

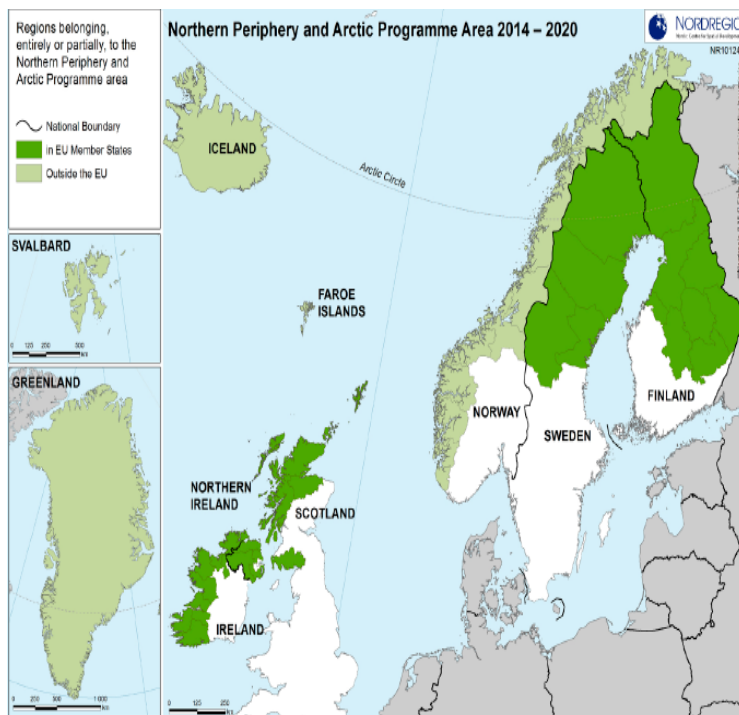


Welcome to 'INTERREGional News' from the Special EU Programmes Body. This newsletter aims to bring you up to date with developments on the **INTERREG VB Programmes** that are relevant to Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, the North West Europe Programme and the Atlantic Area Programme) as well as the **INTERREG VC 'EUROPE' Programme** for the new programming period from 2014-2020. All of the programmes are at varying stages of development and implementation but we would encourage you to begin thinking about project ideas and discussing these with us at the earliest opportunity.

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme (NPA) 2014-2020 Approved

The European Commission formally approved the Cooperation Programme for the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020 in December 2014. The programme is among the first INTERREG programmes to be approved by the European Commission and concludes a process of programme preparation that has spanned over 2 years. Regional and national stakeholders in all partner countries as well as NPP projects, programme bodies and Ex Ante evaluators have all contributed to the development of the new Cooperation Programme.

The NPA Programme will allocate approx. €56m to projects through bi-annual calls for applications with the aim to expand the regions' horizons, building on concrete outcomes and enabling the programme area to be a 1st class region to live, study, work, visit and invest. The programme's objective is to help to generate vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation and expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship within the programme area.

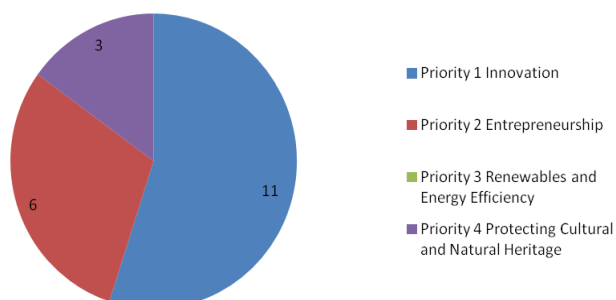


NPA—Update on First Main Project Call for Applications

The programme had already moved forward with programme implementation by launching its First Call for Applications last September with a closing date of the 24th November 2014.

The Programme Secretariat received a total of 20 applications by the deadline. The Northern Ireland Regional Advisory Group for the programme met to discuss the applications in December 2014 and to provide regional feedback to the Programme Secretariat. Eligible project applications will be presented to the programme's Monitoring Committee for decision on the 10th February 2015.

Applications by Priority



NPA—Second Call and Preparatory Project Call Announced

The Second Call for Applications under the programme opened on the 5th January and will close on the 10th April 2015.

All priority areas of the programme have reopened for applications, please visit the following website for further information on the call and to download the application form and associated documentation:

<http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/news/show/&tid=316>

In addition to the second call for main project applications, a **Call for Preparatory Project Applications** has opened on a rolling basis. Distance and costs are often obstacles to the development of a strong and well balanced project partnership due to the dispersed geography of the NPA Programme area.

Preparatory projects are a tool developed to bring potential project partners together and to generate high-quality main project applications. Please visit the following website for further information and to download the relevant documentation:

https://www.facebook.com/NorthernPeripheryProgramme/app_1435584543367829



North West Europe Programme

The North West Europe Cooperation Programme has been submitted to the EU Commission for Approval. The programme will focus on three priority areas which are Innovation, Low Carbon and Resource/Materials Efficiency. There will be a total budget of €396m ERDF available under the new programme with an intervention rate of 60%. The First Call for Applications is expected to open in April 2015. The Joint Secretariat for the programme are in the process of organising Project Development Workshops for each priority area which will be held in March 2015. For further information and updates, please visit the programme website:

<https://www.nweurope.eu/>

North West Europe — Information Seminar

A seminar on the new North West Europe Programme was held at the Dunadry Hotel in Antrim on the 27th November 2014. The event was attended by over 50 people from a range of organisations from the public sector, private sector and from universities/research institutes.

The UK National Contact Point for the programme, Ian Hill, updated those present on the Priority areas of the programme, if you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Declan McGarrigle in SEUPB at declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

INTERREG EUROPE

The INTERREG EUROPE (VC) Programme was launched in Bologna, Italy in December 2014. The event was attended by 800 people representing a range of organisations across Europe. The programme budget for 2014-2020 will be €359m and it will focus on the following priority areas: research and innovation, competitiveness of SMEs, low-carbon economy, the environment and resource efficiency.

As part of the preparation ahead of the First Call for Applications, which is expected to open in Spring 2015, the Joint Secretariat for the programme has developed [project partner](#) and [project idea](#) databases. You can introduce your organisation and/or project idea to others in Europe by creating an account with information about yourself and your interests. You will then have the opportunity to search for potential partners and project ideas.

Transnational Project Development — Things to Consider.....

What challenge are you seeking to address that requires transnational collaboration to resolve?

Is this a challenge that can be resolved within the boundaries of national/regional borders?

Will your project show measurable results?

Have you discussed your project idea with SEUPB and/or the UK or Irish National Contact Point for the programme that you are interested in?

Upcoming Events.....

NPA Programme - 'How to Apply Seminar' - Copenhagen 4th February 2015. To register — <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-apply-seminar-npa-2014-2020-2nd-call-for-main-project-applications-registration-14956193377> (Please note that places are limited for this event)

NPA Programme, Second Call Application Clinics TBC (March 2015)

North West Europe Programme, Project Development Workshops TBC (March 2015). For further information, please visit <https://www.nweurope.eu/>

If you would like to discuss INTERREG VB or VC please contact:

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