

European Union

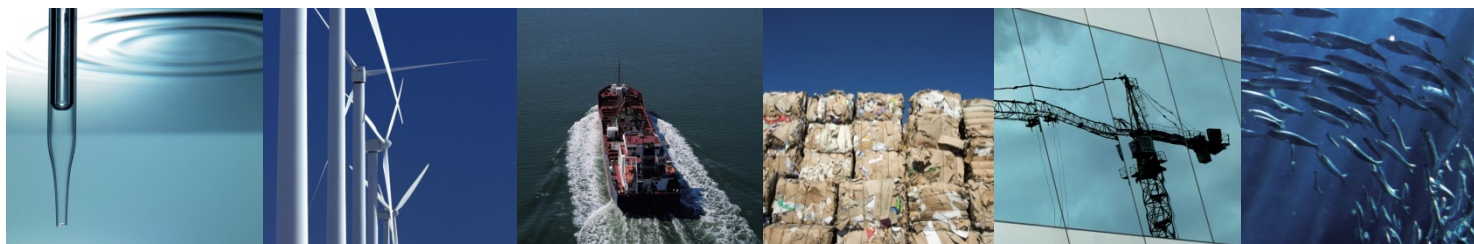


The European Regional Development Fund

**The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme**



The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme



Brugge
21 June 2011
Matt Nichols

*Investing in the future
by working together for a
sustainable and competitive region*



Introduction to the second (and almost certainly last) round of cluster applications



Clusters – Thinking and progress

- About effectiveness – visibility and take up
- Larger project groups may in some cases be more effective than lots of individual projects
- Must show ‘the ambition to result in significant change or improvement in the whole or large parts of the North Sea Region’



Clusters – Thinking and progress

- Over half projects in an application (approx 1/3 in approved cluster)
- 3 clusters approved:
 - Priority 1: Digital Agenda North Sea
 - Priority 2: Water management in a changing climate
 - Priority 3: Maritime Transport Cluster
- Any overlap in new applications → recommendation for rejection



Clusters - Funding position

- Priority 1 – 1 cluster (subject to confirmation)
- Priority 2 – 1 cluster
- Priority 3 – Open
- Priority 4 – Open
- Norwegian funding
- Keep good contact with programme and NCPs to avoid wasted time and effort



Clusters – Possible gaps – Ideas only

- Priority 1 – SME support
- Priority 2 – 1 cluster under development
- Priority 3 – Would need to address specialist issues in depth
- Priority 4 – 2 clusters under development
- 1 other idea definitely active
- If we don't know, we can't help you!



Clusters – Basic conditions

- Same as for full projects **and:**
 - Lead Beneficiary must be beneficiary of an existing North Sea project
 - Maximum eligible budget €750.000 – 50% ERDF/Norwegian
 - Minimum 3 partners from 3 North Sea projects and 3 countries
 - Maximum run time 18 months



Clusters – Lessons from first assessments

- Project coverage – Not all but most...
- Country coverage – If they are not in how are they involved?
- Preparation work – Why THESE projects and what can they offer?
- Clearly defined process and results
- Involvement of major stakeholder groups



Clusters – Lessons from first assessments

- 18 month runtime – Demonstrate that preparation work is done
- Duplication danger
- Don't neglect NSR regional audience
- Letters of Intent
- Use this event to expand active networks
- Use programme support offers
- Good examples available on request

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Thanks for your interest
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