

ACTION PLAN 2005 (proposal)

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

Culture 2007

Objective: Support the work to include local and regional authorities as partners in Culture 2007 projects

Method: Monitoring the process and identify partners and occasions where we can support this

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

The work could also include monitoring the processes concerning the new European youth programme and the new media programme in a similar way

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 this so that culture-related projects will be eligible for funding

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 sub-group to follow up

European framework for sustainable tourism

Objective: Secure that the framework is in line with our member regions' interests and that it is relevant to the North Sea region

Method: monitor process, trying to gain influence on process and results

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

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

Culture, Tourism and Regional Development in Rural Areas

Objective: Best practice exchange between member regions of the NSC

Method and action: Seminar in connection with NSC C&T group meeting in Ringkjøbing

Archives, libraries and museums, and lifelong learning

Objective: Best practice exchange between member regions of the NSC; establish co-operation with the Education and Research Group

Method and action: Seminar in connection with NSC C&T group meeting in Västra Götaland

North Sea Tourism Framework (Interreg IIB focused call)

Objective: Assist and advise project initiative

Method: Item on scheduled meetings, project representatives are invited to present and discuss

Action: Establish working relations with project

Encourage and support new project initiatives

Objective: Develop and support project initiatives relating to culture, heritage, leisure or tourism in relation to Culture 2007 and/or Interreg IV

Method: Discussions at group meetings

Actions: Invite potential projects to our meetings, encourage members and member regions to come up with project proposals

Scheduled meetings

XXIV Brussels 23-25 February 2005 Agenda: Meeting with Committee of Regions, DG Enterprise and Industry and DG Education and Culture, discussing general matters re influencing/lobbying, general trends in European tourism and culture policies, more specifically about Culture 2007 and the European Tourism Framework

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

XXVI Västra Götaland Autumn 2005 Theme: Archives, libraries and museums and lifelong learning

Responsibilities

For each of the three specific items listed above, a sub-group is established. These sub groups work together with the chair and the co-ordinator.

For the scheduled meetings, Västra Götaland region is responsible for programme etc. for meetings XXIV and XXVI, whereas Ringkjøbing County Council is responsible for meeting XXV.

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.