II. Activity Report

This activity report is used to inform about the operation's implementation in general, the progress towards the set objectives and of project parts financed from other funding sources as well as publicities measures and problems encountered.

1. Summary of the operation's activities so far

Please provide a brief overall summary of the operation's activities and achievements from the start of the operation till now. Information shall be provided on the main activities, achieved results and produced outputs, as well as on the development of the partnership. It is advised that this field is filled in after the rest of the Progress Report has been completed.

Note that this summary information will be published at the Programme's website. Thus it should be easy readable, self-explenatory and without references to other parts of the reporting form or other documents.

(maximum 1000+1000+1000 characters)

From Jul – Nov 04. The EdGATE operation was approved at the INTERREG IIIC Third Call "under conditions". Much time and work was put into adapting the Application Form, which was re-submitted on 30 Sep. Final approval was given on 5 Nov 04. Outputs: Parallel to the adaptation of the AF, preliminary steps were taken to implement the operation e.g. work on the first draft of the Operation Manual (OM) began, describing the necessary organisational, infrastructural, logistical, financial and information and publicity measures. The aim of the OM is not only to give the EdGATE partners a handbook for the implementation of the operation but also to offer practical guidelines for other European institutions who might want to engage in the future in interregional cooperation in the context of INTERREG IIIC or similar future structural programme operations (the final version of the OM in the language of the partners will be available on the EdGATE Homepage). Also work was carried out on

preparing the first Steering Committee meeting. Information and Publicity Measures: during this period all the partners informed their regional development authorities about the operation.

In Dec 04. The first two-day Steering Committee meeting was held on 6-7 Dec 04 in Vienna. Output: As scheduled, the Steering Committee consisting of one Partner Representative (PR) per partner institution was set up. The focus of the SC meeting was focussed on the operation's content as well as financial reporting. In this context, the Partner Representatives and partner Financial Managers were invited to the meeting. Information and Publicity Measures: discussions were held with the European Schools SCHOLA EUROPAEA authorities regarding the implementation of the European Regional College (Component 4); the operation website was secured www.edgate.eu.com and work was started on the homepage; a Press Conference to launch EdGATE took place in Vienna on Wed. 15 Dec and the operation was also publicised

in other partner regions e.g. Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. From the Lead Partner's point of view, the EdGATE operation was widely represented in the print media (3 press releases in the Vienna's web-service (www.wien.gv.at). 1 article in the "ZV Zeitung"; 1 article in the "Wiener Bezirkszeitung" (13/2004); 1 APA press release APA 0296 5 AI 0196 II/XI from 15 Dec. 04). Information about the operation was also disseminated in four radio broadcasts mainly throughout Vienna and parts of Lower Austria ("Radio Arabella" / "Radio 88,6" - News" / "Radio Antenne – News" / "Radio Orange / ZIP FM – News").