



DESERVE

Delivering Services in Remote and Rural Areas

All the participating partners across the Northern Periphery region share concerns for the difficulties faced by service providers, as well as service users in remote and rural areas. Each participating region has topographical, geographical and demographic similarities to overcome that create problems in accessing services, as well as in the delivery of services. The DESERVE project seeks to establish the transferability of models of service delivery to remote and rural areas among the participating partner regions. Each participating region will implement a project in their native region utilising a model, or elements of various models, previously tested by partners in their own regions. The emphasis is on models of service delivery to remote and rural areas rather than on the specific services provided in these areas. The rationale for this being that sectors may be able to learn lessons from one another. Partners are also keen to establish the extent to which models must be adapted to suit local contexts.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- to improve the viability of service provision
- to test the transferability of models of rural service delivery among partners by implementing models employed in other partner regions: transferring and testing ideas and practices
- to establish the extent to which these models must be adapted to suit regional contexts: how flexible they are and what barriers to success exist
- to improve the delivery of services to remote and rural areas within the Northern Periphery region
- to improve accessibility of services within the Northern Periphery region by mainstreaming the new approaches across the transnational partnership area



Project activities

- to develop a better understanding of the economic and social circumstances of sparsely populated areas that may impact on rural service delivery
- transnational co-operation
- the exchange of ideas and practices across the Northern Periphery region
- joint working to address common problems
- transferral of knowledge and information across regional boundaries

Expected results

- to improve the level and quality of rural service delivery
- the implementation of innovative approaches to common problems - what is already a solution in one region may be an innovation in another - towards finding new and improved ways of delivering rural services
- to establish more integrated ways of working by moving away from the present sectoral approaches found in most partner regions, to a more co-ordinated and co-operative approach that should be more effective and efficient
- to develop a long lasting transnational co-operation promoting continued learning and joint working towards the resolution of common problems in rural service delivery



Partners

Argyll And Bute Council - Scotland
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department - Scotland
County Administrative Board of Västerbotten - Sweden
The Icelandic Regional Institute - Iceland
Kajaani University Consortium; University of Oulu - Finland
Rural Advisory Centre of Kainuu - Finland
Karelian Institute, University of Joensuu - Finland
Regional Council of North Karelia - Finland
Regional Council of Kainuu - Finland

Project website

www.nppdeserve.info

Measure

3.1

Total Budget

2 251 542

NPP Award

1 657 811

Project Period

08/03/2004 – 30/06/2007

Countries Involved

Scotland, Sweden, Iceland, Finland

Lead Partner

Organisation

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Project leader

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