



# Open issues and next steps 2014-2020

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## Next steps...?

- + Early October? Submission of programme to European Commission
- + Early 2015? Initial feedback received from European Commission. Additional programme documents and guidance released
- + April 2015? Launch of first call

All dates are subject to change – Check the programme website for the latest status updates!



## Some main points of the application

- + Press release summary – inspirational and clear
- + Beneficiary skills and expectations
- + Defining the problem and the need for a transnational response
- + Project intervention logic with greater focus on result delivery
- + Work package based with specification of major items of expenditure (external contracts, investments, equipment)



## Assessment criteria - strategic

- + Project relevance and strategy
- + Cooperation character
- + Contribution to programme objectives, expected results and outputs
- + Partnership relevance



# Assessment criteria - Operational

- + Management
- + Communication
- + Work plan
- + Budget

More detail will follow

# Aid relevant activities – options and basics

- + Yes – 10% of programme funding from the private sector
- + As a minimum, as it is today (refocusing to avoid competitive advantage)
- + De minimis (maximum €200,000 to an undertaking in a three year period)
- + General Block Exemption Regulation (maximum €2 million per undertaking – SMEs only)

Remember the need to *justify* private sector involvement – Aid should be a tool

Remember that being a partner is not the only way to be involved



## Partners outside the programme area

- + Partners, activities, expenditure....
- + ....outside the programme area, programme area countries, the EU
- + Different rules needed for each situation
- + Probably more complex than in the past – unless Commission intervenes
- + Do you really need the organisation involved? Do they really need to be a partner?



## Simplification...?

- + Is happening. Simpler, clearer rules. Less 'paperwork'
- + Clearer control requirements
- + 90 day payment deadline
- + Automated systems to prevent formal errors





# Documentation

- + Programme Manual
  - + Citizen Summary
  - + Fact sheets
  - + Guidance notes for calls
  - + Detailed guidance in Monitoring System
- + Watch the website for release of these documents!
- [www.northsearegion.eu](http://www.northsearegion.eu)



## More of the same...? No!

- + The new programme requires:
  - Focus on delivering tangible improvement on a more limited range of activity
  - Definition and evidence of results
  - Better commitment of partnerships
  - Commitment to transfer of results