



INTERREG IIIB
NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

VOL 1 • ISSUE 3

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2nd NPP newsletter in 2004. A number of events have taken place since our last newsletter and over the next few months many more are scheduled. As the programme progresses and becomes more well known there has also been increased interest, reflected in the growing number of applications. It has therefore been a busy year. Nevertheless, the pressure is still on to meet the N+2 targets set for 2004.

This newsletter will outline some of the most important developments that have occurred in the past few months and provide an overview of where we are now.

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

INTERIM PAYMENT CLAIM REMINDER

In the last newsletter we outlined the importance of the N+2 rule and requested all projects to submit an interim payment claim to the Joint Programme Secretariat.

We would like to remind all project leaders that they must submit an interim payment claim by the 15th of November 2004 for all expenditure up until the 31st of October 2004. This claim will then be paid before the end of December 2004, so should provide a nice Christmas present.

As previously stated, the "N+2 rule" is one of the most significant rules for programme management, and places financial targets on the programme.

The N + 2 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 de-committed from the programme.

The Northern Periphery Programme's target for 2004 is 3.6 million, which means that 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.

The Joint Programme Secretariat would like to remind all project leaders and partners to ensure that they submit an interim payment claim by the 15th of November, in order to help us achieve this target and ensure funds are not lost.

CURRENT PROGRAMME STATUS

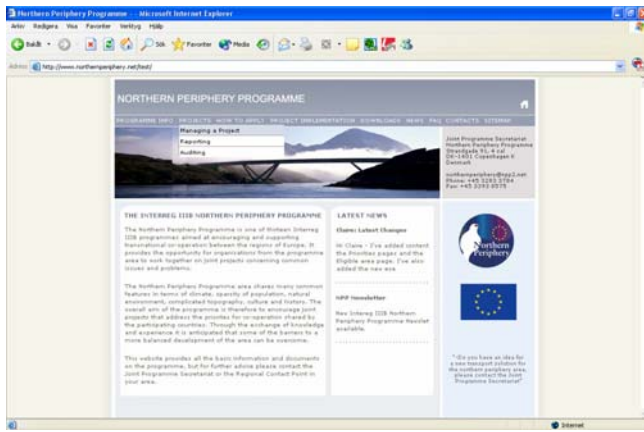
The programme has now committed 72 % of funding and following the next Programme Monitoring Committee meeting in December 2004, the programme level of commitments is expected to rise to around 80%.

Indexation Money

The NPP is pleased to announce that we have received extra funds in the form of indexation money from the EU Member States involved in the programme. This adds an extra 1.35 million Euros to the ERDF funds for the programme, bringing the total amount of ERDF available to 22.6 million Euros (30.8 million Euros in total NPP funds). The indexation money granted to the NPP is the highest out of all the Interreg programmes and reflects the success of the programme to date. This extra indexation money has been distributed amongst the programme measures and will be available for projects to apply for.

Demand

Considerable demand has been shown for funds in Priority 2 of the programme and for funds from non-EU member state countries. It is therefore becoming increasingly important that you contact the Regional Contact Point in your country or the JPS before submitting an application, in order to determine the availability of funds.



New website design

NEW WEBSITE

The new NPP website was launched on 15th October 2004. The site has a new design and drop down menu system. It also includes a number of new features, including an events calendar, single downloads page and more detailed information on how to make an application and manage a project.

The address remains unchanged and can be found at:

www.northernperiphery.net

We hope that you like the new website and welcome your comments and feedback. Please also contact us for assistance if you have difficulty navigating the site or finding any documents.

We would also like to remind all project leaders to submit project photos, logos, web addresses, etc. for their project page. These pages provide an opportunity to advertise your project widely. It is therefore vital that they are dynamic and do not remain static!

Please send project info and feedback to Claire at the JPS:

claire.matheson@npp2.net

APPLICATION END DATES

During 2005 there will be 2 application end dates, and correspondingly there will also be 2 Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) meetings, where the final decisions on applications will be made.

Below are the end and decision dates for 2005:

End Date	Decision Date
6th March	27th May
11th September	9th December

Programme End Dates

Recently there have been a number of enquiries about the programme's end date for eligible expenditure and activities because the programme finishes in 2008. This means that project applications submitted in 2005 will no longer be able to run for 3 years. The JPS is currently awaiting confirmation of the exact end dates from the programme's auditors. However, in accordance with the current guidelines, a project has 3 months to pay any outstanding expenditure and another 3 months to complete the final report and claim following the project end date.

Hence, it is worth noting the following provisional end dates:

Project activities: 31st Dec 2007
Project expenditure: 31st March 2008
Submission of final report & claim: 30th June 2008

Please note: these dates are provisional, so please contact the JPS for confirmation before submitting an application.

Pre-assessment service

The Joint Programme Secretariat offers a pre-assessment service on all project applications. If you would like to take advantage of this service, then please send a copy of your application to the Joint Programme Secretariat at least 2 weeks before an application end date. The JPS will then be able to provide feedback and comments that could help strengthen the application.

NEW PROJECT APPROVALS

Main Project Approvals

Five new main projects were approved at the most recent NPP Steering Committee meeting, which was held on the 11th September 2004 in Ilulissat, Greenland. The total number of approved main projects is now 32. Further information on the new approvals can be found on the NPP website under 'Projects / Approved Projects':

www.northernperiphery.net

Preparatory Project Approvals

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. The programme has now approved a total of 42 micro and preparatory projects and approximately 86 % of the funds allocated to micro and preparatory projects are now committed.

Sport in the community Measure 3.2

Project area: Northern Finland and Scottish Highlands & Islands.

Lead Partner: Town of Ylivieska, Finland.

Project description: The objective of the project is to develop a network of partners leading to a main project application. The project aims to understand how sports clubs in Northern Periphery areas are both SMEs and community enterprises. It will seek to use the potential of clubs to increase business, community, social and lifelong learning benefits. A main project will focus strongly on creating youth training and development programmes.

Contact: Hannu Karstunen
Phone: +358 (0)8 42 941
hannu.karstunen@ylivieska.fi

Spatial North: Spatial Planning in Northern Peripheral Regions Measure 3.1

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

Lead Partner: County Administrative Board of Västernorrland, Sweden

Project description: The main objective of this preparatory project is to establish a trans-national network between the participating regions, in order to exchange knowledge in the field of spatial planning. It will jointly develop a proposal for a collaborative main project, which will contribute both to effective, integrated spatial planning in the project areas and to the development of a 'toolbox', or set of good practices.

Contact: Mats Henriksson
Phone: +46 611 34 91 36
mats.henriksson@y.lst.se

Seafish Initiative Developing Economies in Rural Areas Measure 3.2

Project area: Northern Norway and Scottish Highlands & Islands

Lead Partner: Highland Opportunity Limited, Scotland

Project description: The project aims to establish a firm partnership for a main project that will develop a unique and innovative virtual careers centre for the fisheries sector. This idea was created in an attempt to deal with some of the severe difficulties currently being experienced in the fisheries sector, in terms of employment and future prospects for the sector.

Contact: Michelle Hardie
Phone: +44 1463 715400
eic@euro-info.co.uk

Bottom up processes, aiming at sustainable development in rural areas Measure 3.1

Project area: Northern Norway and Northern Sweden

Lead Partner: The Association of Local Authorities, Sweden

Project description: The main objective of this preparatory application is, in co-operation with Norway, to implement a main project of a supportive nature to the DESERVE project.

Contact: Gunvor Sundin
Phone: +46 63 144370
gunvor.sundin@kfz.se



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

RECENT EVENTS

Joint Tourism Seminar

Recently the Joint Programme Secretariat staff facilitated a workshop at a joint event with the Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme. The event was held in Lund, Sweden from the 29th-30th September and involved staff and project partners from both programmes. Various projects and programmes address sustainable tourism in different ways and the seminar offered a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in this field, across Interreg Programmes.

Participants included representatives from the following Northern Periphery Programme projects: Nature Based Tourism, Snow Magic, Destination Viking Sagalands, Norce, Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism and NEST. All projects contributed to the debate and 3 projects also presented information on how their projects were addressing sustainable tourism in the northern periphery. These were: Snow Magic, Destination Viking Sagalands and SMART.

Further information and copies of all the presentations can be found at the following address:

<http://www.interregnorthsea.org/index.asp?id=95>

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

In our last newsletter we provided details on the NPP partenariat that was scheduled to take place in Sundsvall, Sweden from the 20th-22nd of October 2004. This event was subsequently cancelled due to various reasons. However, over the coming months a number of project development events are planned that will keep up the momentum for the ideas submitted and ensure that the strategic themes are still covered.

Below is a list of some of the future events:

Safety at Sea

This event is being organised by the Joint Programme Secretariat, who would like to invite national authorities and other appropriate actors within the field of maritime safety to a start up meeting concerning this initiative.

Safety at sea is already a successfully developed project within the Interreg IIIB North Sea programme and this first start up meeting will investigate the possibilities of additional initiatives within the Interreg IIIB Northern Periphery Programme.

Location: JPS offices, Copenhagen
Date: 25th - 26th November 2004
Contact: niclas.forsling@npp2.net

Rural Health Care Project Workshop

In the peripheral regions characterised by small communities, harsh weather conditions and long distances to the nearest hospital - what's the best way to organise health care services?

This project idea aims to establish a network between organisations with similar goals and challenges, in order to share practical experiences and point to best practice within the field of rural health care. Intended outputs include the analysis of different health care models, direct contact between facilitators of such models, study trips, and the organisation of workshops and seminars.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or know somebody who is, please contact Christopher Parker.

Location: Inverness, Scotland

Date: 23rd – 24th November 2004

Contact: christopher.parker@npp2.net

NPP Youth 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. The next partenariat will be held in Northern Sweden and will specifically focus on youth within the field of creative industries. These industries include music, design, photography, art and fashion. Key actors and participants will be selected by the RCPs and the JPS.

Location: Skellefteå, Sweden

Date: 8th - 10th December 2004

Contact: Your local RCP
Contact Details on website

Project Leaders Seminar

Another seminar is being organised for lead partners and project partners by the JPS, the Finnish Regional Contact Point and the NPP Paying Authority. This will be held in northern Finland and 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: Rovaniemi, Finland

Date: 2nd - 4th February 2005

Contact: christopher.parker@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.

FUTURE OF INTERREG - UPDATE

In our last newsletter we provided a brief outline of the current European Commission proposals for the future of Interreg, following enquiries from several project leaders.

The JPS informed 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, which was outlined in the European Commission publication called the Third report on economic and social cohesion.

On 14th July 2004 the European Commission adopted a proposal for five new regulations for Renewed Structural Funds and Instruments. For the 2007-2013 period, these instruments represent about one third of the EU budget or a total of EUR 336.1 billion. The majority of this amount will be spent in less-developed Member States and regions (primarily the new Member States). According to the proposal, INTERREG will be continued as a third objective on "European territorial cooperation" and will have an increased budget. Member states and the European Parliament will now discuss the proposals and it is expected that decisions will be taken in 2005. Further information on this can be found on the European Commission's Regional Development website:

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

NPP STAFFING

Over the past few months there have been some changes to contact details for certain Regional Contact Points. For the most up-to-date contact details, please check the NPP website under the 'contacts' heading.

<http://www.northernperiphery.net/contacts.asp>

REVISED PROJECT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Several project leaders have been enquiring about the forthcoming revised version of the Practical Guide to Project Management, which will incorporate some changes to auditing and financial requirements. The JPS and Paying Authority expect to post an updated version of the guide on the website before the end of 2004. This will appear as one of the major news headings on the website and we will also inform all project lead partners that a new version is available.

In the meantime, please consult the System Audit Guidelines (which can be downloaded from the NPP website) for the latest information on auditing requirements.

If you have any questions that are not easily answered in these documents, please do not hesitate to contact the Joint Programme Secretariat for further assistance.

PROJECT LEADERS CORNER

If you are a project leader and would like to contribute to the NPP newsletter, please send your contribution to Claire. Perhaps you have a seminar, project website or important project development that would be of interest. If so, e-mail:

claire.matheson@npp2.net

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claire.matheson@npp2.net