



INTERREG IIIB
NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER
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WELCOME

Happy New Year and welcome to the 1st NPP newsletter of 2005. Our 1st newsletter of 2005 starts the year on a high note, outlining a number of programme successes in the last few months of 2004. 2004 has been a busy year in terms of programme implementation and N+2 pressure. However, now that the vast majority of funds have been committed, the focus is beginning to shift to programme and project dissemination.

This edition of the newsletter will outline the current status of the programme, run through some of the most important developments that have occurred in the past few months, as well as highlight some examples of best practice.

As always, we are grateful for your responses and comments on the newsletter!

CURRENT PROGRAMME STATUS

No Decommittment Forecast for 2004!

The Joint Programme Secretariat and the Managing and Paying Authority of the Northern Periphery Programme are pleased to announce that once again the programme has been able to sign a certificate of expenditure that met the N+2 target for the year. The certificate of expenditure for 2004 met the N+2 targets and has now been sent to the European Commission.

We would like to send a big thank you to all projects for their assistance and especially for their co-operation in

submitting interim payment claims in November 2004.

With your help and assistance the Paying Authority was able to make payments of over the required 3.6 million Euros, which was the Northern Periphery Programme's ERDF spending target for 2004. This meant that all member state project partners needed to spend and claim money to a total amount of 3.6 million Euros ERDF last year. If not, the programme risked losing funds.

The joint effort of everyone involved in the programme has meant that this was achievable. However, we are still awaiting approval of these payments by the European Commission.

So a big thank you to everyone that contributed!

High Levels of Demand:

90 % of NPP & all

Norwegian Funds Now Committed

Following the closure of the 8th call for applications, the programme experienced a so far unprecedented level of demand. A Steering Committee meeting was held on 17th December 2004 to discuss the applications submitted, and at this meeting 9 new projects and the extension of 2 existing projects were approved. This brought the total amount of NPP funds committed to 90%.

In the previous issue of the newsletter, we anticipated that up to 80% of funds could be committed at this meeting. The higher level of commitment means that funds are more limited, especially in certain measures. **It is particularly worth noting that priority 2 is currently fully committed and that all Norwegian funds have now been allocated to projects.** However, applications involving Norwegian partners are still welcome. Norwegian partners should contact the JPS and their Regional Contact Point for further guidance.

The tables on the following page outline the current commitments by priority and measure for ERDF. Please contact the JPS for a further breakdown of funds available.

	Total ERDF 1.1	Total ERDF 1.2	Total ERDF 2.1	Total ERDF 2.2	Total ERDF 3.1	Total ERDF 3.2
Budget	1.646.500	3.246.500	6.294.799	3.288.312	2.500.000	4.086.497
Committed	444.849	2.794.594	6.287.081	3.288.312	2.205.160	3.298.873
% of budget	27,0%	86,1%	99,9%	100,0%	88,2%	80,7%

	Total NPP Priority 1	Total NPP Priority 2	Total NPP Priority 3	Total NPP Priority 4	Total NPP
Budget	6.601.500	12.589.478	8.697.497	2.496.794	30.385.317
Committed	4.716.329	13.318.470	6.847.209	2.496.794	27.378.803
% of budget	71%	106%	79%	100%	90%

	Total Iceland in NPP	Total Greenland in NPP	Total Faroe Island in NPP	Total Norway in NPP
Budget	1.500.000	378.667	375.000	5.500.000
Committed	1.348.022	311.827	311.737	5.519.306
% of budget	90%	82.3%	83%	100%

Reminder of Application End Dates for 2005

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

Pre-assessment service

As mentioned in the previous NPP newsletter, the Joint Programme Secretariat offers a pre-assessment service on all project applications.

As funds are now becoming very limited in the programme and competition is increasing, it becomes even more beneficial for applicants to submit their applications for pre-assessment. This allows the JPS to provide feedback and comments that could help strengthen the application.

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 next closing date for applications is 6th March 2005, so applications should be sent to the JPS for pre-assessment by 20th February.

Confirmation of Programme End Dates

In the last edition of the NPP newsletter we highlighted the end dates for the programme. As stated, the programme finishes in 2008, which means that project applications submitted in 2005 will no longer be able to run for 3 years. The JPS has now received confirmation of the exact end dates from the programme's auditors and these are stated below:

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

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.

Please contact the JPS for further clarification if you are unsure of any of these dates

New Project Approvals

9 new projects and the extension of 2 existing projects were approved at the most recent Steering Committee meeting, which was held in Copenhagen on 17th December 2004. This brings the total number of main projects approved by the Northern Periphery Programme to 41. Further information on the new projects approved can be found in the news section of the NPP website.
www.northernperiphery.net

RECENT EVENTS

Safety at Sea Partenariat

On 25th-26th November the Northern Periphery Programme arranged a lunch-to-lunch event on the topic of Safety at Sea. The event was facilitated by Mr Olav Hauge from Asplan Viak AS, Norway. Altogether 15 participants attended the productive event where the following agreements were made:

- To submit a main application to meet the 6th of March 2005 end-date.
- The main topics in the Northern Periphery Programme Safety at Sea application will be;

WP 1: Coordination of Maritime Rescue – Cruise ships
 WP 2: AIS and Satellite Surveillance
 WP 3: Arctic Maritime Safety – Future Challenges.

- MCGA in Scotland will act as Lead Partner at the preparatory stage.

Further information regarding the Safety at Sea partenariat, summary notes, a full participant list and other relevant information, can be found on the NPP website at: <http://www.northernperiphery.net/libary.asp>

Information on the Partenariat can be found in the downloads section of the NPP website under NPP Partenariats. There is then a special folder for Safety at Sea.



RECENT EVENTS

NPP Youth Partenariat

On the 8th of December the Northern Periphery Programme, in cooperation with Kulturfrämjandet in Skellefteå, Sweden, arranged an inspirational day on the theme of Creative Industries. The two key-speakers at the event were Simon Evans, Director of the transnational network "Creative Clusters" and Klaus Æ Mogensen, Researcher at the Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies. They provided an insight into the future of the creative industries and outlined the following facts:

- Creative industries are the fastest growing industries in Europe at the moment.
- By the end of 2010 it will be the single largest industry in Europe
- The average growth rate for creative industries is approximately 4,8 %
- In London, the creative industries generate more money for the city of London than the financial markets
- The products of the future will not be good enough if they cannot cover several spheres or areas of needs.

The turnout for this innovative and inspirational event was high and the number of participants at the first day was approximately 70.

Over the next 2 days a Youth Partenariat was held to develop project ideas in this field and around 35 people remained to hear more about the Northern Periphery Programme and to participate in the workshops.

3 main outcomes resulted from the partenariat:

1. A possible new Icelandic partner for an existing application concerning Sustainable Audiovisual Industries.
2. A new idea for developing a Community Studio network. This will allow new types of cultural events to be arranged that could be spread throughout the programme area.
3. An idea to develop Cluster Development Agencies. These can be used for the development of creative industries at both the small scale (in rural areas) and for areas that presently have higher numbers of cultural practitioners. They would also serve to develop the venues where such agencies are located. .

The 2nd and 3rd project ideas, which were developed at the partenariat, will probably become preparatory projects in the future and they are both aiming for the 12th of September application end-date.

For further information concerning these ideas, please contact the Joint Programme Secretariat.



Top picture: Inspiration Day

Bottom Picture: Participants at the Youth Partenariat
Sigurður Kristinn Ómarsson & Þóra Fjølsted



Rural Health Care Workshop

On 23rd – 24th November an NPP workshop was held in Inverness, Scotland on the topic of rural health care services. Over 30 people attended the 2-day event, which focused on the special characteristics and challenges of providing health care in rural and sparsely populated areas.

Two parallel workshops were held on the topics of unscheduled and emergency care, and rural health care centres.

It is anticipated that these will lead to 2 main applications and a further meeting will be held on 24th – 25th January to develop these ideas further.

Please contact the Joint Programme Secretariat if you would like further information on the workshop or an outline of the project ideas discussed.



CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

Over the past few years the Joint Programme Secretariat has focussed many of its events on project development and assisting applicants to find partners and develop their project ideas. However, now that the programme has committed most of its funds, the momentum is beginning to shift towards assisting already existing projects and dissemination of the project results. Nevertheless, we still have one last NPP partenariat, which focuses on the crucial topic of climate change.

Below is a list of some of the future events that are being organised:

Joint NPP & Indigenous Peoples Secretariat Climate Change Workshop

"Climate change is not just about weather or sea ice conditions, it's a fight to preserve a way of life."

Sheila Watt-Cloutier, International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Conference

The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) was released in November 2004. The ACIA is the world's most comprehensive and detailed regional climatic and ultraviolet radiation assessment to date. It documents impacts that are already felt throughout the Arctic region, and predicts yet more radical changes to come. Climate change presents a range of challenges for the health, culture and well-being of Arctic residents, especially indigenous peoples, as well as risks to Arctic species and ecosystems.

At the same time that the ACIA was released, Arctic ministers also released the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR), which looked at social, economic, governance and other indicators to gauge the state of "human development" in the Arctic.

Now that these important reports are released, it is time to move from analysis to action. This proposed workshop aims to draw in the capacity, and provide the resources necessary to translate the knowledge in the ACIA and the AHDR into action to benefit Arctic indigenous peoples. These actions would be directly beneficial to parts of the NPP area.



In order to aid this work, the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat and the Northern Periphery Programme will hold a three-day workshop entitled 'The Future of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and the Social, Cultural and Economic Effects of Climate Change', the specific objectives of which are:

- 1) To give indigenous peoples' representatives an opportunity to brainstorm and discuss ways to address the social, cultural and economic implications of climate change;
- 2) To share information on the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and its impacts, especially in relation to Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on the Northern Periphery regions;
- 3) To focus on the Northern Periphery region as an area for potential case studies on the socio-economic effects of climate change; and
- 4) To bring together potential partners — from indigenous peoples' and other organisations — to develop a preparatory project on this topic.

Further information will be circulated on this event over the coming weeks.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Date: 2nd-4th March 2005
Contact: niclas.forsling@npp2.net

SCRI Final Conference

The SCRI project is an innovative NPP project that 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 ends in January 2005 and a final conference will be held on 20th – 21st January 2005 in Nairn, Scotland to present the findings of the project and the final report. Further information can be found at: www.scri.eu.com

Location: Nairn, Scotland
Date: 20th – 21st January 2005
Contact: bryan.fraser@ruralinsights.com

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.

Some of the key questions, which the seminar aims to address, are:

- What are the corner stones of running and managing an Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme project?
- What are the reporting procedures, practicalities concerning budgets and payments, as well as responsibilities of partners?
- How do we keep up with the rules related to Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) funding?

To assist with the answering of these questions, the seminar will be divided into 3 topic areas:

- 1 Information for new projects
- 2 Final reporting procedures for projects near to completion
- 3 Best practice in project management

The seminar is targeted at lead partner and partner organisations, and their project leaders / project co-ordinators, who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. It is strongly recommended that the financial managers/accountants, who are responsible for financial reporting and the accounts of the projects participate in this seminar.

There is no registration fee for the seminar. Participants are kindly asked to make their own travelling and accommodation arrangements.

Location: Rovaniemi, Finland
Date: 2nd - 4th February 2005
Contact: christopher.parker@npp2.net

Please remember: The NPP website has a calendar section where you can find further information on future events.



ROADEX PROJECT IDENTIFIED AS EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE BY INTERACT

The NPP ROADDEX project has recently been highlighted as an example of best practice by an influential and widely distributed Europe-wide magazine. The Interact newsletter featured the ROADDEX project as one of its headline stories for its innovative solutions to low-use road management.

The article outlined how low traffic volume rural roads are of vital importance to the infrastructure in the sparsely populated partner regions of northern Scotland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and in Iceland. One-third of all industry-related transport in these areas is dependant on them, but maintenance of these low-use roads is often neglected. However, ROADDEX has sought to remedy this problem.

The original ROADDEX project was funded through the Article 10 predecessor programme to the Interreg IIIB Northern Periphery Programme. "Thanks to an intensive exchange of experiences and ideas with the people we've got to know, we've learnt of new techniques that have the potential to help us to save significant amounts of money on road repairs," says Richard Evans, who is the lead Partner of ROADDEX II. "Questionnaire surveys and interviews, work group discussions and field tests have enabled ROADDEX to identify best practice in weight restrictions, road condition management, maintenance and rehabilitation techniques, surface dressing, snow removal, friction control, road design due to drifting snow, and so on." This has meant that the ROADDEX project has been able to put into practice the experience and expertise learnt in the project.

One of the main features of the project is its varied and experienced partnership, which involves national, regional and local authorities, as well as a number of small companies. In fact, the partners have found the co-operation so useful that they are currently considering a ROADDEX III project.

More information on the Roadex II project can be found on the project website: www.roadex.org

A copy of the Interact newsletter can be downloaded from the Interact website: www.interact-eu.net/4107/0/0/506228

WHAT IS INTERACT??

Many of you that are involved with Interreg III will be familiar with the Interact Points. INTERACT is part of the Community Initiative Interreg and seeks to build on the experience and lessons of the 1st and 2nd Interreg programmes, in order to increase the effectiveness of Interreg III during the current programming period.

Interact covers a large geographical area and includes all 25 of the European Union member states. Interact's main aim is to facilitate the exchange of best practice across the various Interreg programmes. This means that the core of the programme is to set up information and communication networks, to proactively disseminate information and to stimulate exchange of experiences.

Further information on Interact can be found on the Interact website:

www.interact-eu.net

VACANCY AT JOINT PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat of the Northern Periphery Programme is currently looking for an intern to work at their offices in Copenhagen. The intern's main task will be to work, in close co-operation with the JPS staff, to develop a future dissemination plan for the programme. The internship will last for 3 months from April to June 2005.

The successful candidate should be a recent graduate or student in their final year of university. They will preferably be from a university within the Northern Periphery Programme area and must have lived in the programme area, so that they have an understanding of the special conditions and challenges that exist in the northern periphery programme area. It would be an advantage if the intern has some knowledge or experience of working with European Structural Funds.

The intern's educational background should be within the disciplines of marketing, media and other communication / marketing related university courses.

For more information on this vacancy please look at the news section of the NPP website: www.northernperiphery.net/news.asp

Alternatively contact Niclas Forsling, Head of the Secretariat:

niclas.forsling@npp2.net