

## North Sea Commission Action Plan 2018-2019

NSR 2020 Priority: Managing Maritime Space			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
<b>Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote dialogue between different governmental levels and stakeholders</b>	Increase dialogue with relevant authorities on national level and regional level	Coordinate/contribute to NSC activities within the NorthSEE project	Continuous; it is a 3 year Interreg-project
	Ensure that relevant EU institutions and member states have good knowledge about the NSR and the NSC's priorities within the field.	Maintain contact with desk officers at DG Mare	Continuous
		Regular meetings and/or contact with relevant officials and stakeholders to keep them up to date with NSR developments.	2-3 times/year, when Advisors are in Brussels
<b>Ensure sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources</b>	Promote a NSC position on Brexit to make sure regional interests are heard	Actively follow Brexit's potential implication on the marine sector	Continuous
	Establish a NSC position on marine litter and plastics	Identify areas of cooperation with Member Regions, Waddensee cooperation and KIMO in field of marine litter and plastics	Q 4, 2018
	Establish a NSC position on the Future of EU Maritime and Fisheries Policy and Fund	Ensure relevant decision makers are informed about the NSC position	Continuous
<b>Ensure a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the future and livelihood in coastal communities</b>	Raise awareness about the importance of a skilled workforce	Boost exchange of experience between member regions regarding maritime skills, showcase good examples	Continuous

<p><i>(Cont.)</i></p> <p><b>Ensure a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the future and livelihood in coastal communities</b></p>	<p><i>(Cont.)</i></p> <p>Raise awareness about the importance of a skilled workforce</p>	<p>Contribute to the European Commission's blue careers initiative</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
		<p>Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls.</p>	

NSR 2020 Priority: Increasing accessibility and clean transport			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Ensure good access to the TEN-T Core Network for peripheral and maritime regions through funding instruments (the CEF) and governance mechanisms (Core Network Corridor Forums)	The revised and post 2020 CEF regulation is more beneficial for the North Sea Region in terms of accessibility and framework conditions for maritime transport.	Follow up input to the revision of CEF-regulation through the CPMR. Start to prepare for the revision of the CEF post 2020	2018- Q2 2019
		Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about upcoming CEF calls and selected projects in the NSR.	Continuous
	More CEF transport projects with involvement of stakeholders in, and/or of benefits to NSC member regions are generated.	Discuss project ideas and exchange information about members' involvement at group meetings.	2-3 times/year at group meetings and other conferences
	More projects from the NSC member regions are included in the Core Network Corridors' project lists	Provide input and arguments at meetings of relevant Corridor Forums.	2-3 times/year, at Corridor Forum meetings
		Start preparing for the revision of the TEN-T Directive, deadline 2023.	Continuous
Facilitate modal shift from road to rail and sea	More funding and higher co-financing rates for MoS projects in the CEF	Follow the development of EUs Detailed implementation plan for MoS through the CPMR	Continuous
	More favourable conditions for participation in MoS projects under the CEF of actors from peripheral regions and 3 <sup>rd</sup> countries	Collect views and input from, and possibly meet with maritime and rail transport stakeholders in the NSR	Continuous, at least 2-3 meetings/year in relation to working group meetings.

<p><b>Support measures and incentives to promote clean, efficient and inclusive transport, incl. Clean Shipping</b></p>	<p>Better policy frameworks, funding opportunities and technological development in support of clean efficient and inclusive transport solutions</p>	<p>Further develop the survey on the use of alternative fuels in public transport and other transport services among NSC members. Keep DG move up to date. Use survey as a basis for policy positions and project development</p>	<p>Finalise survey Q 2-4, 2018. Disseminate to DG move continuously.</p>
		<p>Disseminate information on relevant calls under CEF, Horizon 2020 and interreg and initiate/support/shadow projects</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
		<p>Organise a joint event with the NSC ECCG on alternative fuels and energy</p>	<p>Q1 2019</p>
		<p>Investigate the possibility of using Financial Instruments to promote/develop projects on the greening of transport</p>	<p>Continuous</p>

NSR 2020 Priority: Tackling climate change			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation through local, regional and national levels	Boost exchange of best practices within climate change and climate change adaptation	Distribute/communicate a brochure for the North Sea based on its best practices.	Continuous
		Develop and communicate factsheets within this brochure for participating regions	Continuous
		Give input to the CPMR's work in the area.	Continuous
	Play an active role in the implementation and governance of the Energy Union	Follow up on the implementation of the Winter package, focusing especially on the Governance Directive.	Continuous
Facilitate for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices.	Exchange of best practices between regions in the group. Focus on reduction of emissions from industries	2-3 times/year Exchange of activities during working group meetings.
		Exchange of practices on production, use and (economic) development of alternative fuels like hydrogen, biofuels	2-3 times/year
		Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls.	Continuous

<i>(Cont.)</i>  <b>Facilitate for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</b>	<i>(Cont.)</i>  Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices.	Organise an event with the transport group on alternative fuels and energy	Q1, 2019
		Develop factsheets on energy transition and best practices of the NSC regions	Q3, 2018
<b>Promote energy efficiency as well as innovation and green growth in low-carbon technologies</b>	Stimulate exchange of best practices	Monitor developments in the regions, exchange experiences and knowledge on specific themes/issues	2-3 times/ year Activities during working group meetings
<b>Foster strong regional, national and European support for the development of the North Sea Grid</b>	Visibility of NSC positions in relevant statements and documents.	Follow, take part in or contribute with written input to the working group meetings within the MS cooperation on energy around the NS	Continuous, MS WG meetings are expected approx. 2 times a year
	Promoting the role of regions in the work related to the MS political declaration off shore wind.		
	Establish the NSC and its member regions as an active partner in the energy cooperation around the North Sea.	Collect practices/experiences of regional cross border grids interconnections and provide as input to relevant forums.	Continuous

NSR 2020 Priority: Attractive and sustainable communities			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
<b>New EU policies and regulations relating to smart regions, attractive and sustainable communities</b>	Participate in the European debate relating to new legislative proposals	Participate in public consultations Support CPMR lobbying activities Prepare position papers for the NSC ExCom	Continuous
<b>Project development and participation</b>	To use Interreg North Sea and other relevant programmes to develop projects related to the remit of the Smart Regions Group	Organise project courses at every meeting Use meetings to discuss project development	Continuous
<b>Support the development of creative and sustainable economic diversification in North Sea communities</b>	Raise awareness and increase capacities of regions to exploit digital economy opportunities and challenges with focus on ecommerce, collaborative economy/digital platforms, broadband connections and creative business development.	Arrange a workshop/seminar on this theme summer 2018, and follow up at meetings the results and discussions at this seminar	Q 3, 2018 and continuous
	Raise awareness of the circular economy with focus on waste management and industrial opportunities	Arrange a conference with other stakeholders on this theme autumn 2019	Q 2-3, 2019
	Exchange good practices on tourism development, focus on new types of offers, culinary tourism, activity tourism and health tourism	Continue work on creating a North Sea Seafood Route	Q 3 2018- Q 2 2019
		Re-launch and re-activate the North Sea Trail	Q 3 2018- Q 2 2019

Support the development of permanent networks for cultural actors	Ensure that culture (and tourism) issues are on the agenda of the Smart Regions Group	Establish a sub-group for culture and tourism within the Smart Regions Group	Q3, 2018
	Support youth networks in culture	Discuss an awareness campaign/project	Q3 – 4, 2018
		Initiate a North Sea Youth Congress/Parliament	Q3 – 4, 2018
		Ensure broad youth at the 2018 Cultural Summit on Mors	Q3, 2018
		Liaise with the BSSC to learn from their youth network activities, and organise a joint meeting of regional youth assemblies around the North Sea	2019
	Initiate with the other groups a campaign to raise the general awareness of the shared cultural and linguistic heritage and reality around the North Sea.	Continuous	
Improve policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges	Exchange knowledge and experiences on the challenges of an ageing population, including the industrial opportunities ('silver economy')	Arrange a seminar on ageing, challenges and opportunities for the economy, the councils and the industries- combined with technical visits to selected businesses	Q 4, 2018
Promote Blue Growth to continue to play an important role as provider of blue growth, jobs and innovation.	Joint NSC seminar/conference on Maritime education and competence building	Prepare a 2019 conference on this theme together with the marine resources group and other relevant partners	2019



<p><b>Promote knowledge transfer and crossovers between different sectors in the North Sea Region</b></p>	<p>Increase knowledge among all member regions about each other's activities and practices in promoting smart development of blue and green growth, infrastructure, climate adaptation, sustainable tourism, inclusion and culture.</p>	<p>Presentations, exchanges and discussions at meetings, presentation of project ideas</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
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### NSR 2020 Guiding principles

Innovation, excellence, sustainability, stakeholder involvement, skills and R&D and visibility are horizontal priorities and are therefore included in all the other priorities.

Strategic Issues			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Strategic cooperation in the North Sea Region	Promote regional interests in EU actions for the North Sea	Organise a North Sea stakeholder Conference together with the Interreg North Sea Programme	Q 2, 2019
	Mobilising EU institutions/MS in North Sea cooperation		
	Continue process for a revised NSR Strategy post 2020	See separate process description.	2018-2019
Interreg North Sea Post 2020	Ensure the continuation of Interreg B programmes post 2020	Follow the post 2020 cohesion policy process	Continuous
Use of ad hoc task forces	Ensure that interests of the North Sea Region are heard in the Brexit process	Maintain a Brexit task force	2-3 meetings/year
		Follow Brexit negotiations from a North Sea perspective	Continuous
		Prepare NSC positions and activities when appropriate	Continuous
Strengthen the NSC role within the CPMR	Promote the North Sea perspective in the work of the CPMR	Promote participation of NSC member regions in CPMR working groups and task forces	Continuous
		Speak for North Sea interests in the CPMR position papers	Continuous
		Promote NSC members as speakers in meetings of the CPMR governing bodies	Continuous

<b>(Cont.) Strengthen the NSC role within the CPMR</b>	Cont. Promote the North Sea perspective in the work of the CPMR	Participate in the strategic work of the CPMR Secretariat	Continuous
		Involve the CPMR representatives in the NSC ABM and Executive Committee	Continuous
<b>Attract new members and keep the existing</b>	Strengthen NSC legitimacy as a representative for the entire North Sea region	Build relations with stakeholders and national governments	Continuous
		Build relations with potential new members in the NSR, together with the CPMR	Continuous