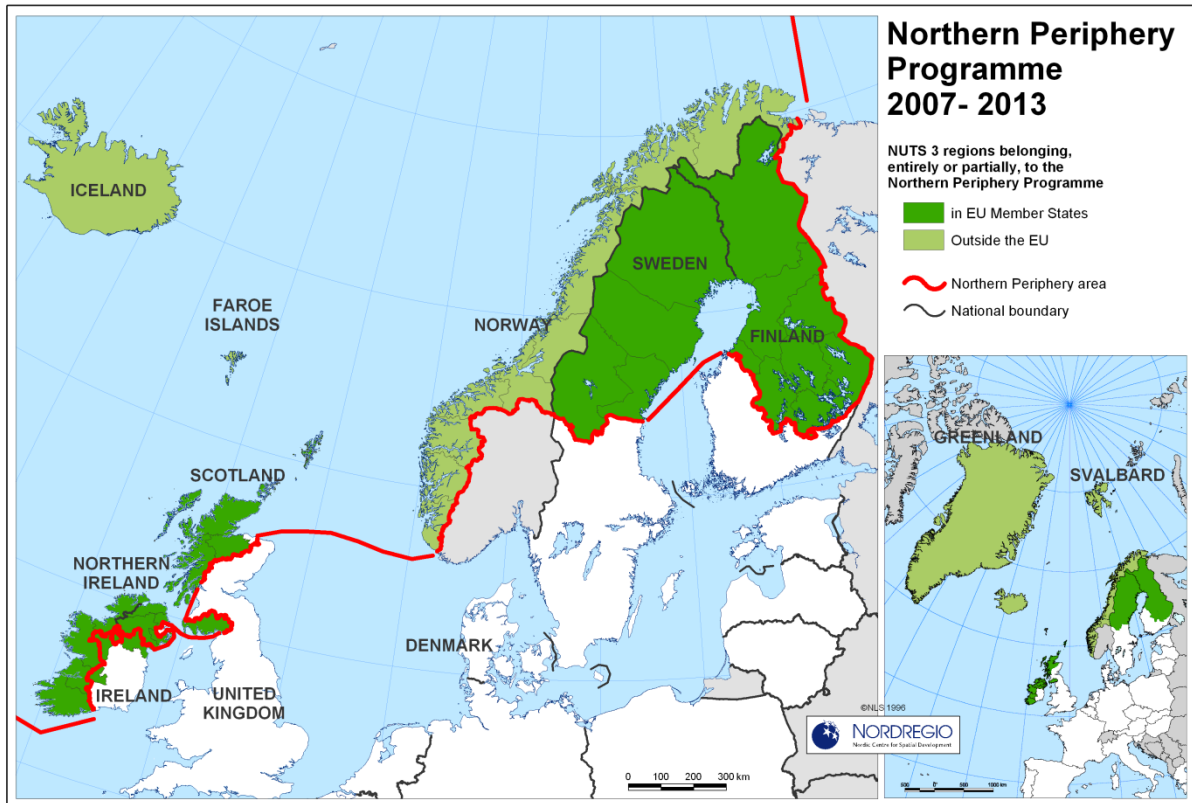


INTERREG IVB

Northern Periphery Programme



This guide is an overview of the selection criteria that will be used to determine whether or not your project is approved under the Northern Periphery Programme. You should use this guide as a basis for developing your project application and you should use it in conjunction with the Northern Periphery Operational Programme and the latest version of Project Guidance handbook. For more information, please see www.northernperiphery.eu

Transnational cooperation is about looking beyond local issues and national borders. It is about meeting people, exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge, developing a new culture, and achieving better results together rather than alone. In fact, the “raison d’être” of this Programme is bringing European regions together!

In order to ensure that your application is considered for funding you should ensure that your project meets the following eligibility requirements:

Application

The correct application form must be fully completed and submitted in electronic form by the deadline of the call. If the hard copy does not arrive by the deadline, then it should be postmarked before the deadline.

The partner forms have to be completed, in detailing the description of partner organisation’s core activities and interest in project results, as well as their total budget, request for co-funding, signed commitments of match funding and additional supporting documents.

Be careful that the Budget/request for funding is within the limits fixed in the call for applications. The Project’s maximum duration is three years, and it should be completed by the end of 2014.

Partnership

The lead partner has to be assigned and its organisation must be considered eligible (Public body or public equivalent). The project involves at least 3 partners from 3 different EU partner countries, in the eligible area (unless in exceptional circumstances, when sufficient justification is provided). The Partnership must be clearly transnational rather than cross border. Partnership should include an appropriate combination of partners from the Nordic countries and the West Atlantic. A draft partnership agreement is in place to assign and govern responsibilities in the project.

Coherence with joint transnational Strategy

The project must clearly address one of the two programme priorities and be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Northern Periphery Programme. It must bring an innovative response to specific

issues, complying with European legislation and with the national/regional community strategic guidelines.

The project must demonstrate a positive contribution to the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and sustainable development, and meet at least 3 of the 4 transnationality criteria i.e. joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing.

The project has to result by the development of a product or service that has a transnational/transregional character.

In addition, the criteria for selection of projects are based on the following:

General selection criteria for ranking of projects

Projects will be given higher priority if they contribute significantly to achieving the objectives of the programme:

-To promote competitiveness by increasing and developing the capacity for innovation and networking in rural and peripheral areas

-To facilitate development by the use of advanced information and communication technologies and transport in the programme area.

-To strengthen synergies between environmental protection and growth in remote and peripheral regions.

-To improve sustainable development in peripheral regions by strengthening urban-rural relations in enhancing regional heritage.

The project has to focus on topics of particular relevance and importance to the programme area, such as **peripherality, sparsity of population, rurality**, etc. They have to make a specific contribution to the Lisbon Agenda (economic growth and job creation) and Gothenburg Agenda (sustainable development), and making a positive impact on equal opportunities and sustainable development by integrating and mainstreaming them into the project.

The project must demonstrate a high level of transnationality and a strong transnational impact throughout the programme area.

It should play a role in the development of innovative actions that could subsequently be taken forward in complementary Convergence and Competitiveness programmes or Regions for Economic Change.

Quality Criteria

It is important that there is coherence between the issue/challenge to be addressed and the project response/intended results.

The work packages are logical, well organised and well shared, and the activities are consistent and concrete.

The partnership involves the appropriate partners in a manageable size, with the capacity to deliver and make use of the project results.

The management and financial structure is sound and should ensure efficient implementation of the project.

The Lead Partner has experienced in project and financial management of European funding.

There is an effective communication strategy, which could ensure a good dissemination of the results and experience acquired.