



**Northern Periphery and  
Arctic Programme**  
2014–2020



**EUROPEAN UNION**

Investing in your future  
European Regional Development Fund

## **PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Main Project Applications 30<sup>th</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

#### **Background**

The Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective supported by the European Regional Development Fund. The programme contributes to and aligns with the Europe 2020 Strategy, national and regional policies and development strategies, macro regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area.

The programme's vision is to assist in the generation of vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation, expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship and seizing the unique growth initiatives and opportunities of the Northern and Arctic regions in a resource efficient way.

To date, the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee has in total committed approximately 35% of the programme funding to 19 projects.

#### **Purpose of main project call pre-announcement**

In order to encourage high quality applications, the Monitoring Committee of NPA 2014-2020 would like main project applicants to start to develop their main project ideas, explore potential partnership and investigate match funding sources.

#### **Important note:**

The MC has decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for project applications is open for proposals targeting Priority Axes 3 and 4 **ONLY**.

**Priority Axis 3** – “Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” with the specific objective to increase use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in housing and public infrastructures in remote, sparsely populated areas.

The following actions are supported:

- Facilitating decision-making about the development and use of renewable energy solutions for public infrastructures and housing, suitable for cold climates and dispersed settlements.
- Developing models to sustainably utilise by-products from economic activities as energy sources for public infrastructures and housing.
- Promoting and facilitating the transfer and development of new energy efficiency concepts and smart energy management concepts for constructing, maintaining and running housing and public infrastructures, suitable for cold climates and dispersed settlements.

**Priority Axis 4** – “Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage” with the specific objective to increase capacity of remote and sparsely populated communities for sustainable environmental management.

The following actions are supported:

- Development and transfer of best-practice models and solutions for ‘up-skilling’ local authorities and community groups, focusing on skills and competences such as negotiation skills, change management skills, and expertise on climate change impacts, environmental impacts, social impacts and economic impacts.
- Development and transfer of new organisational models, such as pooling of competences across regional and national borders, facilitating local authorities and community groups for sustainable environmental management.
- Development and transfer of decision-making tools and solutions, such as new types of environmental assessments, to help local authorities deal with sustainable environmental management.
- Development and transfer of new governance concepts that involve all groups of civil society in the decision and policy-making process.
- Development and transfer of concepts and models for the protection, promotion and development of the natural and cultural heritage in accordance with a more dynamic interpretation of sustainable environmental management. This includes the use of ICT technologies for the development and promotion of natural and cultural heritage sites.

Details of the main project application call will be published on the programme website and announced officially at the 2015 NPA Annual Conference “State of the Region” held on 30th September in Kuopio, Finland.

<b>OPENING OF 3rd CALL:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
<b>DECISION DATE:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016
<b>FURTHER INFO:</b>	Details of the call will be available 30 <sup>th</sup> September at the NPA Annual conference “State of the Region” and published on the programme website and circulated as widely as possible.

#### **Guidance for applicants**

See NPA 2014-2020 Programme Manual ([click to download](#)) for a description of the Priority Axes, instructions for How to Apply and the NPA eligibility rules.

A “*How to Apply Seminar*” will be organised on 20<sup>th</sup> October in Copenhagen at the offices of the Joint Secretariat. This seminar will offer technical sessions on the application form, budget and partnership. Registration will be opened on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and space is limited to one person per potential project application.

**Important note regarding 4th Call for main projects**

Currently, the 4<sup>th</sup> Call is planned to run from January-April 2016 and is expected to be open for all priority axes. However, the NPA Monitoring Committee will decide on the exact dates and the focus of the call in December 2015. This will be communicated on the NPA 2014-2020 website and through the Regional Contact Point network.

**Preparatory project call**

The call for NPA 2014-2020 preparatory project applications is open for all 4 priorities. Preparatory Project decisions will be made by the Joint Secretariat. The call is ongoing, which means that applications can be submitted at any time. The approval process takes approximately 1 month from submission.

Preparatory project idea developers and their partnership consortiums are encouraged to aim the development of their project idea(s) to coincide submission of their main project application deadline. See [www.interreg-npa.eu](http://www.interreg-npa.eu) for further details and instructions.

**Further information**

If you are interested in applying, we recommend that you are in touch with the Regional Contact Point in your region, [click here for contact details](#). Alternatively, you can contact Christopher Parker at the Programme Secretariat, [christopher.parker@northernperiphery.eu](mailto:christopher.parker@northernperiphery.eu).