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Culture & Tourism Group Work Plan for 2007-08

This action plan is valid for the period July 2007-June 2008 and is to be adopted by the NSC General Assembly 2007.

The action plans for NSC thematic groups must cover three levels:

1. Strategic priorities of the NSC Executive Committee
2. Political priorities within culture and tourism
3. Concrete projects to follow up the strategic and political priorities and demonstrate how North Sea co-operation can contribute to achieving these priorities

1. Strategic priorities of the NSC

The NSC Executive Committee decides on the strategic priorities of the NSC. These again also reflect the strategic priorities of the CPMR.

The Culture & Tourism Group's main responsibility is to assist the Executive Committee on these strategic priorities. The group will identify specific issues within these where the group can give input, and the group will also respond to requests from the Executive Committee for assistance and input in specific issues.

Culture and tourism have recently been given a higher importance on the European agenda, with the overtures for an European Cultural Agenda and the recent communication on a renewed EU Tourism Policy, linking culture and tourism to the Lisbon Strategy. This focus on EU level will probably also be reflected in the CPMR and NSC agendas, and give the Culture and Tourism group important tasks in relation to NSC policy development.

2. Political priorities of the culture and tourism group

The Culture and Tourism Group have decided on a set of political priorities. These have been linked to culture and tourism as important factors for regional development, and include monitoring of, and actions relating to the European agenda in these fields.

During 2007-08, the European Agenda 21 for Tourism and the European Cultural Agenda will probably be the most relevant issues on the European Agenda for the C&T group.

The role of the regions in relation to these issues will be the focus of our efforts here. The group should work in close co-operation with the Committee of the Regions here.

3. Concrete projects

The new funding programmes 2007-13 offers a number of opportunities for development projects that can demonstrate North Sea contributions on major global and European challenges like climate change, economic and social cohesion, regional integration and cross-border co-operation.

Both the Cultural Programme 2007-13 and the new Interreg IV programmes are relevant for project funding, and members of the C&T group should help develop project ideas based on the strategic and political priorities of the NSC and relating to the thematic focus of our group. Currently, a Food Project and a Film Project are under development.



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Responsibilities:

1. Responding to strategic priorities and reporting back to Executive Committee: Chair, assisted by co-ordinator
2. Political priorities
 - a. Monitoring European Agenda in general: Vice-Chair
 - b. Following up cultural agenda: Vice-Chair
 - c. Following up tourism agenda: Vice-Chair
3. Concrete projects: Individual members of the C&T group, assisted by co-ordinator



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INNOVATION AND EDUCATION GROUP WORK PLAN FOR 2007 – 2008

Introduction

The Innovations and Education Group (IEG) was formed in 2006 by bringing together the Economic Development and Education & Research groups.

The IEG is chaired by Councillor Alan Livingstone from Perth, Scotland.

The two Vice Chairs, who at this early stage have proved to be valuable and helpful, are Councillor Stella Duneufjardin from Nord Pas de Calais, France and Councillor Ole Sorensen from Region Nord Jylland in Denmark. Mr Erik Lindboe, from Rogaland County in Norway is the co-ordinator and the Chair and Vice Chairs are delighted to have him as a colleague and adviser.

We have developed a Mission Statement:

"To develop a strategy, shaped by engagement with our members which helps deliver innovative economic activity allied to and involving life long learning within the countries of the North Sea and which is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and which promotes health and well being."

From such a mission statement we have developed a work plan which places emphasis upon several areas of interest:

- * Linking innovation and education via a project which expresses this link.
- * Establish a North Sea Schools Sustainability Project
- * Establish and then maintain a model for co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission
- * Food

To make sure that we are well prepared and equipped to carry these things forward the first seminar, in Perth, on 11th and 12th February 2007, discussed these and other subsidiary issues in detail, moving towards an action plan which will kick-start the work of an enthusiastic group.

Councillor Alan Livingstone



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IEG Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Output
IEG's Strategic Group	Meetings to plan activities and actions	NSC IEG Chair, Vice-chairs, Co-ordinator	Ongoing	IEG Chair, vice-chair, co-ordinator and supporting officers	Systematic Strategic IEG planning
IEG Members' Network	Send profile questionnaire to group members	Co-ordinator	2007 / Ongoing	Co-ordinator	A members' profile data-base on NSC website.
Market the IEG and the North Sea Commission	Publish news-letters, press releases etc after NSC and IEG meetings	IEG Chair, Vice-chairs Co-ordinator, supporting officers / Ms Runa Coxeter,	2007 - 2008	Strategic Group	Increase the knowledge of the NSC and the IEG
The Lisbon Strategy: (“Share best practice and Experience. Raise awareness of the importance of mobility in Europe (among professionals, and therefore aim to improve mobility of young people) Identify common challenges Investigate opportunities for work shadowing	Promote and encourage professional and social inclusion of young people Analyse the possibility of work shadowing	IEG vice-chair, Cllr. Stella Duneufjardin, Nor Pas de Calais, to follow this up. Bruce Manson, Scotland, and Robert Vik, Norway	Ongoing through 2007..... Spring 2007	To be determined - Sources of external funding may include: Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, etc. Opportunities through Interreg to be investigated Group members	Comparison among the regions of approaches to improving inclusion and employability of young people. Exchange of professionals Dissemination of findings A paper / analysis of the possibilities
The North Sea Schools Network	Involve schools from North Sea countries in “The North Sea Schools’ Sustainability Project” on climate change.	Lead partner: Saxmundham Middle School, Suffolk, plus participating schools around the North Sea, and the IEG co-ordinator	Project period: September 2007 – June 2009.	IEG co-ordinator / Partner schools	Exchange of best practice, climate research, seminars etc. Develop other North Sea Schools projects.
Food	Follow up the NSC Food Event in Dundee, Scotland, 2006	Strategic group	2007 – 2008	The Innovation and Education Group + other thematic groups	Focus on a variety subjects on Food,+ better food safety



Knowledge transfer / Best practise	Present the so-called "Scandinavian triangle model" – (a method for business development) to IEG members.	Co-ordinator and The BTV region (Norway)	2007 - 2008	IEG Co-ordinator, people from the BTV Region (Norway) and group members' time	Knowledge transfer re. business development schemes.
Energy / Renewable energy	1) Contact the "Passive House Project" in Sweden 2) Continue the work with the North Sea House.	Co-ordinator	2007 - 2008	Co-ordinator / Strategic Group IEG members	Interreg - project Develop "The North Sea House" project
Increasing links with the other NSC Thematic Groups	Contact the NSC Thematic groups re. co-operation on projects, meetings, etc	Co-ordinator	Ongoing	IEG, NSC Secretariat and other Thematic Groups.	Identify topics of mutual NSC interest for 2007 – 2008, and develop joint meetings, projects, etc.
Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission	Establish contact with the BSC	Co-ordinator	2007 / 2008	Co-ordinator	Identify areas of mutual interest for 2007 – 2008.



Maritime Resources and Fisheries Group Work Plan for 2007 – 2008

“The NSCMRF Group aims to maximise the Quality of life in and around Coastal Communities around the North Sea”

Activity	Action	Responsibility	Time-scale	Staffing/resources	Output
Continue to improve relations between fishers and other North sea users	Take part in the work of NSRAC	Advisor – Chair & EU Spokesperson	ongoing	Advisor, Chair & EU Spokesperson	Ensure NSC views are included in the work of NSRAC
Improve Stakeholder participation and stewardship	Establish North Sea Commission Inshore Fisheries Network Consult with Member State Administrations	Co-ordinator – Vastra Gotaland Region & Shetland Islands Council	2007	Secretariat - Chair for Forum	Seminar on 26/27 February Consultation has taken place with, Swedish Fishermen & Scientists, Scottish Executive, Scottish Inshore Fisheries Action Group and EU Parliament Fish Committee.
Safety on, around and in the North Sea	Workshop to be organised during the NSC Maritime Policy Conference	Advisor+ one Shetland & Vastra Gotaland	November 2006	Funding from Scottish Executive, Vastra Gotaland, Shetland	All North Sea Fishermen to have access to FishSafe. Develop Partnership between NSC and other N/S Users.
CPMR Fisheries INTERCOM GROUP	Support CPMR FIG Chair & Secretariat with future work Arrange another joint meeting between NSCMRFG & CPMRFIG	Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR, NSC Secretariat	ongoing	Advisor, Liaison person, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR & NSC Secretariat	Closer working between NSCFG – CPMR FIG to encourage more effective and efficient use of time and resources. ..



Take forward actions from NSC Conference "The North Sea – Today and Tomorrow"	Analyse final conference report	Advisor & Chair	June 2005	Advisor time	Inshore Network Renewable Energy Aquaculture Fishing ports.
OSPAR observership	Take part in relevant meetings and working groups	NSC Secretariat and co-ordinator	Ongoing	Time of staff from relevant NSC member regions	Contributions to OSPAR policies and decisions
Follow up of CONSSO	Organise a conference in Spring 2007	Vastra Gotaland Region	Spring 2007	V/G region staff, NSCMRFG Advisor led by Chair	To add to the Maritime Policy Green paper Consultation
Aquaculture Data collection	Analyse trends including environmental impacts both positive and negative	Aquaculture Specialist		Group members	Prepare a report
Ports Strategy	Organise a Workshop for fishing ports	Advisor & members	Winter 2007		Develop a North Sea Fishing Ports strategy
Political Learning Journey	Develop links with Accession Countries & Baltic States	Chair, Vice Chairs & Advisor	2007/2008	Politicians	Gain better understanding of common needs and interests. Development of economic and cultural links

The main priorities of this work plan will be:

- *Aquaculture*
- *Users of the North Sea – Renewable Energy, oil, gas and cable etc*
- *Fisheries – Inshore, Offshore and onshore.*
- *Fishing Ports- Waste treatment & management, future developments*



Transport Group Work Plan for 2007 – 2008

Work Plan for the NSC Transport group 2007 – 2008					
Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
1. Developing Intermodal transport corridors, incl. Motorways of the Seas (MoS) in the North Sea Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor process in EU Commission and in North Sea states with regard to MoS - Consider policy initiatives - Explore and promote relevant transport corridors in the North Sea Region 	Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and selected group members:	Whole period	Working time of Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and group members, possibly travel, accommodation and meeting costs, expenses to promotional material, possibly expenses to private consultants	Meetings Seminars Reports Proposals Projects (?)

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
2. Develop ideas and proposals for transport projects under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and further develop project ideas Facilitate project partnerships Provide input to project proposals & applications 	Co-ordinator and selected group members	Whole period, group meetings as milestones	Working time of Co-ordinator and group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project ideas -Partner search submissions -Input to project applications -Project application submitted -Possibly approved projects



Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
3. Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) on Transport issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify and decide on relevant themes (MoS, air transport and sustainable transport) and forms of cooperation - Recurrent exchange of information on activities - Consider the organisation of meetings, seminars, study visits, drafting of joint resolutions to CPMR and EU, joint projects 	Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and selected group members	2007 – 2008 and probably beyond	Working time, travel and accommodation expenses of involved group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meetings -Studies -Study tours -policy positions, resolutions - Seminar/conferences -Projects

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
4. Energy issues in the transport sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Explore pre-conditions for introducing more sustainable fuels in the transport sector -Exchange information and good practice on sustainable fuels in the transport sector -Contribute to NSC work on energy 	Co-ordinator and selected group members	2007 – 2008 and probably beyond	Working time of Co-ordinator and involved group members, travel and accommodation expenses,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Thematic seminar in Aberdeenshire 24 May - Seminar report - Compilation of good practice - Policy recommendations and other contributions to NSC work on energy



Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
5. Statistical mapping of key developments in transport sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investigate availability of relevant statistical material -Compile key figures on origin/destination and modal split for passenger and goods flows within the NSR -Periodic publishing of statistics & corresponding analysis 	Chair and selected group members from Västra Götaland Region and Groningen Sea Ports	Permanent, starting spring 2007	Working time of Chair and involved group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Periodic statistics & analysis on key developments in transport sector -Reports to Executive Committee and relevant transport Projects and networks.



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Sustainable Development Group Work Plan for 2007 – 2008

NORTH SEA COMMISSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP shall assume the full responsibility for the promotion of Sustainable Development within the NSC and in the North Sea area.

Work Plan 2007 - 2008

NSCEG activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources & Comments	Output
Follow-up on Ringkøbing Conference 2005, "The North Sea Today and Tomorrow"	Take forward issues, which emerged from this Conference, for instance the environmental impact of fisheries and the need for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, ICZM. Identify action for NSC SDG and other Thematic Groups	PWG	2007 – 2008	PWG members' time	NSC SDG input to the EU Maritime Policy through the public consultation on the European Commission's Green Paper. Participation in various NSC/CPMR events on this topic.
Follow-up on Energy Conference 2006 – Sustainable Energy	Examine the outcome of this conference and identify action for NSC SDG and other Thematic Groups regarding Sustainable Energy	PWG	Ongoing	PWG members' time	Various actions, jointly with other Thematic Groups. Input to CPMR energy policies and statements.
Renewable Energy/CPMR Energy Group	Participation in group/possibly link with it		On-going		
Baltic Sea Commission cooperation	Work more closely with relevant groups from BSC		On-going		Joint NSC-BSC conference on Energy 2008?



<p>Promote environmentally sound "sustainable" shipping</p> <p>Participate in upcoming activities, as an outcome of the North Sea Ministerial Meeting 2006 on Environmental Impacts of Shipping and Fisheries (MM06).</p>	<p>Contribute as observer to an upcoming working group on the Clean Ship approach, lead by The Netherlands and Norway.</p> <p>Keep monitoring issue of ship-to-ship transfer of oil.</p>	<p>NSC Executive Committee and secretariat, NSCEG co-ordinator, Region of Västra Götaland</p> <p>NSC Executive Committee and secretariat, NSC SDG chair and co-ordinator. (also: Maritime Resources Group chair and co-ordinator)</p>	<p>2006-2007</p>	<p>Co-coordinator's time</p> <p>External experts provided jointly by NSC and Västra Götaland</p>	<p>Relatively strong statement by North Sea Ministerial Meeting, MM06, in Göteborg, Sweden, May 4-5, 2006.</p> <p>Response to Scottish Parliament petition consultation, summer 2006.</p> <p>Start of "Clean Ship" process in the North Sea.</p>
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<p>NSCSDG Organizational and Administrative Action</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Resources & Comments</p>	<p>Output</p>
<p>Sustainable Innovation</p>	<p>Keep the PWG informed of important developments in INTERREG 4B projects</p>	<p>Co-ordinator, PWG, NSC secretariat</p>		<p>This was the topic of NSC SDG Conference 2004</p>	<p>Addition of new members, more activity among current members</p>
<p>Other activities</p>	<p>Undertake consultation responses, react to develops etc. as necessary</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>PWG members time</p>	<p>Responses etc.</p>
<p>Organise NSC SDG Conference 2008</p>	<p>Identify topic, host, venue, etc for Conference in connection with the NSC SDG Annual Meeting 2008 – if possible and relevant in co-operation with other NSC Thematic Groups.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>PWG members time and staff time of hosting Region(s).</p>	<p>Successful Conference in line with earlier such efforts by the NSC SDG.</p>



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Joint NSC activities (proposal)

Possible joint activities with the other NSC Thematic Groups during 2006-2007 include:

- Energy Efficient Housing – working jointly on the environmental and education requirements linked to energy efficient and renewable energy applications. Joint activity with NSC EDG
- NSC SDG Conference 2007, tentative date and place: 15 – 16 March, Aberdeenshire

January 2007, Jeffery Kenyon, Interim Co-ordinator, North Sea Commission Sustainable Development Group,
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<i>Member Profiles updates</i>	<i>Update NSC SDG Member Profiles</i>	<i>NSC secreteriat/Co-ordinator PWG Country Representatives</i>	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Consultant used. Members should be encouraged to provide updated info on contact persons, project interests, etc. Improved Member Profiles could include reference to Members' web pages.</i>	<i>NSC SDG Member Profiles updated annually and put on NSC website. (Latest revision performed in May 2006.)</i>
	Follow up on the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge among NSC members.	Executive Committee – Secretariat			Recurring reports on the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge (or the most relevant parts thereof)

Actions to be put on hold

Compile examples of local/regional financing of environmental improvements	Compare efforts in various Regions or countries to raise funding locally or regionally for protection and/or improvement of natural resources. Identify "best practice". (Possibly) organise meeting of interested parties.	Co-ordinator and PWG	2006-2007	Co-ordinator's time. Support efforts by member regions. Co-operation with NSC EDG and NSC C&TG	Project ideas for local/regional financing of environmental improvements + potential project partners
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Promoting Environmental Management Systems, EMS, in Regional Authorities	Exchange of experience regarding Environmental Management Systems	Co-ordinator and PWG	2006-2007	Group members' time	More NSC Member Regions implementing Environmental Management Systems.
Green/Sustainable Purchasing	Organise exchange of experience between purchasing experts of the NSC Regions on environmentally and socially responsible purchasing	The Region of Västra Götaland, SE	2007	Co-ordinator's and PWG members' time, staff from Region of Västra Götaland	Arranging of workshop in connection with NSC Executive Committee meeting 2007. Decision on potential future contacts, possibly in North Sea network.
Promote environmentally sound "sustainable" shipping Participate in upcoming activities, as an outcome of the North Sea Ministerial Meeting 2006 on Environmental Impacts of Shipping and Fisheries (MM06).	Contribute as observer to an upcoming working group on the Clean Ship approach, lead by The Netherlands and Norway. Keep monitoring issue of ship-to-ship transfer of oil.	NSC Executive Committee and secretariat, NSCEG co-ordinator, Region of Västra Götaland NSC Executive Committee and secretariat, NSC SDG chair and co-ordinator. (also: Maritime Resources Group chair and co-ordinator)	2006-2007	Co-coordinator's time External experts provided jointly by NSC and Västra Götaland	Relatively strong statement by North Sea Ministerial Meeting, MM06, in Göteborg, Sweden, May 4-5, 2006. Response to Scottish Parliament petition consultation, summer 2006. Start of "Clean Ship" process in the North Sea.
Renewable Energy/CPMR Energy Group	Participation in group/possibly link with it		On-going		
Baltic Sea Commission cooperation	Work more closely with relevant groups from BSC		On-going		



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NSCSDG Organisational and Administrative Action	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources & Comments	Output
Sustainable Innovation	Keep the PWG informed of important developments in INTERREG 4B projects	Co-ordinator, PWG, NSC secretariat		This was the topic of NSC SDG Conference 2004	Addition of new members, more activity among current members
Other activities	Undertake consultation responses, react to develops etc. as necessary	PWG	On-going	PWG members time	Responses etc.
Organise NSC SDG Conference 2008	Identify topic, host, venue, etc for Conference in connection with the NSC SDG Annual Meeting 2008 – if possible and relevant in co-operation with other NSC Thematic Groups.	PWG	2008	PWG members time and staff time of hosting Region(s).	Successful Conference in line with earlier such efforts by the NSC SDG.

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