



6 NEW MAIN PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE INTERREG IIIB NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

The Steering Committee met in Copenhagen on Friday 13 December 2002 to discuss and consider the project applications submitted by projects from the seven participating countries in the Northern Periphery Programme area. Of the 8 projects considered in the meeting, 6 were approved, one asked to re-submit and one rejected.

The approved projects are:

External Timber Cladding in Maritime Conditions –(02/02/25)

Measure: 2.1

Project target area: Scottish Highlands & Islands, Nord Trøndelag in Norway and the Faroe Islands.

Award: 511,423 EUR

Lead Partner: The Highland Council, Scotland

Project description: The project will develop new knowledge and share best practice in the design, construction and maintenance of external timber cladding in the north and west of Scotland, western Norway, and the Faroes.

Contact: Project Coordinator Mr Gordon Summers, phone +44 (0)1463 702508, e-mail: Gordon.summers@highland.gov.uk

Destination Viking: Saga Lands (02/02/26)

Measure: 2.1

Project target area: Whole Northern Periphery Area

Award: 545.000 EUR

Lead Partner: Institute of Regional Development in Iceland

Project description: Sagas and storytelling are unique cultural features of the Northern Periphery. A major element in the project is the establishment of a number of Saga Trails. The project also aims at reviving the tradition of saga and storytelling and also to make the information and events from the sagas and stories visible and accessible to a general public out in the cultural landscape.

Contact: Project coordinator Mr. Rögnvaldur Guðmundsson Phone +354 455 5400, e-mail: rff@rff.is

Project for Female Leaders - PROFILE (02/02/23)

Measure: 2.2

Project target area: Sweden, Finland, Faroe Islands and Russia

Award: 235 642 EUR

Lead Partner: Arctic Region Foundation for Vocational Training, Sweden

Project description: The project aims at creating a network for female leaders from companies, organisations and authorities in the area of Northern Periphery and North West Russia. The project will strengthen female leaders in their work situation by promoting new patterns of leadership, better use of networks, handling diversity and training in a collaborative and communicative culture.

Contact: Project coordinator Ms Ritva Lind, phone +46 923 77286, e-mail: ritva.lind@telia.com

Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism (02/02/20)

Measure: 2.1

Project target area: Northern Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland with a chance to join the project at later stage, USA (Alaska) and Canada (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut).

Award: 488 533 EUR

Lead Partner: Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic, Finland

Project description: The project's goal is to create resources, tools, and incentives that can be used directly by tourism SMEs or local players in rural/tourism development as well as professional training to assist the tourism sector in their respective area.

Contact: Project coordinator Ms Anu Pruikkonen, phone +358 400 690 966 E-mail: anu.pruikkonen@tokem.fi

Developing Rural Women's Entrepreneurship (02/02/21)

Measure: 2.1

Project target area: Kainuu in Finland, Gävleborg in Sweden, Highlands and Islands in Scotland, Norðvesturkjördæmi (North west region) and Norðausturkjördæmi (North east region) in Iceland

Award: 587 339 EUR

Lead Partner: Rural Advisory Centre Kainuu, Finland

Project description: The aim of the project is to focus on the development of inhabitants and entrepreneurs in rural areas, especially women's small-scale entrepreneurs and tourism businesses in Northern Peripheral areas. The main point in this transnational project is to sustain the local economy and create employment possibilities for rural entrepreneurs in nature and tourism business, and related areas, by promoting female entrepreneurship and providing support for the establishment of local business.

Contact: Project Co-ordinator Ms. Minna Komulainen, phone +358 8 61987209 or +358 40 5729062, e-mail: minna.komulainen@maaseutokeskus.fi

Structure for Commercialisation of Rural Innovation (02/02/19)

Measure: 2.2

Project target area: Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Pudasjärvi and Taivalkoski Municipalities of Northern Finland, Nordland area of Norway, Northern Sweden.

Award: 495 075 EUR

Lead Partner: Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland

Project description: The project aims to exchange skills and experience between research institutions, academia and the public and private sectors in order to create a more dynamic use of the skills, which are used for the sustainable exploitation of innovative ideas. The project will create a pool of relevant opportunities and through spinout activity will demonstrate, by creating new businesses, a sustainable approach to the creation and support of new and developing rural companies.

Contact: Project coordinator Mr Ken Abraham, phone +44 (0)7770 827275, e-mail: ken@pict.org.uk

For more information on approved projects, please see the following link: <http://www.northernperiphery.net/cp/frameset.html> under the heading **Main projects**.



CURRENT COMMITMENTS INTERREG III B NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

After the 3rd round of applications 26 projects have been approved, of which 13 are main projects, 12 Preparatory projects and 1 micro project.

The majority of projects were approved under Priority 2: *Strengthen sustainable economic development* (i.e. 14 projects) and most popular is measure 2.1 Sustainable use of nature and natural resources (i.e. 10 projects).

Even though most projects are approved under priority 2, most funding is committed in priority 1: *Communications* where over 32% of the NPP funding is committed (56,5% of the Non-Member State funding and 23,8% of the ERDF funding).

In total, 25% of the NPP funding is committed, with close to 23% of the ERDF funding and 32% of the Non-Member state funding.

MICRO & PREPARATORY PROJECTS

The Micro & Preparatory project facility aims at assisting project partners to find partners, set up more complex partnerships and develop main project proposals.

So far 13 projects have been granted micro and preparatory project funding. These projects have been developed under the various measures of the programme, although half of the projects are to be found under Priority 2 Strengthen Sustainable Economic Development.

Funding committed to Micro & Preparatory projects equals 70% of the budget.

For more information on projects, please see the following link:
<http://www.northernperiphery.net/cp/frameeset.html>

LEAD PARTNER/ PROJECT LEADER'S SEMINARS

Approved projects were invited to attend a Lead Partner seminar in Inverness, 8 November 2002. The seminar was held, with the aim of assisting the project managers to get started with their projects and their administration. Issues covered were partnership agreements, reporting requirements, the accounting system, the role of the project auditor, etc. Project leaders also presented the progress in their respective projects.

Local project management seminars will be held in Sweden 14 February, and in Finland 10 March. These seminars will be held in the local native language and have more or less the same format as the Inverness seminar.

REPORTING PROCEDURES UNDER REVISION

At the Programme Monitoring Committee meeting in Copenhagen 13 December 2002, the reporting and claim procedures were discussed and debated. Project Leaders have been concerned about the administrative burden of running an Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme project.

A working group for streamlining of the reporting system has been set up. The working group has representatives from the Monitoring Committee, Joint Programme Secretariat, Regional Contact Points and project leaders. The Paying Authority has the role as chairman.

CALENDAR OF NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME EVENTS

If you would like to receive help or information about applying for funds from the Northern Periphery Programme you are welcome to contact the Secretariat or the contact point for your country. (See contact details below)

In addition, there are always events on the calendar which can be attended to gain further insights:

14 February

Project management seminar in Umeå, Sweden

24th February

NORA and NPP will be presented at the University of Akureyri in North East Iceland (Kaspar Lyttthans & Ingunn Bjarnadottir)

6th March

Northern Periphery Information Seminar, Council Chambers, Stornoway, UK. For further information contact claire.matheson@hient.co.uk

9th March

The NP programme and its potential for rural Iceland will be presented at a conference in Southern Iceland - Kirkjubæjarklaustur (Ingunn Bjarnadottir)

10 March

Project management seminar in Finland

14 March

Deadline for applications

3rd April

*Glasgow, Scotland
Interreg key theme event, focus on funding from various Interreg III B Programmes which cover Scotland and Interreg III C. For further details nearer the event please contact Helen McNeill helen.mcneill@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.*

12-13 June

Monitoring and Steering committee meeting in Central Finland

23-27 June

*Inverness, Scotland
International Rural Network Conference - Taking Charge: rural community empowerment in rural development, rural health and rural education. For further details visit www.takingcharge.co.uk*

15 September

Deadline for applications

October

Partenariat in Northern Norway

27-28 November

Monitoring and Steering committee meeting in Copenhagen



Contact Details: REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS



Finland

Mr. Jouko Jama
Regional Council of Lapland
P.O.Box 8056
FIN-96101 ROVANIEMI

Tele. +358-16-3301-231
Fax: +358-16-318-705
Mobile: +358 400 197 289

email: jouko.jama@lapinliitto.fi
Website: www.lapinliitto.fi



Scotland

Ms. Fiona Reid / Ms. Claire
Matheson
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Cowan House
Inverness Retail & Business Park
INVERNESS
IV2 7GF

Tel. +44 (0) 1463 244252 / +44 1463
244571
Fax +44 (0) 1463 244217
f.reid@hient.co.uk
claire.matheson@hient.co.uk
Website: www.hie.co.uk



Sweden

Bernt Vedin
Kommunförbundet i Västerbotten
Norrländsgatan 13
Box 443, 901 09 UMEÅ

Tel.: +46 (0) 90-16 37 00
Direkttelefon: +46 (0) 90 16 37 17
Fax: +46 (0) 90-16 37 19
E-post: bernt.vedin@ac.komforb.se
Webbplats: www.ac.komforb.se/

UP-DATE: PROGRAMME COMPLEMENT

The Monitoring Committee has agreed on some changes to the Programme Complement compared to the 1st version published on the website. The most relevant changes from the previous Programme Complement are to be found in the section on the programme area, as Iceland is now a full member of the programme. Most of the other changes relate to the formal requirements for the Programme Complement and have no direct relevance for applicants.

The revised Programme Complement can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.northernperiphery.net/document/s/Programme%20Complement/Programme%20Complement.doc>



NEW REGIONAL CONTACT POINT IN ICELAND

As a result of Iceland joining the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme as a full member, a new regional office has opened in Iceland at the Institute of Regional Development. Please find the contact details below:

Ms. Ingunn H. Bjarnadóttir
Institute of Regional Development
- Byggðastofnun
Ártorg 1
550 Sauðárkrúkur
Iceland

Tel: +354 4555400
Fax: +354 4555499
e-mail: ingunn@bygg.is
www.bygg.is/english/

NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME PARTENARIAT

On the 13-14 September 2002 the 4th Northern Periphery Programme Partenariat took place in Keflavik, Iceland. With over 200 participants, it was the biggest Partenariat so far. The aim was to stimulate and develop project ideas and to facilitate partner search.

The Partenariat contained plenary sessions as well as project idea seminars on the priorities and measures of the programme. The partner search seminars were designed for project developers to meet to exchange and develop their ideas further. There was also a drop-in seminar where members of the Secretariat gave advice regarding practical issues relating to the programme.

A summarising report can be downloaded from the website:
<http://www.northernperiphery.net/documents/NPP%204th%20partenariat%20report.doc>

Next Partenariat will be organised in Northern Norway in October – further information will be posted on the website.

PROJECT IDEAS

Currently there are 42 project ideas posted on our website, of these 12 relate to priority 1, 28 to priority 2 and 2 ideas in relation to priority 3.

If you have an idea for a project, but lack partners, please feel free to post your idea on our Partner Search forum of the Northern Periphery Programme website:

<http://www.northernperiphery.net/ps/frameset.html>



Contact Details: REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS



Norway

Eirik Fiva
Landsdelsutvalget
Sjøgata 3, 8002 Bodø

Tel.: +47 75 50 34 20
Fax: +47 75 52 67 25
E-mail: Fiva@lu.no



Greenland & Faroe Islands

Kaspar Lythans
NORA (Nordisk Atlantsamarbejde)
Bryggjubakki 12
Box 259
FO-110 Tórshavn
Faroe Islands

Tel: +298 314028 or direct: +298 317167
Mob: +298 21 41 28
Fax: +298 310459

e-mail: kaspar@nora.fo
Web: www.nora.fo

Did you know...

...that our symbol, the ptarmigan, exists in the regions throughout the Northern Periphery and thereby symbolises our common features in the programme area.

The background illustrates the northern lights (aurora borealis)



MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE INTERREG III B NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

A mid-term evaluation of the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme will be made during 2003. This evaluation will be performed of an independent evaluator and is due to be reported to the Commission by 31 December 2003.

The evaluation will re-assess the relevance and consistency of the strategy of the programme and review the quantified objectives, outputs, results and impacts. The effectiveness and expected socio economic impacts and the financial resources allocation will be evaluated. Also the quality of the joint implementation and monitoring arrangements will be assessed. The evaluator will be providing conclusions and recommendations for future development of the programme. A tendering process is in progress and an independent evaluator will be appointed during the spring.

Homepage up-date:

Discussion forum

The Northern Periphery Programme Forum is available to all visitors to the website to discuss matters relating to the programme.

<http://www.northernperiphery.net/forum/frameset.html>

NEW PROGRAMME MANAGER AT THE JOINT PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

The Programme Manager post in the Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat has become vacant, as Ms. Jenny Pentler is moving on to new challenges.

The recruitment process to find a new project manager is in progress and the selection committee hopes to appoint a new manager by April 2003.

Ms. Pentler would like to thank her colleagues for good co-operation and welcomes the so far unknown new Programme Manager to an interesting and challenging post.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

This is the 1st newsletter of the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme, if you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please e-mail to Christopher Parker - christopher.parker@npp2.net - with the subject NEWSLETTER subscription.