

North Sea Interreg IVB Maritime Projects Proposals



The aim of the North Sea Region Interreg IV B programme is to make the region a better place to live work and invest in.

The North Sea Programme would welcome project funding applications aimed at the priorities of increasing the overall level of innovation taking place across the region, enhancing environmental quality, Improving accessibility of places and delivering sustainable and competitive. communities.

Maritime safety projects within the North Sea Programme could be funded by applications under Priority 2:

PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

It should be noted that in order to be truly strategic maritime projects, particularly those concerned with transport, logistics and accessibility –priority 3- should include a safety component to ensure the protection of a sustainable environment and communities. Therefore projects being developed under the other priorities should consider a maritime safety component.

Maritime Safety Projects in the North Sea

The NSP Priority 2 has identified the need for maritime safety projects that develop preventative and responsive measures to address acute and chronic marine pollution.

Priority 2 encourages institutions to manage short and long term marine pollution, develop frameworks for co-operation and response, and facilitate the conditions for exchange of best practice. Proposed maritime safety projects should consider cross-border and or trans-national contingency planning for marine pollution at sea and in coastal regions, or response to maritime accidents corresponding to the third maritime safety package of the EU.

Co-operation activities will be considered that, for example:

- Establish joint cross-border and or transnational contingency planning for marine pollution at sea and in coastal regions;
- Establish commonly accepted principles for management systems, to encourage the prevention and control of major accident hazards, and limit the consequences, should accidents unavoidably occur;



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- Adopt responsible measures to mitigating and preventing technological hazards, including the identification of training needs of land personnel (e.g. operators), ship crews and responders and the subsequent provision of appropriate training and skills improvement schemes;
- Promote innovative technologies and working methods to safeguard biodiversity and address causes of chronic sea pollution, for example through the promotion of the “Clean Ship Approach”;
- Identify and implement demonstration pilots addressing the issues stated above.

The North Sea Programme (NSP) has identified the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation (MSUO), as a core initiative that project partnerships should take into account and, participate with, when developing funding applications.

NSP encourages links to the adjacent transnational areas, both at programme and project level, in order to enhance synergies and avoid overlap. The NSP has identified the need to encourage programme and project links with the Northern Periphery, Baltic Sea Region and North West Europe. These links can play a crucial role as a catalyst for making a greater impact on European territorial development. The Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation (MSUO) involving these four transnational co-operation areas is an excellent example for identifying and responding to the need of co-ordinating efforts in different transnational areas, which are working in the same field and where close co-operation is inevitable for meeting the common challenges.

For more information please refer to the *North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 Draft Operational Programme* available at:

<http://www.interregnorthsea.org/Draft-Operational-Programme-g.asp>

Do You Have a Project?

The MSUO has researched the potential for maritime projects to be undertaken within the NSP area. This research has identified a number of potential project ideas which have a maritime safety dimension. Partnerships, which wish to undertake these projects, could produce viable applications for Interreg IV funding, within the maritime context of Priority 2.

In addition, the NSP gives an example about *North Sea Region Maritime Safety Governance as a strategic project*. It is proposed that a strategic project on maritime safety is to create a transnational cooperation platform on this issue and a common safety regime giving strategic support to national or regional solutions in the NSR, utilising lessons and results from previous work, such as MSUO. Joint action should be focused on more systematic and common risk management strategies and methods, including joint actions to consider; a more harmonised safety governance in the NSR in terms of common understanding, objectives, and tools for risk management; the implementation of a common maritime data management and a virtual traffic monitoring centre; a wider cross-sectoral perspective promoting innovative solutions and encouraging business opportunities. The joint strategic



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approach may contain elements of a common approach to marine spatial planning and management for the North Sea (building on Interreg and Irish Sea experience) and proactively support investment decisions of transnational scale (e.g. investments in energy and other supply installations, pollution mitigation measures, safety enhancement infrastructure and equipment, etc.). Such a strategic project is expected to define concrete actions for major follow-up co-operation projects to be financed from other European and national funds. Links should be established with organisations dealing with maritime safety at European and global level and environmental protection and monitoring, i.e. IMO, EMSA, EEA, IEA, OSPAR, and with relevant programmes and funds to finance further actions.

The MSUO has been contacted by potential project partners, with project ideas which could be funded by the NSP IV Interreg Programme.

Have you an idea or do you wish to participate?

The NSP Interreg IV Programme and MSUO have identified the following projects which require partners to take forward funding applications. Project promoters should consider integrating these ideas under the *North Sea Region Maritime Safety Governance* project idea (see above):

Shipping Policy, Marine Spatial Planning & Sustainable Management

- Developing a polluter pays and aquatic compensation system(s) for open sea areas;
- Integrating approaches (planning, energy, safety, other users, etc) for risk reduction and the development of offshore wind parks;
- Lost containers, remote sensing and location at sea, response and recovery techniques, and;
- Green shipping in North Sea waters.

Risk Management & Prevention

- Awareness training for seafarers, shipping companies, ports and regulators;
- IT based education, e-learning for safety, security and regulation (Sea Vision), risk awareness, preparedness and prevention;
- Increasing Maritime Safety in sea areas (Minches and Pentland Firth), linked to AIS;
- Development of sustainable ships (Clean Ship concept, use of LNG as ship fuel, reduction of emissions, etc.);
- Planning and implementing Places of Refuge and Safe Havens (linking to AIS);
- Reduction of underwater noise to the marine environment;
- Remote sensing/ satellite monitoring of different maritime safety aspects;
- Transboundary risks related to sea transportation of dangerous materials (HNS);
- Follow-up to the Safety at Sea Project: European Risk Assessment;



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- Integrating transport standards, improving navigation, common rules and infrastructure, data exchange, etc., the use of AIS and VTMS, and linkage to SafeSeaNet;
- Monitoring and assessment of pollution from sunken wrecks, chemical and conventional weapon dump sites;
- The Clean Port concept;
- Appropriate shipping routes and Natura 2000 sites, and;
- Linking maritime safety to Motorways of the Sea and Short Sea Shipping.

Disaster & Incident Response

- Marine salvage, providing a level of service and protecting coastal states;
- Development and implementation of crisis preparedness, planning, training and testing;
- Coastal pollution protection; booming (barrage) and beach clean-up;
- At sea fire fighting, management and training;
- Monitoring and surveillance of oil and chemical spills;
- Follow-up to the Safety at Sea Project: The North Sea Logbook, European Man Overboard Alert System;
- Salvage and Crisis Management of Shipping Casualties;
- Harmonisation of aerial surveillance and dispersant application across member states, and;
- Harmonising marine/ shoreline pollution contingency planning across member states.

The MSUO has been contacted by organisations and authorities who are looking for project partners across the NSP Programme area. These include maritime authorities, ports, industry, environment protection agencies, NGOs, local authorities, education foundations and academic institutions. If you have a project or wish to participate in one, then contact the MSUO and we can put you in contact with other potential partners.

What You Should Do Next?

If your organisation has a project needing funding or if you would like to participate in one of the projects above, you should contact the MSUO as soon as possible. The MSUO can then put you in contact with other potential partners and the NSP Interreg IV Programme Secretariat, exchange information and provide technical assistance when your partnership develops a funding application.

Maritime safety projects are being taken forward across the European Seas. The MSUO will work with successful projects to make sure that you are not working in isolation. The MSUO will bring projects from across Europe together to undertake joint work, exchange ideas, provide knowledge and participate in educational seminars on best practice. However, for this to happen you must make sure that you work closely with the MSUO as you develop your application from the earliest point. As with all



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initiatives, funding resources will be limited. It may not be possible for two or more similar projects examining the same issues to go forward. When similar projects are being developed, the MSUO can assist partnerships to merge and form coherent strategic projects.

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Good Luck in the next Programme!



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