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EDITORIAL

The NPP is now well underway in terms of programme implementation, and with a number of projects now completed and many more due to finish this year, the real results of transnational co-operation in the Northern Periphery are increasingly evident.

In order to ensure that everyone is aware of these results and the good work that is being carried out, the programme is placing more of a focus on dissemination and ensuring that project results and outputs are effectively communicated. You can therefore expect to see a number of events and new publications in the near future!

This edition of the newsletter will provide information on the next application call and the funds remaining, run through some of the most important developments that have occurred in the past few months, as well as highlighting some interesting project results.

SEPTEMBER APPLICATION ROUND – FOCUS ON TRANSPORT & ICT PROJECTS

The next end-date for main applications is on 12th September 2005 and is open to applications in Priority 1 and Priority 2. Applications to Priority 3 are currently closed due to 100% commitment of ERDF funds in this priority.

The main focus for the next application round will be on projects that deal with transportation issues and ICT and with over 1 million Euros remaining in Priority 1, there is still scope for a number of 2 year projects. Priority 2 will also be open in this round, but with limited funds available.

If you are considering applying to the September deadline, then please contact the Joint Programme Secretariat for further guidance and advice.

2006 End- Dates

There will also be 2 application rounds next year. The end dates for these are as follows:

End Date	Decision Date
3 rd March 2006	11 th May 2006
18 th September 2006	1 st December 2006

1.05 MILLION EUROS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

The Northern Periphery Programme has been very successful in programme implementation and, with the approval of 5 new projects at the latest Steering Committee meeting, 97% of programme funds are now committed.

However, this does not mean that we are no longer looking for good-quality projects that address the priorities for co-operation in the programme. The following is an overview of the funds still remaining:

ERDF

Priority 1:	1 057 000
Priority 2:	20 000
Iceland:	10 000
Norway:	0
Greenland:	41 000
Faroe Islands:	25 000

Please note: Although there are currently only 20 000 Euros of ERDF available in Priority 2, there is a possibility that more funds may become available for the September end-date.

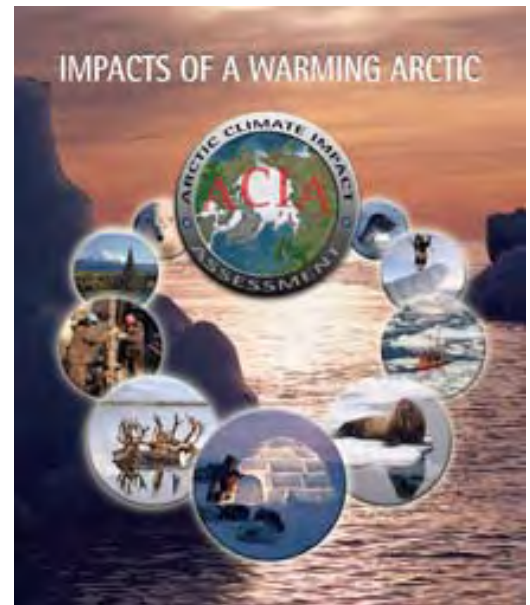
It is also expected that additional Icelandic funds will become available in 2006.

RECENT EVENTS

Climate Change Project Development Workshop

Many of the people who live in the Northern Periphery have been the first to experience the direct impact that climate change is having on their natural environment. The effects of a warming Arctic are already being felt and will significantly impact on the traditional way of life for many groups of society. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment outlines many of these changes and the publication of this important document prompted the Northern Periphery Programme to organise a joint project development workshop in January 2005, in co-operation with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat of the Arctic Council. Climate change is by nature a transnational topic and therefore collaboration is required to tackle the situation effectively.

The event brought together participants from across the arctic and included representative from Northwest Russia to discuss a possible transnational co-operation on this topic. An interesting project proposal is currently under development.



The ICIA report has some profound findings that will impact on the people living in the Northern Periphery



Project Dissemination – Essential to Effective Programme Communication

INTERACT workshop on Communication

The network of Interreg communication officers, which met in Rome at the end of May, confirmed that project dissemination is crucial in promoting the good work of Interreg programmes and ensuring that everyone is aware of the benefits of transnational co-operation. This means that it is becoming ever more important for projects to effectively disseminate their project results to a wide range of stakeholders. However, project leaders are not alone and over the next few months expect to see the development of a number of support documents and events to assist project leaders to communicate effectively.

Transportation, Accessibility & Communications Seminar

Transportation, Communication and Accessibility are key issues for the development of European regions and their importance is reflected in the work of Interreg. This focus was highlighted at a recent INTERACT conference, which aimed to exchange experience on the most effective actions taken so far, present findings of the latest research and outline possible approaches for the new programming period (2007-2013).

The event was held in Prague from 14th – 15th June and 6 NPP projects were able to disseminate information on their projects and results to date. There was also an opportunity for projects to exhibit at the seminar and network with other Interreg projects working in the same field. Interact provides an excellent arena for such exchanges and it is hoped that similar seminars on other strategic issues will follow.



*Left:
Presentation by
Olav Hauge
from Northern
Maritime
Corridor*



*Right: Project
Exhibition by
ROADEX II*



Project Conferences

As we enter into the 4th year of programme implementation a number of projects are beginning to conclude and finish their activities. An important method of promoting project results has been the organisation of a final conference and over the past few months several projects have held such events.

Future Conference

Northern Maritime

Corridor:

1st –2nd September in Bodø, Norway
www.northernmaritimecorridor.no

Recent Conferences

SCRI:

January 2005 in Nairn, Scotland
www.scri.eu.com

ROADX II:

April 2005 in Jyväskylä, Finland
www.roadex.org

SMALL TOWN NETWORKS

April 2005 in Dornoch, Scotland
www.smalltownnetworks.com

ECOWATSA:

May 2005 in Oulu, Finland
<http://www.project-cluster.net/Ecowatsa/>

REMEDY:

May 2005 in Umeå, Sweden
www.vannas.se/kommun/forvaltningar/vord-omsorg/MEMO/Utkast.htm

COMMUNITY LEARNING NETWORKS – FINAL RESULTS ***DISTANCE LEARNING ACROSS THE PERIPHERY***

The development of remote learning has been a crucial factor in increasing the possibilities for people to remain in rural areas and it has helped stem the flow of young people from peripheral areas. However, it is essential that students and staff working in rural areas do not feel isolated due to their remote location.

The Community Learning Networks project was a 3-year transnational project that aimed to address exactly these issues. The project followed on from a successful Article 10 project and the partners found the co-operation so useful that they decided to co-operate further.

One of the primary results of the project was the creation of a Virtual Learning Community which spanned the partner areas of Scotland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Through the use of modern technology and video- conferencing, students were able to simultaneously receive lectures from different locations and countries. They were even able to take modules on subjects specifically developed to deal with issues concerning the Northern Periphery, such as the Northern Heritage module. In conjunction, a support system was developed that allowed students and staff across all partner countries to network, exchange experience and assist each other.

The project co-ordinator, Jill de Fresnes from Mallaig Learning Centre in Scotland, enthusiastically stated that “mainstream funding would not have allowed this type of innovative approach, which has the added benefit of broadening the horizons of the staff and students involved.” The project has allowed partner institutions to exchange experience on aspects of work in the field of distance learning, generated a greater understanding of common challenges, and has provided an opportunity to share examples of solutions and best practice.

The modules have been undertaken using transnational student groups, which has provided students with additional benefits in undertaking the course and an opportunity to meet and chat with others in similar situations from partner countries.

In fact, the partners found the collaboration so useful that they are still co-operating on shared issues and are about to publish a joint publication called ‘ Northern Heritage’.

Further information can be found on the [NPP website](#) or alternatively contact [Claire Matheson](#) at the Joint Programme Secretariat.

FUTURE OF INTERREG

UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES

Following the non-agreement by European Union Member States at the recent EU Summit regarding the financial perspective 2007-2013, it will now be at least another 6 months before the basic pre-conditions for a future Territorial Co-operation objective become certain. However, it seems likely that the proposal from the European Commission for a significant increase in funding to territorial co-operation will be cut back. This reduction in funding could also impact on the Commission’s suggestions that more funds be directed at bigger structural projects and at 4 main priority themes; Innovation, Accessibility, Environment/Risk Prevention, Culture/Education.

We will keep you updated of progress on the future of Interreg and further information can be found on the DG Regio website of the European Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/finper/finper1_en.htm

MARITIME SAFETY UMBRELLA OPERATION

The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation is taking form

Two years ago an idea for a cross programme co-operation on the topic of Maritime Safety was initiated by the North Sea Secretariat. Today this idea has become reality and there will now be a transnational co-operation that will cover five Interreg IIIB areas; one of them being the Northern Periphery Programme Area.

The topic of Maritime Safety was identified as being a truly transnational and important global issue. All participating programmes deal with projects that have a Maritime Safety perspective and the main purpose of the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation is to facilitate the following activities:

- project to project cooperation
- liaising and networking with relevant European and international organisations
- project development by identifying gaps and needs
- identifying and preparing major initiatives for the future programming period
- providing joint publicity and dissemination, including a gateway website

For further information concerning the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation, please contact Niclas Forsling at the NPP Joint Programme Secretariat or speak directly to the Maritime Safety Co-ordinator, Richard Hill, whose contact details are as follows:

Tel. +45 87 27 19 99

Email: crbrh@vibamt.dk

Website: www.maritime-safety.org

Within the NPP, a Safety@Sea project was approved at the 9th round Steering Committee meeting on 26th May 2005. Further information regarding this project will soon be available on the NPP website or alternatively contact the JPS for further information.



NEW FACE AT JPS

Victoria Kovacs

Victoria has been working with the JPS since the middle of April 2005 and has been providing valuable input into communication and information aspects for the programme.

Victoria is originally from Adelaide, Australia, but also has Hungarian citizenship. She studied International Business and Marketing at the University of South Australia and the University of Alicante and has a keen interest in transnational co-operation and European affairs, as well as the communication and information aspects of Interreg programming.

Victoria was attracted to working with transnational issues in an international environment and has a strong interest in culture and languages. She is now enjoying learning more about the issues concerning the northern periphery of Europe.

Victoria will continue to work for the programme over the summer and may be in touch with some of you over the next few months regarding the NPP's revised Information Action Plan.

Victoria can be contacted at the following address:

victoria.kovacs@npp2.net

Project Leaders Seminar

Communication

Effective communication is crucial to the success of all projects. The JPS would like to assist projects to address any issues or concerns regarding communication and media issues, and support projects to communicate and work with the media more successfully.

The upcoming Lead partner and partner seminar will have a special focus on specific issues related to this. Projects will have the opportunity to hear from a media expert, listen to good practice examples and learn how to apply practical methods to further the success of their projects.

The seminar will also address matters concerning new projects (on Day 1), as well as financial reporting procedures for projects near completion (on Day 3).

The seminar will be held over a three day period, addressing the following issues:

Day 1 - Information for new projects

Day 2 - Communication

Day 2 - Media training

Day 3 - Final reporting procedures for projects near to completion

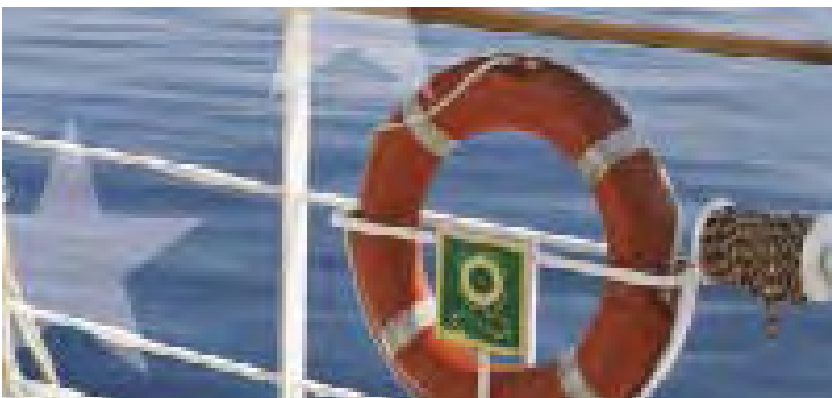
The JPS strongly recommends that staff responsible for communication and publicity, as well as financial managers/accountants, who are responsible for financial reporting and the accounts of the project, participate in this seminar.

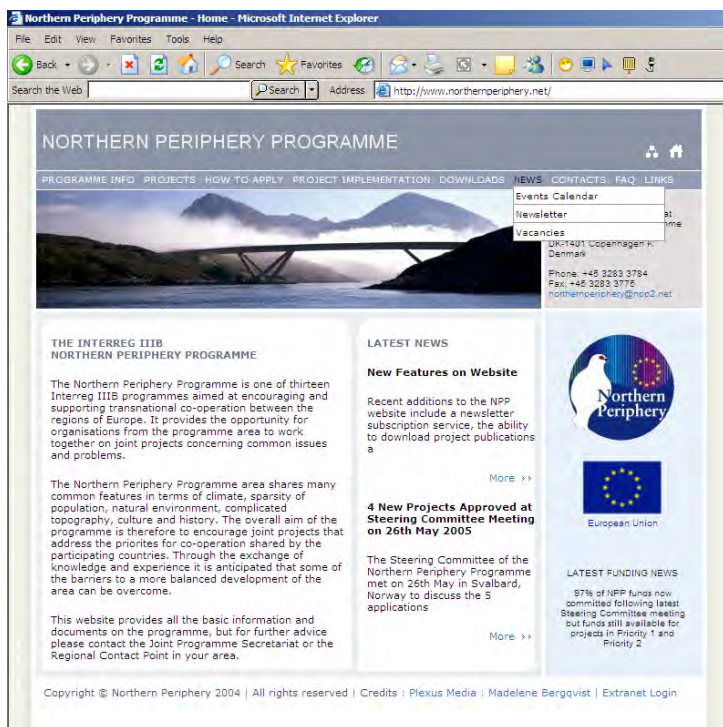
Further detailed information and registration details will be forwarded to all Lead Partners in the near future.

The JPS would like to hear from projects with any specific issues or questions regarding communication and the media. We request that you submit your queries by Friday 23rd September 2005 to Ms Claire Matheson on:

claire.matheson@npp2.net

Location: Tromsø, Norway
Date: 19th Oct – 21st Oct
2005





PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

Website Updates

2004 NPP Annual Report

The 2004 annual report will shortly be appearing on the NPP website. The report describes the main achievements of the programme during 2004 and the status of the programme at the end of the year. Annex 12 of the report also provides an outline of the main objectives and expected results of the 42 projects that were approved by the end of 2004. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the NPP website.

Project Publications Now on Website

The NPP website now has a facility for you to be able to download project publications. These can be accessed from the individual project pages or for a complete list, check out the Document Library under Downloads. Projects that have not yet submitted publications are welcome to send them to the JPS for inclusion on the website.

Newsletter Subscription Service

A subscription service can now be accessed on the NPP website and can be found under the News Heading. You can subscribe to receive the latest NPP newsletter simply by entering your name and e-mail address. Alternatively, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, it is possible to unsubscribe by entering your e-mail address into the unsubscribe section.

Vacancies

There are currently no vacancies at the Joint Programme Secretariat, but we have added a new page to the NPP website to show vacancies in the Interreg world. These can be accessed under the News heading on the website.

Events Calendar

The NPP website includes an events calendar, which can also be found under the news heading.

Projects can take advantage of this by sending information to the JPS on forthcoming project events. Details of future conferences and important seminars are particularly welcome.

Please send a short description of your project event, date and location to [Claire](#) at the JPS.

REMINDER TO PROJECT LEADERS

Interim Payment Claim Reminder

The Northern Periphery Programme has been successful in meeting the N+2 targets set for the past two years. This year the programme also needs to fulfil certain payment requirements in order to avoid the decommitment of programme funds. The JPS have therefore requested that all projects submit an interim payment claim by the 15th of November for ERDF expenditure up until the end of October. This will then be paid by 20th of December. It is essential that all projects comply with this request because otherwise the decommitted funds will need to be taken from operational projects due the high commitment rate of programme funds.

Financial Prognosis

The JPS have recently requested that all projects send a financial prognosis with their next claim, which is due to be submitted by the end of August 2005. A template has been developed for this and has been sent to all Lead Partners. The template should be completed and sent to your project officer at the JPS.

New Progress Report Template

A revised progress report template has been published on the NPP website and has also been sent to all Lead Partners. The new template contains additional information on project results to date and future activities.

Please remember to use this template for all future progress reports and feel free to contact the Joint Programme Secretariat for advice, if you are unsure of any aspects of the new template.