Programme Steering Committee n°9

More than 50% of applicants are to receive additional funding

Following the eighth call targeted to the existing well performing projects the JTS received 42 applications. PSC9 approved 20 project extensions and 7 applications for seed money to prepare projects for the next funding period.

In total, almost 8.5 M€ ERDF were committed. The approved projects can start with their additional activities immediately. All other applications for extensions were put on a reserve list or, to be more precise, on 5 reserve lists: one for each priority.

Money coming back from closing projects that did not use all of their ERDF funds will be given to those on the reserve list. This can only be done within each priority.

Of course, projects on the reserve list can start their additional activities at their own risk. The JTS will be contacting those at the top of the list as soon as sufficient funds are recovered.

MARCH EVENT

Two days to present your ongoing results and start building your next project idea

On March 5th-6th 2007, the NWE Programme will be holding another major event in Lille. The first day will demonstrate the positive impacts of your cooperation projects to a floor of politicians and to heads of match-funding organisations. The main objectives of the new IV B Programme will be introduced. Don’t miss this opportunity to present your ongoing project results to leading EU representatives such as Michel Delebarre, the Committee of Regions’ current president. The second day will focus on shaping new project ideas under the next Programming period through a series of parallel workshops and a project idea market place bringing in new players.

To get further conference details and register please consult www.nweurope.org

The new Programme : INTERREG IV

The first FAQ on the Programme to start in 2007

What is the name of the New Programme?
Transnational Territorial Cooperation Programme (INTERREG IV B) for North West Europe

Is the NWE cooperation area changing?
The Cooperation area will stay mostly the same, except for the new participating regions of Switzerland, all of which is now part of the area - you can download a map on the website.

What are the priorities of the New Programme?
1: Developing the NWE knowledge-based economy by capitalising on our capacity for innovation
2: Sustainable management of natural resources and of natural areas and technological risks
3: Improving connectivity in NWE by promoting intelligent and sustainable transport and ICT solutions
4: Promoting sustainable and dynamic communities at transnational level

When will the Calls for Proposals start?
The first call will be announced as soon as the Next Programme is approved by the Commission, in the early Summer of 2007

What kind of partners can apply for funding?
The same types of partners (regions, cities, universities…) and public-private partnerships are encouraged.

ReUrba² final event : Something for everyone

The ReUrba² partnership was keen to get across its key messages: listening, doing and explaining (relating to urban planning) and promoted their “statement for strong cities” which was based on a bottom-up approach, coming from the fact that “People make the City”. This very human approach to urban planning went down very well with the participants, all potential partners of future “smart coalitions” in their field.

A video statement by Danuta Hubner underlined the importance of urban development for the future of regional planning. She gave voice to the INTERREG message by confiding that sharing and networking are of key importance in making strong cities and regions.

The partners all got an opportunity to show their results during the day, and had to compete for attention as many workshops and activities were all taking place at the same time. This made for a very dynamic, informative, and enjoyable event, even if it was impossible to take part in everything!
DART introduces Ayr Flower Show to Europe

This year, the DART project, through South Ayrshire Council, promoted the international marketing of Ayr Flower Show. Ayr Flower Show is considered to be Scotland's answer to the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London. And each year the show in Ayrshire attracts around 25,000 visitors.

The international promotion of the show involved, amongst other things, the production of advertisements containing discount vouchers for the show in Euros. The partners worked together to select the best newspapers to advertise in and helped each other liaise with these publications to get the advertising placed.

To help give the Flower Show an international flavour, DART took a stand in the new “Food Colonnade” to promote its partner regions as visitor destinations.

This was done primarily through promoting each partners’ local produce. Through the developing DART SME network, Germany was represented by three wine producers – Wiengute Hehner-Kilrz, Weingut Bahles (both family concerns) and Moselland Cooperative, plus Rhineland Pfalz Tourismus; East Cork Area Tourism represented Ireland; and Scotland was represented by Robbie’s Drams, a specialist whisky retailer, and also by South Ayrshire Council.

As the stand was promoting wine and whisky and offered samples, all UK excise and licensing regulations had to be met.

However, the family wine producers had never sold wine outside Germany and, due to the timescale and quantities involved, found it difficult to export their wine and pay the UK duty.

Once again, the partners worked together to overcome this problem. The Scottish partner was able to help their German partners by identifying a sustainable import route to meet UK Customs and Excise Regulations and by getting Robbie’s Drams to satisfy the strict Scottish Licensing Laws.

This could only be achieved through the trust and effective working relationships developed through DART. The event involved seven businesses from three countries happily and successfully sharing a stand and jointly promoting their products.

The opportunity was also taken to highlight other DART activities and events to visitors. And it provided commercial opportunities, for example:

Helmut Hehner, a German, met representatives from Stewart Travel Centre, an Ayrshire based company. Together they arranged a package tour to the Nahe River Valley (Germany). This was publicised at the Show and led to a number of sales. This was made possible through the DART SME network.

The DART (Developing Active Regions and Sustainable Tourism) project is focused on developing opportunities for tourism, economic and cultural links between the three partner regions of South Ayrshire (Council); the Rhein-Hunsruck and Bernkastel-Wittlich (Germany); and the north and east of County Cork (Ireland).
Flood Risk Management

The papers presented at the international conference held last year in Mainz, Germany, were compiled into a book. More than 20 EU-water projects in the NWE and NS region participated and presented their results to a broad audience. The conference covered three major themes: flood damage prevention, multifunctional land use, and communication and community involvement.

The Mainz conference showed that transnational water projects funded by the EU can produce valuable results. These include long-term efforts, such as managing flood risks in the broadest sense of the term and changing management practices and public perceptions.

This led to the conclusion that continued support is needed to consolidate existing achievements and secure long-term benefits.

Recent flood events around the world have shown anew the relevance of flood risk management, particularly in Europe. The principal results of the conference were summarised in the Mainz Declaration, which was presented to a panel of high-level national and regional politicians and policy makers during one of the debating sessions. The panel members and conference participants all fully endorsed the contents of the Mainz Declaration.

The book also contains the keynotes, the conclusions and recommendations and the full text of the Mainz Declaration. Please contact the SDF project if you would like a copy:

www.sdfproject.nl

An NWE Study!

An academic paper from the SPAN project

The Governance of Local Development: An Assessment of Organizational Capacity in North West Europe

Europe’s regions and localities have traditionally relied for their development on central government policy intervention and large-scale enterprise. However, over the past 25 years they have adjusted these preferences by more fully embracing local action. Today, the theory and practice of local development emphasise its potential to identify and harness a wide variety of resources in ways that are often more effective and efficient than top-down initiatives acting alone. This approach requires appropriate governance arrangements that are strongly supportive, not least politically, of local activity. It requires the formation and operation of local level alliances by stakeholders who can think and act strategically within organisational structures whose missions have been shaped by those whom local development programmes are intended to benefit. And of course, it is vital that the scope of local development is defined as a multi-dimensional set of activities that recognise the interdependence not just of social, economic, cultural and environmental measures, but also the very real connectedness between people and place. Spatial development approaches to local development are, therefore, an important element of any coherent local development framework.

It is within that context that this paper explores the contribution of five ‘development agencies’ to local development in North West Europe.
COMING UP!

- Conference “Architecture & Biodiversity” - CERAA Encourage project partnership, 24 November 2006, Brussels, B www.ceraa.be

- Freude am Fluss Conference: Yesterday, the 1856 flood...Today and tomorrow...how do we prepare for an event of this magnitude? What role should be played by local authorities and people in the field? www.freudeamfluss.org 23-24 November 2006, Espace Bernardette, Nevers, FR

- Waste recovery and valorisation - technical seminar and site visit of the future waste valorisation centre in Lille’s inland port in partnership with the DIPACITY project 7 December 2006, Lille, FR


Also coming up...

The Septentrion project is proud to present its first City Interpretation Centre, which was opened mid-October in the town of Landrecies near Maubeuge in the North of France.

The centres are places where urban projects are presented to the general public. Also, within Septentrion’s network of fortified towns, the centres explain the links between urban history, current sustainable urban development themes, land planning and heritage management.

Each of the six Interpretation Centres to be created will give a full view of the local context and of the Septentrion area as a whole – that is to say the water basin of the Meuse/Mass and the Escaut/Scheldt. Moreover, the Centres will provide a general overview of the common values and the shared urban life-styles of the area.

Interpretation centres and Interpretation trails:

Centres will be opened in the City of Ieper (first quarter of 2007), at “Porte de Hal” in Bruxelles Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest Region, (autumn 2007), in Charleroi Town hall (2007), Bouchain (2007) and in the Saint-Pieter Fort in Maastricht (2007).

“Interpretation trails” will be finalised in the coming months in the cities of Lille, Watten, Bergues, Le Quesnoy and Brussels.