



INTERREG IIIB NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

ANNOUNCEMENT: Call for expressions of interest to extend current INTERREG IIIB NPP main projects with additional dissemination activities

Background Info

The INTERREG IIIB Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) encourages and supports transnational co-operation by providing the opportunity for organisations from the programme area to work together on joint projects concerning common issues and problems. There have been 11 application rounds to date and this has resulted in approval of 48 main projects. In conjunction with preparatory projects, this has resulted in almost full commitment of programme funds.

The projects funded through the Northern Periphery Programme have produced excellent results and outputs, and demonstrate a clear contribution to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, even although the current Northern Periphery Programme was designed before the two agendas were adopted.

An outline of the key points from the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas can be found on page 3 of this document.

Purpose of Call

In order to further highlight the success of the Northern Periphery Programme's projects and to ensure that project results and examples of best practise are disseminated effectively, the Programme Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG IIIB Northern Periphery Programme would like to invite applicants to extend their current NPP projects with further dissemination activities, such as:

- Creation of dissemination material and activities that promote innovative project results and outputs. A special focus should be placed on highlighting how these contribute to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.
- Offering assistance to project applicants in the future Northern Periphery Programme on issues such as:
 - > constructing successful main project partnerships
 - > building successful triple helix partnerships in a main project
 - > effectively disseminating and communicating project results to specific target groups and the wider public
 - > developing and implementing a project information strategy
 - > integrating and actively contributing to the horizontal themes of sustainable development and equal opportunities

Priority will also be given to projects that are consistent with the emerging Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013.

The promotional/dissemination material developed in the project extensions should be in conformity with the communication strategy of the Northern Periphery Programme and the Joint Programme Secretariat will support and assist projects in this process.

Practical info

Timeframe

Project extensions are available for a period of five months between 15th of May 2007 - 30th of November 2007. The end date for applications is 21st March 2007 and decisions on these applications will be made on 4th May 2007.

Budget

The indicative budget for each project extension is 60 000 Euros, of which 60 % will be funded by the INTERREG IIIB Northern Periphery Programme.

It should be noted that these project extensions will be financed with money returning from the programme through de-commitment of unused project funds, so the exact total sum of funds available cannot yet be confirmed.

Next Steps

If you are interested in applying for a project extension, please contact Christopher Parker at the Joint Programme Secretariat to register an expression of interest by 12th of February 2007.

The Joint Programme Secretariat is also happy to discuss potential project ideas or answer any queries concerning the call.

Niclas Forsling
Head of Secretariat.

Key Policy Frameworks: Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas

High unemployment, low economic growth and an ageing population are just some of the challenges that the EU must confront in the coming years if it is to meet its self-imposed objective: “To transform Europe into the world’s most competitive and largest knowledge based economy.” That was the 10-year goal set in 2000 by the European Council in Lisbon, and expressed through a “growth and jobs” strategy to close the gaps in Europe’s social and economic model – the knowledge gap, the inequality gap, and the poverty gap. This led to the birth of the Lisbon Strategy.

Mid-way through the plan, policymakers recognised that although progress had been made, many of the ambitious Lisbon targets would not be met by 2010. In light of this, the European Commission presented a review of the Lisbon agenda on 2 February 2005, leading to a relaunch of the objectives.

Lisbon: Growth and jobs

The Lisbon Strategy holds economic growth and development in a careful balance with promoting social cohesion and reducing social disparities, by highlighting four specific policy areas:

1. Making Europe a more attractive place to invest and work
2. Knowledge and innovation for growth
3. Creating more and better jobs
4. Defining a common energy policy

Each policy measure has a number of clearly defined objectives, as shown below:

Lisbon policy measures:

Making Europe a more attractive place to invest and work:

- Producing more resources for research and innovation
- Promoting Private-Public Partnerships
- Fostering relationships between higher education, research and enterprise

Investing more in knowledge and innovation:

- Improving the business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Reducing administrative burdens for business
- Facilitating entrepreneurial education and training

Creating more and better jobs:

- Encouraging labour market reforms
- Implementing an ageing strategy
- Promoting women’s employment and gender equality

Defining a common energy policy:

Addressing challenges such as:

- Increasing import dependency
- Fluctuating energy prices
- Increasing global energy demand and limited supply

Gothenburg: Sustainable development and the environment

Unsustainable trends such as rising consumption, increasing pollution, and climate change cannot be overlooked if Europe is to achieve its goals. With this in mind, the European Council launched its Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) in June 2001 at Gothenburg, Sweden. Like the Lisbon Agenda, the Gothenburg Strategy was also subject to review. The renewed EU SDS builds on the Gothenburg Strategy and sets clear challenges in seven priority areas for the period 2005–2010, as shown below.

EU strategy for sustainable development

1. Climate change and clean energy
2. Sustainable transport
3. Fighting global poverty
4. Management of natural resources
5. Public health threats
6. Social inclusion, demography and migration
7. Sustainable competitiveness and innovation