



# **INTERREG III B Programme**

## **The Northern Periphery**

### **Programme Complement**

Approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee and adopted by the  
Managing authority December 2007,  
**Revised December 2007**

**Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom (Scotland)**

in co-operation with

**The Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway**

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# 1.INTRODUCTION

Interreg is the European Community Initiative which aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting trans-European co-operation through cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation. Interreg III B supports transnational co-operation to contribute to harmonious territorial integration across the Union.

This document is a complement to the INTERREG III B Northern Periphery Programme Document, which was approved by the Commission 14 December 2001<sup>1</sup>.

The Programme Document is the strategic document, which contains an analysis of the conditions of the Northern Periphery Programme area and the strategic objectives, while this Programme Complement contains a more detailed description of the prerequisites for the implementation of the programme.

Point 27 of the Guidelines for the INTERREG III initiative<sup>2</sup> and article 18 (3) of the General Regulation of the Structural Funds<sup>3</sup> require a Programme Complement to be drawn up and adopted by the Managing Authority at the latest three months after the Commission Decision approving the Programme Document. The Programme Complement can, if necessary, be adjusted with the approval of the Monitoring Committee.

As demanded in the guidelines for the INTERREG III initiative the Programme Complement has been developed through a partnership between representatives from the six participating countries and regions. Both national and regional levels have been involved in the process.

As mentioned in the Northern Periphery Programme Document, the main Programme Document and the Programme Complement will be further supplemented with an Information and Application Package, consisting of the information and application forms necessary for potential applicants to relate to the managing bodies of the programme. The application package can be downloaded from the Northern Periphery Programme website at the following address: <http://www.northernperiphery.net/>

## 1.1 Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme Area

The INTERREG III B Northern Periphery programme area covers:

- The Highlands & Islands Special Transition Programme Area in **Scotland**,
- The Objective 1 Regions and adjacent areas in Keski-Suomi, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa and Keski-Pohjanmaa in **Finland**,
- Objective 1 areas and adjacent coastal areas including Gävleborg County as a whole of **Sweden**,
- The four northernmost counties of Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland, Troms and Finnmark in **Norway**,
- The **Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland**.

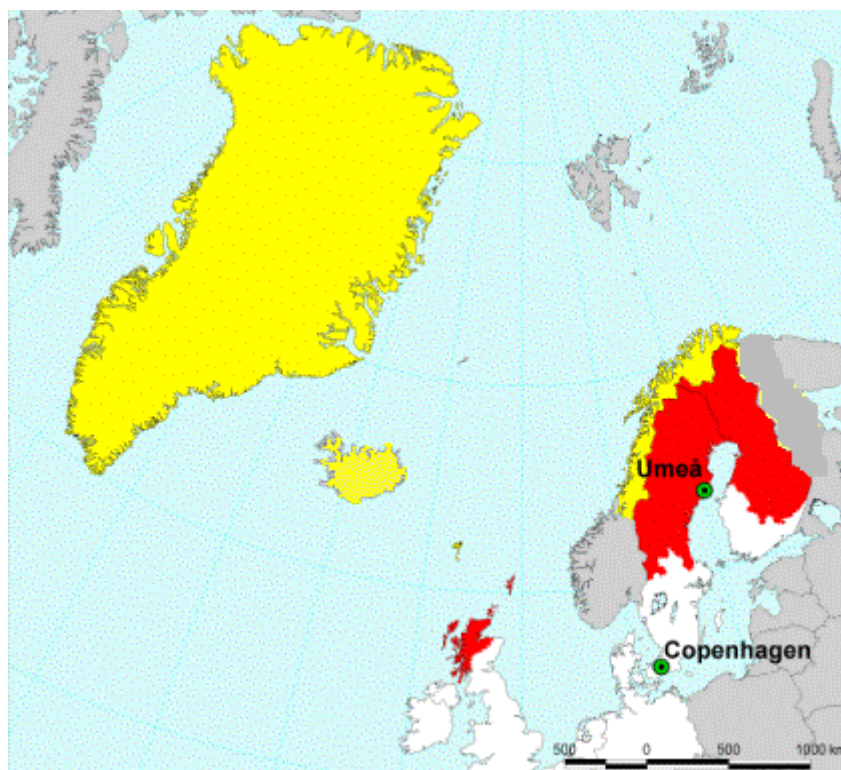
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<sup>1</sup> Commission CCI No 2001 CB 16 0 PC 003

<sup>2</sup> C (2000) 1101 - Communication from the Commission to the Member States of 28.04.00 laying down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning trans-European cooperation intended to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European Territory – INTERREG III

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

Partners from neighbouring and trans-Atlantic regions will be invited to participate on a project-by-project basis, i.e. with their own financing. Particular efforts will be made to involve actors from **Northwest Russia**, where relevant.



## 1.2 Vision and Overall Objective of the Northern Periphery Programme

The Programme Complement shall give practically oriented guidelines to help the implementation, steering and evaluation of the Northern Periphery programme. The detailing and specifications should nevertheless connect closely to and underpin the overall visions and aims expressed in the Northern Periphery Programme Document.

*Our vision is of the people of the Northern Periphery working together to secure **prosperous and sustainable development of their communities**, and **wise management of distinctive cultural and natural resources**, in a manner that contributes to the attainment of joint European objectives.*

### Overall objective

*To find, through transnational co-operation within the programme, creative ways to **improve functionality and maximise the potential of the Northern Periphery**, whilst seeking to **compensate for the permanent disadvantages represented by harsh climate, long distances, complicated topography and sparse population**.*

In order to pursue these overall intentions the programme has identified three strategic themes with a priority for action deriving from each. The strategic themes are as follows; improve the competitiveness of regions, particularly through the introduction of measures which will offset

the disadvantage of peripherality and sparse population, full recognition and exploitation of the human and natural resources available, particularly those which are unique to the area, such as the cultural and natural heritage and cold climate expertise and knowledge, and to sustain our communities, many of which are experiencing difficulty in retaining people and services. The priorities, which have been divided into measures, are:

1. Communications
  - 1.1 Transportation, logistics and transport infrastructure
  - 1.2 Access to information society
2. Strengthen sustainable economic development
  - 2.1 Sustainable use of nature and natural resources
  - 2.2 Business innovation and development of human resources
3. Community Development
  - 3.1 Household-related service provision
  - 3.2 Public management and spatial planning

See Table 1 below for illustration of the strategic themes and priorities.

**Table 1 Strategic Themes and Priorities**

<b>Strategic themes:</b>	The need to improve the competitiveness of regions, particularly through the introduction of measures which will offset the disadvantage of peripherality and sparse population.		To fully recognise and exploit the human and natural resources available, particularly those which are unique to the area, such as the cultural and natural heritage and cold climate expertise and knowledge		To sustain our communities, many of which are experiencing difficulty in retaining people and services	
<b>Priorities:</b>	<b>1</b> Communications		<b>2</b> Strengthen sustainable economic development		<b>3</b> Community development	
<b>Measures:</b>  <b>Co-operative Strategies:</b>	<b>1.1</b> Transportation, logistics and transport infrastructure	<b>1.2</b> Access to information society	<b>2.1</b> Sustainable use of nature and natural resources	<b>2.2</b> Business innovation and development of human resources	<b>3.1</b> Household-related service provision	<b>3.2</b> Public management and spatial planning
<b>A</b> To solve common problems or utilise opportunities						
<b>B</b> To carry out joint innovative activities and linked research						
<b>C</b> For interactive learning and exchange of experience and good practice						

Consistency is sought between the overall vision, the strategic themes, priorities and corresponding measures. The main function for the programme complement is to extend this line to a more operative level, by detailing the measures and clarifying the implementation procedures.

### 1.3 Main structure of the Programme Complement

The Programme Complement is intended to assist prospective project applicants as well as serve as information for the administrative bodies of the programme and should always be used in parallel with the Programme Document.

The most relevant information for prospective project applicants and their transnational and local partnerships can be found in section 2 *Final beneficiaries*, where the potential types of beneficiaries are listed, section 3 *Project selection and decision-making process*, describing the selection procedure, section 4 *Indicators* for measuring outputs, section 5 *Priorities and measures*, 6 *Financing* and section 7 *Micro and Preparatory Projects*. Also section 8 *Synergy with other programmes* might be of interest for applicants with a wider scope.

Particularly relevant for the administrative bodies involved in the implementation of the programme are section 9 which details the *publicity and information* strategy, section 10 on *computerised exchange of data* between the programme bodies and the European Commission, and section 11 detailing the Programme finances on measure level in an overall *financial table*.

## 2. FINAL BENEFICIARIES

### 2.1 Recipients of funding from the Northern Periphery Programme

Final beneficiaries stand for entities eligible for receiving support under the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme. In practice it means those who can participate in Interreg III B Northern Periphery projects as project partners, benefiting directly from project results. In the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme final beneficiaries are mainly organisations and authorities (including “public-like“ institutions) representing the local/regional/national inhabitants, and established for securing benefits for the general public.

Project Partners should be located within the programme area. It is recognised, however, that there may be cases where expertise and knowledge important in addressing the issues of relevance to the Northern Periphery are unavailable or poorly developed within the Programme Area. In such circumstances project partners outside the programme area could be eligible as project partners providing they can demonstrate that their contribution will benefit the programme area. Project sponsors are advised to consult with the Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat in these situations.

One of the project partners in a partnership should be assigned the role of Lead Partner, carrying the overall responsibility of the project. Lead Partners have to have proficient administrative and financial capacity to be able to run a transnational project funded by the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme, as they will have the overall responsibility towards the Commission and the Programme Administration. The demands on a Lead Partner are therefore higher than on other project partners. The Lead Partner should be located within the programme area of Finland, Scotland, Sweden, Norway or Iceland in order to be entitled to take full responsibility for the Northern Periphery Programme funding. For more information on Lead Partner responsibilities please consult the Datasheets of the Applicant’s Package.

Lead partners must be *public or similar*<sup>4</sup> and can be for example:

- 1. Regional and local authorities**
- 2. Research and educational institutions**
- 3. Public-like organisations like regional and local self-government of entrepreneurs (e.g. chamber of commerce)**

The following categories of organisations can be Project partners:

- 4. Non-profit local and regional development agencies**
- 5. Non-profit enterprises/ organisations dealing with local and regional development**
- 6. Non-profit institutions/organisations active in the fields relevant to the programme**
- 7. Private sector (with limitations in Finland and Sweden) See 2.2 below for further details**

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<sup>4</sup> See also section 6.3 for more information on public-like funding

## 2.2 Private sector

As stated in the Programme Document the programme will include partners from all sectors of society including private sector, although a private partner cannot act as a lead partner in a project. The private sector can be involved as project partners if their contribution to the project represents a wider public interest and the public sector is involved. However, in Finland and Sweden private sector involvement **cannot generate NPP funding** as a result of national policy in relation to Structural Funds. Private sector is invited to finance activities on top of the main project actions in these areas. These funds will be part of the project budget, but **will not be eligible for/generate ERDF co-financing**.

## 2.3 Complex partnerships as an overall intention

The INTERREG III B Northern Periphery programme will encourage the idea of new and innovative aspects by bringing together co-operation actors representing quite different resources and perspectives. This calls for broader partnerships within the projects.

Many of the strategic themes and priorities defined for this programme may most efficiently be addressed by co-operative efforts combining the resources in both public and private sector. Co-operation between academic institutions and private firms has long been encouraged. It is emphasised, however, that **transnational co-operation solely between academic institutions will not be supported. Partnerships should in this case include representatives of organisations that will benefit from the final results.**

Public authorities should work closely together with private actors and bodies in the development and running of their services. Co-operative actions and partnerships between representatives from industry, university and government will be vital to future prosperity. This three-strand approach is an emerging concept - sometimes referred to as the "Triple Helix" approach - which is being developed in other national and international networks.

In many projects of seemingly limited scope, success is to a large extent dependent on close and lasting co-operation between many partners of very different capacities. As an example, developing and marketing a new tourist destination may involve regulatory and environmental authorities, landowners, companies delivering different tourist services (hotels, restaurants, adventure tour operators), local tourist boards etc.

Within the programme the establishing of broader partnerships will therefore be encouraged - partnership not only between single partners from each country, but also between partnerships from each country involved.

The principle of broader partnerships should be seen as an option - and not compulsory.

### 3. PROJECT SELECTION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

#### 3.1 Project selection criteria

Project selection will be based on *firstly, formal requirements to secure admissibility and eligibility* and *secondly, selection criteria for ranking of projects* presented below. The selection criteria might be specified, completed and further developed by the Programme Monitoring Committee during the implementation process.

##### ***3.1.1 Formal requirements to secure admissibility and eligibility***

To comply with the requirements for ***admissibility*** the following points must be fulfilled:

1. One of the project partners should be assigned the role of Lead Partner, carrying the overall responsibility of the project. The Lead Partner should be located within the programme area of Finland, Scotland, Sweden Norway or Iceland in order to be entitled to take full responsibility for the Northern Periphery Programme funding. For further information on Lead Partner responsibilities see section 3.1.4 and the Applicant's Package.
2. The application form must be filled in correctly and it shall include the following elements:
  - Specified aims or purposes that enables an evaluation of the project's compliance with the overall intentions of the programme
  - An outline of the basic strategy of the networking project
  - A specified time schedule and a presentation of the planned activities of the project
  - A presentation of the partners, the project-organisation and the project-leader
  - A presentation of the intended results of the project, and a list of indicators to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the project
  - A presentation of the dissemination of project results and what can be learnt from these
  - An overall budget and a financial table, specifying the different financial sources of the project, including evidence of co-financing in the form of signed co-financing commitments.

To be considered ***eligible*** project must:

- Be consistent with the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme
- Concentrate on issues, which call for transnational cooperation
- Include three or more partners from at least three different countries, of which one from an EU Member State, within the programme area
- Demonstrate its contribution to spatial development
- Take into account sustainable development, including economic, social and environmental perspectives
- Take into account equal opportunities in a broad context; gender equality, minorities and age groups
- Avoid duplication of current or completed work
- Provide good value for money with realistic budget
- Be likely to prove viable both in their execution and their ability to survive once funding under the programme ends

Only project applications fulfilling the ***admissibility and eligibility criteria*** will be forwarded to the Programme Monitoring Committee acting as Steering Committee for approval.

### ***3.1.2 Selection criteria for ranking of projects***

Projects will be given **higher priority** if they also:

- Demonstrate an additional and sustainable economic benefit to the programme area
- Involve partners from either Scotland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Iceland or Northwest Russia
- Have a complex partnership (partnership not only between single partners from each country, but between partnerships, involving both public and private sector from each country involved), for example educational institute-private sector-public sector cooperation
- Take into account/focus on the particular conditions of the north, particularly peripherality and sparsity of population
- Take into account the different groups of indigenous people
- Attract private sector contributions or generate indirect private sector leverage
- Demonstrate positive environmental impact and sustainability
- Demonstrate positive impact on equal opportunities in a broad context; gender equality, minorities and age groups
- Have an appropriate size recommended by the PMC
- Contribute significantly to achieving the outputs/outcomes for the programme and priority and measure targets
- Demonstrate a high degree of innovativeness
- Demonstrate a well-balanced transnational partnership where the different partners contribute and benefit to a similar extent
- Demonstrate synergy with other funds including Tacis, Objective 1, 2, 3 and transitional funding

### ***3.1.3 Measure specific selection criteria***

The priorities and measures will be presented in more detail in chapter 6 and some “core actions” will be indicated. Measures are open to a wide range of issues, and the applicants are welcomed to present arguments for how their project fits into one of the measures and contributes to the overall aims of the programme.

The measure specific criteria indicate what will be prioritised in the assessment of projects under the different measures and are presented under each measure in section 5.

### ***3.1.4 Prerequisites for successful running of projects***

#### **Practical prerequisites**

As the administration of a transnational EU-funded project is substantial, a number of prerequisites may help the practical implementation and proceeding of each networking project.

#### **Lead Partner responsibilities**

In order to be able to run a project efficiently the lead partner has to set up an effective and reliable management and co-ordination system handling the administration of the project. This responsibility lies with the lead partner. The administrative co-ordination includes both issues related to the thematic activities of the project as well as the purely administrative and financial management of the project. Another important task of the project co-ordination unit is the production of six-monthly reports to the Joint Programme Secretariat on activity related progress and financial follow-up.

The lead partner should appoint one *project leader* responsible for the overall activities of the project. This person should be qualified to handle the thematic co-ordination of the project and be able to work as a driving force to the partnership and people involved in the project in order to achieve the objectives laid down in the application.

It is recommended to appoint a project leader with experience in management of transnational projects.

For further information on Lead Partner responsibilities see the Datasheets of the Applicant's Package.

#### **Financial management and control**

A project co-financed with EU-assistance has to be managed and administered in a professional and reliable way. The financial co-ordination should not be underestimated, as experience shows that it is an extensive assignment to build up, maintain and phase out a transnational project of this kind. In order to make best use of the funds raised to the project, professional financial management is essential.

### **3.2 Selection procedure**

Project selection will be done by the Programme Monitoring Committee acting as Steering Committee following open calls for applications. Calls for applications will be launched regularly, at least one in 2001, and twice per year from 2002 to 2006. In line with the pro-active approach to programme implementation, the Programming Monitoring Committee may decide on special focus or requirements for individual calls.

Calls for applications will be published on the website of the programme as the main source of information at least three months prior to each application deadline. They will also be published in ministry bulletins to all public national, regional and local authorities. Relevant

information will be distributed through the Programme Monitoring Committee and Regional Contact Points.

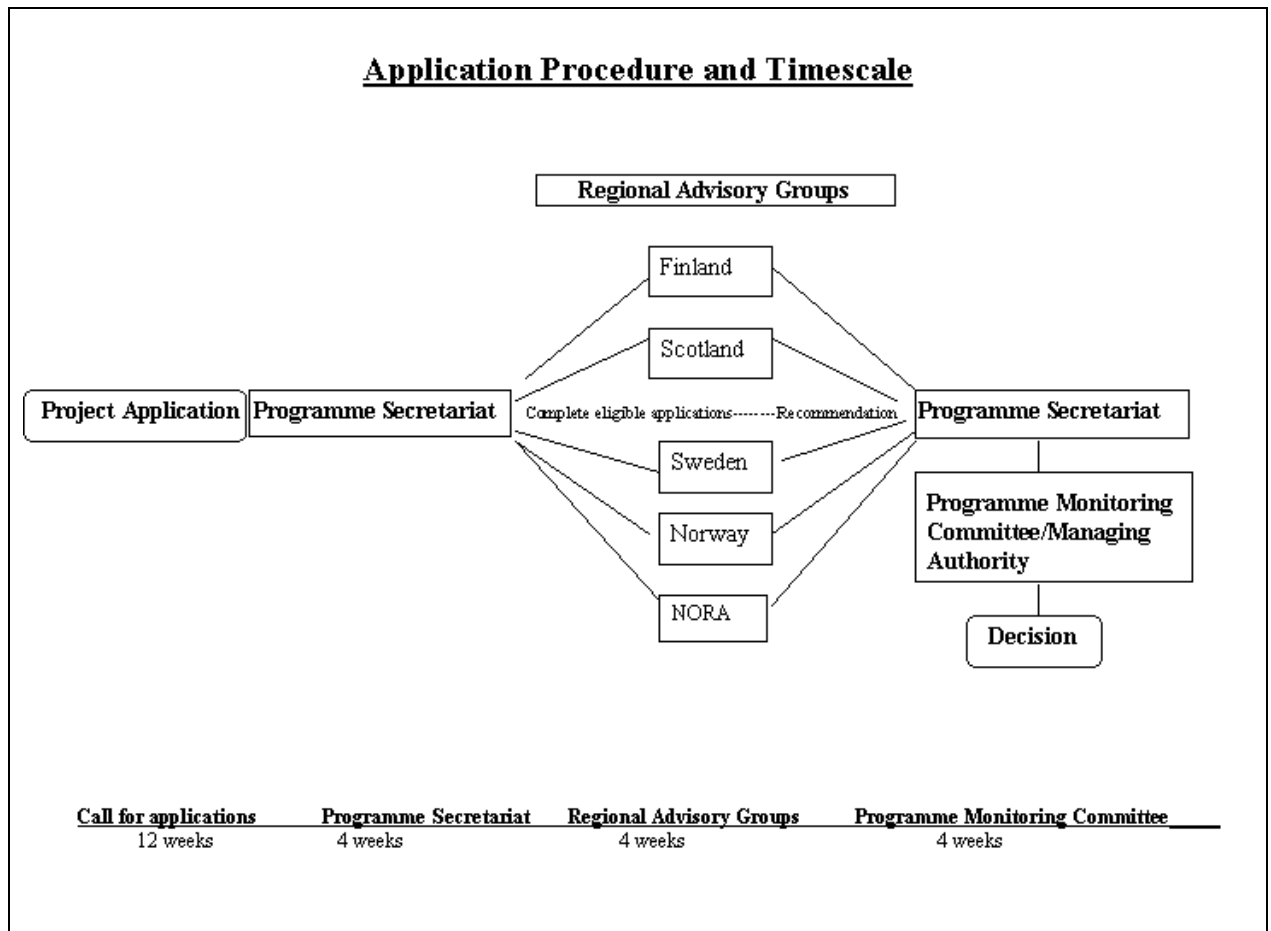
The Joint Programme Secretariat has prepared an information and application package for applicants where detailed information on rules considering submission of applications is given.

Applications for funding will be submitted by the Lead Partner of the project to the Joint Programme Secretariat. Upon arrival of the application at the secretariat, the Lead Partner will be sent a notification of the arrival of the application. The application will be registered and checked for admissibility and eligibility by the Joint Programme Secretariat. The Monitoring Committee will be notified of all projects that failed to meet the admissibility and eligibility check.

The Secretariat will distribute the eligible applications to the Regional Advisory Groups, which will assess the suitability and priority of all eligible project applications using the agreed selection criteria and make recommendations on whether or not the requests for funding should be supported. The selection will be based on the “4-box-scoring method” where the applications will be recommended for 1) accepted without conditions, 2) accepted with conditions, 3) resubmission and 4) rejected.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Groups, the Joint Programme Secretariat will prepare proposals for decision to the Programme Monitoring Committee, acting as a Steering Committee. Funding decisions will be made at the Programme Monitoring Committee meetings. After the Monitoring Committee meetings, the Lead applicant/partner will be informed about the decision. When an application is approved, the Managing Authority will draw up the Grant Offer Letter. If the Monitoring Committee rejects the project, a refusal letter will be sent to the Lead Partner. The Lead Partner is responsible for communication with the other partners in the project.

**Figure 1 Application Procedure and Timescale**



### 3.3 Payment claims

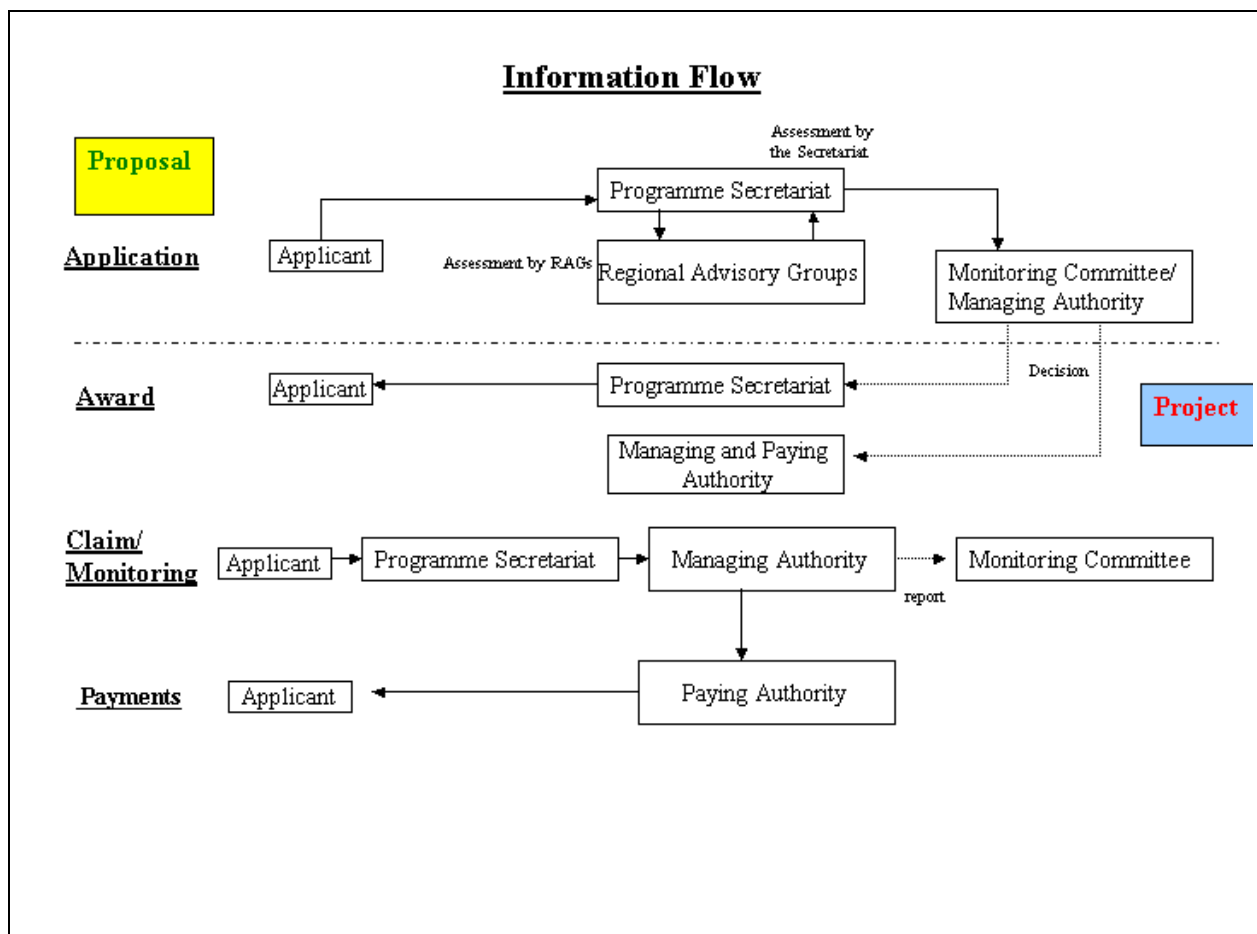
Payments to projects will take form of interim payments and payments of the final balance. These payments shall be related to expenditure actually paid out, corresponding to payments effected by the final beneficiaries. The final claim will be audited.

Payment claims are sent to the Joint Programme Secretariat with a periodic or final activity report. The Joint Programme Secretariat checks the claim and, if found necessary, asks for more information.

When the claim is found to be in order the Joint Programme Secretariat sends the claim to the Managing and Paying Authority where the conformity with financial regulations and requirements is controlled. The aim of the control is to secure that costs are eligible and based on accountable verifications and accounting systems.

When the control is done and the costs found eligible, the Paying Authority issues a payment from the ERDF and the pre-allocated NPP funding from Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland to the Lead Partner of the project. The payment is registered in the data base system for managing and monitoring of the programme. The lead partner then allocates the payment to the other partners involved in the project. See Figure 2 Information flow below for illustration of the flow from the time of application to funding being paid out.

Figure 2 Information flow



### 3.4 Connecting selection criteria and indicators

In the application process the consideration of the horizontal objectives (sustainable development, equal opportunities, spatial planning and transnationality) will be assessed in all projects. The objectives are measured through horizontal indicators described in section 5.1 below.

In addition to this, the consistency with the programme will be assessed against the extent to which the project outputs and outcomes meet the relevant priority and measure targets. The expected results will be measured through indicators, which will serve as guidance in the assessment of the project applications. Indicators are used as a means to measure the results and impacts of the projects as well as the programme.

There could be projects that might not have any or little effect on the indicators, for example the micro and preparatory projects, but which could be important to support. These projects may not contribute to the fulfilment of the programme objectives initially, but could lead to more strategic and better main projects. However, there has to be a strong justification of the relevance of such projects.

## 4. Indicators

Indicators are being used to enable follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the programme. Follow-up and monitoring is the basis for evaluating the fulfilment of the programmes objectives. The indicators are based on the aims and objectives of the programme.

Indicators are used to assess the results of the programme and the individual projects. A distinction is made between *project indicators*, which will be reported in the reports from the projects, and *programme indicators*, that will be aggregated from the various project indicators.

### 4.1 Project Indicators

The project indicators related to activities and results are described under each measure in section 5 of the Programme Complement.

Each project is asked to present the division of female and male participants, as well as possible impact on other aspects of equal opportunities. Projects shall also present the impacts on sustainable development, particularly the environmental aspects of the project.

The horizontal indicators below will be assessed in all projects.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Equal Opportunities	Projects categorized according: 1. Directly and mainly contributing to equal opportunities 2. Indirectly contributing to equal opportunities 3. Neutral to equal opportunities	Classify project 1, 2 or 3 accordingly	12 main projects of category 1.
Environment	Projects categorized according: 1. Directly and mainly improving the environment 2. Indirectly contributing to improving the environment 3. Environment Neutral	Classify project 1, 2 or 3 accordingly	12 main projects of category 1
Transnationality	Degree of transnationality, measured by the number of countries involved in the projects. Projects will be categorized according: 1. 3 countries involved 2. 4 countries involved 3. 5- 8 countries involved	Classify project 1, 2 or 3 accordingly	24 main projects in category 2 and 3
Spatial development	Spatial development studies/tools and networks	Number of studies/documents of common planning	At least 3 studies/documents
		Number of spatial development networks	At least 3 networks

Complex partnerships	Partnerships including research, business enterprises, local or regional government	Number of partnerships, of which continuing beyond project, number of different kinds of organisations involved, of whom private/semi-public	At least 12 main projects
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## 4.2 Programme Indicators

The following indicators will be followed up and monitored throughout the programme period:

### Projects initiated by regional actors

Number of transnational co-operative projects started/year/in total

Number of Micro-projects

Number of Preparatory projects

Number of main projects

### Partners & Participants

Number of partners involved, per country, per region, per category and in total

### Activities on programme level

Number of activities initiated by the PMC/secretariat/

Evaluation projects

Number of conferences held intended to mobilize partners, exchange of experience etc.

Number of arrangements to facilitate trans-national networking, partnerships and projects

Number of conferences, seminars etc., related to each priority/measure

Number of projects initiated by the programme bodies

Number of project leader seminars

### *Quantified activity goals on programme level*

	<u>Number</u>
Main projects	48 (about 24 ongoing/year –duration 3 years)
of which Priority 1 projects	12 (25%)
Priority 2 projects	22 (45%)
Priority 3 projects	14 (30%)
Micro projects	24 <sup>5</sup>
Preparatory projects	<u>24</u>
	96
Indigenous people projects	5 projects (10%)
Young people projects	10 projects (20%)
SME-partner projects	10 projects (20%)

<sup>5</sup> calculated on a budget of around 3% of the ERDF contribution, i.e. 600,000euros in total for Micro and Preparatory projects

Micro/preparatory into main projects	24 projects (50%)
Main projects with more than 3 countries	24 projects (50%)
Main projects with complex partnerships	9 projects (20%)
Main projects with adjacent region partners	5 projects (10%)

#### 4.2.1 Results and impacts

The results on programme level will be constituted by the aggregation of results produced on project and measure level. Material will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the programme remains on track, that the indicators remain relevant and that any necessary adjustments are made.

The programme's overall objectives, i.e. prosperous and sustainable development of the communities, wise management of distinctive cultural and natural resources, improved functionality and maximised potential of the Northern Periphery, compensate for permanent disadvantages (harsh climate, long distance, complicated topography and sparse population) could be followed up and measured through the following indicators:

Expected result/impact	Indicator	Definition	Measurement	Objective
Increased trans-national co-operation	Transnational Networks	Network including partners from more than 3 countries	Number of networks, of which continuing after end of project	24 main projects with more than 3 countries involved
Increased interaction between different actors	Complex partnerships	Partnerships including research, business enterprises, local or regional government	Number of partnerships, of which continuing beyond project, number of different kinds of organisations involved, of whom private/semi-public	12 main projects based on complex partnerships
Increased spatial development interaction/exchange	Spatial development	Spatial development studies/tools and networks	Number of studies/documents of common planning	At least 3 studies/documents
			Number of spatial development networks	At least 3 spatial development networks
Improved functionality	Improved communications	New or improved communication channels	Number of communication channels, such as ICT, transport routes etc	At least 3 communication channels
	Improved Service	New or improved service	Number of new or improved services, number of household concerned	At least 3 new or improved services

## 5. PRIORITIES AND MEASURES

The Managing Authority is acting as the responsible administrative body for Priorities 1- 3, while the Programme Monitoring Committee is the responsible administrative body for Priority 4.

### 5.1 Priority 1: Communications

#### Key objective

Priority 1 will encourage more effective use of communications which addresses the disadvantage of peripherality and insularity.

#### Description

Overcoming distance through improved communications is a vital issue for the Northern Periphery with its vast area and a sparse population, especially since the programme area is extended compared to the Article 10 programme and including the Faroe Islands and Greenland as well as Finland, Scotland, Sweden and Norway.

The climate conditions in the Northern Periphery require completely different methods of road maintenance, a different character and at entirely different costs than in Central Europe, for example anti-skid treatment, snow clearance, sanding, frost heave and wear induced by studded tires. The winter climate makes it necessary for ice-breakers to operate in the northern part of the Baltic and in the Barents Sea. Consequently, ice-breakers were approved as part of the Trans European Network (TEN) infrastructure when Finland and Sweden became members of the EU in 1995.

The low population density means that traffic flows, traffic volumes and environmental problems associated with traffic are considerably less than on the “Continent”. The lower traffic volume also leads to other preconditions for maintaining traffic economy.

An efficient and effective transport network is essential to business development and sustainability of communities across the programme area. In all regions of the North we find industries based on natural resources such as oil and gas, wood, minerals, fish etc. These industries all have their main markets outside the programme area, and consequently they are heavily dependent on efficient transport systems.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can also help breakdown the barriers to location of business outside urban centres, attracting increased investment to rural areas and areas dependent on natural resources, through tele-commuting, out-location of jobs and possibilities connected to working from home.

The use of ICT is one way of reducing the effects of long internal distances as well as peripherality. Increased use of telecommunication technologies may be linked to both a

renewal of the economy of the area and to increased effectiveness in public service, education, medicare etc.

Through the use and development of ICT in the periphery there is also a possibility of overcoming distances in an environmentally sustainable way as the use of ICT reduces the need to travel.

Two main aspects will be addressed through separate measures: 1) physical transportation - road, sea and air transportation of passengers and goods, and 2) telecommunication and access to information society.

#### Priority level indicators

Number of intermodal transport projects

Number of co-operation projects concerning Information Society issues

#### Funding Priority 1

Funding for Priority 1 *Communications*, in EUR

Priority 1	TOTAL FUNDING						
	Total	Total Public/like	Public funding			Eligible Private	Other financial Instruments
	1=2+7	2=3+6	Total	NPP	National	6	7
TOTAL FUNDING	11.298.542	7.121.367	7.006.098	4.272.820	2.733.278	115.269	4.177.175
co-financing level				60%	39%	1%	
				60%		40%	

### ***5.1.1 Measure 1.1 Transportation, logistics and transport infrastructure***

#### **Key Objective**

This measure will encourage a greater understanding and awareness of the transport needs of the Northern Periphery and develop and test ideas, which will contribute to a more efficient, effective, and sustainable transport network.

#### **Description**

A key disadvantage of the region in terms of its economic competitiveness is distance from market and which is further compounded by critical weaknesses in its internal transport infrastructure. The long internal and external distances and the lack of competition in the provision of transport services lead to high transport costs. Despite improvement in transport links, the region will continue to remain geographically remote and this is an issue to be addressed in the wider context of economic policy development. Access to raw materials, other resources and to markets depend on good communication links and infrastructure.

However, as the European Spatial Development Perspective notes, efficient transport is a basic requisite for strengthening the competitive position of peripheral and less favoured regions. A key area of importance in this context is the need to retain and improve air and sea links between the regions of the northern periphery and the international hubs, a position which is being eroded, and to improve links between the regions. Studies are needed to identify, justify and promote improvements to existing and potential strategic transport links within regions and links with national and international networks.

Within the region people are heavily dependent upon the provision of transport services and reliable year round transport infrastructure. Local roads in particular constitute a vital lifeline for communities and business in securing access to natural resources, supplies and markets. The transport network in many regions is, however, based on aging and inadequate infrastructure. In addition the ground and climatic conditions pose additional problems in the maintenance of infrastructure. Ways of making the best use of financial resources in the improvement and maintenance of transport infrastructure is clearly a priority.

The reliance on the car as a mode of transport in rural areas has obscured the need for public/community transport for many people and for its use to be easily interchangeable. Although the car will continue to provide flexibility in remote areas, it is vital that people have the choice to transfer between transport modes without having to resort to car usage. Integration between ferry, train and bus is well advanced in certain regions and needs to be adopted more widely. This approach is particularly beneficial to the young and women who often do not have access to a car.

Better use of public/community transport contributes to sustainable development, as does a transfer of freight from road to rail and sea. The integration of these transport modes is important in moving towards the sustainable development of the economy. Greater integration of modes of transport can have additional benefits of providing enhanced logistics for the movement of goods within the region, thus improving the sustainability of transport. Achieving a more sustainable modal balance will also address the issue of high and increasing fuel tax and its impact on the competitiveness of the region.

The move towards a more integrated approach to transport will allow the needs of all sectors of the community to be met. The development of innovative measures and demonstration projects exploring opportunities for the greater integration of modes of transport and the more sustainable movement of goods and people would therefore be appropriate under this measure.

#### Ex-ante evaluation of measure 1.1

This measure will encourage a greater understanding and awareness of the transport needs of the Northern Periphery and develop and test ideas, which will contribute to a more efficient, effective, and sustainable transport network. Measure 1.1 is expected to strengthen the communication links within the Northern Periphery Programme area by promoting co-operation in transnational networks and result in better intermodal transport networks. Improving the communications is one way of overcoming distance and the disadvantages of peripherality and insularity, which is the key objective of Priority 1.

#### Illustrative project themes include:

- Projects focusing on multi-modal transport systems and ways of achieving shift from car and road haulage to alternative forms of transport
- Studies to examine opportunities and conversely the disadvantages resulting from current networks.
- Initiatives which meet the needs of communities for local travel to jobs and services, and for businesses to access resources and markets
- Projects to explore possibilities for linking maritime and insular regions through new sea routes
- Projects to secure economically viable ways of delivering public transport
- Initiatives to identify better ways of maintaining transport infrastructure, particularly given the problems relating to climate, ground conditions etc.
- Projects to explore possibilities for North West Russia to be connected to Western Europe and Atlantic harbours

#### Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Promote the **maintaining and improvement of effective and sustainable transport infrastructure** within the region
- Address weaknesses in transport networks, particularly **links between regions and with national and international networks**
- Improve **access of enterprises to resources and markets and/or communities to jobs and services.**

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

#### Expected results

Strengthened communication links and improved communication through sustainable methods.

## Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Transport networks	Activity for maintained and improved transports	Number of networks, number of partners involved, sectors
Northwest Russia connections	Projects connecting Northwest Russia to Western Europe	Number of projects
Intermodal transport	Projects concerning transport systems combining several forms of transport into one	Number of projects, number of systems, number of transportation methods combined
Communication links	Strengthened communication links as a result of the project	Number of new or improved links
Communication studies	Surveys of communication problems and solutions	Number of studies

For further information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

## Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 1.1:

### *31. Transport infrastructure*

### ***5.1.2 Measure 1.2 Access to information society***

#### Key Objective

This measure will improve economic competitiveness through improved access to the information society.

#### Description

Information and communication technology (ICT) and access to information society services are factors of great importance for the future development of the Northern Periphery. ICT may help to overcome certain disadvantages springing from long distances and peripherality. Identifying means of pursuing business and educational opportunities, such as those highlighted by the Council of Ministers at their meeting in Lisbon, will enhance the capacity of the business community to benefit from the potential of e-commerce which in turn can contribute to job creation in the more remote communities.

The inherent potential of information and communications technologies must be exploited to the full if the area is to achieve greater levels of economic activity and resulting prosperity. Enhancing the take up of ICT amongst SMEs, learning institutions and communities will be central to future success. The aim should be equality of access to all businesses, education and training purposes leading to an improved economic performance of the area. This will have a beneficial impact upon women in particular and has the potential to help retain young people in the area and so also contribute to the objectives of priority 3.

New and innovative use of ICT will assist the area to secure enhanced competitiveness in the global market. The delivery of services and access to e-commerce opportunities for remote areas via electronic means will underpin the sustainability of remote areas, remove barriers to access and reduce the need to travel long distances.

Opportunities are therefore bi-directional. Using the speed, convenience and location neutral aspects of ICT, businesses can market and supply goods and services. At the same time access brings opportunities for areas to source information and intelligence and to network to allow a more competitive edge to business activity. ICT is already used to good effect in the programme area. There are several actors in the area who lead the field in ICT research and development on mobile solutions and wireless communication.

#### Ex-ante evaluation of Measure 1.2

This measure will improve economic competitiveness through improved access to the information society. Information and Communication Technology may help to overcome certain disadvantages stemming from long distances and peripherality through increased access to for example education, service, information and telecommuting.

#### Relevant project themes include:

- Projects researching current levels of access and barriers to further progress
- Projects focusing on ICT as means to give actors in remote areas access to distant educational and health services, cultural events, etc.
- ICT as means of locating jobs and establishing virtual work organisations

- ICT as a tool for accessing relevant information more generally: market information, legal or other formal regulations, documents pertaining to political processes, increasing the opportunities for people in peripheral areas to take an active part in democratic processes etc.

#### Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Assist in the **creation of new employment**, particularly in remoter areas, and/or **reduce the need to travel**
- Enable **enterprises to become more competitive**
- **Improve access to information and services.**
- Enhance the **availability of ICT** in the Northern Periphery Programme Area

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

#### Expected results

Overcome some disadvantages arising from long distances and peripheral location through ICT by increased access to education, service, information and telecommuting.

#### Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Job-locating projects	Projects concerning location of jobs in NPP area through ICT	Number of projects
Distance learning projects	Projects concerning distance learning	Number of projects
Health service projects	Projects concerning access to health service	Number of projects
Information Society issues	Projects concerning Information Society	Number of projects
Studies on IT-access	Studies considering IT-access	Number of studies
New IT-based applications and solutions	IT-solutions and services that are new to the area concerned, as a result of the project	Number of solutions
Establishment of virtual work places	Creation of (on-line) jobs in remote areas	Number of jobs
IT-services	Small and Medium sized Enterprises developing and commercialising IT-services	Number of SMEs

For further information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

#### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 1.2:

#### *32. Telecommunications infrastructure and information society*

## 5.2 Priority 2: Strengthen sustainable economic development

### Key objective

This priority will encourage initiatives which help secure prosperity for the area through its people and natural resources.

### Description

The economy of the Northern Periphery is a patchwork exhibiting differences internally in each region and between the regions. Nevertheless it is a common trait that important sectors of the economies are based on natural resources and that there are fragile rural economies in all of the regions. The concept of sustainable development calls for special attention in this context. The unspoiled natural environment is one of the major assets of the Periphery and conserving this is an object of global importance. On the other hand, this environment is the source for important parts of the economies of the Periphery and one has to find a balance between these potentially conflicting interest. However, it is important to underline that environment also is a horizontal measure that applies for all actions in the programme.

Vast natural resources characterise the Northern Periphery, with regard to energy carriers, forests and maritime resources. Beautiful nature and a high quality environment are obvious assets of Northern Europe. But the nature of the north is vulnerable and under threat, both from pollution, overexploitation and climatic changes. This priority will therefore strongly involve the questions related to sustainable use of natural resources. A special focus must be put on the connection between environmental protection and commercial exploitation of natural resources.

Priority 2 is principally concerned with business development. Enterprises in the Northern Periphery area have to cope with changes stemming from globalisation of the world economy, new regulations, changing markets etc. All projects that address this and embrace the capacity in companies to change are welcome. Ways to commercialise rural resources either through existing companies or by setting up new ones are of special interest. Supporting all sorts of entrepreneurship that can create new jobs in rural areas especially for young people and women will be given priority.

Activities supported under this priority may also include business opportunities based on the development of cold climate solutions, or market demands specific to the Northern Periphery.

Infrastructural requirements' supporting the enterprise sector are another vital topic to be included. Special attention should be given to the relationship and exchange of knowledge between academia and industry, - and thus to business relevant "knowledge-infrastructure" in the form of R&D-institutes, educational institutions, business centres and science parks.

The continuous refinement of human resources in general, and the competence of the labour force in particular, will in many ways determine the future economic and social development of the Northern Periphery. Aspects related to the development of human resources may appear to be vital in many projects under this priority.

Relevant measures under this priority will be 1) sustainable use of nature and natural resources, and 2) Business innovation and development of human resources

### Priority level indicators

Number of co-operation projects concerning natural resources (except infrastructure)

Number of co-operation projects concerning management of cultural heritage

Number of co-operation products in the field of tourism

Number of co-operation projects concerning research, development and innovation

Number of studies concerning specific common problems, such as the management of natural resources, traffic management or conservation of cultural heritage

### Funding Priority 2

Funding for Priority 2 *Strengthen sustainable economic development*, in EUR

Priority 2	TOTAL FUNDING						
	Total	Total Public/like	Public funding			Eligible	Other financial
			Total	NPP	National	Private	Instruments
	1=2+7	2=3+6	3=4+5	4	5	6	7
TOTAL FUNDING	23.772.200	16.673.688	16.261.268	10.022.815	6.238.453	412.420	7.098.512
co-financing level				60%	38%	2%	
				60%	40%		

### ***5.2.1 Measure 2.1 Sustainable use of nature and natural resources***

#### Key objective

This measure will encourage projects which optimise the use of the unique cultural and natural resources for the economic benefit of communities

#### Description

The Northern Periphery areas have certain shared opportunities and needs for new and sustainable development. Activities will be prioritised because in pursuing them the Northern Periphery would be developing expertise which has the potential to be marketed competitively to other regions. Priorities of this type include:

*Nature as a Tourism Speciality.* The Northern Periphery area has a particular combination of high diversity and rarity in many subjects, such as climate, geology and wildlife. This can be exploited as an economic advantage. In developing economic dependence on these relatively vulnerable assets via tourism, the incentive is created to ensure their conservation.

*Diverse Culture & History.* Environmental diversity and extremes have created a great wealth of cultural and historical interest. The nurturing and expression of this is a valuable asset for Europe as a whole, and can be exploited in literature, art, tourism etc, whilst at the same time acting as a vehicle for sustaining the quality of life in these communities.

*Natural Resource Industries.* Forestry and Renewable energy industries are examples of sectors which have become highly specialised and where adapting to the particular conditions in the Northern Periphery lead to economic advantage.

*Efficiency in Resource use.* Apart from the immediate benefits to reducing competitive costs for business, the benefits in the Northern Periphery area are doubly significant because of the high transport costs for both imports and exports. Innovation and specialisation will be supported.

#### Ex-ante evaluation of Measure 2.1

This measure will encourage projects which optimise the use of the unique cultural and natural resources for the economic benefit of communities by connecting environmental protection and commercial exploitation of natural resources, increase diversification in agriculture and fishing. It is through the added value of local products, improve cold-climate techniques and develop the potential of distinctive cultural and natural heritage that communities will benefit. This is well in line with the key objective of Priority 2 to help secure prosperity for the area through its people and natural resources and a concrete outcome of the overall objective of wise management of cultural and natural resources. The potential of the cultural and natural resources is expected to be maximised through the increased sustainable development.

#### Examples of project themes that might be supported are:

- Opportunities to be used within the resource-based industries in general, connected to the extraction of natural resources, or sustainable exploitation of the nature as such
- Development of nature based adventure tourism
- New employment opportunities deriving from the cultural heritage of the northern area
- Diversification efforts with traditional agriculture and fishing as the starting point

- Projects to encourage efforts for adding value to local production, enhanced opportunities for local processing based on regional resources
- Projects focusing on housing requirements in cold climate, or technological challenges confronted in road, air and sea transport under cold weather conditions
- Initiative to develop new markets for local resource based produce/services

#### Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Provide evidence that the proposed **use of natural resources is sustainable**
- Derive **positive economic and social benefits from the natural environment**
- Encourage/build on the areas **unique cultural heritage**
- Relates to the high quality of the Northern periphery environment, including EU sites within the **Natura 2000** suite or similarly nationally protected sites in non-EU countries
- Lead to **higher value uses of the natural resource** and/or enhance the economic value of products created from natural resources
- Lead to the **enhancement of the region's natural resources through improved management**

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

#### Expected results

Connecting environmental protection and commercial exploitation of natural resources

Diversification in agriculture and fishing

Added value to local production/processing – new markets,

Improved Cold climate techniques,

Developed potential of the distinctive cultural and natural heritage.

#### Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Natural resources	Projects concerning natural protection and/or heritage	Number of projects
Cultural heritage	Projects concerning cultural heritage management	Number of projects
Cold climate techniques	Projects concerning cold climate techniques	Number of projects
Combination of protective and commercial interests working together	Projects involving natural protection and commercial exploitation/use	Number of projects
Diversified businesses	Enterprise or organisation that have extended their business in relation to natural resources	Number of diversified enterprises
Local processing	Products or services that have been locally processed	Number of products/services
Environmental management	SMEs undertaking environmental management (reducing environmental impacts/increasing efficiency of resources used, as a result of the project)	Number of SMEs
Tourism	Common (nature based) tourism products	Number of new products

For further information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 2.1:

- 13. Promoting the adaptation and the development of rural areas*
- 16. Assisting SMEs and the craft sector*
- 17. Tourism*

## ***5.2.2 Measure 2.2 Business innovation and development of human resources***

### Key objective

This measure will increase competitiveness through enhancing skills, exploiting innovation and developing networking.

### Description

There is a close link between the development of new business opportunities and innovation, and the continued development of the human resources in the programme area. In this context it is vital to strengthen the development of equal opportunities, and networking for women in public and private sector as well as for young people of both sexes.

The private sector in the Northern Periphery is, to an overwhelming degree, comprised of small and medium size firms. In themselves they are too small to tackle issues such as increasing globalisation. SMEs innovate through networks, making each enterprise able to exploit resources of other organisations (suppliers, customers, academic institutions). Projects to develop business networks involving co-operation and exchange of good practice, new marketing approaches, or developing links with research institutes are highly relevant here.

Support will be directed at projects which help produce sustainable local economies which are diverse, adaptable and resilient; helping businesses with competitiveness, skills and markets. Under this measure initiatives to promote entrepreneurial skills particularly among young people and women will be especially welcomed. Projects providing improved employment opportunities for women and young people, and those addressing disparities, whether in sectors traditionally male or female dominated, will also be encouraged. As well as promoting equality of access to employment, efforts will also be made to promote equality within employment.

Education and training is currently undergoing a period of radical change, responding to economic, social and cultural transformations. Economic change is having a significant effect on the nature of work and the skills demanded 'in the workplace'. Changes require a workforce of life long learners who can take advantage of change and acquire new skills. The Northern Periphery has a skilled and flexible workforce. The range of opportunities for education is, in general, nevertheless, more limited than in the central (more densely populated) parts of Europe. Distance learning and training and co-operation between providers have become important methods for giving people living in the periphery and locally employed access to education normally available as a matter of routine in larger cities.

New learning opportunities have therefore been difficult to access and to sustain. Use of ICT and co-operation in establishing networks provides an opportunity for individuals, businesses and communities the kind of opportunities previously only available to those in more populated areas. This should help ensure that distance is not a barrier to providing and enjoying appropriate provision at an acceptable standard.

### Ex-ante evaluation of measure 2.2

This measure will increase competitiveness through enhancing skills, exploiting innovation and developing networking. Measure 2.2 is expected to result in exchange of good practises, new marketing approaches, new/improved links between research institutes and SMEs, improved

competence levels of the labour force and increased equal opportunities in public and private sectors. Under this measure initiatives to promote entrepreneurial skills particularly among young people and women will result in increased equal opportunities of the business structure. Distance learning and training and co-operation between providers have become important methods for giving people living in the periphery. Locally employed access to education normally available as a matter of routine in larger cities. This measure will clearly contribute as compensation for the disadvantages of long distances and peripheral location. Measure 2.2 is expected to maximise the potential of human resources in the area and thereby increase the competitiveness of the Northern Periphery Programme area.

Relevant project themes may be:

- Innovative strategies to overcome the problems connected to an enterprise structure entirely dominated by SMEs
- Co-operation and exchange of good practice between development agencies responsible for industrial/regional development support
- Initiative to promote entrepreneurial skills, particularly among young people
- Piloting schemes which encourage small businesses to expand their horizons, both in regard to markets and competence
- Innovative distance and e-learning systems relevant for local businesses
- The setting up of business networks both at local and transnational level to share experience, innovate, develop partnerships for buying, selling, marketing or conducting R&D, and
- The linking of business networks to research or innovation centres, such as universities, industrial parks etc.

Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Result in an **increase in exports and/or an increase in production/output**
- Result in expanding markets
- Help companies **broaden their competence** for new product development and foreign trade
- Encourage **greater participation of women and young people in entrepreneurial activity**
- **Increase the competence** of the Northern Periphery Programme workforce
- Result in **increased commercialisation of product ideas developed in co-operation with business and research institutes**
- Improve **the viability and/or provide new business opportunities** for business enterprises, and SMEs in particular
- Result in best practise for business development, accessing market information, training etc.

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Expected results

Exchange of knowledge between research and industry, R&D institutes, business centres and science parks

Improved competence levels of the labour force

Improved equal opportunities (including youth, minorities) in public and private sectors

SME development

## Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Entrepreneurial training	Projects concerning entrepreneurial training	Number of projects, number of people trained (men/women/young<25)
Business innovation	Projects concerning research, development and business innovation	Number of projects
SME networks	Transnational co-operation for SMEs regarding marketing and product development measures or other	Number of networks, number of countries involved, ownership of enterprises (m/w/y)
Research and industry networks	Transnational co-operation between research and industry	Number of networks, number of countries involved
SME development	New or diversified enterprises	Number of new or diversified enterprises, Number of new jobs
Improved entrepreneurial skills	Improved entrepreneurial skills, especially among women and young people	Number of people trained, men/women/young
E-business	New or existing organisations taking up e-commerce	Number of organisations
Combination of protective and commercial interests working together	Projects involving natural protection and commercial exploitation/use	Number of projects

For more information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

## Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 2.2:

- 13. Promoting the adaptation and the development of rural areas*
- 16. Assisting the SMEs and craft sector*
- 18. Research, technological development and innovation*
- 24. Workforce flexibility, entrepreneurial activity, innovation, information and communication technologies (persons, firms)*

### 5.3 Priority 3: Community development

#### Key objective

This priority will encourage initiatives which will assist in securing sustainable communities.

#### Description

The Northern Periphery area is largely characterized by rural settlements. Local communities throughout the area are facing a number of challenges such as declining settlements, gender imbalances, net out-migration especially among young people and women. The settlement structure is to a large extent closely linked to the major industries. Consequently, community development is not only a matter related to the well-being of the inhabitants, but also important for the industrial development in the regions.

Many rural communities in the Northern Periphery experience difficulties in retaining population and the services they require to maintain their viability. Extensive and selective out-migration aggravates the negative consequences of sparse population and the ability of communities to face economic and social challenges.

The issue of depopulation, combined with a very sparse population is a very serious matter, as confirmed by the Regional development and depopulation conference in Lycksele in June 2001.

New approaches are required to support communities, providing opportunities for all sectors of the community and the satisfactory provision of services. The sparse population makes consistency of service provision both difficult and expensive. There is a need to develop efficient and imaginative ways to increase access to a full range of good quality services. Service provision in these communities is, therefore, at the centre of this priority, with a focus on the living conditions and service demands of the household sector.

A number of issues related to the “urban – rural dimension” are relevant for all participating regions. Priority 3 is principally related to the overall aim of consolidating the settlement pattern and the viability of the local communities.

Measures to energise communities in general are needed, together with initiatives to involve inhabitants in local decision-making. Better planning tools are required to inform and implement spatial development strategies, related to the joint management of natural resources, regional development, and problem solving related to transboundary pollution together with ways to obtain sustainable development.

This priority is probably the most difficult one to delimit in general terms, because the focus is on communities with all their complexity. Priority 3 will nevertheless focus on two main aspects: household oriented services, and public management and planning related to local communities. This covers management/planning both on local and regional level. A central issue here is the relationships between rural and urban areas.

### Priority level indicators

Spatial development

- number of studies/documents of common planning/territorial development

- number of networks

Projects concerning maintained and improved services

### Funding for Priority 3

Funding for Priority 3 *Community Development*, in EUR

Priority 3	TOTAL FUNDING						
	Total	Total Public/like	Public funding			Eligible	Other financial
			Total	NPP	National	Private	instruments
	1=2+7	2=3+6	3=4+5	4	5	6	7
TOTAL FUNDING	16.765.622	11.275.418	11.139.916	6.766.973	4.372.943	135.502	5.490.204
co-financing level				60%	39%	1%	
				60%		40%	

### ***5.3.1 Measure 3.1 Household related service provision***

#### Key Objective

This measure will encourage new ways of delivering services to communities particularly in response to increasing centralisation.

#### Description

The provision of services, both private and public is a key element in tackling social exclusion and sustaining local communities. Opportunities to access services are limited in rural areas and these are declining with the trend towards centralisation. Many of our rural settlements are simply not large enough to make commercial services viable in the traditional way. Witness the decrease in “commercial lifeline” services such as shops, post offices and petrol filling stations in many rural communities; services which are essential if people are to be encouraged to live in remote rural areas.

This equally applies to the public sector in their efforts to reduce inequalities in service provision and the difficulties posed by sparsely populated areas, while services provided by the voluntary sector become increasingly difficult in those areas losing population. It is clear that new ways of delivering private and public services in sparsely populated areas will be needed in the future if a good quality of life for residents is to be secured. This will apply to a wide range of services including healthcare, education and training, shopping, fuel, finance, information, recreation, transport and waste management.

New technology may provide an answer in respect of certain types of services and the previous programme demonstrated good example in the field of health care and public information and which might be extended to other areas. For those services which need to be physically delivered in communities, new co-operative partnerships by existing service providers, the creation of new urban-rural support networks and community owned or managed services are areas which merit exploration. Where services can only be provided in larger centres then the need will be to develop new community transport initiatives for those without access to the car.

The nature of the region also dictates that novel ways will be needed to provide household waste management services which are environmentally sustainable. For example, recycling of waste products is more difficult, not only in terms of collection from households but also the distance from markets. This puts increased emphasis on waste minimisation.

It is essential that service providers work closely with rural communities to assess the services they require and the priority they attach to them. More community involvement in decision making in decision - making in service delivery is necessary. There is particularly a need to involve vulnerable groups such as young people and women.

Clearly delivery of services, whether private or public, has to be on a cost-effective basis but an overemphasis on this can have highly negative impacts on the viability of rural communities. There will be certain services and geographical areas where public support will be necessary if a service is to be provided and there is a need for further research to establish the position of services in rural areas and make the case for support.

### Ex-ante evaluation of Measure 3.1

This measure will encourage new ways of delivering services to communities particularly in response to increasing centralisation. The provision of services, both private and public is a key element in tackling social exclusion and sustaining local communities and thereby reducing the out-migration of the area. New ways of providing services will improve functionality and improve the service level of the area. New technology may provide an answer in respect of certain types of services, for example health care and public information. Also novel ways to provide household waste management services, which are environmentally sustainable, are expected under this measure. All the above will contribute to secure sustainable rural communities, which is the key objective of Priority 3. As an additional advantage the functionality will be improved and the disadvantage of sparse population will to some extent be compensated.

### Illustrative project themes under this measure are:

- Development of better local or regional public transport schemes
- Research that can clarify the service needs and requirements of the household sector
- Ways for local communities to minimise waste production and recycle waste
- Research to examine existing fiscal measures which encourage/discourage people to live and work in peripheral and sparsely populated areas
- Develop innovative participation models for community involvement in decision-making.

### Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- **Improve the viability of service provision**
- **Improve the level or quality of service**
- Enable communities to **make better use of the energy resources and waste products**
- Lead to a **better understanding of the economic and social circumstances of sparsely populated areas**

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

### Expected results

New ways of providing service and improved service levels

### Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Studies on Service provision	Studies concerning service in the NPP area, as a result of the project	Number of studies/communities and people involved
New approaches to service provision	New, maintained or improved services, as a result of the project	Number of new or improved services/people served
Waste management	New ways of minimising, recycling and disposing of waste and minimising pollution	Number of studies, demonstration projects

For further information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 3.1:

*13. Promoting the adaptation and the development of rural areas*

*16. Assisting SMEs and the craft sector*

### ***5.3.2 Measure 3.2 Public management and spatial planning***

#### **Key Objective**

This measure will encourage new approaches to planning for sustainable development particularly through a better understanding of how the region functions and in mobilising communities to shape their future.

#### **Description**

The Northern Periphery has significant disadvantages but equally some advantages, notably in respect of its natural, cultural and human resources. For the region, and its constituent components, to progress there is a need to utilise to best effect its people and places and its land and sea resources. Integrated planning involving partnerships between agencies and communities will be the key to influencing future development to ensure a sustainable and competitive economy, a good quality of life and wise use of resources. Initiatives exploring efficient ways of managing natural resources, developing new planning tools for local and regional economic development and planning policy and delivering sustainable development are therefore of importance.

Effective land and coastal waters management is crucial to the well-being of many rural communities. An integrated approach, one that optimises economic, social and environmental interests is the desirable way forward, encapsulating as it does sustainable development. The European Commission Water Framework Directive and the draft EC Integrated Coastal Zone Management Directive are pointers to the way forward for new local initiatives.

A better understanding of the interdependency of urban and rural areas and ways in which this relationship can be developed positively needs to be pursued. There are dangers that the larger centres of population will grow at the expense of surrounding rural areas, and indeed this is a trend which is evident in parts of the region. Whilst there is a need to enhance the roles of our regional centres there is also a need to support our smaller settlements by dispersing employment and services where appropriate. Development strategies to address inequalities and tools to better inform decision making are required and the European Spatial Development Perspective provides the basis for more imaginative approaches in both regional and community development.

All experience to date, including that of a number of projects from the previous Article 10 programme, demonstrate that the active involvement of citizens is necessary for successful community development. Energising and empowering local community and business interests is fundamental to creating lasting change as is a practical, as opposed to an overly process driven, approach. There are examples of good practice throughout the region which provide the foundation for further work.

#### **Ex-ante evaluation of Measure 3.2**

This measure will encourage new approaches to planning for sustainable development particularly through a better understanding of how the region functions and mobilising communities to shape their future. Measure 3.2 is expected to result in better management of natural resources and new integrated planning tools for local and regional development. The regeneration of communities by utilising its people and places and its land and sea resources to

their best effect. The active involvement of citizens is anticipated. Measure 3.2 is particularly related to the aim of wise management of cultural and natural resources; in addition to improving the functionality of the communities. This is corresponding to the priority objective by energising and empowering local community and business interests.

Illustrative project themes under this measure are:

- Research aimed at clarifying ways to encourage people to stay and live in peripheral and sparsely populated areas
- Efforts to develop relevant urban-rural partnerships, to meet common challenges
- Co-operation to solve problems concerning transboundary pollution
- Projects to develop management practices related to public resources, and to develop new planning tools e.g. with strong participatory aspects relevant for small communities
- Projects which enable communities to harness local natural resources for their own benefit
- Projects that seek new ways for local authorities to cope with population decline, ageing and massive youth out-migration, including projects with a focus on equal opportunities to meet the specific problem of extremely high net out-migration among young women.
- Projects to regenerate communities in, or threatened with, decline

Measure specific selection criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Support **local mobilisation** and other actions that **increase the viability of local communities**
- **Improve resource management** or reduce pollution through more integrated planning
- **Improve the ways in which spatial and economic development strategies are formulated**
- Support **bottom up processes and exchange of experiences between communities**
- **Raise the awareness of the challenges of the periphery**

For further information on selection criteria and procedure see sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Expected results

Better management of natural resources

New planning tools for local and regional economic development and planning policy

Regeneration of Communities

Indicators

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Natural resource management projects	Projects focusing natural resource management	Number of projects
Co-operation projects on trans-boundary pollution	Projects focusing trans-boundary pollution	Number of projects
Local and regional participatory projects	Projects focusing local involvement in development planning /Community groups assisted	Number of projects/ No of groups/ communities
New or improved local/regional planning tools/ studies/documents)	New planning tools for local and regional economic development and planning policy	Number of tools, number of communities where tool used
Urban-rural partnerships	Partnerships between urban and rural areas/actors	Number of new partnerships

<b>Project Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Community Capacity Building	Projects to energise communities	Number of projects, communities and people involved

For further information on indicators see sections 3.4 and 4.

### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 3.2:

*13. Promoting the adaptation and the development of rural areas*

## 5.4 Priority 4: Technical Assistance

Technical assistance (TA) is used to finance costs for the implementation of the programme. This includes the activities of the Joint Programme Secretariat, the Regional Contact Points Managing and Paying authority, meetings of the Programme Monitoring Committee and other costs, such as project leader network, seminars, information actions, evaluation as well as installation of computerized systems for management, monitoring and evaluation.

Technical Assistance is divided into two categories. The first category refers to management and implementation of the programme. The second category deals with other costs like information, seminar, evaluation etc. Based on these two categories the priority TA is allocated in the following two measures:

- Measure 4.1 Programme management
- Measure 4.2 Other costs.

### 5.4.1 Measure 4.1. Programme management

This measure will primary co-finance the following costs:

- Administrative costs directly referred to the management for implementing the programme
- Preparations, project development, financial advice, project selection, assessment, control, development and monitoring of the programme
- Meeting and travel costs of Programme Monitoring Committee
- Auditing costs

#### Final beneficiaries

The Joint Programme Secretariat, Managing and Paying Authority, the Programme Monitoring Committee and the Regional Contact Points.

#### Funding

##### *Measure 4.1 Programme management, funding in EUR*

Measure 4.1	Member States Funding 1)				
	Total	Total Eligible	Public funding		
	1=2+7	2=3+6	Total 3=4+5	ERDF 4	National 5
MS FUNDING	2.630.919	2.630.919	2.630.919	1.348.760	1.282.159
co-financing level				51,0%	49,0%

- 1) Finland, Scotland and Sweden

#### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 4.1:

##### *4.1. Technical Assistance and innovative actions*

#### **5.4.2 Measure 4.2. Other costs**

This measure will primary co -finance the following costs:

- Seminars,
- Information actions
- Evaluations
- Acquisition, development and maintenance of computerized systems for management, monitoring, evaluation and controls.

#### Final beneficiaries

The Joint Programme Secretariat, Regional Contact Points, Managing and Paying Authority and the Programme Monitoring Committee.

#### Funding

*Measure 4.2 Other costs, funding in EUR*

1) Finland, Scotland and Sweden

<b>Measure 4.2</b>	<b>Member States Funding 1)</b>				
	Total	Total Eligible	Public funding		
	1=2+7	2=3+6	3=4+5	ERDF 4	National 5
MS FUNDING	427.123	427.123	427.123	220.282	206.841
co-financing level				52%	48%

#### Fields of intervention

A list of areas of Structural Fund intervention has been developed to assist the Commission to report on Structural Fund activity. The list breaks down into categories, of which the following categories can be expected within Measure 4.2:

*41. Technical Assistance and innovative actions*

## 6. FINANCING

EU funds for the INTERREG III B Northern Periphery Programme amount to a total of 22 631 650 EUR. In addition to this, the financial table provides for 15 496 865 EUR national co-financing from the Member States, bringing the total eligible cost of the programme to 38 128 515 EUR.

Pre-allocated national programme funds from Norway, Iceland, the Faeroe Islands and Greenland amount to a total of 7.753 MEUR, of which 5.5 MEUR from Norway, 1.5 MEUR from Iceland, 0.375 MEUR from the Faeroe Islands and 0.378 MEUR from Greenland. This funding equals EU-funding from the Member States. Public co-funding from these countries/areas is estimated to be 5.169 MEUR and additional Member state private funding 3,335 MEUR and private Non Member state eligible 1.435 MEUR, bringing the total estimated budget of the Non-Members States partners and member state private funding to 17,69 MEUR.

The total Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme funding is Member state community participation and Non member state ERDF equivalent funding is 30,384 MEUR from Member States and Non Member states. This is estimated to be co-financed by national sources with 20,033 MEUR from public funding, 663 191 EUR so-called Member state eligible private funding and 4,77 MEUR Non member state private funding.

### 6.1 Co-financing rate

The co-financing rate is in general up to 60 per cent of the eligible costs for partners in Objective 1 areas and areas in Non-Member States, and up to 50% of the eligible costs for partners in other programme areas. However, the Programme Monitoring Committee will apply the possibility to go up to 75% in Objective 1 areas in exceptional cases. The precise arrangements for a 75 per cent co-financing rate are described in the guidance documents in the Applicant's Package.

The co-financing rate for Technical Assistance is 50% of total eligible costs.

### 6.2 National public co-financing

Co-financing/match funding from the national partners involved is a prerequisite for receiving Northern Periphery funding, consisting of EU funding from the ERDF, and the pre-allocated programme funding from the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway.

A national public co-financing source is state funding at the central, regional or local level. Even certain other organisations can be considered public co-financers. The financers listed below are examples of potential co-financers. Note that the list is not exhaustive.

### Examples of Swedish public co-financers

- Länsstyrelser
- Landstingen
- Kommuner
- Skolor och universitet
- Departement
- Centrala statliga verk
- Statliga affärsverk och bolag
- Regionala statliga organ, till exempel Länsarbetsnämnden
- Försäkringskassorna
- Kommunala bolag
- Vissa stiftelser

### Examples of Finnish public co-financers

- Sisäasiainministeriö / Inrikesministeriet
- Ympäristöministeriö / Miljöministeriet
- Opetusministeriö / Undervisningsministeriet
- Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö / Jord- och skogsbruksministeriet (2002-)
- Kunnat ja maakuntien liitot / Kommuner och landskapsförbund
- Yliopistot ja muut koulutuslaitokset (**HUOM! Vain "omat" varat, EI valtion budjetista saatava toimintamenoraha**) / Universitet och andra utbildningsanstalter (**OBS! Endast "egna" medel, EJ ur statsbudgeten erhållna medel för omkostnader**)
- Valtion keskusvirastot (**HUOM! Vain "omat" varat, EI valtion budjetista saatava toimintamenoraha**) / Centrala statliga verk (**OBS! Endast "egna" medel, EJ ur statsbudgeten erhållna medel för omkostnader**)
- Valtion liikelaitokset ja yhtiöt / Statliga affärsverk och bolag
- Kunnalliset yhtiöt / Kommunala bolag
- Säätiöt ja julkisesti rahoitetut järjestöt / Vissa stiftelser och offentligt finansierade organisationer

### Examples of Scottish public co-financers

- Enterprise Companies
- Local authorities (e.g., Highlands Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar etc)
- Universities, colleges and research institutes
- In some cases the voluntary sector

<p><b>Examples of Norwegian public co-financers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fylkeskommunene i Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland, Troms and Finnmark</li> <li>• SND</li> <li>• NT-programmet</li> <li>• Kommunene i Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, inklusive datterselskap o.l.</li> <li>• Landsdelsutvalget</li> <li>• Fylkesmannen i Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland, Troms och Finnmark, herunder regionale og lokale statliga organ eller etater. Eventuelt kan i visse tilfeller også departementer trekkes inn.</li> <li>• Visse stiftelser og organisationer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Examples of public co-financers from Greenland and Faroe Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norrønt Atlantsamarv, NORA (Nordic Atlantic Cooperation)</li> <li>• Færøernes Landsstyre, diverse støtteordninger</li> <li>• Grønlands Landsstyre, diverse støtteordninger</li> <li>• Offentlige organer og selskaber</li> <li>• Kommuner og kommunale selskaber</li> <li>• Vinnuframagrunnurin</li> <li>• Fróðskaparsetur Føroya og skoler</li> <li>• Ilisimatusarfik</li> </ul>
<p><b>Examples of national co-financers from Iceland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nýsköpunarsjóður Atvinnulífsins -The New Business Venture Fund</li> <li>• Iðntæknistofnun -Technological Institute of Iceland</li> <li>• Impra - Service Centre for Entrepreneurs and SMEs</li> <li>• Framleiðnisjóður Landbúnaðarins</li> <li>• Byggðastofnun - Institute of Regional Development</li> <li>• Rannís - Rannsóknarráð Íslands - The Icelandic Research Council</li> <li>• Vinnumálastofnun - The Icelandic Employment Institute Special Fund for Female Employment</li> <li>• Ferðamálaráð - The Icelandic Tourist Board</li> <li>• NORA - Nordic Atlantic Co-operation</li> <li>• Local authorities</li> <li>• Universities, colleges and research institutes</li> </ul>

National co-financing commitments are to be decided on by the respective financier in each individual project. The national contributions have to be committed, i.e. both private and public co-financing have to be documented, before the Northern Periphery funding can be approved.

### 6.3 Semi-public/Public-like co-financing

Co-financing from semi-public/public-like and private non-profit organisations can be included in the amount of eligible national co-financing if the following conditions are met:

- The semi-public and private **non-profit** organisation supports the development of transnational co-operation
- No other claims are linked to the funding
- Funding is not linked to state aid, with the exceptions of de minimis and block exemptions

The following organisations are eligible to provide **semi-public/public like** funds to the project:

- Regional and local self-government of entrepreneurs, chambers of commerce
- Non-profit local and regional development agencies,
- Non-profit enterprises and organisations dealing with local and regional development, spatial planning, tourism, energy, water management, agriculture, forestry, environment, culture, transport, religious institutions and R & D.

#### 6.4 Private financing

Private funding will generate Northern Periphery Programme funding in the form of ERDF funding and pre-allocated funding **if the contribution to the project represents a wider public interest and the public sector is involved**. Note that this is not applicable for **Finnish** and **Swedish** private financing.

Finnish and Swedish private sector partners, which do not meet the requirements as stated under semi-public, are invited to finance activities on top of the main project actions. These funds will be part of the project budget, but will not be eligible for/generate ERDF co-financing.

#### 6.5 TACIS

If the project co-operates with Northwest Russian partners there is a possibility to apply for co-financing from the Tacis programme. In particular the Tacis Crossborder Cooperation (CBC) Small Project Facility and the Tacis CBC Micro project facility, which are directed to regional and local authorities seems appropriate to co-finance participation with the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme. For more information on Tacis, please consult Datasheet 9, contact the Joint Programme Secretariat or consult the TACIS website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/tacis/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/tacis/intro/index.htm)

## 7. MICRO AND PREPARATORY PROJECTS

In the previous Article 10 Northern Periphery Programme the use of micro projects proved useful to lower the barriers made up by the geography of the Northern Periphery Programme Area. To be able to achieve a larger share of projects bringing together different actors from each country in complex partnerships (see point 2.3 above), experience points to a need for a project category of a preparatory kind. The programme will therefore make use of three different types of projects, micro projects, preparatory projects and main projects. Particular arrangements refer to each of these project types.

In the Northern Periphery Programme budget there is an initial reservation of approximately 200 000 EUR for the Micro and the Preparatory projects. This funding will cover approximately 30 projects. The Micro and Preparatory projects will be reviewed at the interim evaluation.

The Joint Programme Secretariat will have the authority to make funding decisions concerning these two kinds of preparatory project. There will be separate application forms and selection procedure for micro and preparatory projects.

### 7.1 Micro-projects

Micro projects receive limited grants to establish the first contact between partners from the “old programme area”; i.e. Finland, Sweden, Scotland and Norway, and potential partners in the new parts of the programme area, i.e. Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland, and in Northwest Russia, covering travel expenses and the costs related to the initial encounter.

#### ***7.1.1 Purpose of the Micro Project***

The purpose of the Micro project is to establish the first contacts with potential partners in the new parts of the programme area as well as the neighbouring countries/regions and to promote the preparation of good quality applications to the Northern Periphery Programme.

One of the main characteristics of the Northern Periphery Programme Area identified in the Programme Document is the issue of distance and the problems caused by the cost of travel within and among such peripheral areas. The Micro project will be expected to facilitate the initial encounter of prospective partners so that they can meet and discuss about possible cooperation projects.

#### ***7.1.2 Expected results***

The Micro project will result in a report, describing the project’s activities, as well as its final results.

### 7.2 Preparatory projects

In the Preparatory projects a broader partnership will be mobilized. Alternative actions will be clarified through an initial analysis, and a joint project plan will be drafted.

### ***7.2.1 Purpose of the Preparatory Project***

The Preparatory projects will mobilize broader partnerships and facilitate drawing up joint project plans. This project form is also for committing the partners to specific contributions and reducing risks connected to large projects involving a complex partnership.

The preparatory project will be intended to lead to an application for main project funding in Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme. However, if in the course of the project it becomes obvious that an application in this context is not possible for any number of reasons, this too would be an acceptable outcome. It should be, however, substantiated by a full report from the project sponsors explaining and describing in detail what work was undertaken and, with supporting detail, how the final conclusions were reached.

### ***7.2.2 Expected results***

The Preparatory project will result in a report, describing the project's activities, as well as its final results. If the project cannot produce an application for main project funding in Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme, it is essential that the reasons for this will be described in full.

## **7.3 Application procedure for Micro and Preparatory Projects**

The minimum requirement to apply for Northern Periphery Micro project and Preparatory project- funding is to have a project idea, at least 2 contributing partners from 2 countries and national co-financing. However, a Micro Project can in some limited cases, have only one contributing partner with national co-financing. Applicants must complete the application forms designed for the specific project category. At the same time applicants must take into account all the guidelines and rules presented in the Programme Document. Note that also partners from Faroe Islands and Greenland can act as Lead Partners in Micro Projects.

Micro and Preparatory project applications can be sent to the programme secretariat at any time.

The application procedure, is expected to take approximately a month, and proceeds as follows:

1. Applications should be sent to the Joint Programme Secretariat. Applications can be rejected at this first stage if there are already projects in the same field of work receiving funding from Northern Periphery Programme.
2. The application is then handled by the Joint Programme Secretariat, which checks the project's relevance to the programme. If needed the Joint Programme Secretariat can consult Programme Monitoring Committee chairman and Regional Contact Points.
3. The Joint Programme Secretariat will decide whether or not the project will be approved the Micro/Preparatory project funding. The Joint Programme Secretariat will inform the Programme Monitoring Committee about decisions and it will confirm decisions through the Programme Monitoring Committee meeting process.

4. The Joint Programme Secretariat will inform the applicant whether the project is accepted or not.

#### 7.4 Financial Details Micro and Preparatory Projects

The maximum grant to **Micro** project is 5000 EUR, up to 50 % of eligible costs, on the condition of national co-financing, confirmed through co-financing documents, and a project plan. The funding will be paid out to the project after the Joint Programme Secretariat has received a grant claim containing an expenditure profile and a report detailing the outcome of the project.

The maximum grant to a **Preparatory** project is up to 36 000 EUR in exceptional cases, up to 60 % of eligible costs, on the condition of national co-financing, confirmed through co-financing documents, and a project plan. The funding will be paid out to the project after the Joint Programme Secretariat has received a grant claim containing an expenditure profile and a report detailing the outcome of the project including an application for main project funding in Interreg III B Northern Periphery, if appropriate.

#### 7.5 Publishing the Call for Micro and Preparatory Project Proposals

The calls for Northern Periphery Micro Project and Preparatory Project Proposals will be published on the Programme website: [www.northernperiphery.net](http://www.northernperiphery.net). Micro Project and Preparatory Project facilities will be launched in 2002. The Regional Contact Points involved in the implementation and administration of the Northern Periphery Programme will also take part in informing potential applicants of the Micro and Preparatory facilities and assist the applicants in the application procedure.

## 8. SYNERGY WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES

### 8.1 Scottish-Nordic Action Plan

The Scottish-Nordic Action Plan set out possible themes for co-operation and recognises the potential synergies between the Plan and the Northern Periphery Programme. The aim of the Nordic-Scottish co-operation is *to promote the development of common approaches to shared challenges in the fields of regional policy and sustainable economic development in the Nordic and North Atlantic areas*. In particular, the objectives are:

- to work together on identifying solutions to common regional development challenges and opportunities throughout the area, including a particular emphasis on remote, sparsely populated areas, which bring sustainable benefits; and
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of interregional co-operation programmes, in particular their economic development impact;

The potential policy responses and possible areas of co-operation have been identified in the following fields:

- *Regional Policy and Sustainable Development:*
- *Regional Policy in Rural and Peripheral Areas*
- *New Economy and the Information Society:*
- *Business Growth:*
- *Skills and Learning*
- *Global Connections*
- *Community Development*

### 8.2 Interreg III B North Sea Region

Connections and complementarity with the Interreg III B North Sea Programme, which overlap parts of the Northern Periphery programme area is encouraged. The North Sea Programme partnership includes parts of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. There may be opportunities to complement Northern Periphery projects with projects of these neighbouring co-operation areas. Note that projects cannot be double-funded, i.e. the activities must be complementary.

Please contact the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg North Sea Programme for further information.

Interreg III B North Sea Programme Secretariat

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### 8.3 Interreg III B Baltic Sea Programme

Connections and complementarity with the Interreg III B Baltic Sea Programme, which overlap parts of the Northern Periphery programme area is encouraged. The Interreg III B Baltic Sea programme covers Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and parts of Germany, Belarus and Russia. There may be opportunities to complement Northern Periphery projects with projects of these neighbouring co-operation areas. Note that projects cannot be double-funded, i.e. the activities must be complementary.

Baltic Sea Interreg III B Joint Secretariat Contact Details:

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## 8.4 Interreg III C

Interreg III C will enable regional actors in the Northern Periphery area to extend relations beyond that transnational co-operation area. Note that it might be more relevant for a project to apply for assistance from the Interreg III C programme, if the aim is to involve a wider partnership than what is possible in the Interreg III B Northern Periphery Programme.

Potential project applicants are advised to consult the Joint Technical Secretariat for the Interreg III C North zone programme for further information; [interreg3c@spatial.baltic.net](mailto:interreg3c@spatial.baltic.net).

Website: <http://www.spatial.baltic.net/interregIIIc/iic.html>

## 9. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY PLAN

### 9.1 Aim of the plan

In accordance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000, the aim of the information and publicity plan is to provide different kinds of stakeholders with adequate and high-quality information about the programme. An efficient communication of information should both increase public awareness and further transparency for potential and final beneficiaries concerning the programme and its planned and implemented actions.

### 9.2 Target group

The target group for informing about the programme is the following:

- **potential and final beneficiaries** becoming or being involved in actions taken within the programme, in other words, **potential projects partners**
- **regional and local authorities**
- *economic and social partners*
- **trade and industry**
- **Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**
- **general public**
- the **Programme Monitoring Committee**.

### 9.3 Information and publicity activities

Information about the programme should be spread via a variety of different channels in order to reach different kinds of stakeholders. In order to achieve a broad coverage concerning information flow to interested parties, there is a need for a continuous evaluation and follow-up of measures and methods chosen.

The sources of information are:

#### 1. The Joint Programme Secretariat for the Interreg III B Northern Periphery

The Joint Secretariat in Copenhagen provides all interested parties and institutions with information on the programme and its actions. The secretariat can be contacted by telephone, fax, e-mail and via the web-site. The staff of the Secretariat can also be met in person.

#### 2. Documents

- **Northern Periphery Programme Document, the CIP**  
The programme document specifies the joint strategy and main priorities of the programme, and gives a summary description of the measures intended to implement the priorities.
- **Northern Periphery Programme Complement**  
The Programme Complement gives a more detailed perspective of e.g. the measures, expected outputs, results and impacts. In addition to this it will specify the monitoring indicators, and defines the types of final beneficiaries.

#### 3. Northern Periphery Programme Website

The programme's website serves as the main source of information about the programme. The site is updated on a regular basis and filled with relevant data and information on ongoing activities.

#### 4. Partenariats and other information events

After the launch of the programme various information and partners-search forums; partenariats will take place marketing the programme to future applicants and potential project holders.

In addition to this, information and marketing activities such as presentations, speeches and participation in exhibitions and fairs organised by other institutions or organisations are foreseen.

#### 5. Publications from the Joint Secretariat

- **Applicants' package**

The applicants' package consists of the Programme Document, application form and the guidelines as well as the Programme Complement.

It will be published on the programme's web site, as well as sent out via e-mail to regional advisory groups and other relevant bodies involved in the participating countries for further dissemination.

- **Practical guide for project management**

The secretariat will draft a guide about monitoring and reporting standards, managing the partnership, information about the rules; eligibility rules for expenditure, information actions and public tendering etc. as well as about procedures for auditing and closing the project.

- **Brochures**

Brochures giving general and basic information on the programme will be produced.

#### 6. Regular public calls for project applications

Open calls for project applications will be launched twice a year from 2002 to 2006. In 2001 one call for applications will take place. Information on the time-schedule for the calls for project applications will be given in due course on the programme's website and via a variety of channels aiming at future project holders.

#### 7. Project Leaders' seminars

Seminars on management and administration of Northern Periphery Interreg III B projects will be organised for approved projects' lead partners.

#### 8. Online database for information on the programme and the projects

An online database for storing information on project data, and also programme data, will be established by the Joint Programme Secretariat. The database is connected to the Programme's website. It will serve as the main source for data on projects and on projects' achievement.

#### 9. Information measures by the Regional Contact Points

The Regional Contact Points have a substantial role in informing and promoting the programme in their respective areas. The Regional Contact Points will provide information on the programme and its actions to all interested parties and institutions. The Regional Contact Points, together with the Joint Programme Secretariat will organise regular regional information events/seminars until 2006.

In addition to this, staff of the Regional Contact Points will participate in exhibitions and fairs organised by other institutions.

#### 10. National responsible authorities

The Finnish Ministry of Interior, the Scottish Executive, the Swedish Business Development Agency – NUTEK, the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Iceland and the Nordic Atlantic Co-operation – NORA will all contribute to the promotion of the Northern Periphery Programme in their respective country/areas with information on websites etc.

#### 11. Media

Press releases and other kind of information will be provided for when issues of interest to the general public or to experts in the matter so arise.

### 9.4 Responsibility

The *Joint Programme Secretariat* will be in charge of the regular handling of information and publicity activities under the regular supervision of the *Programme Monitoring Committee*. *Regional Contact Points* will play an important role when it comes to direct information activities in the respective participating countries.

### 9.5 Monitoring and follow-up of the information and publicity activities

The follow-up will be done by calculating the number of sessions at the website, number of seminars, partenariats and other information events organized or participated by the Secretariat and the RAGs, number of brochures and publications produced as well as number of press releases written and distributed. General feedback will be requested on the website. All the seminars and partenariats will be evaluated with a special feedback form. The quality of the information actions will be assessed by the PMC.

### 9.6 Budget

The information and publicity actions will be financed by the technical assistance budget. The indicative budget is 342 195 EUR.

## 10. COMPUTERISED DATA EXCHANGE WITH THE COMMISSION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 Art 18 (3)(e) states that an agreement between the Commission and the Member State should be made to develop a computerised data exchange system between the Member state and the Commission.

Sweden, as the designated Managing and Paying Authority, has developed a data system designed for monitoring EU programmes with a version adapted to Interreg programmes. The Interreg III version is under development. The system follows the structure of data exchange between the Member State and the Commission as described in Annex IV to Commission Regulation (EC) No 438/2001.

Sweden will have a dialogue with the Commission to make an agreement in which way information will be transmitted regularly to the Commission

The Northern Periphery Programme will detail the categories of fields of intervention and provide information about the activities according to location, environment and equal opportunities.

## 11. FINANCIAL TABLE: INTERREG III B NORTHERN PERIPHERY PROGRAMME

Commission Reference No of the related OP or SPD: 2001 CB 16 0 PC 003

Last Commission Decision of the related OP or SPD:

	Fields of intervention	Total eligible cost	Public expenditure	Community participation		National participation			Other financial	
			Total public expenditure						instruments [1]	
								Eligible Private	(incl. Non-eligible private)	TOTAL
				Total	ERDF	Total	Central National			
		1=2+13	2=3+8	3	4	8=9 to12	9	13	16	17=1+16
1. Communications		<b>7121367</b>	<b>7006098</b>	<b>4272820</b>	<b>4272820</b>	<b>2733278</b>	<b>2733278</b>	<b>115269</b>	<b>4177175</b>	<b>11298542</b>
1,1	31 (100%)	2549859	2509800	1529915	1529915	979885	979885	40059		
1,2	32 (100%)	4571508	4496298	2742905	2742905	1753393	1753393	75210		
2. Strengthen sustainable economic development		<b>16673688</b>	<b>16261268</b>	<b>10022815</b>	<b>10022815</b>	<b>6238453</b>	<b>6238453</b>	<b>412420</b>	<b>7098512</b>	<b>23772200</b>
2,1	13,16,17 (33% each)	10589157	10326123	6371273	6371273	3954850	3954850	263034		
2,2	13,16,18,24 (25% each)	6084531	5935145	3651542	3651542	2283603	2283603	149386		
3. Community development		<b>11275418</b>	<b>11139916</b>	<b>6766973</b>	<b>6766973</b>	<b>4372943</b>	<b>4372943</b>	<b>135502</b>	<b>5490204</b>	<b>16765622</b>
3,1	13,16 (50% each)	4138004	4134502	2695695	2695695	1438807	1438807	3502	0	0
3,2	13 (100%)	7137414	7005414	4071278	4071278	2934136	2934136	132000		
4. Technical Assistance		<b>3058042</b>	<b>3058042</b>	<b>1569042</b>	<b>1569042</b>	<b>1489000</b>	<b>1489000</b>		<b>927752</b>	<b>3985794</b>
4,1	41 (100%)	2630919	2630919	1348760	1348760	1282159	1282159			
4,2	41 (100%)	427123	427123	220282	220282	206841	206841			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38128515</b>	<b>37465324</b>	<b>22631650</b>	<b>22631650</b>	<b>14833674</b>	<b>14833674</b>	<b>663191</b>	<b>17693643</b>	<b>55822158</b>
Total ERDF related		<b>38128515</b>	<b>37465324</b>	<b>22631650</b>	<b>22631650</b>	<b>14833674</b>	<b>14833674</b>	<b>663191</b>		

ERDF contribution is based on total public and eligible private (i.e. total eligible) expenditure. The calculated contribution rate is 60% on a priority level, except for Technical Assistance where it is 50%.

(1) i.e. pre-allocated Non-Member State funding from Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands