



CITIZENS SUMMARY

About the programme

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014–2020 covers a huge area that corresponds to 75% of EU's area. The Programme comprises a cooperation between 9 Programme partner countries; the EU-Member States of Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (Scotland and Northern Ireland) in cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. Besides that, Russia and Canada have the status as observers in the Monitoring Committee. This means that the Programme area encompasses the Euro-Arctic zone, parts of the Atlantic zone and parts of the Barents region, with neighbouring areas in Russia. Despite geographical differences, the large Programme area shares several common features, such as low population density, low accessibility, low economic diversity, abundant natural resources, and high impact of climate change. This unique combination of features results in joint challenges and joint opportunities that can best be overcome and realised by transnational cooperation.

The Programme's vision is to help to generate 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.

The development needs and potentials of the Programme area, together with the policy and historic context, have resulted in 4 priority axes to achieve the Programme vision:

1. Using innovation to maintain and develop robust and competitive communities.
2. Promoting entrepreneurship to realise the potential of the Programme area's competitive advantage.
3. Fostering energy-secure communities through promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
4. Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage.

The sparsely populated communities of the Programme area are the focal point of all 4 priority axes.

The development of the Arctic has had and still has a growing attention at national level as well as in international cooperation, latest expressed by the EU communication on an integrated European Union policy for the Arctic. Therefore, in addition to the four above mentioned priority axes, the NPA addresses the "Arctic Dimension" as a cross cutting theme. This is done by including partners from the Arctic part from the Programme Area and by supporting cooperation, innovation and transfer of knowledge, and technology within themes of specific significance for the Arctic territories. The overall intention is that NPA projects shall foster changes that are of importance to people, including indigenous peoples, living in the Arctic area.

To ensure that indigenous peoples' interest can be met by the programme a representative for indigenous peoples has status as permanent observer in the programme Monitoring Committee. During the period 2014–2020, the Programme will allocate approximately 56 million Euros of



programme funding to a target of 54 projects with a maximum total project budget of 2 million Euros per project including match funding.

Progress in 2016

The Annual Implementation Report 2016 gives an overview of the implementation of the Programme in 2016. The following summarizes some key points in the report:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 – 2020 was approved by the EU Commission on the 16th December 2014. To ensure a strong implementation right from start, the First Call was opened in the autumn 2014 before the formal approval by the EU Commission. Therefore, a first round of main projects could be adopted by the Monitoring Committee as early as in February 2015. In continuation of the First Call, the third Call was completed during the spring 2016.

In February 2016, the Monitoring Committee approved five projects from the third call, bringing the number of approved projects to 25. Out of these 25 a total of 21 projects had been contracted by the end of 2016 and in total 22 838 744 Euro or 41,4% of the total NPA funding for projects was allocated by the end of the year.

After the three first calls, the partners are very well distributed across the three geographical zones of the programme area: 61 partners in Finland, Sweden and Norway, 52 partners in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland and 20 partners in Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands, and other countries 9.

The 21 main projects and 29 preparatory projects contracted by the Managing Authority are distributed unevenly seen in relation to the four programme priority axes. The most popular theme is Axis 1 (Innovation) where 10 main projects and 9 preparatory projects, or 56% of the ERDF funding was approved. Axis 2 (Entrepreneurship) follows with 7 approved main projects and 6 preparatory projects or 42% of the ERDF funding. Axis 3 (Energy) and Axis 4 (Sustainability) have been the least popular themes with 2 approved main projects and 7 preparatory projects each and a commitment rate of 23% and 19% respectively.

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. For that reason, preparatory projects are a programme specific tool developed to bring potential project partners together and to generate high-quality main project applications.

Since the launch of preparatory projects in early 2015, 29 projects have been funded.

Results at programme level are monitored through so called result indicators and output indicators. However, due to the early stage of the implementation it is too early to get any information about achieved results.

Examples of funded projects

Four examples of funded projects from the three calls are listed below. These examples address core themes within the NPA Programme:

IMPROVE - Involving the coMmunity to co-PROduce public serVicEs



The project addresses Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective: 1.2 Increased innovation in public service provision

Objectives

1. Improve the design of public services by using a transboundary open innovation/living labs approach to their development
2. Define a methodology suitable for co-production of sustainable public services in peripheral and sparsely populated areas
3. Test the effectiveness of the co-production methodology and open innovation/living labs approach, working in combination, to produce high quality and reduced cost innovative public services

IMPROVE aims to increase the level of innovation in six NPA peripheral regions in the field of technology-driven public service solutions. It adapts a novel living labs-driven approach to maximise knowledge transfers between regions and stakeholders. Real communities will demonstrate the approach by using it to co-produce six services, and develop tools and methodologies for use by other regions to implement the results of the project.

The partnership is led by an Irish partner and involves partners from Northern Ireland, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Scotland and Sweden. The partnership consists of regional authorities and research institutes.

Further details: improve.interreg-npa.eu

GREBE - Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprise

The project addresses Priority Axis 2, Specific Objective 2.1; *Improved support systems for SMEs.*

Objectives

The project objectives are to: Highlight the most relevant funding options to the user given their situation, the innovation stage of renewable businesses and the local context, improve the business environment for start-ups and SMEs through practical business mentoring services and business growth strategies for more competitive and successful NPA regions, and, support renewable energy enterprises in introducing new to market energy technology solutions.

GREBE will provide a platform for transnational sharing of knowledge to demonstrate the full potential of the RE sector by showcasing innovations on RE technology and strengthening accessibility to expertise and business support available locally and in other NPA regions.

The partnership is lead by an Irish partner and involves partners from Northern Ireland, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Scotland. The partnership consists of regional authorities and research institutes.

Further details: <http://grebeproject.eu/>

e-Lighthouse - Energy Saving Lighthouse Cities in the NPA region



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014–2020



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

The project addresses Priority Axis 3 Increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

Objectives

The project objectives are to: Increase energy savings in municipal buildings as well as old and new domestic buildings.

Project actions will support increased energy efficiency in buildings (40% of EU energy consumption) and increase the uptake of renewable energy, thus decreasing carbon dioxide emissions. Our goal is to support and follow-up the retrofit of more than 250 public buildings. In the private sector with the consultation of building supervisory authorities, the project aims to influence the decision makers (of energy efficiency) of 2500 domestic retrofits and 2000 new residential houses. Improved local and regional monitoring methodologies and practices would greatly enhance the effectiveness. The e-Lighthouse project will tackle this problem by providing guidelines and tools to reliably and efficiently calculate those important figures annually. By showing good examples of good codes-of-conduct such as municipality citizenship, e-Lighthouse partners will encourage other local and regional organizations to sign the new joint Covenant of Mayors, to commit to energy saving at the political decision-making level.

Further details: www.elighthouse.eu

The partnership is led by a Finnish partner and involves partners from Greenland, Ireland, Norway, Scotland and Sweden. The partnership consists of regional authorities and research institutes.

BuSK - Building Shared Knowledge capital to support natural resource governance in the Northern periphery

The project addresses Priority Axis 4 -Natural and Cultural Heritage Increased capacity for sustainable environmental management

Objectives

The project objectives are to combine and disseminate of the best practice knowledge, and increase local acceptance and participation mechanisms in different nature-based industries, and, amalgamate indigenous and local knowledge into land use planning.

This project develops planning tools that enhance the use of participatory techniques, and gives assistance for decision makers concerning land use planning and natural resource governance. Concretely, the development of participatory tools such as participatory GIS (PPGIS) is needed. Until now, these tools have been developed for urban areas and utilized successfully. However, the challenges of the use of the tools in rural areas are the following how to reach various stakeholders in sparsely populated areas, and how to make especially socio-cultural as well as indigenous and local knowledge spatially explicit. In addition, the challenge is how to apply information technology dependent participatory methods for remote regions. The project will work with stakeholders in such livelihoods as herding, tourism, recreation, forestry, agriculture, mining and energy production. The focus is in local, as well as in indigenous, residents' knowledge.

The partnership is led by a Finnish partner and involves partners from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The partnership consists of regional authorities and research institutes.