



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**

2007–2013

Introduction to NPP 2007-2013





BACKGROUND

- Builds on success of INTERREG IIIB Northern Periphery Programme
- INTERREG IIIB NPP has funded:
 - 47 main projects
 - 62 preparatory projects (15 aiming towards new programme)
- Total programme funding = 30.2 Million Euros, inc Non Member State contribution
- 100% of programme funding now committed
- Over 400 different project partners involved
- Average main project involves 9 partners
- 68 % of all projects involve Small and Medium Size companies



PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

- “Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013” – official programme name
- Programme is no longer called INTERREG - part of a new Structural Funds Objective 3 for European Territorial Cooperation
- Operational Programme outlines strategy and management structure of programme
- Community Strategic Guidelines provide for closer alignment between European objectives (Lisbon & Gothenburg Agendas) and all Structural Funds programmes
- New regulatory framework was approved in 2006



DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Development began in December 2005
- 4 programming bodies established to develop new programme and ensure regional and national level participation in drafting process
- Open workshops held in Sundsvall, Sweden in June 2006 and open consultation process from Sep-Oct 2006
- Operational Programme approved by Programme Monitoring Committee Plus in December 2006 followed by Member State approval process
- Operational Programme now submitted and European Commission has 4 months to assess it

Northern Periphery Programme 2007- 2013

NUTS 3 regions belonging, entirely or partially, to the Northern Periphery Programme

-  in EU Member States
-  Outside the EU
-  Northern Periphery area
-  National boundary





PROGRAMME AREA

Similar programme area to 2000 – 2006 programme, but with the following additional partnership country areas:

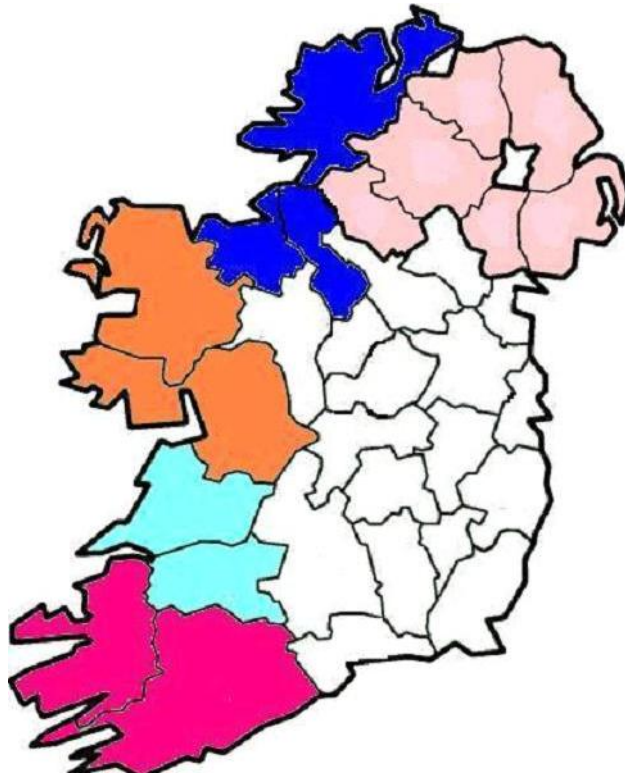
- Nine west coast counties in the Republic of Ireland
- Northern Ireland – excluding Belfast and Greater Belfast
- West coast of Norway
- Scotland with Highlands & Islands now also includes all of Moray, and Dumfries & Galloway

Reduced partnership country area:

- Swedish area consists only of the four northern most counties: Jamtland, Vasternorrland, Vasterbotten and Norrbotten



Ireland & Northern Ireland – eligible counties



NUTS3 Region/Eligible Counties

-  **Border:** Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo
-  **West:** Mayo, Galway
-  **Mid-West:** Clare, Limerick
-  **South-West (IRL):** Kerry, Cork
-  **Northern Ireland**
(Part of UK jurisdiction)



Northern
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COMMON SIMILARITIES

Large and diverse programme area but with many common characteristics:

Geography

- Sparsely populated area / low population density
- Rurality, insularity, peripherality
- Low accessibility

Environment

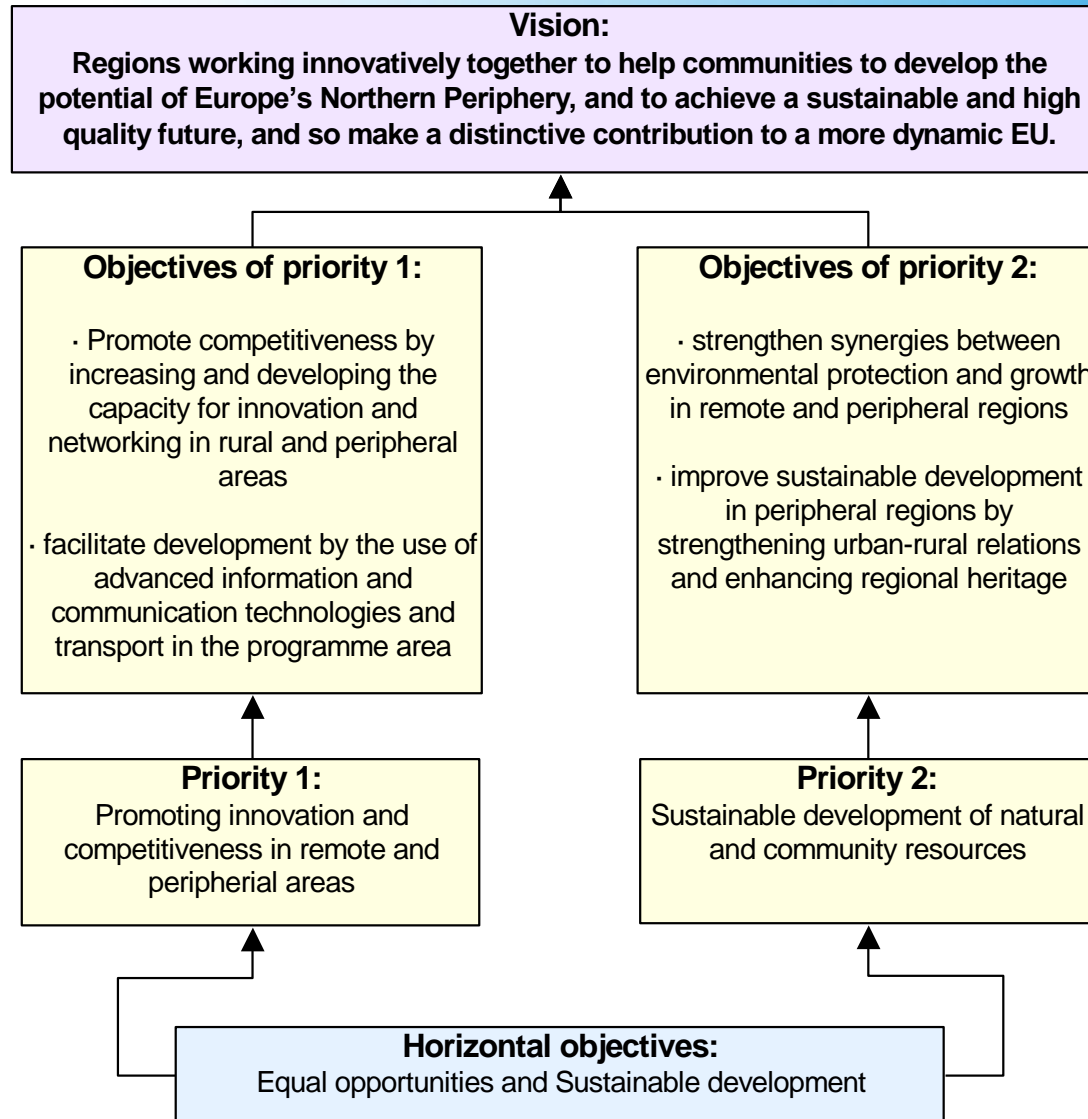
- Harsh climate and difficult terrain
- High quality but vulnerable environment
- Abundance of natural resources
- Threat of climate change



COMMON SIMILARITIES

Economic & Social

- A flexible and skilled labour force
 - Dependence on single economic activities and public employment
 - Aging population and youth out-migration
 - Rich cultural heritage
-
- Projects should focus on issues relevant to the characteristics of the programme area – rurality, peripherality, insularity of special importance.





PRIORITY 1: Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas

i. Innovation, networks and competitiveness

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

- exchange of best practise and establishment of cooperation networks between R&D institutions and SMEs to increase the capacity for innovation, facilitate the design of innovation systems and strengthen competitiveness
- transnational cooperation networks and knowledge transfer to develop existing and new innovative products
- cooperation and exchange of best practice between SMEs on how to address and reach markets with existing and new products



PRIORITY 1: Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas

ii. Accessibility

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

- increased use of ICT to overcome distance
- implementation of ICT to modernise and to innovate industries and businesses in the Northern Periphery
- developing innovative product and service solutions for developing and maintaining transport infrastructure with regard to roads, railways, airports and ports under harsh climatic conditions
- development of transport schemes that benefit rural communities, such as new maritime routes
- maritime safety in relation to remote areas with arctic, harsh conditions
- building the capacity to respond to and prepare for emergencies and natural disasters to which the Northern Periphery is exposed.



PRIORITY 2: Sustainable development of natural and community resources

i. Environment as an asset in the periphery

Objective: To strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth in remote and peripheral regions.

- Developing new approaches to efficient and sustainable management and utilisation of resources
- Impact and possible implications of climate change and means to reduce it at a community level
- Development of small scale renewable energy solutions



PRIORITY 2: Sustainable development of natural and community resources

ii. Urban-rural development and promotion of heritage

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

- Urban-rural partnerships for new service solutions
- Innovative provision of existing and new services in the periphery
- private, public and voluntary sectors cooperation and networks to develop new and innovative service solutions for remote and peripheral regions
- promotion of natural and cultural heritage that supports the development of sustainable industries



POLICY FRAMEWORK: LISBON

Lisbon Agenda

Relaunched in Feb 2005 with aim of “delivering stronger, lasting growth and creating more and better jobs”

3 areas of action:

1. making Europe a more attractive place to invest and work
2. knowledge and innovation for growth
3. creating more and better jobs



POLICY FRAMEWORK: GOTHENBURG

Gothenburg Agenda

Agenda recognises “that in the long term, economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection must go hand in hand”

Six issues were identified that pose the biggest challenges to sustainable development in Europe:

1. combating poverty and social exclusion
2. dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing society
3. limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy
4. addressing threats to public health
5. managing natural resources more responsibly
6. improving the transport system and land-use management.



CONCEPTS OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Operational Programme outlines a number of core concepts that all projects must fulfil:
 - Added value – development of a transboundary product or service
 - Transnationality
- Triple helix partnerships are considered a key concept
- Strategic concepts have also been identified that make a special contribution to achieving the objectives of the programme



2 TYPES OF NPP PROJECT

1. Preparatory Projects

- Purpose → to generate high-quality main project applications, mobilise well-balanced partnerships and facilitate the development of joint project plans
- Min requirement to have 2 contributing partners from 2 countries, an idea that addresses the programme priorities and eligible national match funding in place

2. Main Projects

- Purpose → to implement a project idea that focuses on addressing the objectives and priorities of the Programme.
- Min requirement to have 3 participating partners from 3 countries, one of which must be a member state, and to have eligible national match funding in place.



PROJECT BUDGETS

- Recommended min size for a main project's total budget is 250 000 EUR and recommended maximum size is 1.5 million EUR.
 - In exceptional cases, the Programme Monitoring Committee can approve main projects with a budget of up to 3 million EUR.
- Intervention rate of 60% for Member States and 50% for Non Member States, but Programme Monitoring Committee may approve intervention rate of up to 75% in specific circumstances.
- Maximum budget for a preparatory project will initially be 30 000 EUR, with an intervention rate of up to 60% of eligible costs (18 000 EUR).



PROGRAMME BUDGET

- Programme financing consists of:
 - European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) for Member States
 - ERDF equivalent for Non-Member States
 - National match funding

- 35.115 million Euros ERDF available
- 10.155 million Euros ERDF equivalent available
- National match funding = project contribution

Total programme budget including match funding is approximately 60 million Euros



LEAD PARTNER PRINCIPLE

- Lead beneficiary to be nominated for each project
- Lead beneficiary is beneficiary of ERDF and ERDF equivalent funding - acts as link between project partners and the programme
- Lead beneficiary holds overall responsibility for the project including submission of the application form and all project reports
- Role normally held by a partner located in a Member State
- In justified cases role may be held by a partner in Iceland or Norway – pre-conditions still to be decided



FIRST CALL

Beg of June:	Application information and selection criteria made public – call opens “in principle”
Beg of June:	Preparatory project call opens
4 June 2007:	Application pre-assessment deadline
Early October:	First call opens
31 October:	First deadline for main applications
18 December:	Decision on applications



PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

- Main Programme Bodies:
 - Joint Programme Secretariat (JPS)
 - Managing Authority
 - Certifying Authority
 - Auditing Authority
- JPS is main source of information on the programme – continues to be based in Copenhagen, Denmark
- JPS works closely with Regional Contact Points
- Programme Monitoring Committee and Regional Advisory Groups involved in decision making process
- Agreements, contracts and grant offer letters through Managing Authority – continues to be Västerbotten County Administration in Umeå, Sweden



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