



e-letter

INTERREG IVB North West Europe - Programme News

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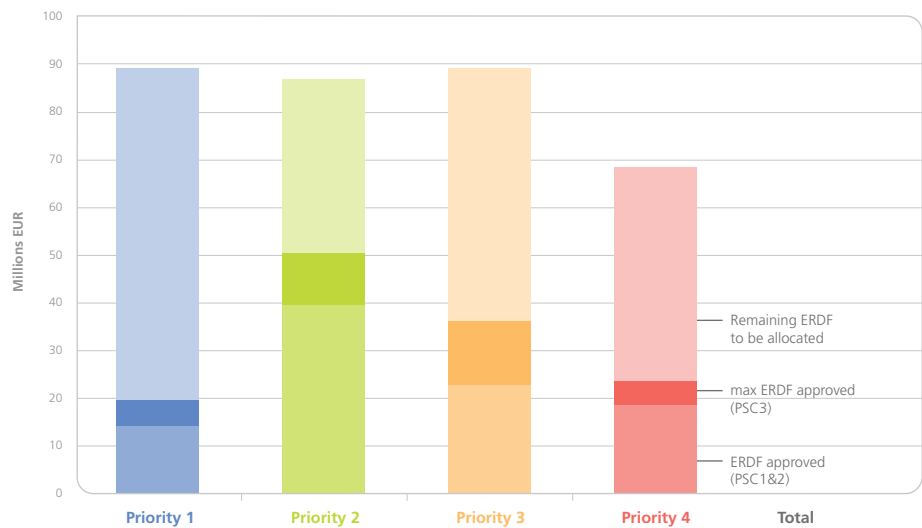
The INTERREG IVB North-West Europe Programme will open its fourth call for projects on 20 March and it is in full stride with a new visual identity and website. But the difference compared to the last Programme is not only aesthetic. **The new Programme focuses on the most pressing needs of North West Europe with four thematic priorities: Innovation; Natural Resources; Connectivity and Strong Communities.** In line with this more streamlined approach, the Programme expects to see high-quality projects with focused objectives, tight partnerships, concrete outputs and high value for money. In other words, projects should be ambitious in their aims but remain realistic. They should build their partnerships keeping the need to cooperate in mind so they can save time and resources and make a step forward in their field. 29 projects have risen to the challenge so far and we expect many more innovative ideas to come.

The Story So Far:

Number-Crunching at NWE



INTERREG IVB - ERDF APPROVED



ERDF budget (2007-2013)	89,348,419	86,930,420	89,357,665	68,480,191	334,116,695
Total ERDF approved (PSC1&2)	14,287,277	39,681,129	22,841,274	18,721,941	95,531,622
Total max ERDF approved (PSC3)	5,261,070	10,818,028	13,316,225	4,844,241	34,239,564
TOTAL ERDF	19,548,348 (22%)	50,499,158 (58%)	36,157,499 (40%)	23,566,181 (34%)	129,771,186 (39%)
Remaining ERDF to be allocated	69,800,071	36,431,262	53,200,166	44,914,010	204,345,509
Number of projects approved	6	10	6	7	29

The Programme approved 29 of the 93 project applications submitted to its first 3 calls for a maximum of EUR130 M of ERDF. This amount represents 39% of the Programme's

budget for the current period (2007-2013), but these figures could change by the end of the negotiations with the eight Projects approved in the last call (December 2008).

Calls for projects 2009

These calls will feature special Terms of Reference for Strategic Initiatives (SI), the novel approach to project development. They combine the traditional bottom-up involvement of key actors (Project Promoters bring ideas to NWE Programme) with a new top-down perspective in which the NWE Programme brings ideas to Project Promoters. If you wish to know more about the advantages and possibilities related to Strategic Initiatives, please consult the SI Terms of Reference on our website: http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=page&page_on=about&id=47

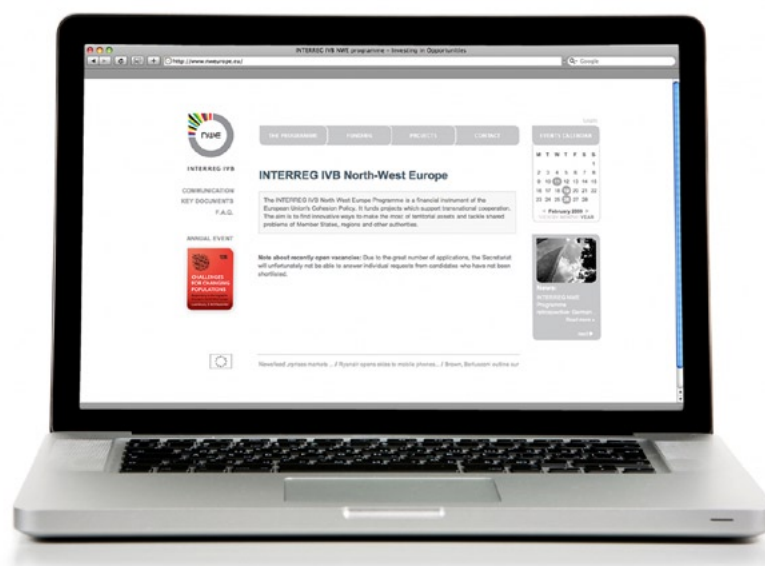
Deadlines:

Call 4:

17 April at noon

Call 5:

7 October at noon



Enter .EU @ www.nweurope.eu

The IVB NWE Programme's website (www.nweurope.eu) was launched on 30 April 2008. As the bedrock of NWE's communication strategy, the Programme has tried to make it sleek, easy to navigate and above all, functional.

Allowing for a quick and broad exchange of information, the website has received 28,666 visits from 12,556 people in

120 different countries since its launch. All Project Promoters are encouraged to visit it in order to keep up to date about the Programme's requirements, calls for proposals, events, etc.

The website is a dynamic tool that we try to improve constantly to better cover the needs of its users. By the end of the year it will include new functionalities.

Challenges for Changing Populations: The Programme's first annual event



With over 240 participants from across North-West Europe, our first annual event went off with a bang! It focused on demographic change in North West Europe (and its related challenges). The quality of debate was exceptionally high, with speakers from the OECD, the World Health Organisation, as well as several eminent academics. Together with actors from a science theatre company and outreach activities in Luxembourg City, the avant garde format of the event made a welcome change from the typical, run of the mill EU conference. The results of the workshops and the presentations are available on our website: <http://www.nweurope.eu/event2008/>



The culmination of the event was marked by the presentation of **Opportunities for Territorial Change: INTERREG IIIB NWE Europe Programme retrospective 2002-2008**. This publication celebrates the joint efforts of more than 900 partners across NWE during the last programming period. It is a testament to the political thrust of

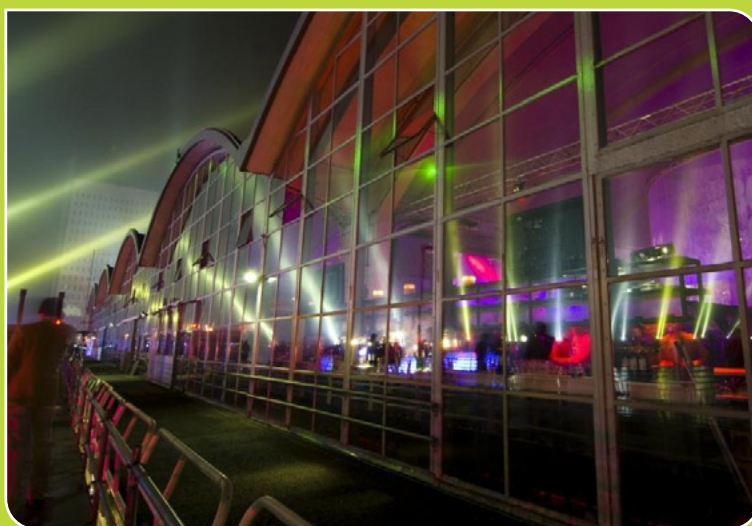
INTERREG projects: First, in taking up national obligations to implement EU policy by engaging the relevant stakeholders at ground level, and second, in influencing the shape of EU policy agenda as it evolved, using the expertise carved out through the cooperation process and establishing a reputation as leaders in the field.

The PDF version of this publication is available in our website in the four languages of the Programme (English, French, Dutch and German):

http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=page&page_on=documents&id=348



Next Annual Event: Rotterdam 8&9 October 2009



Hard copies are available upon request by email to the Joint Technical Secretariat in Lille (nwe@nweurope.eu)

Much was achieved in six years but there is still plenty to do in the new IVB Programme: find out about the new thematic priorities of NWE (Innovation; Natural Resources; Connectivity and Stronger Communities) at www.nweurope.eu

There are many more opportunities to experiment in the INTERREG laboratory. You do not need a white coat or goggles, just determination, perseverance and an open mind.

It will take place in Rotterdam ([Cruise Terminal Rotterdam: www.cruiseterminalrotterdam.nl](http://www.cruiseterminalrotterdam.nl)) on the 8 and 9 October and will deal with the four thematic priorities of the programme, **with a special focus on Climate Change:** mitigation and adaptation. More information about this event will be available soon on the Programme's website.

Old buildings turn green

The recently approved project **Livinggreen.eu** - focused on sustainable renovation of existing buildings - is a good example of what the Programme looks for in terms of outputs: tangible and long-lasting.

The project was approved under **Priority 4**: Promoting strong and prosperous communities at transnational level, Objective 4.2:

to identify and develop collective actions that will improve the environmental quality and attraction of towns and cities including the sustainable use of the cultural heritage and tourism, and sustainable and innovative energy practices.



Since its launch in December 2008, the project has been working on the development of standards for sustainable renovation of the existing building stock. This objective will be supported by a strong transnational partnership led by the Delft Local Government and with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France and the UK.

Five example buildings in five countries will be renovated to

make them more sustainable.

Once the process is finished, the buildings will contribute to CO2 neutrality by saving energy, using natural energy sources, sustainable building materials and reducing drinking-water use.

The renovation processes will be used as learning models for sustainable renovation of a broad range of building types. These renovated buildings will function as demonstration

sites and accommodate sustainability centres serving as meeting points and facilities to bring together different stakeholders. The sustainability centres will organise educative workshops, dissemination events and interactive labs in sustainable living themes such as energy saving, sustainable water usage techniques, sustainable building materials, etc. Through this perspective, the project will use cultural heritage as a demonstration site to promote innovative and sustainable energy practices. More information at: www.livinggreen.eu