ANNOUNCEMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE
7th Call for Main Project Applications
1st July 2019 – 30th September 2019

Background

The Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective supported by the European Regional Development Fund. The programme contributes to and aligns with the Europe 2020 Strategy, national and regional policies and development strategies, macro regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area.

The programme's vision is to assist in the generation of vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation, expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship and seizing the unique growth initiatives and opportunities of the Northern and Arctic regions in a resource efficient way.

To date, the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee has in total committed approximately 94% of the programme funding to 50 projects.

For the Seventh call for main applications, the Monitoring committee has agreed to three Strands:-

1. Main project filling gaps in Priority Axis 2, Specific Objective 2.2 and Priory Axis 4.

2. Capitalisation projects

3. Disruptive technologies projects

Terms of Reference for the 7th Call

Strand 1

<u>**Priority Axis 2:**</u>

- The MC is looking to fund **3** projects in Priority Axis 2.
- The MC especially encourages projects addressing the following actions:
  - **In specific objective 2.2**: Greater market reach beyond local markets for SMEs in remote and sparsely populated areas, all actions:
    - Action: Transfer and development of **marketing models and solutions suitable for SMEs in remote, sparsely populated areas**, to increase their market reach.
    - Action: Transfer and development of concepts for **clustering and creating networks of SMEs** to meet a larger-scale, more diverse and/or more complex demand.
    - Action: Transfer and development of marketing models and solutions facilitating the use of **distance-spanning technology** to overcome long distance to market.

- The MC especially encourages projects which focus on :
  - Place-Based development opportunities utilising programme's unique cultural and natural heritage.
  - Blue Growth and Green Growth, and the Arctic dimension
  - Increasing the capacity and opportunities for SME's to go beyond local market.

<u>**Priority Axis 4:**</u>

- The MC is looking to fund **1** project in Priority Axis 4.
- **For specific objective 4**, sustainable environmental management, the MC in specific encourage projects addressing:
  - pooling of competences transnationally among public authorities
  - help to develop and share concepts for sustainable environmental management that takes into account not only the environmental aspect, but also social and economic aspects affecting the community

<u>For all Priority Axes, the following is highlighted:</u>

- All projects are expected to make a special effort to include end users in their project proposals. End user involvement can be demonstrated by the composition of the partnership (e.g. involvement as full project partners, or associated partners), the involvement of end users as described in dedicated work package activities, or by attaching letters of support from end users.
- Projects are encouraged to include measures to involve underrepresented groups such as young women and indigenous peoples.
- In order to increase the impact of the NPA 2014-2020 on innovation and entrepreneurship in the programme area, projects are encouraged to complement the existing NPA project portfolio in the respective Priority Axes.

Project Budget   Indicative budget up to 1.000.000 EUR. The programme funding depends on the intervention rates of programme partner countries
Project duration 2-years for project activities and 3-months for final reporting

Strand 2

Capitalisation projects should support previously successful NPA main projects to capitalise on their results in the identified niche themes, and offer projects the opportunity to diversify outputs and results, and further integrate results as well as disseminate their impacts.

- The MC is looking to fund projects in all Priority Axes.

- Minimum 3 regions involved with one partner per region with a minimum of one Member state and a proportional budget.

- The MC has taken a view and encourages an experimental approach that includes either of the following 3 approaches:

  A. "Rollout" projects to explore transferring of project outputs to other organisations, sectors and/or regions, for example taking pre-developed prototypes and widening it their potential scope to other sectors, or trialling a developed output for a longer implementation period with an expected result of assessing the technical feasibility of commercialisation of a prototype.

  B. "Policy influencer" projects to focus on achieving a higher level of policy influence inside the existing project theme for example a pre-developed policy initiative such as in the energy or housing sector to develop a mechanism to up-scale the integration and/or influence of the policy resulting in refinement of a policy.

  C. "Transnationalisation" projects to maximize the transnational impact of existing outputs on local level end users or widening the preparedness for transnational cooperation to other beneficiaries, for example organising collaboration initiatives that connect end users across regions, and activities that increase the awareness of the transnational added value and the potential of transnational cooperation.

Strand 3

In Strand 3, project proposals are not limited to previously successful NPA main projects and are encouraged to involve other project idea holders.

In Priority Axes 1, 2, and 4, the MC is looking to fund "Disruptive Technology" projects which are expected to explore with the same budget and lump sum grant as in Strand 2, the practical application of new technologies (Artificial Intelligence (AI) , Virtual Reality (VR), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain technologies) into existing industries E.g.
- PA 1. Health, Clean Tech and sustainable innovations etc.
- PA2. Improved entrepreneurial climate in niche industries such as tourism, food, etc and
- PA4: Diversification natural and cultural heritage etc.

Rationale: The focus on disruptive technologies aims to provide a more up-to-date perspective on existing Priority Axes 1, 2, and 4. In addition, based on draft regulations for the 2021-2027 period, it is anticipated that innovation and entrepreneurship themes will be part of a future NPA programme. This experimental approach should be seen as a forward-looking exercise.

Project structure for Strand 2 and Strand 3

Project Budget: Indicative budget up to 153.846 EUR at the intervention rates of programme partner countries

Lump sum grant: Maximum grant of 100.000 EUR. The NPA Eligibility Rules apply.

Project duration: 12 – 18 months

Project structure:
- Minimum 3 regions involved with one partner per region with a minimum of one Member state and a proportional budget.

- Project ideas based on main projects previously funded by the NPA or other programmes should ensure that the original project has concluded no later than 5th December 2019 (MC decision date).

- For Strands 2 and 3, applicants are expected to produce focused end results reflecting in a given "experimental approach" which will be assessed in the project's Expressions of Interest.

- Projects in Strand 2 and 3 are expected to report in Milestones e.g. 6 monthly intervals (6, 12 & 18).

- The call definition of a Milestone is:
  - A major progress point that must be reached to achieve success
  - Activities and deliverables lead to assessable and verifiable milestones. Milestones can be for example: a priority task, survey, baseline study, conference planning deadline etc.
  - Milestones could also be composed of many smaller deliverables and be tangible or intangible in nature leading to the project's end results.

- When reporting at milestones intervals, projects will be assessed if milestone achievements have been met, based on the supporting documentation. On doing so, a lump sum will be granted. For example, 1st milestone claim 30.000 EUR, 2nd milestone claim 30.000 EUR and final claim 40.000 EUR.

To assist with the selection of project ideas in **Strands 2 and 3 "experimental approach" projects**, a two-step approach has been established.

- Firstly, a written Expression of Interest appropriate to **only one** of the above listed "experimental approaches" should be received by the Joint Secretariat **no later than August 7th**. Template can be found on the Seventh Call page.

- Secondly, if fitting the ToRs, the project idea holder(s) will be able to submit their application via eMS after **August 12th** and will be invited to attend the "How To Apply" seminar on August 29th, 2019 in Umeå, Sweden.

- Strand 2 and 3 applications can be submitted until 23:59 Copenhagen time (CET) on 30th September 2019.

OPENING OF 7ᵗʰ CALL:	**Strand 1:** 1ˢᵗ July 2019
	Strands 2 and 3: 12ᵗʰ August 2019
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	30ᵗʰ September 2019, 23:59 CET
DECISION DATE:	5ᵗʰ December 2019

Guidance for applicants

See the NPA 2014-2020 Programme Manual (click to download) for a description of the Priority Axes, instructions for how to apply and the NPA eligibility rules. This and all other application documents can be found on the Seventh Call page.

Webinars

In order to support applicants, the Joint Secretariat is organising two webinars focusing on the Seventh call. The first webinar will be held on 4th July at 12:00 Copenhagen time via Facebook live. Please like the Northern Periphery and Arctic programme Facebook page to participate in this event. The date of the second webinar will be announced in due course.

How to Apply Seminar

A "How to Apply Seminar" has been organised on 29ᵗʰ August in Umeå at the offices of the Managing Authority in Umeå, Sweden. This seminar will offer technical sessions on the application form, budget and partnership. The seminar will be conducted as a combination of the presentation of factual material and online eMS tutorials. Project clinics will be hosted by Joint Secretariat Desk officers with project applicants. Register here. Space is limited to one person per project application and registration closes on **August 13ᵗʰ, 2019**.

Special note

Applicants from the Faroe Islands and Greenland should be aware of financial limitations in the Faroese and Greenlandic funding sources. However, "Geographical flexibility" rules are in effect, these rules specifically allow for the use of ERDF funding for Faroese and Greenlandic partners. (Please see the NPA Programme manual section 1.5.2 for further details). **Note:** The Monitoring Committee encourages partnerships with a wide participation from the NPA area. Applicants should not be discouraged from including Faroese and Greenlandic partners in their application.

The Monitoring committee recommends Norwegian and Icelandic project partners to contact their respective Regional Contact Points to discuss available funding, and to determine a reasonable grant request.

Project time line

All approved project are expected to be complete no later than June 2022.

Note: Successful main projects will be expected to attend a Lead Partner Seminar on January 30ᵗʰ 2020 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Further information

If you are interested in applying, we recommend that you are in touch with the Regional Contact Point in your region, click here for contact details. Alternatively, you can contact Christopher Parker at the Joint Secretariat, christopher.parker@interreg-npa.eu