



Interreg North Sea Region



Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme

28 July 2004

Theme for focused call November 2004:

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Background information on the focused call

The Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme has attracted a lot of interest from municipalities, regions and national administrations in the North Sea region and now € 127 million has been allocated to a total of 54 projects with only € 10.5 million in ERDF left for future projects. The programme has also been very successful in meeting its objectives and targets and it was therefore decided to concentrate the remaining funds on themes of strategic importance for the region and the few gaps which are not yet fully addressed by approved projects. The next call will therefore be limited to a few themes and there will be additional target-based criteria, outlined in this paper. Only projects meeting these criteria will be considered. In addition, funds will be limited so preference will be given to small, strategic projects that clearly demonstrate value for money.

If you are interested in developing a project on one of these themes, please contact the project development unit at the secretariat, which can also help you in finding partners.

Why coastal zone management?

The North Sea coast is an important resource and is used for economic, transport, living as well as recreational purposes. These activities must be balanced against the natural values and the unique landscape of the coastal zone environment to support its long-term sustainable development and preserve its natural and cultural values.

Key issues to be addressed

The overall objective for projects on this theme should be to integrate the different sectoral interests in the North Sea coasts. Preferably should three different topics be dealt with by projects:

- *Managing change in coastal settlements* – on the one hand to avoid congestion, spatial tensions and related problems in coastal towns; on the other hand to reduce depopulation in other coastal regions.
- *Improved management of flood risks* – better integration of the need for coastal defence and nature protection; preventing coastal erosion or developing a managed retreat; developing integrated strategies and technical solutions for flood prevention in coastal flood prone areas

- *Protecting the coasts' marine and natural environment* – reduce pollution through better cooperation between coastal stakeholders, shipping companies and inland authorities; protecting coastal landscapes and natural habitats.
- *Managing the sea-land interaction* – integrate land and sea issues in the coastal zone by integrated spatial planning and improved coordination of the actions taken by the authorities concerned.

While focusing on one of these issues an ICZM project is expected to also take into account and preferably integrate how the issues affect and/or are affected by other uses of the coastal zones. For example could it be considered that transport connections to coastal areas could be improved, that transmission lines from off-shore wind farms and other infrastructure need to cross the coastal zones and that tourist developments by the coast need to be better planned and more sustainable.

Activities

General

- Inventory and integration of available research and material into a state-of-the-art overview on ICZM. Produce a handbook or manual on the basis of this information.
- Develop a joint database and digital atlas that outlines different uses of the North Sea. This could feed in to a revised spatial vision for the North Sea Region.
- Monitor changes in land-use over time as an input to spatial planning.
- Develop integrated management plans for the coastal zones and identify ways for their implementation

Managing increasing pressure on coastal towns:

- Changes in primary sector (agriculture, fishery) and secondary (traditional) sector calls for new strategies for coastal areas to improve their living conditions
- Improve the physical and social quality of coastal towns (for instance by “taking” the nature/the sea into the town), including recreational values

Improved management of flood risks:

- Establishment of new and improvements of existing coastal defence
- Technical flood control measures
- Strategies and measures to combat coastal erosion

Protecting the coasts natural environment:

- Monitor the changes of the ecosystem, especially sediment transport, to learn how coastal defence react to these and take necessary action
- Define the balance between development and protection by incorporating protection of natural and cultural values into strategies and actions for economic and social development

Expected outcomes and results

Projects should *take an integrated approach* by bringing together different authorities and policies that have an impact on the state of the North Sea coasts. It could preferably include activities implementing the EU recommendation of 2002 on integrated coastal management as well as respective national strategies.

A core aim is to protect the coastal zone's natural ecosystems, but it is also important to develop their economic and social values. Projects should consider *which sectoral issues are most important to cooperate on across borders*. Therefore it would be advisable to have a group of national policy makers on ICZM involved in the project. They should be able to integrate national policy and existing international cooperation into the project as well as taking advantage of the findings in the project in order to formulate recommendations for future policy.

By the end of the projects the coordination and cooperation between different authorities and other actors around the North Sea from the prioritised sectors should have been improved. As tangible outcomes are encouraged could projects also be a test-bed for different types of small-scale action on the issues prioritised.

Relevant policies and projects

It is essential that projects build on what is already being done. There are relevant policies that need to be taken into account and various projects have led to relevant outcomes and findings.

- The EU recommendation of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Europe ([2002/413/EC](#))
- The EuroSION project on how to manage coastal erosion more sustainably (www.euroSION.org)
- Developed under Interreg IIC North Sea Programme: NorVision – the spatial vision for the North Sea Region – and the project NorCoast (www.norcoast.dk)
- Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme projects (see www.InterregNorthSea.org): Wadden Sea Forum (www.waddensea-forum.org), Forum Skagerrak II (www.forumskagerrak.com), Power, Comrisk (www.comrisk.org), Comcoast, Flows (www.flows.nu), Frame (www.frameproject.org) and Escape. The last five projects are mainly relevant to the issue of improved management of flood risks.

Partnership and timeframe

Who could be involved?

Government officials and policy-makers on different levels, local residents, NGOs and small-scale businesses. It should be particularly valuable to have national authorities and institutions involved. It is essential that a partnership integrates both different policy sectors as well as different policy levels (horizontal and vertical integration).

Timeframe and budget

Remaining funds for the programme are limited. Funding for projects under this theme should therefore not exceed € 2.9 million in ERDF or € 5.8 million in total.

Deadline for sending in applications is 30 November 2004. It is expected that the Steering Committee will have its meeting deciding on projects in March 2005 and projects should start directly after this. As projects must be completed by the end of June 2008 they could run for three years at the longest.

NB: whereas a project on the increased pressure on coastal towns or on protection of the coast's natural environment would fit Programme measure 3.4, for a project on managing flood risks both measure 3.4 and 4.3 could be relevant.

Contact

Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme Secretariat

Jens Kurnol

Senior Spatial Development Officer

E-mail crbjk@vibamt.dk

Phone +45 87 27 10 73

www.interregnorthsea.org