



Interreg North Sea Region

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*Interreg IIIB
The North Sea Programme*



The eligible area of the North Sea Programme

The North Sea Programme provides the opportunity for organisations in the regions surrounding the North Sea to work together on spatial development projects. It is one of the Community Initiatives with a programme period which will last from 2000–2006 and applications for funds can be made throughout that time. Typically a project can apply for Interreg funding up to 50% of their costs.

In many ways, the new programme is a development of the Interreg IIC North Sea Programme which was operational from 1997 to 1999 but this time there are some key differences and improvements to note:

- The eligible area has been considerably extended with additional regions in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and the UK and the Flemish region
- The funds available to projects are much larger – now over 130 million
- Projects can have an activity phase lasting up to mid 2008
- There are four priorities:
 - Priority 1: Transnational Spatial Development Strategies and Actions for Urban, Rural and Maritime Systems in the North Sea Region.
 - Priority 2: Efficient and Sustainable Transport and Communications and Improved Access to the Information Society.
 - Priority 3: Sustainable Management and Development of the Environment, Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage.
 - Priority 4: Water Management

Who can apply?

Organisations from the eligible area can apply.

How to apply?

The lead partner, which will be an organisation located within the eligible area, will work on a project idea involving a local cross-sectoral partnership together with a transnational partnership from at least one other country. Together they

will work on a project idea which will be based on local and national priorities but also show links to the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and to the NorVision (except in case of the new areas). These documents emphasise a more balanced and sustainable development approach. Application packs are available from the secretariat and the contact points and can be downloaded from the homepage. Only signed application forms can be accepted as formal submissions however.

What happens to the application?

Project applications should be sent to the Interreg North Sea Secretariat in Viborg, Denmark. Provided that the application passes the eligibility check a full technical assessment of the project will be carried out. This project assessment will be based on the core criteria as approved by the Monitoring Committee. There will be a published set of application deadlines and two Steering Committee meetings a year. The Steering Committee will meet to discuss all the eligible applications, approving or rejecting them accordingly. The Steering Committee comprises national and regional representatives from the seven countries involved in the programme.

Where to find assistance

If you are interested in applying under the Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme you can contact the secretariat or the contact point in your country for advice and assistance. Further information about the programme and practical details can be found in the CIP (Community Initiative Programme document), the Programme Complement and the Application pack.

The Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme homepage can be found at www.InterregNorthSea.org.

A North Sea Directoria is planned to take place each year in June. This event provides the opportunity to attend workshops and carry out partner search. In addition, information events are planned in all the participating countries in the forthcoming months.