



The North Sea Programme Joint Annual Conference 2007, Brunstad, Norway, 21st June

## **Rapporteur's Notes for Seminar on Priority 2 – Promoting the Sustainable Management of our Environment**

### **“Creating Real Projects on Marine Pollution, Climate Change and ICZM in the North Sea Region”**

#### **Speakers:**

Evert Kloostboer, (EK) Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, Service for Land and Water Management (DLG), the Netherlands  
Govert Geldof, (GG) Tauw Civiel en Bouw, the Netherlands

#### **Panel:**

Axel Kristiansen, (AK) Ministry of the Environment, Danish Forest and Nature Agency  
Albin Hunia, (AH) “Frame” project ; , Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, Service for Land and Water Management (DLG), the Netherlands  
Edmund Clegg (EC) Environment Agency, UK

#### **The North Sea Programme Secretariat:**

Jesper Jönsson, Charlotte George

#### **Concluding summary (Secretariat):**

##### **Introduction:**

The two speakers performed a comical sketch on submitting a doubtful project idea to the Secretariat in Viborg..

Then a screening of the audience.. Who is who, show of hands whether public, private, country of origin, ready involved in the programme, who isn't etc.  
Introduction of the panel members.

After a short introduction by EK concerning Creating real projects in priority 2 within the new Interreg IV B North Sea Region Programme (based on the new criteria and conditions), EK and GG opened up for a discussion among the panel and the audience.  
Two key questions were used thereto.

1 ‘How can projects trigger transnational regional development’?

(AH) Demonstration project to show public. Needs to go beyond borders and be as concrete as possible.

(AK) Cooperation. Target national resources.

(EC) Novel combination. Has been a tendency for sympathy projects. Involving regional bodies even more in future programmes and projects. Need better jobs, good for the economy. Right combination of partners.

(Audience participation) Projects which aim to change regional level need responsible authorities for the area involved, need the principles involved.

2. 'How can a partnership make sure it covers a large area of north sea'?

(EC) Doesn't have to cover a large area. Just needs transnational element.

(GG) The perception is that as many countries need to be involved as possible.

(EC) Not the right motive to have as many flags involved as possible.

(AH) The focus is starting the project and the results despite who is involved. Need accessible results which are applicable to a large area.

(AK) Depends on what want to do and time involved. Spatial framework.

(Audience) Combination of questions. Protection of the North Sea. How to protect quality? Need North Sea government.

(AK) New programme develops common maritime spatial planning concept. None for the sea.

(Audience) Change North Sea basin, have framework from Bonn, points out problem, most developers regional, national, need connection between international and national.

(Audience) Problem is the politicians.

Presentation 'Future direction towards real projects' (Slides)

(GG) Knowledge and money need to be connected. US investors have now halted their investment strategies in the Netherlands due to the fact that the country is facing serious flooding of important scale. The main question is how do projects find an innovative way of meeting needs, demands and wishes from external responses, such as this example? One answer might be by applying the bifurcation theory, as suggested by EG and GG.

A bifurcation point is like a fork in the road. In a non-linear system it is a point that branches and can lead into any number of possibilities. In the life of a complex system (a dynamic system with many interconnected parts), bifurcation points are those points in time and space where decisions, choices and actions can dramatically alter the entire system. This can lead to more chaos, which can destroy the system or to a new way of doing things that can restore balance and harmony. This could be one way of setting the scene for future IV B projects. Each one of us is a complex system. Collectively, we are a complex system. The health of a complex system depends on maintaining a fine balance between chaos and order.

Energy to change project when passed bifurcation point is difficult. Change of perception has direct effect on economy.

'Do you see bifurcation points?'

(EC) Particularly for climate change. At national organisational level.

(AK) Reduction of CO2. 2009 successor to Koyoto agreement. Two issues: How to reach carbon in a low economy, how to manage change. Don't have answers, crucial for bifurcation points.

(Audience) Define the real 4 L's.

Difficult to define strategic project. However, bifurcation point has done this.

Physical bifurcations points and policy.

Multiple bifurcation points.

Glacier museum extension opening in Norway. How can you make people understand climate change?

(EK) Can you have a bifurcation point in the middle of a project?

Introduction of some project ideas by lead partners.

BOPEC 2.03

Carbon Neutral Industrial Estates 2.52

Sustainable Business Clusters 2.53

Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER PLUS) 2.50

W.I.S.E.R. 2.49

Integration WFD / N2000 2.47

EMRES 2.19

Sustainable Management of the North Sea 2.37

CLIWAT 2.51

SAWA 2.54

RUBENS 2.01

Adaptive strategies to climate change regional scale (new project, late comer, not included in the Project Idea Book)

EnerCoast 2.21

Planning of Urban Environments Using Storm Water as a Resource 2.32

Network for Innovative Use of Renewable Fuels 2.74

What else could be submitted? And other ideas?

No answer.

Problems identified during the preparation for new project proposals:

- 1) Difference between IIIB and IVB?
- 2) What are the difficulties faced with when making a proposal?
- 3) SME involvement? How is it tolerated? In particular concerning dissemination aspects, ownership rights, budgetwise, public procurement and so on
- 4) How can it be included?
- 5) Infrastructure investments tolerated?
- 6) Let down by one of many partners then need a contingency plan. Crisis management.
- 7) Flexibility and Interreg IV?
- 8) Don't want too much of an overlap, need to compliment each other, synergy not competition.
- 9) Size of projects? Is it good to have a large project or smaller one? Many partners or few?
- 10) Ask the Programme Secretariat to introduce fact sheet on SME's, taking into account state aid, partnership agreements, public procurement etc)
- 11) Involving Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies as a component in projects

**Presentations can be downloaded from our website**

<http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/events/show/&tid=18>