



Newsletter 12



Interreg North Sea Region

www.InterregNorthSea.org

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New North Sea Programme website launched

After some time in the making, the new and improved North Sea Programme website was launched on Friday 7th of July!

It features a more up-to-date look, it is easy to navigate and, in addition, the news section can be found on the first page. We have also made it easier to find documents facilitating good project management.

You are invited to have a look at our new website: www.interregnorthsea.org



Largest turnout yet at Annual Conference 2006

The North Sea Annual Conference 2006 was held in Aviemore, Scotland, on 14-16 June. Over 400 participants took part in the busy programme.

Public Consultation

The draft Operational Programme for the new programme period was presented at the conference. The consultation will run until 11 August. If you wish to read more about the Public Consultation and download the Operational Programme click [here](#).

Partner Search

This year's conference included the first partner search event for the new programme period. A substantial number of project ideas have been submitted. Please visit the programme website for the latest updates on this issue [here](#).



Also at the conference

A plenary session focused on the relevance of the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas for the North Sea region, thematic seminars on the 3 draft priorities for the new programme, the launch of the Progress Report with the outcomes of the North Sea Programme projects to date and a major exhibition of 40 North Sea Programme projects – the largest exhibition of the programme's work to date. Read more about the [conference](#) and download the documents on our website.





Starfish awards 2006

There are many hard working people involved in the projects and many deserve an award! In Aviemore this year, there were nine awards presented. For those who missed it, here are the details.

Awards were presented to the following people and projects. Read the full story [here](#).

Sverre Mauritzen SC/PPG member	Norway
Magne Haugseng MC/SC/PPG member	UK
Yvo Peeters MC/SC member	Flanders
SmartLIFE/ Liz Blackshaw	UK
Water City International/ Hans van Meerendonk	Netherlands
Water4All/ Christina Folmand	Denmark
NORIS/ Jonas German	Sweden
Walter Leal TuTech Innovation	Germany
NMC/ Gunnar Eiterjord	Norway

New Programme

The forthcoming Objective 3 North Sea Programme

The new Objective 3 North Sea Programme is currently being written. A programme preparation group (PPG) is currently working to establish priorities and draft the Operational Programme (OP) document. The Objective 3 programme is scheduled to run 2007-2013.

PPG 5

PPG (Programme Preparation Group) meeting no 5 took place in Aviemore, Scotland, on 14 June. At this meeting, the third version of the draft Operational Programme was presented. This draft is based on the decision from PPG 4, held in Silkeborg, Denmark, in early May, to integrate the priority on innovation into the other three priorities.

The PPG members decided on the procedures for the public consultation, meaning that one contact from each country receives the comments. The next PPG meeting is scheduled for 25-27 September in Stavanger, Norway.



Public Consultation launched

At Programme Preparation Group meeting no 5 in Aviemore, Scotland on 16th June, the launch of the Public Consultation of the Objective 3 North Sea Programme was formally approved. The consultation will run until 11 August of this year. Read the full story [here](#). The draft OP is available as a download [here](#).



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Ex Ante and SEA in progress

Consultant company ECORYS and COWI met with the Secretariat on 19 April to discuss the Ex Ante Evaluation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the new Objective 3 programme.

The purpose of the Ex Ante Evaluation and the SEA is to appraise the drafting process of the new programme and to inform the strategy development of the programme. Read the full story [here](#).

On 3 July a Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) workshop was held in The Hague by ECORYS and COWI. The LFA of the Draft OP Version 3 is part of the ex ante evaluation. The LFA is used to assess the relevance and consistency of the issues identified, the priorities and allocation of financial resources.

For more information about the New Objective 3 North Sea Programme, please go to the New Programme section.



Latest news on the emerging themes

At the Annual Conference in Aviemore the draft Operational Programme and the 3 draft priorities for the new programme period were presented; Unlocking the Innovative Potential of Sustainable Communities, Managing Our Environment Wisely and Challenging Accessibility. It was decided at the PPG meeting in May that the Innovation theme will be integrated in all 3 remaining priorities and not a priority in itself. This has been done in order to strengthen the focus on innovation by targeting innovative actions within the specific topics of the three priorities. Furthermore, innovation will be an overarching priority of the entire programme.



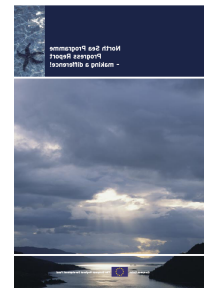
Did you know?

You can now subscribe and unsubscribe from our newsletter on the website or update your information by clicking here.

Annual Report submitted to the European Commission

The Annual Report 2005 was recently finished and has now been submitted to the European Commission. The report is a compilation of the work and results of the programme in 2005. Please contact the secretariat if you are interested in receiving a copy of the Annual Report 2005.

Progress Report

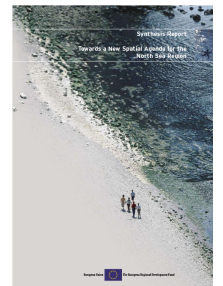


The North Sea Programme recently published a Progress Report on the outcomes of the projects to date. The report suggests that projects have exceeded their target indicators. It demonstrates what can be done working transnationally to find

solutions to common problems shared by the countries in the North Sea region, improving the quality of life for people living in the region. Please click [here](#) [download](#) or [order](#) on the website if you want a copy of the Progress Report.

Synthesis Report 2005

The Synthesis Report is a summary of five studies commissioned by the North Sea Programme. The studies deal with the future spatial agenda for the North Sea region and it is in this sense an update of the NorVision.



The five studies on which the report is based are: Coastal Water Management, Transport and Accessibility, Facilitating Innovation & the Transfer of Knowledge and Technology, Energy, Demographic Change. The studies are intended to give guidance for future transnational cooperation on spatial challenges. The synthesis document will sit alongside and complement the original NorVision document. Please click [here](#) to [download](#) or [order](#) the report.



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Recent news stories

Major project closes

The final conference of the Water City International II project was held in Leeuwarden 28-30 June, in conjunction with MOPARK, another project that is about to close. WCI-II is one of several very successful projects in the programme portfolio. Read the full story [here](#).

North Sea Conference in Gothenburg

At the ministerial meeting of the North Sea Conference in Gothenburg, on 3-5 May, ministers from eight North Sea countries and officials from the European Commission met for two days to discuss measures to reduce the impact of fishery and shipping in the North Sea. Read the story in full [here](#).

Pioneer letter of agreement

At the NMC II conference in Aberdeen, on 16-18 May, a pioneer Letter of Intention was signed between two regions in Norway and Russia. Read the news story in full [here](#). Read more about the NMC II project [here](#).



New staff

Guillaume Terrien



Guillaume Terrien joined the INTERACT point of Qualification and Transfer as of 15 May as Event Manager and Communications Officer. He has graduated in Geography of Leisure and Tourism, and in European and Scandinavian Studies. Guillaume has worked in the European cultural cooperation as coordinator of the Consortium of National Cultural Institutes of Europe in Brussels and as a consultant for the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. As Communications Officer at INTERACT Point QT, Guillaume will be in charge of the INTERACT QT communication in all media and responsible for the organisation of INTERACT's events.



Alec Bennett

Alec Bennett joined the North Sea Programme on 10 July for two weeks work experience. Alec is currently enrolled at Sir John Colfox School in Dorset, England. The work experience is obligatory for students in England.