



# Regional Politics in Thuringen



**Brussels, May 3, 2005**



# Content

- ★ **Free State Thuringen**
- ★ **Socio - economic situation in Thuringen**
- ★ **Focal points of promotion**
- ★ **Link to INTERREG**
- ★ **Role of Ministry**
- ★ **Future**



# Population, Position and Area

- population in 2002: 2,4 million
- area: 16.171 sqkm
- proportion on the total area of Germany: 4,5%
- state without national borders



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# Socio-economic situation

**Socio - economic situation has not much changed since 1996.**

- Convergence makes hardly any progress.

GDP per capita for 2000 - 2002; **EU-25 = 73,1**

- Unemployment is still very high.



# Problems

- **infrastructure**
- **capital equipment of the companies**
- **proportion of small companies is very high**
- **migration**



# Success

- **high investments in the infrastructure since 1991**  
roads, streets  
telecommunications  
environment  
real estate
- **technology triangle**  
Erfurt - Jena - Ilmenau
- **high growth rates in the processing industry**  
optical industries, automotive, biotechnology, food  
industry



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# Regional policy

- improvement of infrastructure
- promotion of investment activities
- promotion of research and development
- Strengthening of tourism
- Labour policy that promotes employment and supports qualification

Operational Programme of the Free State of Thuringen for  
the use of Structural Funds 2000 - 2006



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## Link to INTERREG III C

- General framework for interregional cooperation and promotion of exchanges of experience and best practice
- improve European and national policies for the welfare

way to achieve it:

- to exploit the experiences collected with different policy instruments and project approaches
- to use contacts to cooperate in future
- to improve knowledge about each other



## Link to INTERREG III C

Concrete project:

- MetaStoRe - Metadata Storage and Retrieval, a joint project with German and Norwegian partners



## Link to INTERREG III C

- We learn from each other!
- Better understanding, common benefits for all
- People who are working together get an idea about the affluence, the variety and also about different aspects of international cooperation
- Idea of a common Europe
- Condition for any success in the competitive global market



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## Role of Ministry

- Coherent approach of regional policy and interregional programmes and projects
- Implementation of new results, taking into account the experiences in the field of regional policy
- Development of new partnerships
- Use the contacts in the field of acquisition



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# Future

## Position of the German „Länder“

- new objective „Territorial Co-operation“ is appreciated
- Commission's proposal to promote transnational co-operation also at inner borders is supported
- interregional co-operation should also be eligible under this objective
- simplification of administration is essential



Thank you very much for your attention.

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