



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**

2007–2013

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



Main Achievements of the NPP 2007-2013

What has the Programme achieved?

The Programme is firmly rooted in the development needs of the Programme area. As such, it is valued by partners and stakeholders and has the scope to make a positive impact in the Programme area¹.

NPP projects respond to the challenges of accessibility, outmigration, ageing, low population density combined with ever-tightening of public budgets, all of which are common to all the regions within the Programme area.

In general, the Programme has been a forerunner and had a strong focus on delivering tangible outputs, results and impacts addressing the challenges of the programme area. The strong focus on products and services means that the Programme delivers many practical and tangible outputs, which are made available as open source solutions. An impact can be defined as a marked positive effect on the targeted individuals or organisations, who are the intended beneficiaries of the project's activities or users, of the project's outputs. These effects can be tangible or of a more immaterial and intangible nature.

Examples of tangible impacts attributable to NPP projects

- The improved access to healthcare services in remote, rural areas (*Competitive Health*)
- Cost savings in public transportation through vehicle sharing between different community transport providers (*CMC@ NP*)
- Reduced environmental impact of salmon aquacultures by replacing conventional treatments of sea lice infestations with biological means (*EcoFish*)
- Increased share of renewable energy generation through the installation of a biomass heating system (*MicrE*)
- The creation of new jobs in the area of traditional crafts by combining craftsmanship with tourism and turning workshops into 'Economuseums'

Examples of intangible impacts of NPP projects

- Change in institutional practices due to the exchange of good practices between regions in relation to road management (*ROADDEX*)
- Change in attitudes and behaviour in relation to ageing (*O4O – RegioStars 2012 Award Winner*)
- Influence on policy-making in relation to sustainable aquaculture (*Northcharr*)
- Capacity building through peer learning by using the triple helix concept (*RIBS*)
- Realisation of synergies in relation to nationwide services (*RTS*)

¹ The Evaluation of the Northern Periphery Programme, 2007 – 2013, Final Evaluation Report, EPRC 2012



Projects have also reported more generally on the benefits of cooperation, ranging from capacity building to awareness raising, changing of attitudes and behaviours, improving social cohesion, influencing policies, and leveraging synergies with other funding instruments.

Who has benefitted?

In total 333 partners have been involved in the 47 main projects and these partners are well distributed over the programme area. At the start of the 2007-2013 period, the Programme area was extended with regions in Northern Ireland and Ireland. Based on project activities, it can be stated that both programme partner countries are now performing at a similar level as other countries and projects have managed to establish successful linkages to these new areas.

In the first instance, the project partners (public organisations, authorities, research institutes, business organisations, social enterprises, etc.) are the direct beneficiaries of the funding, while on the other hand the new products and services are targeting specific end users, the local population and businesses within the programme area.

What evidence?

The evidence for the achievements of the NPP can first of all be found in the reporting from the projects, with detailed indicators and product and service factsheets. These results are partly captured by the programme result indicators. Besides that, the implementation of the programme has been followed by on-going evaluations, where partners and stakeholders have been involved in the evaluation process. Finally, a specific study has been undertaken during the spring 2014 with the purpose to capture more in detail the tangible and intangible results from 28 finalised projects. In the combined reporting from these 28 projects, evidence for altogether 164 new products and services can be identified. The study will be presented at the programme closure conference, *Cool North*, in September 2014.

Out of the 47 funded main projects, 30 projects are in Priority 1 “*Innovation, networks and competitiveness*” and 17 projects are in Priority 2 “*Sustainable development of natural and community resources*”, which is in line with the target set in the Operational Programme document. Seen in relation to the nine priority-specific result indicators identified in the Operational Programme document, all are expected to be achieved (e.g. the number of new products and services developed by the funded projects), and for some areas of support even exceeded.

For more information, please contact the NPP Secretariat at secretariat@northernperiphery.eu, or visit the programme website at www.northernperiphery.eu.

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