



Culture and Tourism Group

ACTION PLAN 2005-2006

Revised March 2005

The North Sea Commission has two main objectives

1. Creating the North Sea as a political region of Europe, and therefore, participating actively on the European agenda
2. Consolidating the North Sea as a region by promoting increased co-operation between its member regions

The Culture and Tourism Group follows this up by

1. Monitoring and when needed and/or possible, intervenes on cultural and tourism issues on the European agenda
2. Encourages, sponsors and to a certain degree also participate directly in co-operation projects between the member regions in the fields of culture, heritage, leisure, sports and tourism, especially cultural tourism
3. Co-operating with other thematic groups of the NSC, especially the Education and Research Group and the Economic Development Group in areas like life-long learning, tourism development and cultural-based economic/community development

1. Monitoring the European Agenda

EU agenda on culture

Objective: Gather information on the Culture 2007 and other new EU programmes on culture; identify any needs for lobbying actions and prepare strategies for co-operation with EU institutions (especially DG Education); and the Committee of the Regions) on these issues and for disseminating information to member regions of the NSC and their cultural actors.

Method: Establish working relations with stakeholders etc., monitor processes, identify issues for actions

Actions: Meet with stakeholders in Brussels, establish work group to follow up

When: Initial meeting February 2005, work group to be established March 2005

European tourism

Objective: Ensure a North Sea voice in relation to the development of EU policies and programmes on tourism

Method: monitor process, trying to gain influence on process and results through working relations with DG Enterprise and Industry

Actions: Meet with relevant stakeholders, establish work group to follow up

When: Throughout the period

2. Strengthening the co-operation between the North Sea regions

Culture and Tourism as agents for Regional Development in a Global Perspective – The North Sea Perspective

Objective: Concerted actions by member regions to ensure that the North Sea region evolves as a region of excellence in meeting global challenges of economic restructuring and where culture and tourism are important agents for future regional development

Method: Initial fact-finding activities, preferably linked to ongoing Interreg IV planning, followed by project work involving most North Sea regions

Actions: Establish working relations with Interreg North Sea secretariat

Interreg IV

Objectives

1. Support the work to have a new Interreg IV North Sea programme
2. Influence the work on the operational programme for the North Sea programme in line with the 'Culture and Growth' document endorsed by the group in Bruges October 2002 and where it is said that 'NSC and its member should actively support the efforts to have culture and community development as a major theme in the new Interreg IV programme for the North Sea Region. Also refer to Annex, the statement made by the group and endorsed by the Executive in Borås.

Method: Monitoring the process, and looking for opportunities to influence programme in relation to culture/tourism and regional development

Actions: Meet with relevant stakeholders, establish workgroup to follow up, seeking to establish co-operation with Interreg North Sea secretariat

When: After Ringkøbing meeting, work group starts working in relation to Interreg North Sea secretariat

Support cultural actors in the member regions

Objective: Support cultural actors in the member regions so that they can participate in European projects and take advantage of trans-national co-operation and EU funding

Method: Establish Cultural Focal Points as part of the Culture 2007 process, establish a work group to monitor the process and take action when appropriate

Action: Apply for Culture 2000/Culture 2007 funding

3. Strengthening co-operation between thematic group

Regional Food, Tourism and Community Development

Objective: Create a network/project where culture, research and economic development are combined; increase co-operation between thematic groups to sponsor regional development

Method: Joint meeting combined with big conference, spring 2006

Actions: Prepare joint meeting and conference

The Lisbon Strategy

Objective: To increase knowledge of Lisbon strategy and to identify areas where the North Sea region could take advantage of the strategy and/or influence the further development of EU policies on future development of Europe



Method: Conference

Actions: Prepare conference

Scheduled meetings

XXV Ringkjøbing 18-20 March 2005 Theme: Action plan 2005-2006; Culture, Tourism and regional development in rural areas

XXVI Västra Götaland Autumn 2005 Theme: Lisbon Strategy and the North Sea
Jointly organised with other groups

XXVII Scotland, Spring 2005 Joint meeting with Education & Research and Economic Development Groups, combined with large conference on Regional Food, Tourism and Community Development

Responsibilities

For each of the two specific items listed above, a work group is established. These work groups work together with the chair and the co-ordinator. The two vice-chairs could have a specific role in relation to one group each.

In the future, there will only be one themed meeting of the group per year. In the spring, the various sub-groups meet together and there is one plenary session. In the autumn, there is a specific co-operation theme linked to the meeting, but the sub-groups also meet, and there is a plenary session.