



Länsstyrelsen  
Västerbotten

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1(2)

### **To bodies responsible for 1st level control of ERDF funds in the Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013**

With this letter, the NPP Managing Authority would like to emphasize the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> level control in the control system, and also inform you of the possible financial implications for the programme if certificates of expenditure are not issued on time.

#### ***N + 2 rule***

Following Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 Art 93, the Commission will automatically de-commit any part of the programme budget for 2007 and 2008, if it has not been spent, certified and declared in a payment claim to the Commission before the end of 2010.

This puts pressure on projects to spend their ERDF expenditure according to the time plan in the approved application. It is also vital that the eligible ERDF expenditure actually spent is certified in the national systems for 1<sup>st</sup> level control, so that they can be included in the overall project claims, re-funded to the projects, and declared to the Commission before 31.12.2010.

Automatic de-commitment of the programme would decrease the funds available for project applicants in the future. It could also / alternatively lead to cuts in the budgets of projects already approved.

#### ***Programme guidelines for reporting***

The next reporting period will end on the 31th of March 2010.

The reporting time scale following the end of the period is:

1. 1 month for the project partner to compile the statement of expenditure (from 1<sup>st</sup> of April-30<sup>th</sup> of April)
2. 2 months for the national controller to conduct 1<sup>st</sup> level control and issue the certificate of expenditure (From 1<sup>st</sup> of May – 30<sup>th</sup> of June)
3. 1,5 months for the Lead Partner to compile the overall project claim and report to NPP. (From 1<sup>st</sup> of July-16th of August)

This time scale has been agreed to by all countries participating in the programme.

### **Request from the Managing Authority**

To help the programme reach the N+2 target and avoid automatic de-commitment, the Managing Authority would like to ask you to ensure that:

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> level controllers keep to the two month time limit agreed to in NPP. This will allow the projects to report their eligible expenditure to the programme on time.
- 2) Information is given to the Managing Authority, in good time, if there are any problems of meeting reporting deadlines. Note that any systemic errors leading to delays will have to be reported via the Managing Authority to the Audit Authority and later to the European Commission.

To assist you, a letter highlighting the importance of keeping reporting deadlines and submitting complete and correct statements of expenditure to the national 1<sup>st</sup> level controllers has been sent to all approved NPP projects.

If you should have any questions relating to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Managing Authority.

Kind regards

Anneli Nilsson  
Programme Director  
NPP Managing Authority