



CONTENT

- Interim Payment Request
- Current programme status
- Recent approvals
- Calendar of events
- Recent NPP events
- Project examples
- Future of NPP

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2nd Interreg IIIB Northern Periphery Programme newsletter. A great deal has happened since the last newsletter was produced and the following pages should give you an overview of some of the latest developments in the programme.

The programme is now well underway and progress is gathering pace, with over half the funds now committed. There have also been some staff and address changes at the Secretariat, as well as a number of events. So it has been a busy period! However, the pressure is still on to meet the N+2 targets.

This newsletter will outline some of the most important developments and provide an overview of where we are now.

We hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and welcome your comments and feedback!

NEW HOME



As most of you are probably aware, the NPP Secretariat moved to a new location in November 2003. We are now housed in the Nordatlantens Brygge along with our North Atlantic friends. The new location offers more space and excellent meeting facilities in a central location. The JPS are happy to meet with project developers at this new facility.

**Northern Periphery Programme
Secretariat
Strandgade 91, 4 sal
DK-1401 Copenhagen K
Denmark**

INTERIM PAYMENT REQUEST – N+2

Recently a request was made to all project leaders to submit an interim payment claim in the middle of November 2004, for all expenditure up until the 31st of October 2004. Some of you may have heard of the so-called N+2 rule, which is one of the most significant rules for programme management, and has brought about this request.

The rule states that money committed to a programme by the European Commission, like the Northern Periphery Programme, needs to be used within two years. Money that is not spent within this period will be decommitted i.e. it will no longer be available for the programme to award to projects.

The Northern Periphery Programme European Regional Development Fund budget for 2002 was 3.6 million Euros, and all this money needs to be spent by the end of 2004. In other words, all member state project partners need to spend and claim money to a total amount of 3.6 million Euros ERDF this year, otherwise the programme risks losing funds.

- This is a crucial year for us at the Northern Periphery Programme. If the projects are able to run at the expected pace, and if some of the under spend from previous years catches up, then we might meet the N+2 target, says Niclas Forsling at the Joint Programme Secretariat in Copenhagen.

To help achieve this, the Joint Programme Secretariat has asked all projects to submit an interim payment claim by the 15th of November 2004. Information on the interim payment claim has been sent to all project leaders.

The Joint Programme Secretariat also urge all project partners to keep up the pace in their projects and, in contact with the JPS, look for possible solutions to increase their spending.

CURRENT PROGRAMME STATUS

A number of changes have taken place this year, in order to create a more flexible and user-friendly programme. During 2004, a new application and decision system was introduced. For this year only, there will be 3 application end dates, and correspondingly there will also be 3 Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) meetings where the final decisions on applications will be made. This lowers the average decision period from 12 weeks to 7 weeks.



Applications submitted before an end date will be assessed at the next decision date. Below are the end and decision dates for 2004:

End Date	Decision Date
----------	---------------

7 th March	24 th April
-----------------------	------------------------

13 th June	11 th September
-----------------------	----------------------------

31 st October	17 th December
--------------------------	---------------------------

The programme has now committed 56 % of funding, which is expected to rise to around 70% following the next PMC meeting. Demand from non-EU member states (Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands) has been especially high and resources are becoming more limited.

As funds become more limited it becomes increasingly important that project developers consult with their local Regional Contact Point and the JPS before submitting an application. This will allow an assessment of funds available, and should avoid disappointment and uncertainty at a later stage.

NEW PROJECTS APPROVALS

4 new main projects were approved at the most recent Programme Monitoring Committee meeting, which was held on the 24th April 2004. This brings the total number of approved main projects to 27. The programme has also approved a total of 37 micro and preparatory projects with approximately 56 % of total funds now committed. Further information on the new approvals can be found on the NPP website under 'Current Projects': www.northernperiphery.net

Preparatory Projects

Preparatory projects have proved to be a very popular and successful tool in project development. These provide seed money to develop a main application. Detailed below are some of the most recently approved preparatory projects. These projects

are still under development, so please feel free to contact the JPS or the project leaders for further information on any of the ideas.

Please remember: The NPP website also has a section where you can post project ideas or search through current project ideas.

Bulding Braodband for Rural Areas – BIRRA

Measure: 1.2

Project area: Northern Finland, Iceland, Scottish Highlands & Islands, Northern Norway, and Northern Sweden

Lead Partner: Kemi Tornio Polytechnic

Project description: The objective of the main project is to make a comparison of strategies and experiences in building telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas. The ultimate goal is to establish a framework of rural community needs for the use of telecommunications infrastructure and services.

Contact: Riitta Alajarvi

Phone: +358 40 596 9334

riitta.alajarvi-kauppi@tokem.fi

Alternative Substances in Feed for Atlantic Cod

Measure: 2.1

Project area: Iceland, Scottish Highlands & Islands, Northern Norway and the Faroe Islands

Lead Partner: Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories

Project description: This preparatory project aims to develop a partnership and main project around the issue of cod farming. There is a rapidly growing interest for cultivation of cod around the Atlantic, but in order to farm all this fish, the correct techniques and feed needs to be developed. It is therefore necessary to develop efficient and sustainable feed and farming techniques, so that good quality cod can be farmed at competitive prices.

Contact: Ms Rannveig Bjornsdottir

Phone: +354 895 2176

rannveig@rf.is

Biofuels

Measure: 2.1

Project area: Northern Norway (Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland, Troms and Finnmark), Iceland and Northern Finland

Lead Partner: Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories

Project description: Special emphasis will be put on finding partners that are interested in biofuels as an innovative way of developing the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of local communities. The main project is expected to result in the establishment of a strong network and locally adapted methods for production and use of biofuels, as a replacement for fossil fuels.

Contact: Helga Gunnlaugsdottir

Phone: +354 530 8617

helgag@rf.is

Snack & Outdoor Food

Measure: 2.1

Project area: Finland, Iceland

Lead Partner: Kainuun Etu Oy

Project description: The project aims to stimulate and support production and provision of quality food based on local/regional products and traditions for the tourist and local market.

Contact: Helena Ylisirnio

Phone: +358 8617 8114

helena.ylisirnio@kainuunetu.fi

Sustainable Audiovisual Industries in the Northern Periphery

Measure: 2.2

Project area: Northern Sweden, Northern Finland, Scottish Highlands & Islands, Northern Norway

Lead Partner: County Council of Västerbotten

Project description: The aim of the main project is to strengthen the audiovisual industry in the Northern Periphery area through establishing a network and encouraging co-operation and co-ordination of individuals and organisations in the field.

Contact: Catarina Norén

Phone: +46 90 785 46 85

catarina@filmvasterbotten.com



Community Active Schools

Measure: 3.1

Project target area: Northern Norway, Iceland and Scottish Highlands & Islands

Lead Partner: Nordland Research Institute

Project description: The main project will aim to identify, stimulate and develop expanded roles for rural community schools, and investigate to what extent such new roles may serve in the struggle to consolidate rural settlements and increase the viability of local communities.

Contact: Wenche Rønning

Phone: +47 75517613

Wenche.Roenning@nforsk.no

Joint Tourism Seminar

NPP projects concerning tourism have been invited to participate and contribute to a joint event with the Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme. Various projects and programmes have addressed sustainable tourism in different ways. This event therefore aims to exchange knowledge and experience in this field across Interreg Programmes. Invitations have been sent to project leaders of the NPP projects focussing on tourism.

Location: Lund, Sweden

Date: 29-30th September 2004

Contact: claire.matheson@npp2.net

If you would like to find out further info on any of these events, or have any recommendations for future events then please let us know.



The spectacular setting for the Bodø Partenariat in Norway

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A number of programme events are planned over the coming months. These are targeted at both project developers and project partners, so there is something for everyone! Below is a list of some of the future events:

Scottish Partners Seminar

This event is being organised by the Scottish Regional Contact Point and will discuss administrative, financial and management issues surrounding partnership in an NPP project. It will follow a similar format to the successful event held last year, and is open to all Scottish project partners. Niclas Forsling from the JPS, and Ingela Carlsson & Anna Viktorsdotter from the Paying Authority, will also be on hand to offer project clinic sessions and provide an overview of the most important NPP rules & regulations.

Location: The Greenhouse, Inverness

Date: 2nd-3rd September 2004

Contact: Fiona Reid, Scottish RCP
fiona.reid@hient.co.uk

NPP Partenariat

NPP partenariats are project development events that bring together key actors from across the programme area to develop project ideas. As the programme progresses these events are becoming more targeted at specific themes and programme measures. The next Partenariat will be held in Northern Sweden and will specifically focus on measure 1.1 and measure 3.1. Participants / key actors will be selected by the RCPs and the JPS.

Location: Västernorrland, Sweden

Date: 20th-22nd October 2004

Contact: Your local RCP

Contact Details on website

Project Leaders Seminar

Feedback from previous project leaders seminars (Inverness & Umeå) has been extremely good and the JPS recognise these as valuable and helpful events. A further seminar is therefore being organised by the JPS, here in Copenhagen, in November 2004. This will focus on issues surrounding project management and financial reporting for lead partners. The final details of the event have not yet been finalised, but should appear on the website soon.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: November 2004

Contact: claire.matheson@npp2.net

FEEDBACK FROM BODØ PARTENARIAT

In May 2004 a partenariat was held in Bodø, Northern Norway. A total of 54 people participated in the 2-day event, which has already produced 3 preparatory projects from the 5 workshops. Feedback from the event was very positive, with participants welcoming the more focussed and strategic approach now favoured for these project development events. The Partenariat focussed on the development of projects concerning the following themes:

ICT
Renewable Energy
Political Networking
Spatial Development
Youth



Food for thought at the Bodø Partenariat



JPS STAFFING

Since the last newsletter was published, there have been a number of staff changes at the Secretariat. The team is now fully staffed and happy to help with any queries that you may have. There have also been some changes to contact details for some of the Regional Contact Points. For up-to-date contact details please check the NPP website, under the 'contacts' page.

NEW WEBSITE

Work is now underway in creating a new NPP website. The new layout aims to create a clearer, brighter and more user friendly website. It should be up and running by the end of the summer, so please look out for some changes. We hope you like the changes, but if you have any problems navigating the new site then please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance!

In order to make this website as current and informative as possible, we also call on project leaders and partners to let us know if there are any project developments that should be included in the NPP website, such as a new project website, important seminar etc.

NEW DOCUMENTS

Over the past few months the JPS and the Paying Authority have developed a number of new documents, which can be downloaded from the Managers Area of the NPP website:

Transnationality Guidance – two papers designed to provide advice on transnationality requirements and how to make the most of transnational project partnership. Recommended reading for any project developer.

System Audit Guidelines – provide clarification on auditing requirements for main projects. These have now been sent to all lead partners from the Paying Authority, and the revised guidelines will shortly appear in the Practical Guide for Programme Management.

Commission Regulation 448/2004 – a follow up to the much-quoted 1685/2000 regulation, which governs eligible expenditure in the European Structural Funds. Please contact the JPS or Paying Authority if you require further clarification on any aspects of this.

2003 NPP Annual Report – the NPP Managing Authority, in co-operation with the Joint Programme Secretariat, have just completed the 2003 Annual Report. This document gives an overview of progress in the programme during 2003.

FUTURE OF THE NPP & INTERREG

In recent months a number of project leaders have asked about the future of Interreg and whether there will be another Northern Periphery Programme. The JPS are happy to say that although negotiations are still underway, the European Commission recognise the valuable work that the various Interreg IIIB programmes are carrying out, and view it as a model for future co-operation. There is therefore a strong momentum in the European Commission for a future Interreg.

An outline of how a future Cohesion Policy could look has been proposed in a European Commission publication called the Third report on economic and social cohesion. This document outlines how European territorial co-operation may be developed in the future, through a proposal for a larger and more encompassing Interreg style programme. However negotiations are still underway, so it is worth checking the European Commission's regional policy Directorate General for the

latest news. The following website allows you to contribute to the debate on the future of European structural funds and also to download copies of the key documents:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/debate/forum_en.htm

Do you have a topic that would be of interest in the next issue of the newsletter or on the NPP website – a new project website, an upcoming seminar or an important project development? If so, please let us know. Contact Claire at: claire.matheson@npp2.net

Please also contact Claire if you would like to sign up to our newsletter subscription service.