THE UPSHOT is the North Sea Region Programme's newsletter for project results of the 2007 - 2013 Programme. THE UPSHOT 4 sums up the results of CPA and MARE.

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The North Sea Region Programme

THE UPSHOT

Your news update on project closures

Dear colleague

Since the last UPSHOT was sent out, the North Sea Region Programme has been through a long development process in the transition into the VB programming period. At this point, the Cooperation Programme is almost ready for submission to the European Commission and the project community is buzzing with new ideas.

Last month in Ghent, Flanders, the first VB project development and partner search seminar was held with 150+ participants from the entire region. The new framework and content was introduced and discussed, project ideas were presented and new connections were made.

The end of October marks another important step towards VB, as programme stakeholders meet internally to reach a common understanding of the definition of a good project in the new programme. As always, please keep an eye out for our website for more news on the new programme.

Meanwhile, this newsletter looks back at some of the successes of the closing programme, namely the results and impacts of Climate Proof Areas (CPA) and MARE. We hope you enjoy.

Best regards

The North Sea Region Programme Secretariat

Climate Proof Areas

Time to adapt!

Below sea level, the CPA pilot area Wicken Fen is also one of only a few surviving unimproved wetland fens in the East of England. See more photos from the projects here.

Climate Proofing the North Sea Region

Rising sea levels are one of the main climate change challenges of the North Sea Region. The common threat calls for shared solutions and that was exactly what the Climate Proof Areas (CPA) project set out to find.

Combining expert knowledge and experience from Belgium, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, CPA aimed at finding innovative and sustainable methods to help render ten representative pilot areas climate proof.

While the project had a transnational focus, scientists, water experts and civil servants from all five

partner countries cooperated with local governments and citizens to make sure that local issues and concerns were heard and taken into account.

Highlights

The adaptation toolkit developed by the project provides ideas for successful climate adaptation. The toolkit explains the effects of climate change on the North Sea Region, which innovative measures have proven their worth, how to gain political support and how to build a climate proof area.

Stories from the project

One of the tools of the toolkit was the so-called "Landscape vision". The tool was tested in the Wesermarsch pilot in Germany, where the regional forum developed a joint landscape vision for the year 2050. Based on a vision of continuity in landscape, agriculture, coastal protection and working conditions, focus groups out of the regional forum developed different climate change adaptation options.

For comparison, international CPA project members from the other European pilots were asked to think about possible adaptation measures in the Wesermarsch region as well. They predominantly suggested different adaptation measures, such as wetland development and alternative land use.

The case highlighted the importance of setting adequate boundary conditions for a future development.

Other key achievements

One of the main conclusions of the project was the need to to mainstream climate adaptation into relevant EU policies and programmes. CPA's political statement (see below) suggested concrete recommendations as to how the European administration can take climate adaption issues into account in current and future policies.

Read CPA's publication on main findings and recommendations here.

CPA is also represented in the WaterCAP and WaterCAP Taskforce cluster projects.

Climate Proof Areas on video

Watch the CPA movie and learn all about the Climate Proof Areas project in 8 minutes.

Excerpt from CPA's political statement

CPA encourages the European administration to take the issue of climate adaptation for existing and future policies into account. CPA therefore recommends:

- To elaborate a Climate Adaptation Pre-Assessment (CAPrA) approach of plans, programmes and directives according to and based on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- To raise the adaptive capacity of regions by stimulating and enhancing the ability to act collectively. Encourage through the revision of existing or the development of new EU policies the cross-sectoral and cross-scale cooperation, especially with regard to climate adaptation.
- To create “windows of opportunities” by policy to accelerate the climate adaptation process.
- To encourage the further development and application of sound methodologies for building climate and socio-economic scenarios.
- The CPA partners are asking the North Sea Commission to support this paper and to encourage the European Commission to integrate climate adaptation/proofing into all relevant European directives

Read the full statement here.

Word of mouth

Ruben Akkermans, Province of Zeeland (NL)
Climate change is happening right now and climate adaptation is necessary now. Therefore, we should not treat climate change as a separate problem. We must embed climate change and climate adaptation in current planning processes, projects, policies and future developments. Climate Proof Areas is a great example of that and provided good solutions to how we can accelerate the climate change adaptation process starting today.

Renaat de Sutter, University of Gent (B)
Floods, droughts, water logging, salinisation, coastal erosion and loss of habitat in intertidal areas are typical climate change impacts for coastal regions. One of the findings of Climate Proof Areas is that these impacts are expected to intensify. It is challenging for regional and local stakeholders to cope with the uncertainties and long term nature of climate (change) adaptation within their planning and policy processes.

Tina Stroobandt, communication manager for CPA (B)
One of the findings of Climate Proof Areas is that early stakeholder involvement is a key factor in the climate (change) adaptation process.

Leo Adriaanse, Rijkswaterstaat Zeeland (NL)
A lack of sense of urgency often results in developments and investments that are less sustainable in a changing climate. The innovative capacity of the private sector to provide adaptation solutions is not yet fully utilised. The Climate Proof Areas partners recommend involvement of the private sector.

Did you know that…

- Climate change has considerable consequences for current water management strategies and spatial planning on local and regional scale
- Floods, droughts, water logging, salinisation, coastal erosion and loss of habitat in intertidal areas are typical climate change impacts for coastal regions and these impacts are expected to intensify
- The combination of limited storage capacity and increasing frequency of heavy rainfall will cause more frequent flooding

CLIMATE PROOF AREAS

Project facts

Project started 1 July, 2008 (42 months duration)
Total budget was 5,422,884 €
Lead beneficiary was Province of Zeeland, The Netherlands
Lead beneficiary contact is Ruben Akkermans (r.akkermans@zeeland.nl)
Project homepage is www.climateproofareas.com
Read more

Transnational partnership

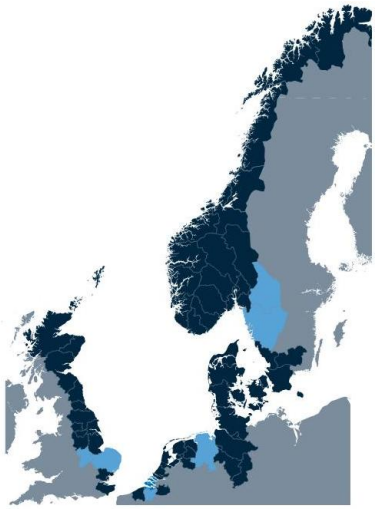
The Netherlands
Province of Zeeland
Municipality of Schouwen-Duiveland
Deltares Unit Subsurface and Groundwater
Directorate general of public works and water management department Zeeland

Germany
University of Oldenburg

Sweden
Swedish Geotechnical Institute (SGI)
Arvika kommun
County Administrative Board of Värmland
Administrative Board Västra Götalands län
Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

Belgium
Ghent University – Centre for Mobility and Physical Planning

United Kingdom
National Trust
RSPB



Related transnational projects

CLIWAT
SAWA
Aquarius
DiPol
MARE
Biochar
Cluster: WaterCAP

Learn more here.

CPA is a priority 2 project and thus worked for the overall goal of promoting the sustainable management of our environment. Its area of intervention was 2.3: Adapting to and reducing risks posed to society and nature by a changing climate.

MARE

Managing Adaptive Responses
To changing flood risk in the North Sea Region

Community collaboration on river maintenance in Sheffield, UK. More photos from MARE here.

An innovative approach to flood risk management

The vulnerability of the North Sea Region to flooding has been demonstrated on many occasions in recent years. Municipalities and other organisations involved in water management have an urgent need to reduce flood risk, but lack a framework and the resources. The MARE project contributed to the development of a framework and resources by developing and demonstrating a practical, transnational methodology to implementing urban flood risk management.

Highlights

MARE applied an innovative approach to the project by creating Learning and Action Alliances in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany and Norway consisting of cities, regional bodies, national authorities and academic and private partners. The involvement of policy-makers thoughout the project ensured that results were put to use both regionally and nationally,

strenthening the basis for shared policy in the North Sea Region.

Many of the MARE Learning and Action Alliances are continuing after project closure, and in Norway and the Netherlands they have even expanded considerably since their foundation.

Stories from the project

The project initiated a "high water walking route" through the historic centre of the Dutch city Dordrecht, which according to the local tourist office was a huge success. The route guided tourists and interested citizens past 18 sites in the inner city, which clearly showed how water had shaped the city's history for better and worse.

When a delegation from Louisiana in the United States visited Dordrecht in November 2010, Dordrecht municipality urban planner, Judit Bax, presented the high water policy of Dordrecht and invited the delegation on a high-water walking tour. Since Louisiana was hit by hurricane Katrina in 2005, the state has looked to the Netherlands for experience and knowledge on water safety, partly due to the experiences gained through the MARE project.

Other key achievements

Other key results of the project include development of

- the Climate Proofing Toolbox,
- a flood risk analysis tool to feed into flood risk management plans
- hydrological and hydrodynamic models
- assessment tools for tangible and non-tangible investments
- knowledge based system adaptation measures at building and urban infrastructure levels
- flood risk management plans and investment proposals

Nominations and awards

The City of Dordrecht won the national award for 'water, living and space' based on the water-rich development project Plan Tij.

MARE on video (in Dutch)

See the MARE video on the NSRP YouTube channel.

English summary:

The city of Dordrecht, coordinator of the MARE project, hosted a working visit of the Minister for Infrastructure and Environment, Ms. Schultz van Haegen, and the government commissioner for water safety, Delta Commissioner Wim Kuijken. The visit showed how cities can achieve both attractive urban spaces that provide access to water, and maintain flood safety standards under extreme water levels, even while being located along one of the Netherlands' major rivers.

Urban developer Wim van Son:

"We don't want to raise ground levels but rather try to build close to the water, make it part of the city, make [the city] attractive. For example, some parts of the public space will even flood daily".

The solutions designed in Dordrecht help policy makers at regional and national levels take into account interests of cities, and innovative solutions, when defining flood safety policy and norms.

Mr. Kuijken:

"This is the second time we have visited Dordrecht. We are very impressed with how the city addresses the issue of safety, not just from a perspective of prevention, by building dikes and flood walls, but from an integrated perspective that includes urban development and emergency management."

Word of mouth

Filip Rygg, City of Bergen (N)
For the city of Bergen, the MARE project has been instrumental in integrating Flood Risk Management in the broader field of urban development. The perspectives from our research partners and from cities abroad have helped us better frame the topic. At the same time, I believe that our model of joint decision-making between municipalities on watershed management has been an example to others.

Piet Sleeking, City of Dordrecht (NL)
The MARE project has been of great value to Dordrecht. With the help of the Interreg programme, and our international network of cities and research groups, we have been able to develop a state of the art method for Flood Risk Management planning that got recognition locally, and with national policy makers. We will continue that fruitful transnational collaboration in the CAMINO project, addressing the challenge of multiparty financing of climate adaptation investments. There is a clear need for such expertise across the North Sea Region, and we are willing to play a part in developing that.

Ellen Kelder, City of Dordrecht (NL)
In the MARE project, the city of Dordrecht has been able to get access to state of the art knowledge on the expected impact of climate change on a local level. The main challenge was to interpret the uncertainty of climate change over long time frames, and how to design proper adaptation strategies and solutions for urban planning. Together with our city partners from across the region we developed and tested a practical framework that allow us to propose effective solutions and investment plans at the right time.

The transnational collaboration was not only crucial in developing our approach, but it has also gave us a high level of confidence about its validity. This has proven to be a key element in obtaining support at political level for our climate adaptation strategy.

Did you know that…

- It is likely that climate change, even within medium term horizons, will further increase flood probabilities across much of the North Sea Region.
- Traditional urban development results in quicker build-ups in surface water runoff, and higher rates and volumes of runoff, because the capacity for local retention in green or porous areas is typically diminished.
- A dense urban layout can also prevent water from leaving the city, resulting in locally rapidly rising water levels.
- Increasing concentrations of people and property, particularly along coasts and rivers as these have always been attractive places for living and working, are likely to result in more severe flood impacts.

From MARE's Climate Proofing Toolbox Overview.

Project facts

Started on 1 January, 2009 (4 months duration)
Total budget was 5,215,500 €
Lead beneficiary was Gemeente Dordrecht, The Netherlands
Lead beneficiary contact is Ellen Kelder (etg.kelder@dordrecht.nl)
Visit project homepage
Read more

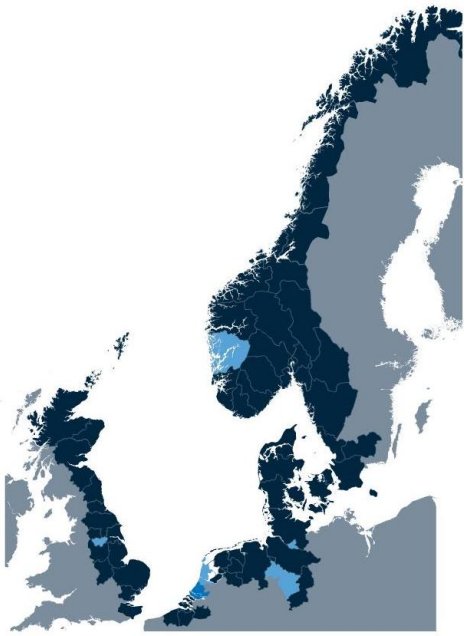
Transnational partnership

The Netherlands
Gemeente Dordrecht
Waterschap Hollandse Delta
Rijkswaterstaat Zuid-Holland
Provincie Zuid-Holland
UNESCO-IHE
Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat
Dura Vermeer Business Development b.v

United Kingdom
Sheffield City Council
The University of Sheffield
Rotherham Metropolitican Borough Council

Germany
City of Hannover, Civil Engineering division
Leibniz University of Hannover, Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Sciences
Hannover Region Environment Department
Technical University Hamburg-Harburg

Norway
Bergen



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Web links

THE UPSHOT is first and foremost an online newsletter intended to be read as an email, in your browser or as a pdf on your screen. This is why we have used embedded links throughout. Should you wish to print this newsletter, the general web links referred to in our newsletter are:

All project information	http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/projects/
All videos	http://www.youtube.com/user/NSRProgramme
All photos	http://www.flickr.com/photos/northsearegion/sets
The North Sea Region Programme website	http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/home/
The North Sea Region Programme on facebook	https://www.facebook.com/NorthSeaRegionProgramme
The North Sea Region Programme on twitter	https://twitter.com/NorthSeaRegion
The North Sea Region Programme papers (including the ANSWERS magazine)	http://northseapapers.northsearegion.eu/

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme

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

About the programme

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme runs from 2007 - 2013. Bringing together regions around the North Sea from seven countries, namely Denmark, Sweden, Norway, The United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, the programme has approved 78 projects in total, including five cluster projects and seven future perspectives projects and involving more than 850 beneficiaries.

Learn more on our website, our YouTube channel and flickr and get the latest buzz on facebook and twitter.

European Union The European Regional Development Fund

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