



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014–2020



EUROPEAN UNION

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European Regional Development Fund

ANNOUNCEMENT

Third Call for Main Project Applications

The Third Call for main project applications is open from 30th September to **30th November 2015**. The call will be announced officially at the 2015 NPA Annual Conference “State of the Region” held on 30th September in Kuopio, Finland. The call is open for Priority Axes 3 and 4 only. Project decisions will be made by the Monitoring Committee on 24th February 2016.

Details about the call can be found in this Third Call Announcement, which applicants must read carefully.

Applications must be submitted through an electronic monitoring system (eMS). The application pack with all necessary supporting documents can be found on the programme website, www.interreg-npa.eu.

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 main projects and 14 preparatory projects.

Focus of the Call

The Monitoring committee has decided that the 3rd 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.

Important dates

OPENING OF 3rd CALL:	30 th September 2015
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	30 th November 2015, at 23:59 Copenhagen time
DECISION DATE:	24 th February 2016

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 20th October in Copenhagen at the offices of the Joint Secretariat. This seminar will offer technical sessions on the application form, budget and partnership. Registration until October 9th and space is limited to one person per potential project application. [Link to event page.](#)

Online application

Starting with the Third Call, applications must be submitted through an electronic monitoring system (eMS), which is available on the link below.

The eMS system has been developed in cooperation with INTERACT and other INTERREG programmes. It has a communication portal, which will allow programmes to collect and store all necessary project and programme information and communicate with beneficiaries electronically via a secure online communication portal. As a result the eMS system allows project applicants to enter their project proposal online, and once approved submit reports and claim for expenditures.

eMS can be found on: ems.interreg-npa.eu

Instructions and guidance can be found at: www.interreg-npa.eu/for-applicants/third-call

Disclaimer: eMS is a new system for both the programme and the applicants, and it is partially still under development. For this reason, we ask for your understanding in case something should not work quite as it should.

Important note regarding 4th Call for main projects

During the Autumn 2015, consultations will take place with Regional Advisory Groups to review the thematic coverage and identify areas for further project development. After the consultation, the Monitoring committee will determine the exact dates and the focus of the 4th and possibly a 5th call in 2016.

The 4th Call is expected to run from January-April 2016 and is likely to be open for all priority axes. This will be communicated on the NPA 2014-2020 website and through the Regional Contact Point network in December.

Preparatory project call

The call for NPA 2014-2020 preparatory project applications is open for all 4 priorities. Preparatory Project decisions are 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/for-applicants/preparatory-project-call 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@interreg-npa.eu.