



**Benefits**

The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation will create a synergy between projects that allows:

- Capacity building by regional and local organisations to improve their ability to address maritime safety issues;
- Identification of similar maritime safety issues, problems in approach and gaps in the knowledge base;
- Development of joint working approaches to problem solving;
- Integration of maritime safety with coastal zone management and sea area/ ocean spatial planning;

- Enlargement of a joint knowledge base to close information gaps in individual projects;
- Provision of a network of maritime safety professional contacts;
- Assistance in the development of future funding opportunities;
- Promotion of a single pragmatic voice to speak at the European and International level on maritime safety issues, and;
- Guidance for future Programme development with respect to maritime issues.



# Organisation Structure

The Operation is based at the Interreg III B North Sea Programme Secretariat, and is jointly funded by other Interreg Programmes to actively link the development of maritime safety projects.

- The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation will cover the following activities:
- facilitating project-to-project cooperation;
  - liaising and networking with relevant European and international organisations;
  - facilitating project development by identifying gaps and needs;
  - identifying and preparing major initiatives for the future programming period (2007-2013), and;
  - providing joint publicity and dissemination, including a gateway website.

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Safety at Sea Partnership

The Umbrella Operation will prepare major initiatives for the future Interreg Programme period after 2008.

**Further information**

The Co-ordinator for the operation is based at the North Sea Programme Secretariat in Viborg, Denmark. For further information please contact:

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**“Co-operating to create, maintain and implement a safer maritime environment”**

**Background**

Maritime Safety is recognised as an important global issue. Recent accidents have affected the communities, economies and environmental assets of many regions in different countries simultaneously. Regional and local organisations and authorities are acquiring expertise and developing projects under the Interreg Programme to aid their preparedness.

The Interreg Programme deals from a European perspective with regional development, by encouraging and funding transnational co-operation between authorities, institutions and

other organisations within the European Union and partner countries. There are altogether 13 Interreg IIIB Programmes covering the different regions of the European Union, surrounding nations and overseas territories.

The development of the Interreg maritime safety projects demonstrates the aspirations of regional and local organisations and authorities to work together with national bodies to provide improved capacity to identify and deal with maritime safety issues. These projects augment the well-established national and multinational initiatives.



**Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation**



Given the importance of maritime safety to coastal regions, a number of Interreg IIIB Programmes have been brought together under the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation. The Operation provides a 'transprogramme' enhancement which links and focuses the work of the Interreg maritime safety and related projects. It is the intention of the Umbrella Operation to actively seek links with initiatives being undertaken by regional groups, competent national authorities and international organisations.

Collectively, the Interreg Projects represent a strong force for developing a regional basis to address maritime safety. The suite of Interreg projects include activities that seek to save human life, ensure the safety of ships and cargo, protect the marine environment and safeguard the maritime economic and social assets communities depend upon. The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation is developed under three general themes: Preparedness & Response; Risk Management & Prevention; and Integration with the wider topics of coastal zone management, sea area spatial planning and ocean policy.



**Maritime Safety Themes**

**1. Risk Management and Prevention**

- Avoiding activities which may cause disaster
- Identifying risks and hazards
- Safe management of maritime activities
- Tools for prevention
- Training and education

**2. Preparedness and Response**

- Meeting the challenge of a maritime incident
- Management structures
- Search and rescue
- Protecting social, economic and environmental assets
- Contingency plans
- Training of responders

**3. Integration**

- Bringing stakeholders together
- Promotion of dialogue
- Communication of information
- Linking policies and plans

