



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**

2007–2013

Innovatively investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future



Pre-Announcement Seventh Call for Applications

The Seventh Call for Applications will run from the **14th of January** to the **21st of March 2011**. This pre-announcement describes the nature of the call, the focus areas and details to keep in mind when developing proposals. The official announcement will follow on 14th of January 2011 together with the application package.

The call is open to applicants from across the programme area and to projects addressing both priorities:

- 1. Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas**
- 2. Sustainable development of natural and community resources**

Themes

At its last meeting, the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) made an analysis of the themes addressed by the 35 approved main projects so far.

Based on this analysis, the PMC especially welcomes proposals in the following five themes, which could be more strongly addressed:

1. exchange of best practise and establishment of cooperation networks between R&D institution and SMEs to increase the capacity for innovation, facilitate the design of innovation systems and strengthen competitiveness
2. cooperation and exchange of best practice between SMEs on how to address and reach markets with existing and new products
3. increased use of ICT to overcome distance
4. developing innovative product and service solutions for developing and maintaining transport infrastructure with regard to roads, railways, airports and ports under harsh climatic conditions
5. urban-rural partnerships for new service solutions (*alternative wording: new services for rural areas linked to towns or services provided by organisations based in towns and distributed to a wider surrounding rural area.*)



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

In addition, the following gap is still present and project proposals are especially welcomed:

1. maritime safety in relation to remote areas with arctic, harsh conditions

However, **the PMC expects all applicants to outline project ideas that are focusing on investments facilitating economic return**, which could be measured by demonstrating the expected “pay off time” of the NPP investment, or the expected increase in turn over or similar.

In addition, **the PMC expects a strong focus on job creation** and the creation of indirect jobs as an effect of the project. Safeguarding of sustainable jobs in an organisation or company can be viewed as a strong outcome if it is clear and well demonstrated how the project's intervention will lead to business efficiency, increased competitiveness and added value to their current product and or service portfolio.

All the targets above should be met by developing a new or existing product and/or a service through project activities, which is expected to be developed, tested, implemented and made into a viable solution during main project implementation.

Note: Due to the limited available funding, all project applications will be ranked against the criteria outlined above.

The PMC also welcomes applications in all other programme objectives and themes. However, applicants submitting a main project proposal under any other theme than outlined above need to strongly justify the need for the project and demonstrate concrete tangible added value in products and services to be developed.

Partnerships should try to cover interest in the West-Atlantic area, the North-Atlantic area even with smaller programme partner countries such as Greenland and Faroe Islands, and the Nordic countries and to encourage participation from all these different areas. Projects having pre-dominantly a cross-border character are discouraged.

In addition, projects should try to demonstrate SME involvement or at least associate with SME partners where appropriate.

Widening the added value concept

The Programme Monitoring Committee has agreed to a wider definition of products and services, which is part of the NPP core concept of added value. The wider definition includes:

- Producing a new product or service that has a transnational or transregional character.
- Transfer and adaptation of existing products and services from one region into transnational or transregional solutions
- Update and adaptation of existing transnational or transregional products and services with additional features



Limited Available Funding

Between 2007 and 2013 the Programme will commit around €45 million to projects that address the priorities for transnational cooperation: €35.115 million of European funds (ERDF) will be available to partners in Member States and €9.192 million for partners in the Non Member States. 60% of the funds is available for projects applying under Priority 1 and 40% for projects under Priority 2.

The recommended minimum size for a main project's total budget is €250 000 and the recommended maximum size is €1.5 million.

In general, a 60% grant rate is applied for partners in Member States and 50% for Non Member States of Norway, Iceland and Faroe Island. For Greenlandic partners a grant rate of 60% applies. Note that 10% funding source and 20% funding source have a grant rate of 50%.

Note: No specific budget allocation has been set for this Seventh Call. However, the available funding is limited. After the first 6 calls, 80% of the programme funds has been allocated. In addition, a call for strategic projects is running in parallel to the Seventh Call.

All applicants are instructed to consider the limitations in different funding sources. An indicative budget recommended by the PMC for Member State partners is a total budget of 800 000 EUR. With regards to other funding sources, projects are recommended to stay in close contact with their Regional Contact Points and the Programme Secretariat. Applicants are recommended to consider the option of running their projects for 2 or 2.5 years, if appropriate.

Application Pack

The Application Pack for the Seventh Call will be published on the NPP website from 14th of January 2011.

The pack will consist of 3 main documents, all of which should be downloaded and read carefully:

- Application Form: Parts 1-2 in Word format and Part 3 in Excel format
- Application Instructions
- Programme Manual: Part 1 How to Apply and Part 4 Common Eligibility Rules

Decisions

Decisions on all main project applications submitted to the Seventh Call for Applications will be made at the Programme Monitoring Committee meeting in June 2011.

How to Apply Seminar

The Programme Secretariat is organising a How to Apply Seminar for the Seventh Call, to be held on 16th of February in Copenhagen, Denmark. The purpose of the event is to assist applicants in the development of a good quality application. For more information, please keep an eye on the programme website and/or contact the Programme Secretariat.



Eight Call

Please note that the Eight Call for Applications will be launched in **September 2011**, if funding is available. More information about the exact nature of the Eight Call will be published in June 2011 to inform applicants in good time about what will be expected from them.

Please contact the Regional Contact Points or Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat for further guidance on the programme. Contact details are available on the NPP 2007-2013 website: www.northernperiphery.eu.

Important Dates

Call Opens: 14th of January 2011

Call Closes: 21st of March 2011

