



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**

2007–2013

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

How to write a successful application?

Paula Mikkola
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European Union
European Regional Development Fund





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NPP Horizontal Principles: Equal Opportunities

- The horizontal principles must be **incorporated in every project and at all stages**. Projects must describe **how** they have incorporated equal opportunities
- **Equal Opportunities:** the prevention and elimination of discrimination between people on grounds of gender, marital status, cultural and social background, disabilities, age, sexual orientation, language or other personal attributes, such as religious beliefs or political opinions. Equal opportunities is not just about gender!
- Projects must choose whether they are **neutral** or **positive** and justify this choice.
- For **higher ranking**, a project needs to demonstrate a contribution towards furthering equal opportunities in a broad context.



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NPP Horizontal Principles: Sustainable Development

- **Sustainable Development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is not just about the environment! It encompasses economic, social and ecological aspects.
- Projects must describe **how** they have incorporated sustainable development into the design of the project. Projects must choose whether they are **neutral** or **positive** and justify this choice.
- For **higher ranking**, a project needs to create a foundation for long-term sustainability and bring about beneficial economic, social and ecological impacts.



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NPP Core concepts: Transnationality

- The NPP wants to ensure transnationality at all stages of project development.

Mandatory:

- projects must involve **a minimum of 3 partner countries**
- one partner must be from an EU Member State
- Projects having a predominantly cross-border character (Nordic / Atlantic / Scot-Irish) are discouraged

Each project must address **at least 3 of the 4 transnationality criteria:**

- Joint development
- Joint implementation
- Joint staffing
- Joint financing

In addition:

- Joint strategy for **disseminating** project results
- **Transnational impact**; project outcomes are/can be implemented in different parts of the programme area



NPP Core concepts:
Added Value
Products and services

NPP definition: All projects must make a **distinctive contribution and add value** by working together to produce a new product/service that has a transnational or transregional character.

New, more elaborate definition of products and services:

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

Methods for added value:

Knowledge transfer and organizational learning

Innovation



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Triple Helix Partnerships

- **Triple helix:** Business, higher education and public institutions are working together on new tasks and in new fields. These three spheres together, and not only by themselves, make it possible to obtain an enhanced outcome from the cooperation and invested capital, in the form of innovative new products and solutions.
- These partnerships are considered key to **securing innovative solutions** to many of the issues facing the NPP area.
- Triple helix partnerships are encouraged **when** appropriate.
- **Community aspect:** ensuring that end beneficiaries are located within the communities of the Northern Periphery.





Alignment with European and Domestic Strategies

The NPP priorities are guided by the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas. The NPP aims to complement and contribute to development strategies in the programme partner countries.

- **Lisbon Agenda:** making Europe “the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world” by 2010.
- **Gothenburg Agenda:** EU recognises “that in the long term, economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection must go hand in hand”.
- **Domestic strategies:** relevant national, regional and local development plans and strategies.
- Projects must demonstrate **how** they contribute to these strategies.



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Strategic Concepts

Strategic Projects: Projects that make a strategic contribution towards achieving the objectives and vision of the programme

Features:

- Innovative outputs of relevance to whole programme area with a focus on peripheral regions
- Beneficial impact in terms of a physical product or social capital and expertise
- Involves cooperation at transnational, national, regional and local level to inform policy development

Strategic calls:

- Strategic themes will be identified for each priority by the Monitoring Committee
- Specific calls will be held for strategic projects





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Preparatory projects

The primary aim of **preparatory projects** is to help develop a main project application.

- Can run for 6-12 months, after spring 2009 mainly for 12 months
- Max total budget 37500 e with a maximum grant of 22500 e.
- Programme secretariat evaluates the technical aspects; Regional contact points assess the project's regional relevance and contribution to regional / national strategies.
- Over 50 % rejection rate (end product description, relevance to the programme, insufficient partnership, national match-funding not in place)





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Application pitfalls

Good-quality **projects** take time to develop

- Definition of workpackages and division of tasks must be agreed by all partners – takes more time if the partners are new
- Ensuring transnational benefits to the whole programme area can be challenging (wildberry projects, maritime themes)
- Securing national co-financing can take time – all commitments must be in place when the application is submitted
- Project development process may take up to 12 months from the initial start before a decision is taken by the PMC – requires strong commitment from the partners





Things to Avoid

- Exclusively research based projects
- Unclear work package descriptions
- Replicating projects already supported

- Unbalanced partnerships
- Inappropriate partners

- Excessive project budgets that are unjustified – over 1.5 MEUR
- Disproportionate salary costs
- Incomplete applications – Complete all the sections of the application & include accompanying Declarations/ match funding statements
- Replication of roles & responsibilities among partners in the project



Must do

- Familiarise yourself with **the Programme Manual – latest version**
- Make sure that the project idea fits with the objectives of the programme
- Address **rural and economic challenges** of the NPP
- Have research/studies in place **before** applying to the NPP
- Define products and/ or services that will be developed and how they will be made viable after project support
- Demonstrate level of demand for the project
- Demonstrate added value to the programme area
- Demonstrate administrative capacity of the Lead Partner and eligibility of other partners when necessary (NGOs, public limited companies)
- Justify partners from outside programme area & the EU where relevant

- Include **an information & communication strategy** for the project



Contact us:

Regional contact point for Finland

Paula Mikkola

Regional council of Lapland

P.O.Box 8056, 96101 Rovaniemi

Tel. 040 7118 380 or 016 2114 324

Fax 016 318 705

Email: paula.mikkola@lapinliitto.fi

Homepage: www.northernperiphery.eu