



Northern
Periphery
Programme

2007–2013

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



Pre-Announcement Sixth Call for Applications

The Sixth Call for Applications will run from the **3rd of September** to the **14th of October 2010**. 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 3rd of September 2010 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 31 approved main projects so far. In addition, it took into consideration the results on the 1st ongoing evaluation exercise that has been carried out in the autumn of 2009. **The Sixth call will be a targeted call** where projects should demonstrate their potential to fight the severest impacts of the economic crisis, creatively seek to the creation of jobs and businesses that prevent unemployment and develop innovative solutions for finding new ways out of the economic crisis. Projects should seek to turn the economic crisis into opportunities by combining technological sectors with non-technological sectors, even taking risks to be different and collaborate where traditional and creative industries can meet. The main focus will be on business development activities related to priority 1, where there is allocated financial resources available.

However, the PMC has identified the following programme gap that needs to be addressed with additional project development support:

1. 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.*)

The following gap is still present and project proposals are welcomed:

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

In addition, the PMC specially welcomes proposals for the following four themes that could be more strongly addressed:

3. 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



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4. cooperation and exchange of best practice between SMEs on how to address and reach markets with existing and new products
5. increased use of ICT to overcome distance
6. developing innovative product and service solutions for developing and maintaining transport infrastructure with regard to roads, railways, airports and ports under harsh climatic conditions

The PMC also welcomes applications in all other programme objectives and themes. However, it views the **priority 1** themes “**implementation of ICT to modernise and to innovate industries and businesses in the Northern Periphery**” and “**transnational cooperation networks and knowledge transfer to develop existing and new innovative products**” as already covered. In **priority 2**, the theme “**Developing new approaches to efficient and sustainable management and utilisation of resources**”, is viewed as sufficiently covered, but new initiatives for small scale renewable energy resources, which are appropriate for the programme area are still welcomed. Applicants submitting a main project proposal under these themes need to strongly justify the need of 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 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.

Projects should realise industrial development based on collaboration between traditional and creative sectors to produce products and services, thereby, reducing the innovation and creativity gap within the Northern Periphery Area to become more competitive than other economic trading blocks.

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

Available Funding

No specific budget allocation has been set for this Sixth Call. 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. After the first four calls, in which 31 projects were approved, 72 % of the programme funds for projects have been allocated.

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 %.

For the Sixth call it should be underlined that partnership could consider to balance the grant rate between different member state partners in a project partnership to ensure a broad participation from all regions, especially to ensure inclusion of regions strongly affected by the economic crisis (e.g. 65% Grant rate for partners from Northern Ireland and Ireland and a lower intervention rate for other Member State partners in the same partnership) However the overall Grant rate for member state partners in one project would stay at 60%.

In addition, financial resources in priority 1 are still available while financial resources in priority 2 are becoming limited.

Application Pack

The Application Pack for the Sixth Call is published on the NPP website from 3rd of September 2010.

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 Sixth Call for Applications will be made at the Programme Monitoring Committee meeting in December 2010.

How to Apply Seminar

The Programme Secretariat is organising two seminars on How to Apply for the Sixth Application Call, to be held on 16th of September 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.

Seventh Call

Please note that the Seventh Call for Applications will be launched **spring 2011**. **The PMC views the Seventh Call as a focused call also with the view to generate strategic projects.** More information about the exact nature of the Seventh Call will be published in December 2010 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: 3rd of September 2010
Call Closes: 14th of October 2010

