooperation with the Council of Greek Municipalities and Regions. (see GR-NPR, p.28)
- Local authorities and regions in Greece supported “Invest in Greece” (IiG) in taking stock of all areas ready to receive manufacturing and tourism enterprises. “Invest in Greece” (IiG), formerly known under The Hellenic Centre for Investment (ELKE), has been engaged in a stock-taking exercise of all issues facing prospective investors, with the aim of contributing to the simplification and improvement of existing procedures. (see GR-NPR, p.46)
- Enterprise Ireland in partnership with other relevant agencies, such as the City and County Enterprise Boards, has established an Entrepreneurship and Regional Development Business Unit which has responsibility for developing the conditions for entrepreneurship throughout Ireland. A City and County Enterprise Boards (CEB) Coordination Unit has also been established within Enterprise Ireland to facilitate greater cohesion of strategic and operational activities in the enterprise development support offered to companies. Enterprise Ireland encourages entrepreneurship at grass-roots level through financial assistance for Community Enterprise Centres (CECs). CECs provide the space in a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and serve to help the development of locally based

employment. In 2008, the capital allocation for the 35 CEBs was over €20 million. (see IE-NPR, p.41)

- The Tech-Check programme, launched in April 2007, promotes awareness of the productivity benefits of greater strategic utilisation of ICTs by Irish SMEs. The programme is run by the County and City Enterprise Boards with funding of €2 million a year. The Programme offers a highly subsidised technology check-up to small business and helps them to identify ways to boost their productivity and profitability through the better use of technology. (see IE-NPR,p.43)
- In Latvia a study on business environment improvement measures includes the assessment of the influence of public and local government institutions on the business environment. Since 2001, this assessment inquiry of the business environment improvement measures has been carried out every second year. The inquiry is prepared on the basis of methodology of the World Bank. Based on this an Action Plan suggests amendments to legislation, a review and simplification of procedures, co-ordination improvement between different institutions, preparation and publication of information, as well as training of public administration institutions' employees. In general, more than 300 measures are included in the Action Plan. (see LV-NPR, p.10)
- In Latvia local governments are participating in the development of an electronic election system. It is planned to technically develop the election system by the middle of 2010. It will be possible to use it in 2013 in municipal elections and in 2014 in the European Parliament elections. Since 1 February 2008, complete e-service keyword functionality has been available (user personalised environment). In 2008, it was planned to establish 28 public administration and local government e-services in the portal of Latvia www.latvija.lv, as well as perform a restructuring of the link section and development of descriptions, as well as publish the Public Service Catalogue; furthermore an electronic catalogue of public services was established. It includes information about 1 363 public state and local government institution services, provided by 80 state and 35 local government institutions. Publication of the information is continued on the public services provided by institutions in the portal of Latvia www.latvija.lv. In June 2008, the information with a request to start the input of services was sent to the persons delegated by the institutions, as well as to accept it for publication in the catalogue. (see LV-NPR, p.33)
- In the Netherlands a regional experiment in reducing the regulatory burden took place at local level. The Network City Twente ordered a collective approach to reducing the regulatory burden for its five affiliate municipalities. Many licences and permits are being converted into general

rules; several have been abolished altogether. This has led to direct savings for the businesses in the municipalities of the Network City of Twente. Following this example, the project on 'shortening through-time for licence' led to saving 10 000 days' waiting time in the municipality of Enschede, in part by changing internal processes. (see NL-NPR, p.36)

- Dutch local authorities have launched activities to promote the topic of 'entrepreneurship' in education, such as CASE in Amsterdam. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness in the G4 cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht) that the topic of 'entrepreneurship' has been underemphasised in education. This has led to projects in which entrepreneurship is incorporated more effectively into existing study programmes, as well as to specific business-oriented programmes. In Amsterdam, the municipality supports the project entitled Centre of Amsterdam Schools for Entrepreneurship (CASE), set up by the four institutes of higher education in the city. The aim of both initiatives is to create centres of excellence that foster entrepreneurship by means of an integrated range of educational options and promote the business climate in the region via networks and exchanges. (see NL-NPR, p.37)
- In Portugal six municipal councils have participated in a project for the elimination of certificates for public services: Integrated services provision project based on the promotion of communications between organisations and departments. The certificates to be eliminated will be identified during 2008, and implementation of a certificates catalogue is also planned (e.g. procedures, legal information, costs and contracts). This cross boundary project links together central and local administrations. (see PT-NPR, annex p. 7)
- In Portugal 73 municipal FINICIA funds, involving collaboration with banks and local authorities, have been created, 14 of them between October 2007 and August 2008. These were for micro-credit operations for setting up micro and small companies. The total value of the Funds already created comes to 21.53 million Euros, of which 2.925 million Euros is related to funds created since October 2007. By the end of August, 453 credit and risk capital financing operations had been approved, of which 390 have been implemented or are at the implementation stage. The number of credit operations approved, supported by Mutual Guarantee, is 295, which corresponds to an overall investment of 23.23 million Euros. 95 risk capital operations were approved, 49 of which have been realised, involving a global investment estimated at 26 million Euros and risk capital financing to the sum of 7.8 million Euros. The FINICIA Platforms: Implementation of the FINICIA Programme is based on the creation of partnerships (called

Platforms) between the institutions of the Science and Technology System and local development agents. (see PT-NPR, p.49)

- In Portugal several LRAs qualified under the “Paying at the right time programme” and were thus able to apply for medium to long-term financing to pay short term debts to suppliers. “Paying at the right time” foresees the implementation of improvements within the circuits of financial control so as to speed up payment to suppliers, as well as audits on the services of direct and indirect administrations of the State which registered an average payment period indicator of over 180 days at the end of 2008 so as to evaluate the quality of expenditure and treasury management Thirty-six eligible applications were accepted, totalling 335 million Euros, of which 134 million were financed directly by the State. (see PT-NPR, part 3, p. 11)
- In Romania out of the 407 local Community public services for population registration, 230 already operate on the basis of a “one stop shop” system. At the end of 2007, the administrative simplification process for the issuance of a passport; driver’s license; vehicle registration certificates; vehicle registration plates; criminal records; temporary driver’s licenses and vehicle preferential number plates, was accomplished. Under MIRA coordination, in 2008, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) at the level of central and local authorities has continued to be implemented in other 20 public institutions. In order to improve the efficiency of the local public services, MIRA carried out a project aimed at implementing a “one stop shop”. (see RO-NPR, p.5)
- The Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia conducted a survey which revealed, that approximately one third of all municipal authorities have no internet connection. The Government is reacting to this issue by measures which are aimed at increasing the availability and support for broadband internet access infrastructure. Within the framework of the consequent application of the European regulation framework for electronic communications and the principles of European policy for broadband penetration, the investments of the private sector in the development of the infrastructure of the broadband penetration networks will be also encouraged. Households and municipal authorities in rural and remote areas will catch up in this area through the financial means of the Operation Programme Informatisation of Society (OPIS), since the financing of the broadband penetration network for the private sector is not sufficiently lucrative from the aspect of long-term investment returns. (see SK-NPR, p.35)
- In Spain more than 500 local government authorities and Autonomous Communities have been connected to the Central Government through the

SARA Network administrations' communications infrastructure: The pilot Registry Interconnection System (SIR) programme was developed, which will allow for the electronic connection of registry offices and the electronic exchange of data and documents with other agencies and administrations; and a system has been implemented for the online payment of fees to the Central Government. (see ES-NRP, p.44)

Activities of local and regional authorities with a strong multilevel governance aspect

- Bulgarian municipalities contribute to the improvement of the business environment by applying the principles of good governance at the level of municipalities. In April 2008 a national Better Regulation Programme was adopted, for the period from 2008 to 2010. This foresees the abolition and facilitation of administrative regimes, the establishment and reinforcement of the institutions for implementation of and control over better regulation policy, intensification of the dialogue with interested parties, improved regulation at municipal level and strengthening the capacity at the regional and municipal level for implementing good regulatory policies. As a consequence of 14 meetings with regional and municipal administrations and the business under the aegis of the MSAAR, 29 municipalities have voluntarily abolished illegally introduced regimes for registering a commercial entity. In September 2008, the Minister of State Administration and Administrative Reform, together with the minister of EU affairs, signalled the Chief Prosecutor of a further 95 municipalities, which administer illegal regimes. It is expected that 40 of these municipalities will abolish these regimes voluntarily. (see BG-NPR, p.14)
- In Portugal the Local Authority Simplex Programme was launched in 2008 and will be extended to more local authorities with new simplification measures. Following a recent OECD evaluation, the opportunity to establish a specific evaluation process of the simplification method in cooperation with the local administration was acknowledged. Also acknowledged was the importance of establishing institutional cooperation aiming at the simplification and electronic administration at two levels – centrally and locally. The Local Authority Simplex Programme was the answer to this recommendation which, as well as the measures that are the exclusive responsibility of local authorities, also includes measures that rely on the collaboration between these two levels of administration, or measures that depend on the joint work of two or more local authorities. (see PT-NPR, p. 16)
- In cooperation with regional and local governments, the initiative 'Creating Business Together' promotes the annual celebration of "Entrepreneur Day" in Spain. "Entrepreneur Day" is a meeting place for entrepreneurs and

employers, involving activities based on knowledge sharing, acknowledgement, practical learning, entertainment, counselling and training, business cooperation and meetings and dissemination. It also serves as a forum for sharing business experiences, of both success and failure. Public and private enterprises that support the entrepreneurship initiative and business creation participate in the sessions. A cooperation agreement between the Central Government and various organisers is necessary for the implementation of the initiative. Three editions have been held in May 2006, in March 2007 and May 2008. In preparation for the 4th initiative for 2009, it may be linked with actions carried out as part of the European Commission's initiative "European SME Week". (see ES-NPR, p.180)

- Local authorities in the United Kingdom are working with central government, and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to streamline with publicly funded business support, making it more targeted, focused and measurable, so increasing take-up, impact and value for money. The Business Support Simplification Programme (BSSP) will reduce the number of publicly funded schemes from about 3 000 to no more than 100 by 2010, simplifying and improving access to business information and support services. The existing Business Link service will become the primary access channel for all public sector business services. Work is also in progress to ensure that the Business Link services and the Enterprise Europe Network complement each other. Online presence will also be expanded, with content from business facing government websites being migrated to businesslink.gov.uk by 2011. (see UK-NPR, p. 15)

4.3 Lisbon-related activities of LRAs in Priority 3: Investing in People and Modernising the Labour Market

4.3.1 Overview

Areas of specific interest to LRAs⁷

1. High quality of education

- Investment in pre-primary and primary education
- Increased investment in targeted vocational training

2. Labour market

- Flexicurity

3. Social dimension

- Reduce illiteracy
- More adult learning
- Recognising informal and non-formal education
- Social inclusion
- Social cohesion

4. Demographic change

- Demographic renewal in Europe through better conditions for families and reconciliation of work and family life
- Employment in Europe: more jobs and longer working lives of better quality
- Receiving and integrating migrants in Europe
- Sustainable public finances to guarantee adequate social protection and equity between the generations

4.3.2 Examples of LRA involvement in Policy Priority 3

Activities of regional authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)

- In autumn 2008 five Austrian Länder launched the trials of the "new middle school" concept. Some 3 500 school children are benefiting from the joint school for 10 to 14-year-olds in 167 classes at 67 schools. The new middle school guarantees a new and fair performance-based form of teaching for all children. Children are no longer split into different schools at the age of ten. Rather, targeted support is given to ensure that the children are prepared as well as possible to make a decision on their future education path at the age of 14. Preparations are being made to launch the new middle school concept across the remaining Länder, the aim being to

⁷ These areas of specific interest to local and regional authorities have been identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>)

have the concept available throughout the whole of Austria in time for the 2009/2010 school year. (see AT-NPR, p.36)

- In the Czech Republic all the relevant partners at central and regional levels who can help in the implementation of the Lifelong Learning Strategy are engaged in its preparation. These partners in particular are representatives of the relevant ministries and other central administrative authorities, representatives of regional authorities, representatives of towns and villages, representatives of trade union organisations, employers' organisations, associations of schools, educational institutions for adults and other relevant social partners. (see CZ-NPR, p.81)
- The German Federal Länder are working on a joint qualification initiative together with the Federal Government. In order to ensure Germany continues to have a steady supply of well-trained and skilled workers and is able to make full use of people's potential, the Federal Government launched a Qualifications Initiative in January 2008 (cf. Table serial no. 8). The aim of the initiative is to enhance the personal and employment prospects of young people in Germany regardless of their origin by offering them new training and skills upgrading measures. Upward mobility through education is to be further facilitated by removing barriers at the interfaces of the education system. (see DE-NPR, p.7 – 8)
- The German Länder are continuing to develop opportunities created by the federal government's reform of educational qualifications and admissions in the field of higher education. Legislation governing the access and admission of nationals and foreigners to institutions of higher education in particular is to be further developed. Students' mobility is to be enhanced by recognising and implementing bachelor's and master's degrees and by establishing an international postgraduate school. Furthermore, the Higher Education Pact 2020 launched by the Federal Government and the Federal Länder will further enhance the courses available. Between 2007 and 2010, 90 000 more places are to be offered to students at higher education institutions. The Federal Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz) (BAföG), the key tool for offering grants to students, has become more international and family friendly (cf. Table serial no. 6). (see DE-NPR, p.9)
- In Germany 62 regional employment pacts offer intensive assistance in promoting the integration of the long-term unemployed as part of the federal programme "Perspective 50plus – Employment Pacts for Older Workers in the Regions". In the phase between 2008 and 2010, up to 200 000 older long-term unemployed persons are to be mobilised and up to 50 000 are to be reintegrated into the first labour market. The measures that have already been initiated and the macro-economic trend are beginning to

take effect. The quota of gainfully employed persons over the age of 55 in Germany in the fourth quarter of 2007 was around 52.5 percent compared to an annual average of 51.5 percent in 2007. This means it has already exceeded the target quota of 50 percent. (see DE-NPR, p.14)

Activities of local authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)

- In Cyprus local authorities have created partnerships with NGOs in order to provide 31 care programmes for children, the elderly, the disabled and other dependents. During 2007-2008, grants co-financed by the ESF were provided to 31 care programmes developed through partnerships between NGOs and local authorities. During this period about 60 work positions were created to cover the needs of the programmes and approximately 200 women benefited from the care facilities. A study on the role of local authorities in the promotion of care policies for the reconciliation of work and family life has recently been completed. The measure will be fully implemented by December 2008. (see CY-NPR, p.25)
- The municipalities in Denmark are expanding outreach guidance to cover all young people under 25 years of age (launched August 2008). Young people under 25 years of age who have not completed an upper secondary education programme and who are not currently enrolled in such a programme will be offered guidance. Outreach guidance represents an initiative within general and vocational upper secondary education that promote the 95 per cent objective of better guidance and transition to upper secondary education (see DK-NPR, p.47)
- Local Government Denmark and KTO (Association of Local Government Employees' Organisations) are currently well on the way to implementing three projects to promote the integration of ethnic minorities. The initiation of the projects was agreed on in spring 2007. The three projects concern: Integration and training positions which have the purpose of promoting the local party cooperation's knowledge of the KTO agreement regarding integration and training positions. Culture and diversity at the workplace has the purpose of investigating what promotes the acceptance and use of diverse skills in an organisation's culture with a view to the development of tools that can promote a diverse company culture. In cooperation with the other parties on the hospital area, Danish Regions has conducted a comprehensive diversity project. The project has the purpose of gathering and communicating the many experiences that are part of the work with diversity within the healthcare services. (see DK-NPR, p.94-95)
- The capacities of Latvian local government authorities and of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments were enhanced to ensure development of employment partnership and social dialogue at the local

government level. In the context of the Programme Support to capacity building for implementation of labour market and gender equality policy in responsible institutions, distribution of information and raising awareness” co-financed by the ESF, social dialogue has an important role in the promotion of an increase in co-ordinated wages and labour productivity. Several measures have been carried out in recent years for an improvement of social dialogue both on the national and regional levels. Institutions involved in the employment partnership, among them the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia and the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, were strengthened in the context of the National Programme “Support to capacity building for implementation of labour market and gender equality policy in responsible institutions, distribution of information and raising awareness”. (see LV-NPR, p.7)

- In cooperation with Latvian local governments and social partners, the State Employment Agency (SEA) is expanding active employment policy measures, in order to make them more available and appropriate to the needs of customers. In 2007, the SEA and Professional Career Counselling State Agency (PCCSA) were merged in order to ensure a more efficient provision of services available to customers pursuant to the principle of the one-stop shop. Therefore, the SEA has also assumed implementation of preventive measures, such as group and individual consultations on career counselling and planning, determination of professional suitability, as well as in relation to employment seeking and work management issues both for youth and adults, including employees, particularly for the part of population with a higher social exclusion risk. (see LV-NPR, p.50-51)
- In Slovakia a comprehensive system supporting organisations in local governments working with children and young people through expert preventative workers and field social workers within the framework of the system of psychological and special pedagogical support in an open environment is being created. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic will prepare a comprehensive methodology for the support of systematic preventative work with children and youth from groups at high risk by the end of 2008. The goal of this measure is to affect this group of the population and prevent any possible risky behaviour (crime, abuse of addictive substances, school truancy, risky sexual behaviour, etc.). The methodology is based on initiating contact with such groups of children and youth, on motivating them to spend their free time in a meaningful way and developing their skills and their transition to the network of the organisations working with children and youth (leisure time centres, civic associations oriented on children and youth, sports clubs, etc.). Depending on the local situation and needs, centres for marginalised

groups will be created where trained workers will be able to work with such children and youth. (see SK-NPR, p.30)

- The City Strategy in the United Kingdom has been developed to test different approaches to partnership working, and provide local control over resources to promote employment to match local needs. This particularly addresses diversity and serves the ethnic minority communities that predominantly reside in urban areas. Support for the 15 City Strategy Pathfinders has now been extended for a further two years to 2011 and this includes further funding to help continue develop capacity. Lessons already learnt from the City Strategy have informed the “right to bid” proposals that aim to extend devolution and freedom to choose, for areas that meet challenging and strict criteria. Similarly, around 2 000 employers have committed to working with Jobcentre Plus through Local Employment Partnerships with a target of helping 250 000 disadvantaged people in to work by 2010. (see UK-NPR, p.35)
- In Northern Ireland a Local Employment Intermediary Service has been created by eight local community-based employment providers. It provides tailored assistance to help unemployed people, many of whom may have been out of work for some considerable time and in need of personal help and support to find and hold onto a job, complementing the existing public employment office. The Service is assisted by a small number of Stakeholders Forums made up of local community interests. Since starting in April 2007 a total of 1 614 participants have come forward seeking the help of qualified mentors who have often developed intimate knowledge of local community issues and employment opportunities. Almost a quarter of the participants have found employment. This represents some 42 per cent of all leavers and is a credible performance in helping those most in need find employment. (see UK-NPR, p.35)
- Since October 2008 local authorities in the United Kingdom have been assessing in collaboration with employment advisers what childcare provision is required for lone parents seeking work. The presumption will be that lone parents with a child of 12 or over will have to be actively seeking work in order to claim benefits. From October 2009 this obligation will extend to parents with a child of ten and over, and seven and over from October 2010. Lone parents will not be forced into jobs that do not suit their circumstances. Jobcentre Plus advisers will take individual situations into account. This will enable lone parents to look for part-time employment if that best suits them and their family. Increased obligations will be supported by good quality affordable childcare, flexible jobs and tailored pre-employment and skills provision (UK-NPR, p.37)

Activities of local and regional authorities with a strong multilevel governance aspect

- With respect to childcare, the German Federal Länder and the municipalities have agreed on initiative of the Federal Government to raise the number of places at childcare facilities and daycare facilities for children under the age of three nationwide to 750 000 by 2013 (i.e. catering for approx. 35 percent of children under the age of three). The Federal Government will be ploughing € 4 billion into the expansion of childcare facilities by 2013, which is equivalent to one third of the total expansion costs. The Federal Government has undertaken a commitment to appropriate €770 million a year to this task that is incumbent on the Federal Länder and the municipalities. In addition to this, from 2013 onwards, each child under the age of three will be legally entitled to a place at a childcare facility. The Federal Government will support the efforts undertaken by the Federal Länder, municipalities and organisations to enhance the quality of childcare at daycare facilities and childcare facilities. (see DE-NPR, p.8)
- Länder, municipalities, and the German Federal Government launched a comprehensive range of measures in 2007 to promote vocational integration as part of the National Integration Plan. All foreigners who have the prospect of being granted residence not only have access to all general employment measures, they can also take language courses tailored to their specific occupation. Under the European Social Fund, offering language courses tailored to specific occupations is to be combined increasingly with elements of professional qualifications in the new funding period 2007-2013. Promoting integration will also focus on combating integration deficits within the second and third generation. (see DE-NPR, p.37)
- The Grenelle de l'Insertion Round Table was established in France to fight poverty and exclusion. It facilitates a broad dialogue between all stakeholders, particularly benefit recipients, social partners and local authorities. In May 2008 this initiative culminated in a roadmap with thirteen action principles and twelve priority projects, designed to modernise existing integration mechanisms and adapt them to the poorest. The stakeholders clearly agreed on the priority of a return to employment and a more secure pathway to work. The reforms for people in most difficulty will be outlined in the months ahead, including the priority granted to such people by the Public Employment Service, improved access to training, the development of suitable means of transportation, personal micro credits and access to employment for people with a criminal record. The reforms further include a single integration contract with a suitable legal framework for the people furthest from employment. (see FR-NPR, p.52)

- The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions participates in the Council for Integration in Working Life, which was formed by the social partners – the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Agency for Government Employers, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, the Swedish Confederation for Professional Employees, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations and – to support, follow up and further develop the work on integration in working life. Hence the Council works to fight ethnic discrimination and harassment in the workplace. The Council works for increased integration in a number of different ways, including the exchange of experiences and ideas together with practical guidance. The Council draws the attention of authorities and politicians to structures that have to be changed, visits workplaces, arranges hearings and research and training seminars, and develops and distributes information and educational material. The Council also honours businesses, government agencies, organisations and individuals who help increase integration in working life through practical work and good initiatives with a special award. (see SE-NPR, p.76)

4.4 Lisbon-related activities of LRAs in Priority 4: Climate Change and Energy

4.4.1 Overview

Areas of specific interest to LRAs⁸

1. Global warming: limiting the global average temperature increase to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels

- Bali Roadmap
- climate change and energy, (Kyoto Protocol - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change).

2. The Energy Policy for Europe

- Increasing security of supply
- Ensuring the competitiveness of European economies and the availability of affordable energy
- Promoting environmental sustainability and combating climate change

3. Transition to low-carbon economy consistent with EU: 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (MS action)

- Sustainable development
- Competitiveness
- Security of supply
- Food security
- Sound and sustainable public finance
- Economic and social model

4.4.2 Examples of LRA involvement in Policy Priority 4

Activities of regional authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)

- A package of measures has been successfully deployed in Austria, at both federal and Länder levels, to boost the use of renewable energies. In 2006, 24.1% of Austria's gross domestic energy consumption was covered by renewable energy sources. Of this, 10.4% stemmed from hydropower and 13.7% from other renewable sources, particularly biomass. 6 The makeup of gross domestic consumption in 2006 shifted in favour of renewable energies (+2.1 percentage points) and to the detriment of gas, while the share of coal and oil remained practically unchanged. Renewable energies even accounted for nearly 75% of domestic energy production. Austria uses

⁸ These areas of specific interest to local and regional authorities have been identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>)

a number of instruments and measures to conserve energy and improve energy efficiency at both federal and Länder levels. Apart from regulation, these measures also cover the areas of research, technological development and demonstration, as well as promotion of market penetration, dissemination of information and financial incentives for implementing suitable measures. (see AT-NPR, p.38)

- The Flanders region in Belgium has already implemented 97% of the planned projects of its 2006-2012 Climate Plan. Reduction targets for 2008-2012 are being achieved as planned. According to the most recent monitoring report of the Flemish Region's 2006-2012 Climate Plan, 97% of projects have become operational without any particular difficulties. The reduction potential foreseen for 2008-2012 is being achieved in line with the foreseen timetable. The actual and planned outlays by the Flemish Region for 2006-2012 have increased from the €684m allocated when the plan was adopted in July 2006, to a little over one billion Euros. (see BE-NPR, p.76)
- Brussels Region has introduced a certificate for energy performance for newly constructed buildings and those undergoing major refurbishment. This certificate will, from 2009, be obligatory for sales or rentals of buildings. A first call for low energy consumption and environmentally friendly buildings was launched in May 2007 with a budget of €7 million. 39 projects were submitted and will deliver their results in October 2010. Municipalities are also receiving assistance to develop their own local Agenda 21. 14 projects with a total budget of €575 000 were approved in 2008. Low income households can obtain an interest-free social and ecological loan to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings. Grants are also being provided to cover up to one half of the costs of installing small photovoltaic systems. (see BE-NPR, p.77)
- The Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces exercise strategic planning and coordination in relation to the issue of energy. They define the measures for governance of the energy system; and they issue regulations for energy certification of buildings and guidelines for the technical planning of the plants and systems for the production, distribution and use of the energy. The energy plans aim to identify the premises for: proper development of the regional energy system; increasing energy efficiency in productive, residential, services and farming sectors; and improvement of energy distribution and transport systems. The strategies directed toward improvement of the efficiency of the energy system and the qualification of productive areas (via the search for sustainable and efficient services) are being implemented with reference to the specific objectives of the Single Planning Documents for the use of the resources of the Fund for

Underutilised Areas (FAS); such an approach is consistent with the strategy mapped out in the National Strategic Framework 2007-2013, with the Single Planning Documents representing the key link between the Regional Operational Programmes of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the goals of the Objective 3 Territorial Cooperation Programmes. The planning of measures for meeting the Kyoto objectives is rounded out by the actions for sustainable development, such as those to prevent atmospheric pollution, to clean up and recover polluted sites and areas, and to protect nature. The instruments for implementing the 85 regional policies contribute directly toward guaranteeing environmental sustainability to the growth processes. (see IT-NPR, p.84)

- In Italy the contribution of regional policy to energy-policy objectives plays an important role in supporting and qualifying investments in the energy sector and offers a significant contribution to achievement of the ambitious European objectives with regard to energy from renewable sources, energy savings and reduction of GHG emissions. The 2007-2013 National Strategic Framework ensures a significant concentration of EU and national resources in projects concerning renewable energy and energy savings (roughly €4.4 billion altogether) as part of "Priority 3 - Energy and environment: sustainable and efficient use of resources for the development", so as to make energy resources more available for the installation, productive and civil systems, while simultaneously contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions and emissions polluting the atmosphere. The actions to provide incentives for energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources represent the main levers for development and technological innovation of businesses, since they are able to accommodate the needs and opportunities strictly linked to specific local, productive and environmental interests. An Inter-Regional "Renewable Energy and Energy Savings" Programme has been prepared and approved as part of the National Strategic Framework. The programme involves the Regions that are part of the EU convergence objective and was approved by an EU decision of 20 December 2007, with financial resources of €1.6 billion; the programme was extended to the entire territory of southern Italy with the drawing of roughly €0.8 million from the Fund for Underutilised Areas (as approved by CIPE on 2 April 2008). (see IT-NPR, p.84)

Activities of local authorities as mentioned in National Progress Reports 2008 (NPR)

- The Czech Union of Towns and Municipalities together with the Association of Czech Republic Regions has developed a technical document "Strategy for the Development of Waste Management in Municipalities and Towns of the Czech Republic". This document

recommends adoption of legislative and non-legislative measures for the enhancement of the use of waste for energy purposes. (see CZ-NPR, p.46)

- In order to raise environmental awareness in Cyprus activities promoting more sustainable modes of transport are organised by the local authorities with the support and funding of the Environment Service. The Environment Service has in place an annual environmental awareness and information programme. Every year, activities are organised for the European Green Week and the World Environment Day in June, centred on the distribution of information material to the general public. The Environment Service is responsible for the coordination of the European Mobility Week and the preparation of information material on sustainable transport and the annual theme of the Mobility Week. Information material on the various environmental themes and legislations is widely distributed at the Agricultural Fair which takes place every two years, the last one having taken place in 2007. Through its programme, the Environment Service financially supports the environmental awareness raising and educational activities of NGOs, such as seminars, events, participation in international seminars and conventions, etc. (see CY-NPR, p.122)
- In Greece the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities (KEDKE) and the Ministry of Development signed a cooperation protocol to pursue a programme towards Local Authorities (OTA) and citizens for developing actions aiming at increasing energy efficiency (22/11/2007). The programme will be funded by NSRF 2007-2013 and aims at improving the terms of energy efficiency at the regional level, to promote model actions of directly applicable results and to raise the awareness of both citizens and public sector – local authorities executives on issues of energy saving and the protection and sustainable management of the urban environment. More specifically, it is intended to fund energy saving initiatives for existing municipal buildings (programme “PROSOPSI”) and outdoor locations (e.g. municipal lighting, bioclimatic open area architecture, pedestrian area design), as well as urban mobility initiatives and networking and publicity initiatives. The anticipated benefit from these interventions (namely the degree of energy saving) is estimated to be considerable. (see GR-NPR, p.75)
- Sweden’s municipalities are playing a leading role in the implementation of the national climate policy for sustainable development. More than 20 % of the municipalities participate in the programme “sustainable municipalities”. The programme involves a systematic effort to conserve energy at the municipal level. The number of ‘passive houses’, i.e., houses without traditional heating systems, is now on the increase in Sweden. Municipal energy advisers are estimated to have reached about a half

million people in 2007. Starting in 2008, their duties have been expanded somewhat and they are now called energy and climate advisors. Additionally, the Government's initiative for wind power development will lead to a greater work load for the environmental courts. To compensate for this, Swedish courts will be given SEK 10 million a year in 2009–2010. In the same period, county councils will be given SEK 20 million a year to enable more rapid processing of wind power cases. (see SE-NPR, p.38)

Activities of local and regional authorities with a strong multi-level-governance aspect

- In Denmark a Knowledge Centre for Climate Adaptation under the Danish Energy Agency, and a transversal crosscutting coordination forum for climate adaptation with representatives from all relevant central-government authorities, Local Government Denmark and the Regions, have been established. Furthermore, a coordinating body for research into climate adaptation will be established at the National Environmental Research Institute of Denmark/ University of Aarhus. Climate challenges are also included in long-term planning at local level. A new survey by Government Denmark shows that around one third of Danish municipalities are working with climate adaptation. The focus of the municipalities is primarily on wastewater and sewerage, nature and coastal protection, and harbours. (see DK-NPR, p.38)
- In Germany the promotion programmes for energy efficiency in buildings were boosted by an investment pact between the Federal Government, the Federal Länder and the municipalities in 2008. This will enable financially weak municipalities to implement projects involving the redevelopment of energy systems in buildings that will reduce costs in the long term, particularly in buildings that are part of the social infrastructure. The Federal Länder have also geared their promotion programmes to reducing CO₂ emissions, focusing mainly on the redevelopment of energy systems in existing buildings, the use of renewable energies for heat generation and cost-effective energy conversion using combined heat and power. (see DE-NPR, p.27)
- In Portugal the Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage 2007-2013 (PEAASAR II) extends the model of partnership between the State and local authorities, the concentration of which will depend on the interest of both parties. It consists of the integration of the so-called “lower slope” infrastructures in multi-municipal systems that exist or are to be formed; the integration will be made in line with conditions yet to be agreed. Notwithstanding the strategic role reserved for the concessionary companies of the multi-municipal systems of the AdP Group (Aguas de Portugal) as a public policy instrument for the sector, the strategy also

foresees pledges in the private sector for both management and financing. The Strategy will be implemented between 2007 and 2013, and the investment foreseen for this will be assured by means of own capital (companies), bank loans (National Banking and EBI) and community funding through the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). During 2008, the necessary studies were to be conducted to define the partnership to be constituted between the State, through AdP, and the various municipalities which showed an interest in a possible partnership with the concessionary companies. (PT-NPR p.78).

5 Assessment of quality and content of the National Progress Reports 2008

5.1 The way in which LRA-related content is shown in the National Progress Reports 2008

This chapter provides a formal assessment of the way in which the activities of local and regional authorities have been acknowledged in the National Progress Reports 2008.

The following criteria have been used:

- a) **Number of relevant LRA sections per total pages:** The number of relevant sections in the National Progress Reports 2008 (per total page numbers), indicates a significant contribution and consideration from local and regional authorities. (NB: These criteria contain a judgement on the relevance of sections and therefore differ from criteria b) and c) which list the sole frequency of keywords.)
- b) **Regional mention:** frequency of “regional” keywords in the text (regardless of LRA involvement)
- c) **Local mention:** frequency of “local” key words, such as local, province, county, district etc. (regardless of LRA involvement)
- d) **Own LRA section:** Does the report contain specific chapters or sub-chapters on local or regional issues?
- e) **LRA role and contribution:** Clearness of the description of the role of local and regional authorities in LRA sections (e.g. Has it been possible to judge whether LRAs are initiating, participating, implementing, executing an action?)
- f) **Cooperation between different government levels:** How often has cooperation between different government levels been mentioned in relation to the described LRA activities?
- g) **LRA financial contribution:** Is the financing of the described LRA activities adequately mentioned? (e.g. Is it clear which administrative level finances a certain action?)

Table 4. Assessment of the quality of the National Progress Reports 2008 with regard to LRA descriptions

Country	Quantitative criteria					Quality of descriptions with respect to...			
	total pages	no. of relevant LRA sections	regional mention	local mention	own LRA section	LRA role and contribution	LRA cooperation betw. gov. levels	LRA financing of actions	
Austria	47	++	+++	++	N	+	++	++	
Belgium	142	+++	+++	+	Y	+++	++	+++	▲
Bulgaria	28	+	++	++	N	+	+	+	◁
Cyprus	174	++	+	++	N	+	++	++	
Czech Republic	85	+	++	+	N	+	++	+	◁
Denmark	117	++	+++	++	N	++	++	++	
Estonia	115	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	◁
Finland	117	+++	++	+++	Y	++	+++	+	▲
France	75	++	++	++	Y	++	+++	++	
Germany	76	++	++	++	Y	+++	+++	+++	
Greece	88	++	+++	++	N	++	++	+	
Hungary	169	+	++	+	N	++	++	+	
Ireland	97	++	++	++	N	++	+++	++	
Italy	137	+++	+++	++	Y	++	+++	+++	▲
Latvia	137	+	++	+++	N	++	++	+	
Lithuania	67	+	++	++	N	+	+	+	◁
Luxembourg	67	+	++	+	N	+	+	+	◁
Malta	101	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	◁
Poland	54	+	++	++	N	+	++	++	
Portugal	343	+++	++	++	N	++	+	+++	▲
Romania	160	+	++	++	N	++	+	+	
Slovakia	46	+	++	++	N	++	++	+	
Slovenia	130	+	++	++	N	++	++	++	
Spain	225	+	++	+	N	+++	+++	++	
Sweden	128	++	++	++	Y	+++	+++	++	
Netherlands	76	+++	++	+++	N	+++	+++	++	▲
United Kingdom	44	++	++	++	N	++	+++	+++	

Explanation: +++ = high; ++ = medium; + = low; ▲ = good practice; ◁ = poorly developed

The Austrian Progress Report considers the local and regional levels in a dispersed manner and has no specific section on local and regional issues. The local and regional levels are frequently mentioned in terms of analysis, although the concrete contributions (action, instruments etc.) of local and regional authorities are not always evident. The report contains some interesting examples concerning the collaboration between different administrative levels, but it is mainly written from a Member State perspective and does not sufficiently explain how cooperation has been implemented.

In Belgium regions and communities are systematically covered throughout all chapters of the report. There are separate sub-chapters on the progress of the National Reform Programme for the federal state, Flanders, Wallonia, the Brussels Capital Region and the German-speaking Community. In the annex a table on the division of competences is included. The whole report is described from a strong regional perspective, hence the involvement and role of regions becomes very clear; less clear on provinces and local level. *Challenges:* relatively little mention on instruments and mechanisms of cooperation; relatively few examples of cooperation between government levels; few local level activities reported. However, the report can be considered a *good practice* particularly with regard to the acknowledgement of the contributions from the different regions and communities.

In the Bulgarian National Reform Programme, local and regional authorities are modestly mentioned in a dispersed way. However, the Action Plan consists of a table in which local and regional involvement is mentioned in separate columns (e.g. in the description of action, responsible institutions, description of achievements). *Challenges:* The report is written from a strong Member State perspective, whereas the description of the role and specific contribution of LRAs remains rather unclear: there is a mix-up between 'municipalities' as actors (authorities) and as territorial target (area) of measures. Overall, there are only a few examples of local and regional activities. Often local authorities are mentioned in negative terms such as objects of control or illegal practices (see AP pp.12-13).

In Cyprus, LRAs are mentioned in a dispersed way throughout the report. The report shows a well developed description on the implementation structure of the National Reform Programme of the Republic of Cyprus and additionally shows some examples of cooperation between government levels. *Challenges:* The concrete contribution of LRAs often remains unclear as sometimes actions are described as taking place at the local level, but how LRA are actually involved is not specified.

In the report of the Czech Republic there are few mentions of LRAs (though the regional level is mentioned more often). The report shows a sound analysis of the "current situation" at regional level and therefore has some potential for

interesting regional examples. *Challenges:* Generally speaking it remains rather difficult to assess what the involvement of LRAs consists of.

The Danish progress report systematically mentions LRAs throughout the report but has no specific section on LRA issues. The role of LRAs and the instruments used become rather clear. The report contains very comprehensive annexes on the most important activities, however it sometimes does not become clear who has initiated, implemented the actions or who has simply contributed.

In Estonia, there is a rather unbalanced mention of LRAs. Most activities are reported under Objective 3 (Ensuring the long-term sustainability of fiscal policies) while in the rest of the report little information on local and regional level is given. In the few examples provided, the contribution of LRAs is not overly clear, whereas the report shows an extensive analysis of local governments' budgetary situation.

In Finland the National Progress Report contains several sub-chapters dedicated to LRAs (e.g. "Regional development and support of structural fund policy for Finland's National Reform Programme", chapter 2.2 'Curbing public spending'; an extensive description of administrative reform)". While overall the role of LRAs is well acknowledged, some more information on the way *how* LRAs are involved in Lisbon-related activities could have been helpful, as well as more financial data and some case studies.

In the French Report there are some sub-chapters on LRA issues (e.g. Promoting sustainable development at local level; Local government expenditure; Local business tax reform). The report provides some interesting examples on multilevel governance. *Challenges:* Case studies with LRA focus and clear description of their concrete contribution would have been helpful.

The German report contains a systematic mention of local and in particular of regional authorities throughout the report. Additionally there is one sub-chapter on the federalism reform, which deals intensively with the local and regional level. Actors and actions of the described examples are usually rather clear and the instruments are well mentioned. The report extensively mentions the cooperation between different government levels, however, sometimes it remains rather unclear, how this cooperation is working in practice. The instruments used and the financial contribution of LRAs is well described. *Challenges:* Illustrative case studies in particular of local authorities' contributions are missing.

The Greek report shows a dispersed mention of LRAs. In some sections it is rather difficult to assess which actions have already taken place (implementation report) and which actions are going to happen (reform programme). The report shows a good consideration of the local and regional levels in the analysis, however in the actions their actual role and contribution is often not clear.

Challenges: There are some case studies in the report, although they do not explicitly refer to LRAs.

The Hungarian report has a dispersed mention of LRAs throughout the report but also contains some sub-chapters with LRA focus: local governments; Decentralised Regional Programmes; Regional Dimension. The report is very concerned with regional disparities and provides some examples of horizontal cooperation. *Challenges:* With respect to the role of LRAs in the examples presented, it is not often clear where the actions have been initiated from. Additionally the case studies could be more extended and show a better LRA involvement and include financing figures.

In Ireland, there is a dispersed mentioned of LRAs, without specific sub-chapters in the report. The involvement of different administrative levels is frequently stated, although very often the initiator of LRA actions is not clear. *Challenges:* The concrete role and contribution of LRAs is only mentioned in very general terms and case studies could illustrate the contribution.

In Italy there is a systematic consideration of local and in particular of regional authorities throughout the report. Additionally the progress report includes several relevant sub-chapters (chapter 3.4 Role of the regions; chapter 3.5. Regional policy, 4.5.17. Regions' policy for research and innovation; 4.6.6. Regional policy at a national and EU level; 4.6.10. Regions' policies for infrastructures; 4.7.6. The contribution of regional policy to energy-policy objectives). Overall there is a very clear and extensive description of the regional involvement. The instruments used are well described (e.g. laws, commitments, aid schemes, incentives etc.). The report takes a strong regional perspective, and has an extensive description of LRA involvement. It contains well-described examples and comprehensive introductory texts, which explain the division of competences in the respective area. The report can be considered a good practice in particular with regard to the description of the involvement of regional authorities.

The Latvian report has no specific section on LRAs but has a well developed annex table on "List of measures of the National Lisbon Programme of Latvia, status and financing" - which unfortunately shows only a few examples with explicit LRA involvement. The report has a good description of the administrative reform. *Challenges:* Although the regional and local levels are generally very frequently mentioned, the effective LRA involvement does not become clear. This results in a very low number of relevant examples and case studies.

The Lithuanian report has no sub-chapters on LRAs. While the regional and local levels are frequently mentioned, the effective role of LRAs does not become clear. Instruments of LRA activities are mentioned but too briefly. *Challenges:* To make the contribution of LRAs more visible; to describe the role

of LRAs in the actions mentioned; to show the interplay between different government levels.

The progress report of Luxembourg has no sub-chapters on LRAs. It generally contains a lot of well-described case studies, but the mention of LRA involvement is missing. Challenges: To make the contributions of LRA and the interplay between different government levels more visible.

The progress Report of Malta frequently mentions the local level and shows a good analysis of the local level; but it has very few references to local authorities (the regional level does not exist in Malta).

In the Netherlands, the 2008 progress report shows a very systematic and well-developed acknowledgement of LRAs' contributions. The report provides plenty of interesting case studies, which give a very concrete idea on the kind of involvement of local and regional authorities under each heading. The case studies are well described (it becomes clear who is the initiator, who contributed, who funds, who collaborates with whom etc.) The report can be considered a good practice in particular with regard to the description of the involvement of local authorities.

The Polish progress report at the beginning of the National Reform Programme is very concise and does not mention LRAs at all. In the NRP section the mentions of local and regional levels are dispersed throughout the text. Challenges: The regional level is mainly reflected in terms of analysis (rather than in terms of authorities). The report shows a good description of devolution processes but activities of LRAs are completely absent.

In the Portuguese report LRAs are systematically considered throughout the report, although there is no specific sub-section dedicated to them. While the instruments used by LRAs are clearly described, the kind of involvement of LRAs sometimes remains unclear (e.g. are LRAs executing or initiating certain programmes?). The report shows a large variety of interesting examples with LRA involvement; illustrative case studies and generally plenty of interesting information. The interplay between governmental levels could be better described.

In the Romanian report, LRAs are mentioned in a rather dispersed way. The description of the role of LRAs is generally clearer for local authorities, while relatively unclear for regional authorities. However, the regional level is well reflected in terms of analysis and many actions that took place at local and regional levels are described. However, who carried out these actions is not described. More information on the LRA collaboration between different administrative levels would enrich the text.

In the report of the Slovak Republic there is generally a dispersed mention of LRAs. The role and the instruments of LRAs are adequately described in the

few relevant examples. The examples of local authorities' involvement are clearer described than the examples with regional authorities' involvement.

The progress report of Slovenia shows a dispersed and rather modest mention of LRAs. There are few well-described examples of local authorities' involvement; the financing is mentioned and the analysis also strongly considers the "regional level" which however is not reflected in terms of "actions".

The Spanish progress report shows a dispersed mention of LRAs over the whole report and contains specific sections in the annex (Annex III. Regional Economic Reform Plans and Annex IV. Regional Breakdown of the Main Challenges in the National Reform Programme.) There is a consistent reflection of the "regional dimension" in several parts of the report and local authorities are prominently mentioned. Challenges: The form of involvement of the authorities at the respective levels and the financial contribution could be better described.

The Swedish report shows a dispersed mention of LRAs over the whole report and also contains a sub-chapter (Implementation at regional and local levels). The local and regional dimensions are well considered and the report contains plenty of interesting case studies, particularly interesting "coordination structures". Challenges: The financial contribution of LRAs could become more clearly presented; generally very government-dominated: it could be interesting to learn more about LRAs' own initiatives.

The progress report of the United Kingdom considers the local and regional level throughout the whole report, although without specific sub-chapters on local and regional matters. The role of local and regional authorities sometimes does not become evident, e.g. in the case of projects implemented by agencies it is difficult for an outsider to assess whether this implies the involvement of public authorities. The instruments of LRAs are however well described, as is the collaboration between different government levels.

5.2 The role of LRA during the process of drafting the National Progress Reports 2008

In 2008 Member States have both updated their National Reform Programmes with an orientation towards the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010) and they have also reported on the implementation in form of the National Progress Reports 2008.

Technically, the 2008 Progress Reports are included in the updated National Reform Programmes, sometimes however in separate sections. The Progress reports and National Reform Programmes also contain information regarding the setting up of these documents. These introductory sections, under the headings of governance, ownership or implementation, provide interesting insights into the role of local and regional authorities during the process of setting up the new

reform program, the process of drafting the progress report, but also regarding their role during the implementation of the programme.

The following section presents some examples of information on the process of setting up the National Progress Reports (and the National Reform Programme), where local and regional authorities played a particular role:

In Austria, as in previous years, the liaison office of the Länder assumed the function of representing the Länder. The Austrian stakeholders, i.e. a wide range of ministries, social partners, Länder, cities and municipalities, as well as economic research institutes, took part in the meetings organised in the context of the European Commission's visit on 23 June 2008. On this occasion, members of the Austrian National Council were also given the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Commission. Both the representatives of the social partners and the representatives of the Länder welcomed the intensive involvement within the framework of the Lisbon Strategy. (see AT-NPR, p. 4)

In France the government's approach calls for active involvement and support by all players in the process of change. The government's policy of dialogue and consultation is clear from the way in which this document was prepared, which took place only after extensive consultation of the social partners (Economic, Social and Environmental Council, Committee for Social Dialogue on European and International Issues), the associations (National Council of Policies to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion) and the local authorities. A high degree of expertise was ensured by consultation of the major independent public authorities (Energy Regulatory Commission, Independent High Commission for Equality and Against Discrimination) and the Competition Council, the competition watchdog.(see FR-NPR, p.2)

In Germany the 2008-2010 National Reform Programme including the 2008 Implementation and Progress Report was drawn up by the Federal Government under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. The Federal Länder were involved in developing the NRP. The trade associations, trade unions and local government associations were heard. The Bundestag and the Bundesrat discussed the NRP before submitting it to the European Commission. The NRP will be published and will hence provide a basis for parliamentary and public debate on the Federal Republic of Germany's ongoing contribution towards the common Lisbon Strategy (see DE-NPR, p.4)

In Cyprus the preparation and the implementation of the NRP, as well as the work of the Lisbon Methodology (LIME) Group have provided a much needed platform for a constructive dialogue with all stakeholders on the broad reform agenda. It served also as a means to coordinate the various services that are involved in the same issues and to co-ordinate European and national policies. More specifically, the National Advisory Committee has been set up for the NRP with the participation of the social partners, political parties, local

authorities, NGOs and organised groups of the private sector, is convened on a regular basis for an exchange of views on the NRP. (CY-NPR, p.2)

In Spain the National Reform Programme 2008 and Progress Report represent not only the efforts of the Central Government, but it also contain valuable contributions from the Autonomous Communities, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the social partners, with whom smooth communications have been maintained over the last twelve months. The protocol for work on the NRP, agreed in September 2006 with the social partners, was prepared for the second year in a row, and a number of meetings were held with the social partners to discuss specific aspects of the Lisbon Agenda. Some Autonomous Communities have drafted Regional Reform Programmes, and an attempt has been made to coordinate their goals and measures with this NRP. The Autonomous Communities have multiyear plans to improve competitiveness or employment that were adopted by consensus with the social partners. (see ES-NPR, p.13-14)

Textbox: Bottom-up drafting of NRP

In the **Netherlands**, the compilation of the National Reform Programme took place in a very interactive and concrete way: Because **regional and local authorities and social partners** also play a role in the Lisbon Agenda, they are also involved in the compilation of the NRP. **Local authorities provided input in the form of actions** that contribute to the Lisbon Strategy. These actions were used to illustrate the National Progress Report. Additionally also social partners compiled their own document for the Lisbon Strategy. In 2009, the local authorities are planning to compile their own document. (see NL-NPR, p.0)

In Greece the Standing Lisbon Committee was of particular importance for the preparation of the National Reform Programme 2008-2010. All competent Ministries, Social Partners, Regions and NGOs representing civil society are participating in this committee. As a result of this collaboration, a Lisbon Observatory has been established by the Economic and Social Committee (OKE) in order to monitor the implementation of the Programme and progress achieved each year. The draft of the National Reform Programme (NRP) 2008-2010 will be open to the public and posted on the Ministry of Economy and Finance website in order to achieve broader publicity and facilitate the consultation process. (see GR-NPR, p.5)

In Ireland the updated National Reform Programme has been prepared after consultation with the social partners under Ireland's social partnership framework, in particular the Review of Towards 2016 which took place during 2008. It is informed by the shared analysis of the social partners and also takes

account of consultation with the relevant Oireachtas Committee and regional assemblies. (see IE-NPR, p.3)

In Italy the Government and the Regions have closely and profitably cooperated in drafting this National Reform Programme. The Government and the Regions intend to intensify this cooperation in the future in order to amplify the increased relevance of the regional contributions, in the perspective of better highlighting those regional initiatives that are not only in conformity with the Lisbon Strategy, but are also in line with an increasingly pronounced process of identifying with the EU's objectives. The different aspects of the central government's and local governments' policy actions are therefore considered altogether, in order to reinforce the reforms put into effect and those still to be carried out. (see IT-NPR, p.29)

In Latvia the Report is based on the policy planning documents adopted in the Republic of Latvia and is fully in line with the three identified main priorities of the government for the period 2007 – 2013. The Report was developed by the Ministry of Economics in cooperation with the various other ministries. The role of co-ordination for developing the Report was provided by the Supervisory Board of the Lisbon Strategy. [...] In order to provide co-ordination and supervision of implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, the government has developed a mechanism for monitoring implementation in Latvia and has established a Supervisory Board of the Lisbon Strategy to ensure the fulfilment and supervision of tasks set up in the Lisbon Strategy in Latvia. The Board is chaired by the Minister of Economics, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers as the co-ordinator of implementation and supervision of the Lisbon Strategy. Ministers and representatives of the Saeima, local governments and social partners, who are linked to the Lisbon process, are included in the Board. (see LV-NPR, p.15)

During preparation of the Swedish Reform Programme consultation with the social partners played a key role. The social partners were consulted as part of the preparatory work on the Swedish reform programme. The social partners (the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, the Swedish Confederation for Professional Employees, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) have, as in previous years, contributed joint submissions to the Reform Programme for 2008 to 2010, presenting, among other things, results from negotiations. [...] For the implementation at regional and local level the government has established a national forum for regional competitiveness, entrepreneurship and employment to further develop the dialogue between national, regional and local levels on regional growth issues. This forum has met five times since spring 2007. Its April 2008 meeting specifically dealt with the implementation of the Lisbon strategy at the regional and local levels. (see SE-NPR, p.11-12)

In the UK national, regional, local and sectoral stakeholders were consulted widely and as a matter of course by the Government when drawing up new policies. Policy measures set out in the NRP have been subject to scrutiny and consultation in accordance with this model, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised for its high degree of transparency. In terms of implementing structural reform policies in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, the Government has sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders via a seminar and a web-based consultation. The report therefore incorporates contributions from stakeholders reflecting the role they play in implementing the Lisbon Strategy. Preparation of the NRP has also benefited from discussions with the European Commission. (see UK-NPR, p.5)

5.3 The extent of LRA involvement in the Lisbon priorities 1-4

Based on the classification of the relevant reported LRA activities from the National Progress Reports, the following picture emerges with respect to their distribution between the single thematic areas of the Lisbon Priorities.

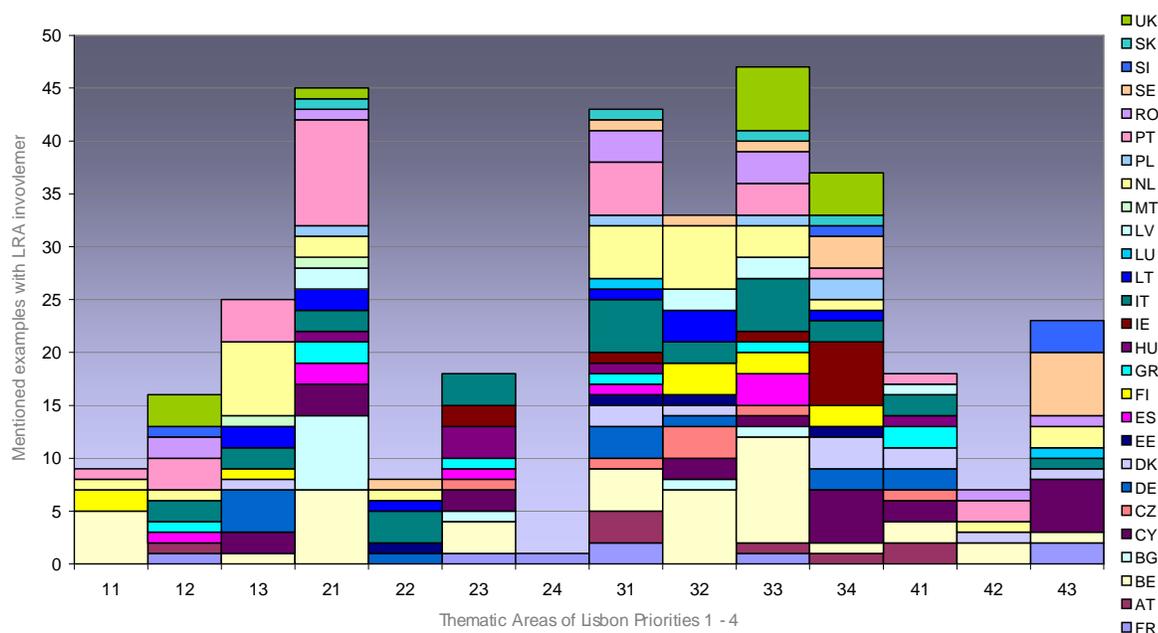


Figure 1. Lisbon Priorities –involvement of LRAs in thematic areas

The figure above shows the distribution of relevant activities to the thematic areas⁹ of the four policy priorities set by the 2008 Spring European Council to push forward the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth

⁹ Thematic Areas of specific interest to Local and Regional policy makers as identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>)

11 Framework conditions for innovation

12 Free movement of knowledge: creation of a fifth freedom

13 More effective use of R&D resources

21 Better regulation

22 Single Market

23 EU integrated policy approach for SMEs

24 External dimension of the LS

31 High quality of education

32 Labour market

33 Social dimension

34 Demographic change

41 Global warming: limiting the global average temperature increase to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels

42 The Energy Policy for Europe

43 Transition to low-carbon economy consistent with the EU's goal of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (MS action)

and Jobs. For each priority, thematic areas of specific interest to regional and local policymakers have been identified through the work of the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (see <http://lisbon.cor.europa.eu/>).

The multi-coloured patterns, representing the 27 Member States' contributions, can only give an outline idea concerning the manifold components of the total numbers, whereas the relevant information here lies in the height of the single columns, as explained in the following.

Policy Priority 1 - Investing in knowledge and innovation – shows a high engagement of local and regional authorities in particular in the area of a ‘more effective use of R&D resources’ (code 13), followed by activities concerning ‘Free movement of knowledge - creation of a fifth freedom’ (code 12) and by the activities concerning ‘framework conditions for innovation’ (code 11).

Policy Priority 2 - Unlocking business potential, especially of SMEs – shows considerable variations concerning the distribution of activities within its thematic areas: National Progress Reports demonstrate by far the most local and regional authorities' activities under the heading of ‘Better regulation’ (code 21) followed by activities, which foster the ‘integrated policy approach for SMEs’ (code 23). Relatively few activities were reported for ‘Single Market’ (code 22) and the ‘external dimension of the Lisbon Strategy’ (code 24), although it can be assumed, that concerning the last field of activity, the integration of cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes, would have substantially altered this finding. Policy Priority 2 results as the second most important priority in terms of LRA involvement.

Policy Priority 3 - Investing in people and modernising labour markets - comprises the majority among all activities with local and regional participation according to the National Progress Reports 2008. Within this priority most LRA activities took place in the area of ‘social dimension’ (code 33) followed by ‘high quality of education’ (code 31). But also ‘demographic change’ and ‘labour market’ have still very high values (more than 30 examples each).

Policy Priority 4 - Climate Change and Energy shows high values of reported LRA involvement in particular in the area of “Transition to a low-carbon economy’ (code 43) and in the area of “Global warming” (code 41).

5.4 The kind of involvement of local and regional authorities

Based on the analysis of selected cases of activities of local and regional authorities as described in chapter 4, the kind of involvement can be summarised in the following way.

5.4.1 Role of LRAs in Priority 1

Local authorities provide the technical pre-conditions (e.g. broadband access, ICT etc) for free movement of knowledge, thus contributing significantly to the

realisation of the fifth freedom. In Spain broadband access was extended to 2 192 municipalities, benefiting more than 2.2 million citizens, with a special emphasis on rural areas, where 650 computers with broadband were installed in 90 internet access centres. In the Netherlands local authorities promoted ICT in education: The municipality of Amsterdam recently allocated €900,000 to connect Amsterdam schools to the Broadband Network for Amsterdam Schools (BOA).

Local authorities frequently take the initiative in fostering innovation. In that context, they sometimes work independently, but often also cooperate with other administrative levels. Local authorities significantly stimulate the collaboration between, research and business (e.g. by setting up clusters). In Italy collaboration between districts, between research centres, and between technological hubs is promoted to foster development and dissemination of innovations, patents and new productive processes and to opening SMEs to the international. In the Netherlands local authorities, the business community, knowledge institutes and the government have successfully cooperated in the life sciences sector under the Amsterdam BioMed Cluster label. In Belgium the Federal, Community and regional authorities work with the private sector in the “Forum Recherche et Innovation” to create a framework for investments in the field of innovation, research and development. In Slovakia a survey conducted by the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia revealed that approximately one third of all municipal authorities had no internet connection. The Government is reacting to this issue by measures which are aimed at increasing the availability and support for broadband internet access through its Operation Programme Informatisation of Society (OPIS).

Local authorities have taken significant steps in providing e-infrastructure (internet services, for the benefit of citizens, entrepreneurs and research. The Hague Municipality (NL) is working on a Personal Internet Page (PIP) for entrepreneurs which would allow them to check the status of procedures, settlements and licences. In Greece a group of actions to build local governments’ capacity to exploit ICT was carried out during 2008. The Portuguese Digital Cities & Regions initiative supports projects promoting a vision of territory based on the use of ICT, network organisation and knowledge. It includes 33 projects including 287 of the country's 308 municipalities and covering 95% of national territory with a budget of €200m. In the Netherlands a new online procedure for applying for licences and permits, Horeca 1, for the hotel and catering industry has been created. Horeca 1 received a European eGovernment Award in Lisbon in September 2007.

In federal states regional authorities have used their discretionary powers to develop, prepare and implement extensive strategies in the field of research and innovation. These regional innovation strategies are often strongly coordinated or show considerable variation in objectives and the use of instruments. Most

Austrian Länder have their own RTI strategies, Vienna is one example, Styria's economic strategy is called "Standardised Innovation" while Carinthia's development agency operates as a centre for innovation and technology. The German Länder and the Federal Government have agreed on a Pact for Research and Innovation, including a €1.9 billion excellence strategy. The research and innovation policies of the Italian regions vary significantly both in terms of objectives and instruments. In Hungary, within a framework of the decentralised regional programmes, each region has developed a region-specific assistance programme for implementing its regional strategy.

Local authorities have streamlined subsidies in the field of research and thus facilitated access to finance. This has either been done on their own initiative or by participating in regional or national programmes.

In the Netherlands local authorities have streamlined subsidies in the field of research. The provinces of Overijssel and Gelderland registered their Omnibus Decentraal Regeling a comprehensive approach for all Dutch local authorities. In Portugal 73 municipal FINICIA funds were created in collaboration with banks and local authorities for micro credit business operations. In Italy SMEs' access to financing has been facilitated by several regional initiatives such as the Campania Region's special schemes to finance the development of businesses. The Veneto Region has developed a series of actions to facilitate credit access for SMEs.

Regional and federal authorities have agreed to introduce measures for research, development and innovation and have prepared extensive strategies either on a strategic level (regional research strategy, action plan) or through a very proactive role in developing territories for investment (e.g. industrial parks in Latvia.)

The German Länder have begun measures to promote mobility of researchers, including contact points contact for young researchers and enabling foreign nationals to be appointed as civil servants. They have also agreed a Research and Innovation pact with the Federal Government. Lithuanian regions have created serviced industrial park territories to attract investors. Eight such parks are being established. The Austrian Länder are introducing comprehensive measures in the field of research, development and innovation and are preparing extensive strategies. An Action Plan has been developed in Cyprus for the Regional Innovation Strategy which aims to improve the innovative capacities of SMEs.

5.4.2 Role of LRAs in Priority 2

Local and regional authorities make considerable contribution to implementing principles of "Better Regulation" by participating in screening exercises to facilitate legislation, or by introducing new governance mechanisms and

defining guidelines to facilitate greater uniformity between state and regional laws. There are, for example, numerous one-stop-shop local initiatives which enhance the quality of public services.

Abruzzo and Veneto provide examples of the significant progress made in Italy at the regional level with the introduction of new governance mechanisms for the Provincial and Regional Commissions for the cottage industries, and the definition of guidelines with trade associations to favour greater uniformity between state and regional laws. In Cyprus local authorities are screening horizontal legislation to enhance enforcement of the Internal Market. The Network City of Twente (NL) has ordered a collective approach to reducing the regulatory burden in its five municipalities. 203 out of 407 Romanian Community public services for population registration now operate a “one-stop shop” system. In Portugal six municipal councils participated in a project for the elimination of certificates for public services. Bulgarian municipalities contribute to the improvement of the business environment by applying the principles of good governance at the level of municipalities through, for example, the national Better Regulation Programme.

Local and regional authorities actively engaged in creating an attractive business environment by assessing the quality of the local business services, by interlinking with relevant players at different administrative levels and by promoting entrepreneurship in the educational system.

Latvia has launched a study into business environment improvement measures including the impact of public and local government institutions. In Spain more than 500 local governments and Autonomous Communities have been connected to the Central Government through the SARA Network administrations’ communications infrastructure. Local authorities in the Netherlands have launched activities to promote the topic of ‘entrepreneurship’ in education. There has been a growing awareness in the G4 cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht) that the topic of ‘entrepreneurship’ has traditionally been underemphasised.

Local and regional authorities are streamlining the facilitation of business support services and actively engaging in agencies and advisory boards which aim to improve conditions for businesses in their territories.

Local authorities in the UK are working with central government and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to streamline publicly funded business support, increasing take-up, impact and value for money. Local authorities and Regions in Greece are supporting “Invest in Greece” (IiG) to identify business opportunities. Enterprise Ireland has established an Entrepreneurship and Regional Development Business Unit to enhance entrepreneurship conditions.

5.4.3 Role of LRAs in Priority 3

In the field of education regional authorities (particularly in the federal countries) have started several qualifications initiatives for new school concepts, improving personal and employment prospects for young people, migrants and the elderly. Regional authorities have further been involved in the development of micro-regional action plans in the field of education, regional employment pacts, and in the implementation of the lifelong learning strategy.

In autumn 2008 five Austrian Länder launched a "new middle school" trial project to ensure that pupils are as well prepared as possible to decide their future education path at age 14. The German Länder are working on a joint qualification initiative together with the Federal Government to enhance the personal and employment prospects of young people in Germany regardless of their origin by offering them new training and skills upgrading measures. In Germany 62 regional employment pacts are offering intensive assistance to promote the integration of the long-term unemployed as part of the federal programme "Perspective 50plus – Employment Pacts for Older Workers in the Regions". In the Czech Republic all relevant central and regional partners are engaged in the preparation of the Lifelong Learning Strategy.

Local authorities have a strong role in the creation of partnerships with NGOs to provide care programmes for children, the elderly, the disabled and other dependents. Initiatives that ensure the participation level of young people or migrants in education are tackled at local level. Local authorities work either independently in that field or in collaboration with other agencies or administrative bodies. Such measures may also take a territorial approach test different methods to partnership working, and provide local control over resources to promote employment in a way that is matched to local needs.

In Cyprus local authorities have created partnerships with NGOs in order to provide 31 care programmes for children, the elderly, the disabled and other dependants. Local Government Denmark and KTO (Association of Local Government Employees' Organisations) are currently implementing three projects to promote the integration of ethnic minorities. In cooperation with Latvian local governments and social partners, the State Employment Agency is constantly expanding active employment policy measures. A comprehensive system supporting organisations in local governments that work with children and young people through expert preventative workers and field social workers is being created in Slovakia. In the UK the City Strategy has been developed to test different approaches to partnership working, and provide local control over resources to promote employment in a way that matches local needs in terms of diversity. In Northern Ireland a Local Employment Intermediary Service has been created to provide tailor-made assistance for the unemployed. In the UK from October 2008 local authorities are required to assess in collaboration with

employment advisers what childcare provision is required for single parents seeking work.

In the field of employment and social integration local and regional authorities actively engage in activities with a strong multilevel governance aspect. This may either take the form of initiatives to develop employment partnership and social dialogue on the local government level or through the participation in councils, round tables and working groups which seek to achieve coordination between different government levels and different interest groups (social partners etc.).

Development of employment partnership and social dialogue on the local government level is a key element of the capacity-building efforts for Latvian local governments and the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments. The German Länder and municipalities have agreed on an initiative of the Federal Government to raise the number of places at childcare facilities and day-care facilities for children under the age of three nationwide to 750 000 by 2013. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions participates in the Council for Integration in Working Life, which was formed by the social partners to support further work on integration in working life. The Grenelle de l'Insertion Round Table was established in France to combat poverty and exclusion. In May 2008 it produced a roadmap with thirteen action principles and twelve priority projects, designed to modernise existing integration mechanisms.

5.4.4 Role of LRAs in Priority 4

Local and regional authorities work in closest coordination with the federal government for the promotion programmes for energy efficiency in buildings. This coordination may be characterised by investment pacts between the federal and the regional and local levels, where municipalities finally implement projects involving the redevelopment of energy systems in buildings that will reduce costs in the long term.

A package of measures has been successfully employed in Austria, at both Länder and federal levels, to boost the use of renewable energies. German promotion programmes for energy efficiency in buildings were supplemented by an investment pact between the Federal Government, the Federal Länder and the municipalities in 2008. The Flanders region in Belgium has already implemented 97% of the projects foreseen in its 2006-2012 Climate Plan. The Brussels Region has introduced a certificate for energy performance for new and significantly refurbished buildings. The Belgian local authorities are also developing and implementing their Local Agenda 21 programmes.

Local and regional authorities are taking a leading role in the field of strategic planning and coordination in relation to the issue of energy and waste

management. They define the measures for governance of the energy system; and they issue regulations for energy certification of buildings and guidelines for the technical planning of the plants and systems for the production, distribution and use of the energy, they develop technical documents for waste management.

The Italian Regions and the Autonomous Provinces exercise strategic planning and coordination in relation to the issue of energy, defining energy system governance measures and building energy certification regulations. The Czech Union of Towns and Municipalities together with the Association of Czech Republic Regions has developed a technical document “Strategy for the Development of Waste Management in municipalities and Towns of the Czech Republic”.

Local authorities are particularly active in actions to raise environmental awareness, to promote participatory local actions (e.g. Local Agenda 21) and to realise actions in the field of environment and sustainable modes of transport.

Belgian local authorities are developing and implementing their Local Agenda 21 programmes. 14 projects with a total budget of €575 000 were approved in 2008. Low income households can an interest-free social and ecological loan to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings. In Cyprus activities promoting more sustainable modes of transport are organised by the local authorities with the support and funding of the Environment Service. In Greece a co-operation protocol with the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities (KEDKE) and the Ministry of Development was signed in order to pursue a programme addressed to Local Authorities (OTA) and citizens for developing actions to increase energy efficiency.

Local and regional authorities play a leading role in trans-sectoral coordination bodies in the field of energy. In such extended models of partnership between the State and local authorities, as well as concessionary companies, long-term planning for meeting climate challenges is the main focus.

In Denmark a Knowledge Centre for Climate Adaptation has been established under the Danish Energy Agency. A coordinating body for research into climate adaptation will be established at the National Environmental Research Institute of Denmark/University of Aarhus. The Portuguese Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage 2007-2013 (PEAASAR II) proposes an extended model of partnership between the State and local authority groupings.

Sweden’s municipalities are playing a leading role in the implementation of the national climate policy for sustainable development. Over 20% of them participate in the “Sustainable municipalities” programme.

5.5 Cooperation between different government levels during the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy

While the cooperation between different government levels is often claimed in the 27 National Progress Reports, we have analysed a sample of sections, which effectively deal with LRA involvement. The validity of these findings depend on the quality of the respective reports: The reports were usually written by Member State authorities, thus giving a major emphasis to national actions rather than regional and local ones. Besides this, also within the reported examples, it was not always easy to detect which administrative levels were effectively involved in the implementation.

The total sample included in this analysis comprises 436 sections on relevant LRA activities deriving from the National Progress Reports 2008. Within these examples different administrative levels were involved. Countries with particularly many examples are Belgium (47), Italy (41) Portugal (34) and the Netherlands (33). But also Cyprus, Finland, and Denmark had more than 20 examples each to analyse. The countries with the fewest examples of activities with explicit LRA mention are Slovakia (5), Estonia (4) and Luxembourg (4). For these last mentioned countries, the findings may be of limited validity, as the sample was not sufficiently large. However, for the overall majority of countries, the National Progress Reports 2008 provided sufficient exploitable information on LRA's Lisbon related-activities.

Figure 2 is based on the analysis of the total of identified sections in the 27 National Progress Reports 2008, which deal with Lisbon-related activities and which pay attention to the involvement of local and regional authorities. Within these examples (covering all 4 policy priorities as well as the general governance of the Lisbon Programme), the administrative levels are involved to a various extent.

Interestingly, the size of the country does not directly correspond to the sum of mentioned LRA contributions. Big countries like France, Spain, Poland, the United Kingdom do not necessarily report the majority of LRA contributions to the Lisbon Priorities. This may either be caused by the fact that big countries tend to neglect LRA contributions in their reporting, putting their national contributions in the centre, or by the fact that in small countries, LRAs' contributions dominate the implementation of Lisbon related activities to a higher degree.

Regional authorities are more dominant in the implementation of LRA activities in Belgium, Italy, Germany and Lithuania, while federal State authorities were most dominant in Estonia and Slovakia, followed by Bulgaria and Slovenia.

Most activities with local authorities mentioned were reported from the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the UK.

Figure 3 shows the number of reported horizontal and vertical cooperation experiences with LRA involvement in relation to the delivery of the Lisbon priorities.

Horizontal cooperation (between different ministries, but also with different stakeholders) has been most prominently mentioned in Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Most LRA examples with vertical coordination between different administrative levels, has been reported for the Netherlands, Germany and Austria.

Overall, the Netherlands and Belgium have reported on most horizontal and vertical coordination of Lisbon-related policies with LRA involvement.

Figure 2. Mention of involved administrative levels in relevant LRA sections of the NRP 2008

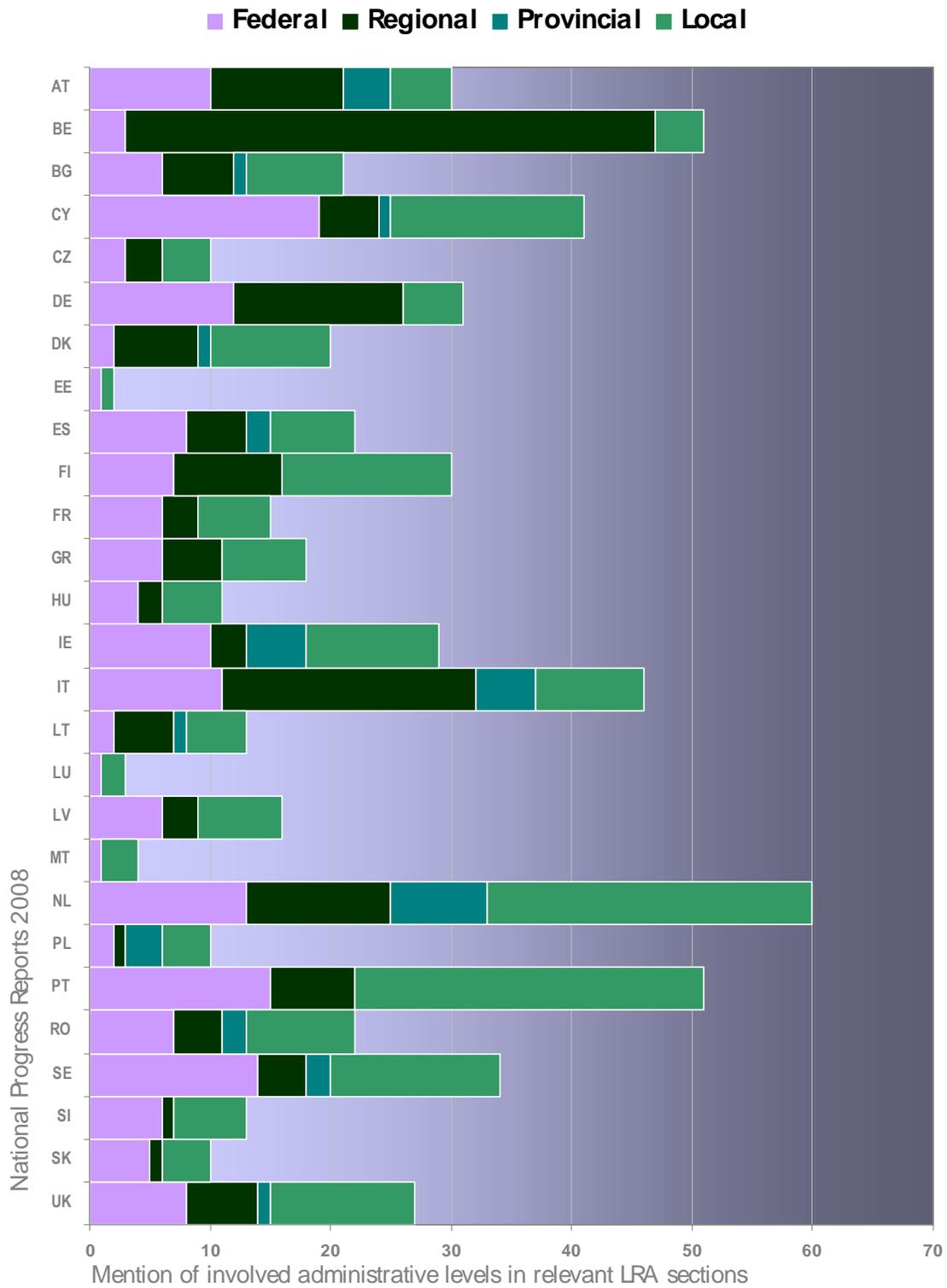
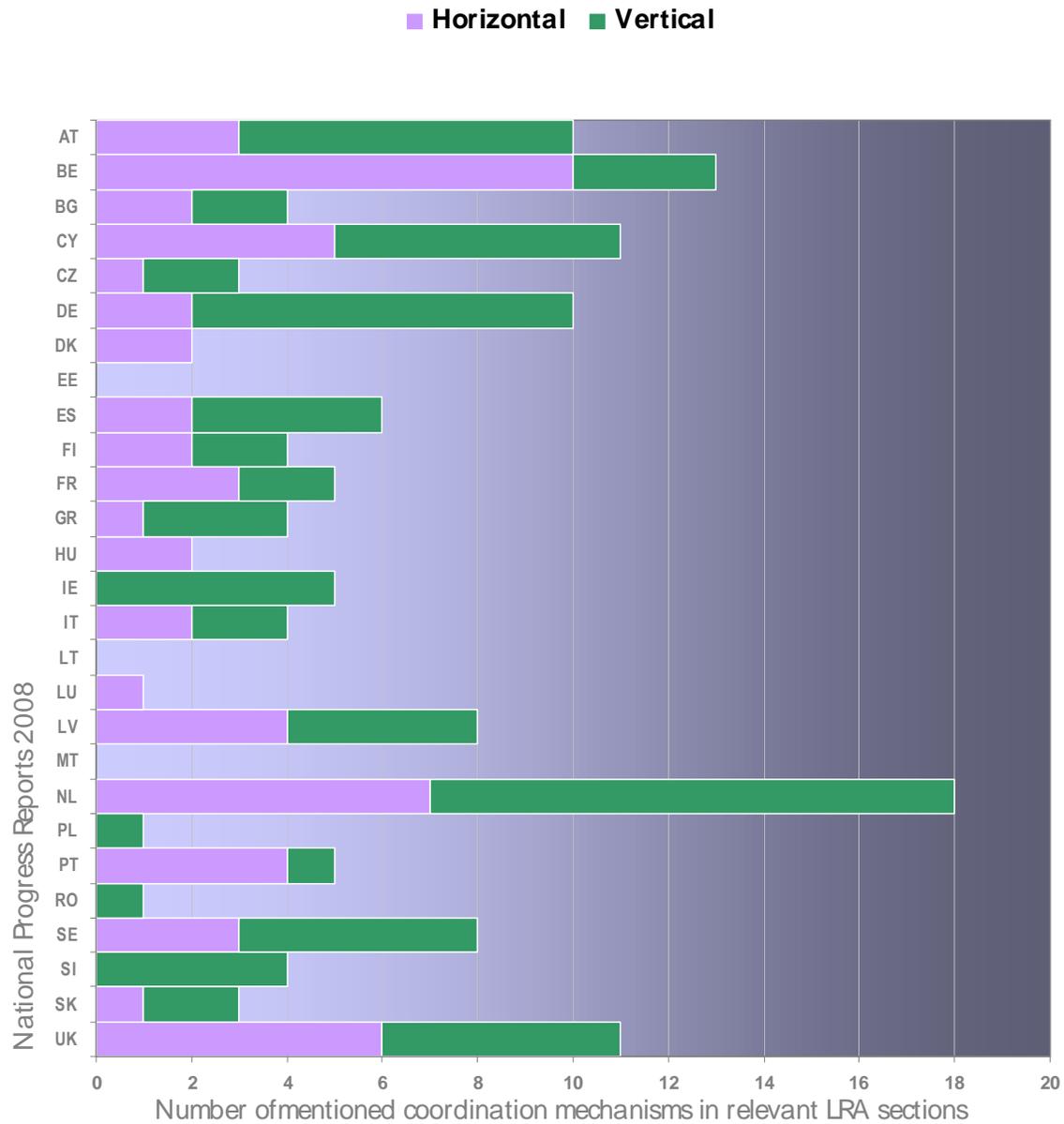


Figure 3. Horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms reported in relevant LRA sections



6 Conclusions

The following conclusions are drawn from the research work and concentrate on the adequateness of the National Progress Reports, the different roles of LRAs in Lisbon-related activities and to the acknowledged cooperation between different government levels.

The quality of the National Progress Reports 2008 with respect to the information provided on LRA activities

Is the role of local and regional authorities acknowledged on a systematic basis?

Overall all National Progress Reports 2008 do take into account the role that local and regional authorities play in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy. Some reports have specific sub-chapters dealing with local or regional contributions (e.g. Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Sweden), while the majority of reports consider local and regional contributions throughout the report in a more or less structured manner. The Belgian progress report is the most interesting example of good practice for a structured report, where each region's contribution is acknowledged in a separate chapter. Also its annex-overview on the most important actions and the table on the division of powers could serve as a model.

Case studies were used in several reports to illustrate the form of involvement of local and regional actors. A good practice for the use of local case studies was the report from the Netherlands, where under each sub-chapter text boxes provide well-described examples as to how local actors have been involved in a Lisbon related action. The Italian progress report offers an example of good practice in terms of demonstrating the contributions of regional authorities.

Is the information given on LRAs adequate?

In quantitative terms the extent of the LRA acknowledgement varies considerably. At the top end of the table there are between 47 and 35 relevant sections which substantially deal with the role of local and regional authorities. This is the case in the progress reports from Belgium, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Finland and Denmark. In the middle there are country reports with between 19 and 10 relevant LRA sections: Sweden, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Spain. Countries whose national progress report contains the fewest relevant elements of information acknowledging the contribution of local and regional authorities were Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Luxembourg, and Malta with values ranging from three to nine relevant examples.

Interestingly, even in countries with a low number of relevant LRA sections, sometimes the pure “mention” of the local and regional level can be very high. This results in a “qualitative reporting gap”, where local, provincial and regional level are often mentioned in terms of analysis, problems, and issues without giving sufficient information on the contribution of these levels to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy. In this context the most common “qualitative” reporting problems concern the following:

- actions at local or regional (territorial) level are described, whereas it is not mentioned which authority is taking the action (whether the federal, regional or provincial public authority, a private company, a university etc.).
- actions are mentioned (e.g. promotion of..., collaboration between...) but the actual “instrument” (funding scheme, Operational Programme, round table etc.) is not mentioned.
- actions are mentioned, without clarification of who is funding the action and when it will be implemented.

Is cooperation between different levels of government highlighted in a proper manner?

The cooperation between different levels of government is extensively highlighted in various reports but rarely described in an adequate manner. As most reports are written from a strong Member State perspective, the formulation that an action has been implemented “in cooperation with regions and municipalities” remains open to multiple interpretations. The description of what “collaboration” means in practice and which instruments (e.g. meetings, round tables etc.) were used to make this cooperation operational are usually missing. In such cases it has not been possible to assess how active or passive the role of the respective LRA has been during implementation.

The degree of involvement of LRAs as shown in the National Progress Reports 2008

How have LRAs contributed to the drafting of the National Reform Programmes and/or National Progress Reports 2008?

Local and regional authorities took part in the drafting of the National Reform Programmes and Progress Reports 2008 to differing degrees: In some countries specific structures have been set up to guarantee vertical and horizontal coordination between the different administrative levels (e.g. liaison office in Austria; National Advisory committee in Cyprus, Standing Lisbon Committee in Greece etc.) other countries have made use of various consultation mechanisms

(a seminar and a web-based consultation in the UK; consultation under the social partnership framework in Ireland, etc.).

In some countries there are indications of an even stronger future involvement of LRAs: the coordination of the Regional Reform Programmes of the Autonomous Communities in Spain; in Italy the Government and the Regions' intention to intensify cooperation in order to amplify the relevance of the regional contributions, in the perspective of better highlighting those regional initiatives.

An example of the bottom-up drafting of the National Reform Programme is to be found in the Netherlands in a very interactive and concrete way. Local authorities provided input in the form of actions that contribute to the Lisbon Strategy. These actions were used to illustrate the National Progress Report. Additionally social partners compiled their own document for the Lisbon Strategy. Next year, the local authorities plan to compile their own document.

To what extent have LRAs been active in the four policy priorities of the Lisbon Strategy?

The National Progress Reports 2008 show various activities of local and regional authorities across all of the four policy priorities set by the 2008 Spring European Council to push forward the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs.

The strongest activity of local and regional authorities in 2008 has been reported for Policy Priority 3 - Investing in people and modernising labour markets. This priority shows very strong LRA involvement across all thematic sub-areas: 'social dimension, 'high quality of education' 'demographic change' and 'labour market'. Policy Priority 2 - Unlocking business potential, especially of SMEs – is the second most important Lisbon Priority in terms of LRA involvement. A particularly high number of activities has been reported under the heading of 'Better regulation'. Policy Priority 1 - Investing in knowledge and innovation as well as Policy Priority 4 - Climate Change and Energy - show constantly high values of LRA involvement.

Which thematic areas have been dominated by LRA activities?

Within all four priorities, the thematic areas which have achieved the highest absolute number of activities of local and regional authorities in 2008, are 'activities concerning the Social dimension' (within Priority 3), followed by activities in 'Better regulation' (within Priority 2) and 'High quality of education' (again within Priority 3).

The lowest number of activities of local and regional authorities was reported in the area of the external dimension of the Lisbon Strategy (within Priority 2) and in the area of Energy Policy for Europe (within Priority 4).

The role of LRAs as acknowledged in the National Progress Reports 2008

Based on the LRA activities described, several distinct LRA roles could be identified.

Local and regional authorities in the role of ‘facilitators’

Local authorities provide the technical preconditions for free movement of knowledge, thus contributing significantly to the realisation of the fifth freedom.

Local authorities take significant steps in providing e-infrastructure for the benefit of citizens, entrepreneurs and research.

Local and regional authorities contribute considerably to implementation of the principles of “Better Regulation” by participating in screening exercises, in order to facilitate legislation, or by the introduction of new governance mechanisms and the definition of guidelines in order to favour greater uniformity between laws at state and regional level. Numerous local initiatives are realising the one-stop-shop principle, thus increasing the quality of public services.

Local and regional authorities actively engage in creating an attractive business environment by assessing the quality of the local business services, by interlinking with relevant players at different administrative levels and by promoting the topic of entrepreneurship to young people in education.

Local and regional authorities, either on their own initiative or in collaboration with central government, streamline and facilitate business support and actively engage in agencies and advisory boards, which aim to improve the conditions for businesses on their territories.

Local and regional authorities in the role of ‘promoters and awareness-raisers’

Local and regional authorities work in the closest coordination with national governments to promote programmes for energy efficiency in buildings. This coordination can be characterised by investment pacts between the national, regional, and local levels, where municipalities ultimately implement projects involving the redevelopment of energy systems in buildings to reduce costs in the long term.

Local authorities are particularly active in environmental awareness-raising actions to promote model actions in the field of environment and sustainable modes of transport.

Local and regional authorities in the role of ‘initiators’

Local authorities frequently take the initiative in innovation. In that context, they sometimes work independently, but often cooperate with other administrative levels. Local authorities significantly stimulate collaboration between research and business.

In federal states regional authorities have the discretionary power to develop, prepare and implement extensive strategies in the field of research and innovation. These regional innovation strategies may be strongly coordinated or can show considerable variation in objectives and the use of instruments.

Local authorities can streamline subsidies in the field of research and thus facilitate access to finance. This may either be done on their own initiative or by participating in regional or national programmes.

In the field of education regional authorities (particularly in the federal countries) have started several qualifications initiatives to start new school concepts, to improve personal and employment prospects for young people, migrants and the elderly. Regional authorities have further been involved in the development of micro-regional action plans in the field of education, regional employment pacts, and in the implementation of the lifelong learning strategy.

Local and regional authorities in the role of ‘coordinators in a multilevel governance context’

Regions agree with the federal level, the introduction of measures in the field of research, development and innovation and are preparing extensive strategies. Regions either engage on a more strategic level (regional research strategy, action plan) or even proactively develop territories intended for investment (e.g. industrial parks in Latvia.)

Local authorities have a strong role in the creation of partnerships with NGOs to provide care programmes for children, the elderly, the disabled and other dependents. Furthermore initiatives that enhance the participation level of young people and migrants in education are tackled at local level. Local authorities work either independently in that field or in collaboration with other agencies or administrative bodies. Such measures may also take a territorial approach, test different methods of partnership working, and provide local control over resources to promote employment in a way that matches local needs.

In the field of employment and social integration local and regional authorities actively engage in activities with a strong multi-level-governance aspect. This may either take form of initiatives which seek to develop employment partnership and social dialogue on the local government level or through the participation in councils, round tables and working groups which seek to achieve coordination between different government levels and different interest groups (social partners etc.).

Local and regional authorities play a leading role in cross-cutting coordination bodies in the field of energy. In such extended models of partnership between the State and local authorities, as well as concessionary companies, long-term planning for meeting the climate challenges is the main focus.

Local and regional authorities take a leading role in the field of strategic planning and coordination in relation to the issue of energy and waste management. They define the measures for governance of the energy system, they issue regulations for energy certification of buildings and guidelines for the technical planning of the plants and systems for the production, distribution and use of the energy, and they develop technical documents for waste management.

7 List of information sources

The analysed documents comprise the National Progress Reports 2008 (included in the updated National Reform Programmes 2008-2010 and where available the Action Plans. (http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/national-dimension/member-states-2008-2010-reports/index_en.htm))

Country	Doc	Title	Link	L.	Page
Austria	NRP	Second Austrian Reform Programme for Growth and Jobs 2008 - 2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/Ubersetzung_2_%20NRP_2008-2010_final_EN.pdf	EN	47
Belgium	NRP	Programme National De Réforme 2008-2010 Belgique	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/NRP_2008_FR.pdf	FR	142
Bulgaria	NRP	National Reform Programme (2008 – 2010)	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/NRP_2008_en.pdf	EN	28
Bulgaria	Action Plan	Action Plan to the National Reform Programme of Republic of Bulgaria (2008 – 2010)	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/AP_NRP_2008_en.pdf	EN	37
Cyprus	NRP	Lisbon Strategy Renewed National Reform Programme of the Republic Of Cyprus	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/RENEWED%20%20NRP%202008-2010%20Draft%20GSC%20%20%2023%2010%2008.pdf	EN	174
Czech Republic	NRP	National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic 2008 - 2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/National%20Reform%20Programme%20of%20the%20Czech%20Republic%202008%20-%202010.pdf	EN	85
Denmark	NRP	Denmark's National Reform Programme Strategy) Denmark's Contribution to the EU's Growth and Employment	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/Denmark's%20National%20Reform%20Programme.pdf	EN	117

Country	Doc	Title	Link	L.	Page
Estonia	NRP	Action Plan for Growth and Jobs 2008 – 2011 for the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/2008%2010%2009%20Estonian%20Action%20Plan%202008-2011_EN_final.pdf	EN	115
Finland	NRP	The Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/FI_Lisbon_en.pdf	EN	117
France	NRP	France National Reform Programme 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/2008%2010%2009%20Estonian%20Action%20Plan%202008-2011_EN_final.pdf	EN	75
Germany	NRP	Germany's National Reform Programme 2008 – 2010 Building on Success – Continuing with the Reforms for More Growth and Jobs	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/National%20Reform%20Programme_Germany_2008-2010.pdf	EN	76
Greece	NRP	National Reform Programme for Growth and Jobs 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/HELLAS_NRP%202008_EN.pdf	EN	88
Hungary	Action Plan	National Action Programme for Growth and Employment – 2008-2010 Compiled for the European Union Lisbon Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/NAP_final-20081117.pdf	EN	169
Ireland	NRP	Lisbon Agenda Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs Ireland National Reform Programme 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/Ireland%20NRP%202008-10%20FINAL.pdf	EN	97
Italy	NRP	Lisbon Strategy For Growth and Jobs National Reform Programme 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/PNR_IT_EN_202008.pdf	EN	137
Latvia	NRP	Report on Progress in Implementation of the National Lisbon Programme of Latvia	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/LV_Report_on_NLPL_Oct%202008.pdf	EN	137

Country	Doc	Title	Link	L.	Page
Lithuania	NRP	National Lisbon Strategy Implementation Programme for 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/27-10-2008_NRP_Lithuania_EN.pdf	EN	67
Luxembourg	NRP	Plan National Pour L'innovation Et Le Plein Emploi Programme National de réforme du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg dans le cadre de la stratégie de Lisbonne	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/08%2010%2017%20PNR%20Rapport%20Lisbonne%2008%20VF.pdf	FR	67
Malta	NRP	Malta's National Reform Programme 2008-2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/final301008.pdf	EN	101
The Netherlands	NRP	National Reform Programme for the Netherlands 2008 – 2010 In the context of the Lisbon Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/NRP2008%20The%20Netherlands.pdf	EN	76
Poland	NRP	National Reform Programme for 2008-2011 to implement the Lisbon Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/PL_NRP_2008-2011.pdf	EN	54
Portugal	NRP	Lisbon Strategy National Plan of Reforms (PNR) PORTUGAL Cabinet of the National Coordinator of the Lisbon Strategy and the Technological Plan Report on the implementation of the PNACE 2005□2008 PNR – New Cycle 2008□2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/NRP_Report__2008_Portugal.pdf	EN	343
Romania	NRP	National Reform Programme Implementation Report	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/IR_NRP_2008_RO_final_EN.pdf	EN	160

Country	Doc	Title	Link	L.	Page
Romania	Action Plan	Action plan – Additional measures taken by Romania in 2008 – 2009 in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs annex to NRP	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/plan_actiune_2008_aprobat_en.pdf	EN	15
Slovakia	NRP	National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic For 2008 – 2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/National%20Reform%20Programme%20SR%202008-2010_EN.pdf	EN	46
Slovenia	NRP	Reform Programme for Achieving the Lisbon Strategy Goals 2008	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/SI-NRP2008-en.pdf	EN	130
Spain	NRP	Spain National Reform Programme 2008 Progress Report	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/PROGRAMA_NACIONAL_REFORMAS_2008_INGLES.pdf	EN	225
Sweden	NRP	The Swedish Reform Programme for Growth and Jobs 2008/2010	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/The%20Swedish%20Reform%20Programme%20for%20Growth%20and%20Jobs%202008%20to%202010.pdf	EN	128
United Kingdom	NRP	Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth: UK National Reform Programme	http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/member-states-2008-2010-reports/UK%20NRP%202008.pdf	EN	44