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53rd NSC Executive Committee Meeting, 27 April 2010.

NSC WORK PLANS

Enclosed is the updated information on the thematic groups work plans.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee April 2007 following areas of main political interest was decided;

- ❖ Maritime policy
- ❖ Sustainable Development especially focused on Energy
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Innovation and Education
- ❖ Territorial Cooperation
- ❖ NSC-BSC cooperation
- ❖ At the ExCom 26 June 2009 the making of a North Sea Strategy was agreed as a priority area.

In their work plans each group will show how they alone or together with other groups is to meet the political priorities within their field of expertise. The areas of political interest are general and the Executive Committee must look at these policy areas to focus the work of the NSC.

Enclosed are the updated Work Plans for the thematic groups

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***For discussion and approval***
2. ***The Executive Committee supports the work plans presented by the thematic groups.***



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Culture & Tourism Group Work Plan 2010-11 and Strategic Plan 2008-13.

The action plan 2010-11 is valid for the period between the NSC General Assembly's 2010 and 2011. The Strategic Plan is valid for the EU budget period 2007-13.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-13

The strategy of the Culture & Tourism Group is closely related to the EU agenda, and the strategies of CPMR and the North Sea Commission.

Our group represents the broad or overarching overview and analysis, and that this forms a strong platform for our future work. The role of culture and tourism in regional development as a key issue for us.

It is further important to define the roles of the political members, the officer members and of the observers within the group. Further, the need to prioritise and have a focus is stressed. The need to demonstrate value for money to the public is also underlined. Information to, and support for cultural actors is important. They need support both in the form of competence/assistance and financially.

The group should turn from being more or less re-active to being much more pro-active. We acknowledge that there is a raised political profile of the NSC, and that we should also raise the political profile of the C&T. We should try and influence the European agenda, and we should work closely with the CoR members from our regions, with our the processes as possible. Here we should also use our regional offices in Brussels as our ears. We also need better links between the Commission and the regions. Our group should co-operate closely with relevant bodies in Brussels and elsewhere.

1. The role of the Culture and Tourism Group within the NSC – we should focus on selected issues, and we should have clear objectives and priorities
2. The work should present added value to all member regions. It is also essential that group members provide a link back home to politicians and senior officials in their region.
3. We should act as a lobbying organisation in relation to the EU agenda and EU funds and we should keep an EU perspective in our work
4. We should report back to the group on all issues that are relevant for the members
5. Knowledge and competence building is vital to the group
6. We should maintain a regional development perspective

Our role is to strengthen the North Sea area, but also demonstrate how our region can address global issues in a good way; it should be a region of excellence in responding to global challenges. We must use the European networks also, and make them more accessible to all members. These networks are vital in relation to successful lobbying.



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The membership of the group should be strengthened also, and members must be more conscious of reporting results back home, and taking issues from home to the table of the group.

Therefore, our strategy has three legs:

1. The EU perspective
2. The regional development perspective – the North Sea Vision
3. The political perspective – politicians should be actively involved in the group

The EU perspective 2008-13

The most important issues for us during this period will be the shaping of the regional policy after 2013, including the future culture and tourism strategies of the EU after 2013.

Together with the CPMR, we should ensure that there is an EU regional policy after 2013, and that this policy includes culture and tourism.

The regional perspective – the North Sea Vision

The North Sea should become a region of excellence for global issues, and the North Sea region should also become a region of demonstration for how regional co-operation can be developed in practice. For both these objectives, the Interreg North Sea is a good instrument. The NSC should develop an Interreg programme addressing these issues.

The political perspective

The strategy is a highly political one, and needs the support of politicians from all member regions of the NSC. The active participation of politicians within all thematic groups of the NSC should be encouraged.

ACTION PLAN 2010-11

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

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

1. 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 2010-11, the realization of the European Cultural Agenda and its integration into EU mainstream policies like the EU2020 strategy; and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders will have high priority also for us. Specifically, the group will focus on the development of the regulations for the Culture programme 2014-20.



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It is also important to support all work to ensure that culture and creativity are incorporated into various EU funding schemes, in accordance with the European Cultural Agenda priorities.

The group will work closely with the CPMR Intercom group on sustainable tourism to follow up initiatives from the Commission.

It is also important to continue the co-operation with the Committee of the Regions.

2. 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

3. 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.

During 2010-11, the North Sea Commission will focus its work on the new North Sea Strategy. This will probably be a multi-sector strategy, where our task will be to see to that culture and tourism is given adequate attention and are considered as important elements for regional development in the North Sea area.

Meetings 2010-11

March 2010: XXXVII Meeting, Skagen (Region North Jutland)

June 2010: XXXIX during NSC AGM in Stavanger (Rogaland County Council)

Late 2010: Conference on sustainable tourism, cultural tourism and employment (Angus)

Action plan 2010

What	When	Where	Who	Deadline
Draft paper for North Sea Strategy	apr.10		Conny Boersma	15.apr
Informal meeting on North Sea Strategy and Pilot Actions	6 May	Göthenborg	Tomas Olsson	10.apr
Seminar/workshop culture and tourism in North Sea 2020 strategy	sept	Angus or Brussels	Tomas (with Conny) Merlyn Dunn	july



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INNOVATION AND EDUCATION GROUP, WORK PLAN 2010/2011

Updated April 2010

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 Ole B. Sørensen from Region North Denmark.

Vice Chair: Councillor Kate Dean from Aberdeen City Council.

One vacant position as vice-chair

Mr Erik Lindboe, from Rogaland County Council in Norway is the advisor of the group.

We have developed a Mission Statement:

”Through engagement with our members we look to develop innovative economic activity
and R & D within the North Sea region.”

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

On behalf of the group,

Councillor Ole B. Sørensen

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IEG Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Output
IEG's Strategic Group	Plan activities and actions	NSC IEG Strategic Group	Ongoing	IEG chair, vice-chairs, adviser and officers	Systematic Strategic IEG planning
IEG Members' Network	1) Send profile questionnaire to group members 2) Fact sheets	Adviser	Ongoing To be developed in 2010	Adviser	Create a profile database/ Member regions Fact sheets data-base on NSC homepage
IEG meetings for all members	Plan the group meeting in cooperation with Buskerud county	IEG Strategic Group and Buskerud	3 – 4 November 2010	Strategic Group, Adviser / local organiser	Sharing best practise, "educating" group members
Market the IEG and the North Sea Commission	Publish news-letters/ Fact sheet / press releases etc	Strategic Group/Adviser	Ongoing	Strategic Group/Adviser	Increase the knowledge of the NSC and the IEG
The North Sea Schools Sustainability Network School projects	a) "Talking about Food around the North Sea" b) "Healthy Living" c) "Connect, Create, Sustain"	Lead partner: Invergowie Primary School, Scotland Lead partner: Kirkhill School, Scotland Lead partner: Dundee College	September 2008 – June 2010 September 2009 – June 2011 September 2009 – June 2011	IEG adviser / Partner schools	Encourage pupils and families to widen their food experience. Healthy food. Traditions. Recipes. Healthy living, physical activities.
- The North Sea Screen Partnership	Shadow this Interreg IVB program	Adviser	Started in 2009	Members of the IEG / NSC	Knowledge transfer/best practise/networking
Food	Hold a food event / conference, joint event with other thematic groups	Strategic group. Cooperation with other groups. Connect to Interreg- and school projects (?)	Discuss this further in 2010	The IEG / thematic groups / group advisers	Focus on a variety subjects on Food,+ better food safety
Knowledge transfer / Best practise	The "Scandinavian triangle model"	IEG Adviser and expertise from Telemark (Norway)	To be presented at IEG meeting 2010	IEG adviser / expertise from Telemark	Knowledge - business development schemes.

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Energy / Renewable energy	1) "Build with CaRe" 2) Energy theme in IEG meetings 3) Work towards an Innovation & Energy conference, a joint event with other thematic groups and the Baltic Sea Commission	IEG Adviser / Strategic Group Strategic Group	Ongoing 2010 – 2011 Conference in Aalborg, Denmark, in spring 2011.	IEG Strategic Group Strategic Group	1) Shadow Interreg – project 2) – 3) Share best practice / Focus on sustainable energy issues around the North Sea
Cooperation with the other NSC Thematic Groups	Develop and increase co-operation with the NSC thematic groups on projects, meetings, conferences etc	Strategic Group	Ongoing	IEG, NSC Secretariat and other Thematic Groups.	Identify topics of mutual interest, develop joint meetings, projects, etc.
Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission	Develop the contact with the BSC. Joint meetings.	Chair/Vice-chair Adviser	Ongoing	Strategic Group	Identify areas of mutual interest.
The North Sea Strategy (NSS)	Contribute to NSC's work to develop the NSS.	Strategic Group	Ongoing	Strategic Group	



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Marine Resources Group Work Plan 10-11

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

Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Staffing/resources	Output
Continue to improve relations between fishers and scientists relations	Continuing to take part in the work of the NSRAC	Advisor Chair or Vice Chairs	2008-2011	Advisor and Chair or Vice Chairs	<i>Ensure that NSC views and policies and taken account of by the NSRAC.</i>
Improve Stakeholder participation and stewardship	<p>Establish North Sea Commission Inshore Fisheries Forum</p> <p>Organise a Seminar to discuss the formation of the Forum</p> <p>Search for funding</p> <p>VG & Shetland have to agree who will Chair and secretariat</p>	Co-ordinator – Vastra Gotaland Region & Shetland Islands Council	2008 - onwards	Establishing secretariat - Chair for Forum	<p><i>Seminar was organised in May 2007 where it was agreed to take the report to the NSRAC Executive meeting in Vienna. This was also done with approval from the Seminar and the NSRAC, for establishment of an Inshore Fisheries.</i></p> <p>Still to be complete</p>
Political Learning Journey	Develop Links with Baltic Sea States	Chair. Vice Chairs politicians and Advisors of NSCMRG & NSCSDG			<i>Gain better understanding of common needs and interests. Develop economic, cultural links and share experience and best practice. Chair & Advisor attended BSC GA on Gotland May 2009</i>
Safety on, around and in the North Sea	Organised a workshop during the NSC Maritime Policy Conference, to highlight Fish Safe as a possible North Sea Maritime Policy Project.	Advisor + NSC Maritime Policy Rapporteur	2008-2011	Travel costs	<i>NSCMRG has had several meeting with SFF Services, Oil & Gas sector and the EU Commission. We are now at the stage of prepare a note of interest for EFF funding and a further meeting to discuss Maritime Policy funding is arranged for</i>



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	A new project will ensure that all fishermen working in the North Sea will access to this vital piece of safety equipment				<p><i>the end of.</i></p> <p><u>EFF funding has been secured for the first stage of the project</u></p> <p><u>New Fishsafe Website up and running will be linked to NSC – may 2009</u></p>
CPMR Fisheries INTERCOM GROUP	<p>Support CPMR FIG Chair & Secretariat with future work.</p> <p>Work with CPMR, NSRAC, OSPAR to develop a plan to include Maritime Basins in the future EU Maritime Policy</p>	Advisor, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR, NSC Secretariat	2008-2011	Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR & NSC Secretariat	<p><i>Closer working between NSCFG – CPMR FIG to encourage more effective and efficient use of time and resources.</i></p> <p><i>NSCMRG met with COPMRFIG in Brussels in March 2007.</i></p> <p><i>Chair of CMPRDFIG is now also the Vice Chair of NSCMRG he also represents the CPMR/NSC on the Inter-RAC group.</i></p> <p><i>Continued close working.</i></p>
Ports Strategy	Organise a workshop for small fishing ports	Advisor & members	2008-2011		<i>Develop a coherent North Sea Sustainable Ports Strategy</i>
OSPAR observership	Arrange a meeting with OSPAR, CPMR, NSRAC and NSC to look at the future of Maritime Basins and the Regional Approach for EU Maritime Policy	NSC Secretariat and Advisor, NSC maritime Policy Rapporteur and CPMR Secretariat	2008 - onwards	Time of staff from relevant NSC member regions	<p><i>Contributions to OSPAR policies and EU Maritime Policy</i></p> <p><i><u>Maritime Policy Project is being developed and co-ordinated by Martin Brebner</u></i></p>
NSC/BSC Co-operation	Organise a joint meeting to discuss Marine Spatial Planning e.g. Barent Sea Marine Plan.	Advisor, Chair, Members NSC, BSC members, NSRAC Spatial Planning Working group Chair.	2008 - onwards	Time of relevant members	<p><i>Share best practice and experience.</i></p> <p><i>NSCMRG Chair & Advisor attended BSC GA and thematic Fisheries Workshop on 10/11 May 2009 in Gotland</i></p>



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Maritime Week Seminar	Organise a joint Seminar On Local Dimesion to EU Martime Policy, lead by Aberdeenshire Council in co-operation with NSC, Eu Commission and ESEC	Advisor, Chair and Project Co-ordinator	2009 - 2010		<i>Seminar took place in Aberdeenshire on 18/19 May 2009</i>
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The main priorities of NSCMRG 2010-2011 work plan will be:

- All Users of the North Sea – working together to ensure safety and protect stocks and the environment - ongoing
- Fisheries: Inshore Fisheries Network –
- Fishing Ports – Waste treatment & management, portside electricity developing a sustainable future
- NSC/Baltic Sea Co-operation both political and technical
- North Sea /Baltic Marine Spatial Plans
- North Sea Maritime Project
- NSC/CMPR/OSPAR/NSRAC working group to discuss Maritime Project – 29/30 June 2009 - Goteborg
- NSC/Aberdeenshire Council – Maritime Week – Two day Seminar in Peterhead 18/19 May
- Prepare CFP review resolution for CPMR GA- ongoing
- Prepare a NSC response to the review of CFP for NSC Ex Com - Kiel
- Participate in the NSC work to prepare a North Sea Strategy
- Organise a North Sea Commission Stakeholder Conference in collaboration with COR, OSPAR, UK Government and EU Commission



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

Work Plan 2009 – 2010

NSC – SDG Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources & Comments	Output	Results
Maritime Policy “Blue Book”	Identify Actions suitable for the group from the 29 actions in the Blue Book.	All Members	2009 /10	All Members	Once actions are identified the SDG should focus on methods of how it could work with the Aquamarina group established by the CPMR in the implementation of the selected actions.	
Renewable Energy/CPMR Energy Group	Shadow Build with Care – North Sea Programme Project Work on Energy Policy, Projects, Climate Change, and feed into the CPMR Energy Group. Help to Develop an FP7 project on Energy by using partner Universities	Chair, Vice Chairs & Adviser All Members	Ongoing Ongoing	SDG Members, Chair, Vice Chairs and adviser	NSP – Project and working with the Innovation and Education Group. Input to CPMR energy policies and statements.	Project Approved and SDG will Shadow the project



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NSC – SDG Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources & Comments	Output	Results
Holistic Working	Working together with other Thematic Groups	Adviser	Ongoing	Chair, Vice Chairs and Adviser	Development of Joint Projects and Papers.	Meeting with IEG Strategic Group took place in October at the CPMR GA
Surf Project	Shadow the Project and provide advice where ever possible	Chair and Vice Chairs	2009 to 2011	Chair, Vice Chairs and adviser	Input into the SURF Project and exchange of best practice between SDG Members	Project has been approved.
Baltic Sea	Joint Conference	Adviser	2010	Chair and Adviser	Joint Conference on Energy	
Policy Paper	Produce a Paper on Low Energy Build (retrofitting)	Adviser	2010	Work with Build with CaRe Project	Resolution Paper to NSC General Assembly	
Water Frame Work Directive	Flooding / Climate Change	All Members	2010	All Members		



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Work Plan for the NSC Transport group 2010 – 2011

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
<p>1. Monitoring and responding to the European Agenda on Transport</p>	<p>- Monitor process in EU Commission and in North Sea states on relevant policy issues:</p> <p>TEN-T review Urban transport agenda</p> <p>- Consider policy initiatives and responses when feasible</p>	<p>Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Adviser and selected group members:</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Västra Götaland Region Vest-Agder</p>	<p>Whole period</p>	<p>Working time of Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Adviser and group members, possibly travel, accommodation and meeting costs, expenses to promotional material, possibly expenses to private consultants</p>	<p>Meetings Seminars Reports Statements & responses Projects (?)</p>
<p>2. Develop and cooperate with transport projects under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme</p>	<p>Identify and further develop project ideas , Provide input to project proposals & applications</p> <p>Facilitate project partnerships Shadow running projects</p>	<p>Adviser and selected group members</p>	<p>Whole period, group meetings and project calls as milestones</p>	<p>Working time of Adviser and group members</p>	<p>-Project ideas -Input to project applications -Project application submitted -Possibly approved projects - Common events with projects</p>



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Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
3. Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) on Transport issues	-Identify and decide on relevant themes (MoS, air transport and sustainable transport) and forms of cooperation - Recurrent exchange of information on activities Mutual attendance at meetings - Consider the organisation of meetings, seminars, study visits, drafting of joint resolutions to CPMR and EU, joint projects	Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Adviser and selected group members	Whole period	Working time, travel and accommodation expenses of involved group members	-Meetings -Studies -Study tours -policy positions, resolutions -Seminar/conferences -Projects



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Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
<p>4. Energy efficient transport solutions</p>	<p>-Explore pre-conditions for introducing more energy efficient solutions in the transport sector</p> <p>-Exchange information and good practice on energy efficient solutions in the transport sector use the NSC website as a “landing page” visualising links to existing information resources</p> <p>-Contribute to NSC work on energy</p>	<p>Adviser and selected group members:</p> <p>Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>Whole period</p>	<p>Working time of Adviser and involved group members, travel and accommodation expenses,</p>	<p>-Thematic seminars</p> <p>- Reports</p> <p>- Compilation of good practice at NSC web site</p> <p>- Policy recommendations and other contributions to NSC work on energy</p>



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Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
5. Statistical mapping of key developments in transport sector	<p>-Investigate availability of relevant statistical material, using the NSC web site as a landing page</p> <p>-Compile key figures on origin/destination and modal split for passenger and goods flows within the NSR</p> <p>-Periodic publishing of statistics & corresponding analysis</p>	Chair and selected group members from Västra Götaland Region and South Denmark Region	Permanent,	Working time of Chair and involved group members	<p>-Periodic statistics & analysis on key developments in transport sector</p> <p>-Reports to Executive Committee and relevant transport projects and networks.</p>