

North Sea Commission Action Plan - 2019-2020

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.

NSR 2020 Priority: Managing Maritime Space

| Key action area | Objectives | Key activities | Timeline |
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| Marine Litter | Take the lead in promoting a clean north sea region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated marine litter initiatives across regions Promote the NSC position on marine litter Implement and improve marine litter action plan Intensify cooperation with KIMO | Continuous |
| Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote dialogue between different governmental levels and stakeholders | 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 with an extension to December 2019 possibly beginning of 2020. |
| | 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 |
| Ensure sustainable and innovative | Promote a NSC position on Brexit to make sure regional interests are heard | Actively follow Brexit's potential implication on the marine sector | Continuous |

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| exploitation of marine resources | Encourage industry to adopt more sustainable fishing methods and food production (aquaculture) in line with independent accreditation standards | Regular meetings and/or contact with relevant officials and stakeholders | Continuous |
| | Promote NSC position on the Future of EU Maritime and Fisheries Policy and Fund | Ensure relevant decision makers are informed about the NSC position | Continuous |
| Ensure a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the future and livelihood in coastal communities | Raise awareness about the importance of a skilled workforce | Boost exchange of experience between member regions regarding maritime skills, showcase good examples | Continuous |
| | | Contribute to the European Commission's blue careers initiative | Continuous |
| | | Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls. | |

| NSR 2020 Priority: Increasing accessibility and clean transport | | | |
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| 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 | 2019 Q3-Q4 |
| | | 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 rd 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. |

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| <p>Support measures and incentives to promote clean, efficient and inclusive transport, incl. Clean Shipping</p> | <p>Better policy frameworks, funding opportunities and technological development in support of clean efficient and inclusive transport solutions</p> | <p>Complete the survey on the use of alternative fuels in public transport and other transport services among NSC members, keep DG MOVE up to date and use survey as a basis for policy positions and project development</p> | <p>Finalise survey Q2, 2019 and 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>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 | | | |
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| 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 |
| | | Develop factsheets on energy transition and best practices of the NSC regions | 2019 |

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| Promote energy efficiency as well as innovation and green growth in low-carbon technologies | 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 |
| Foster strong regional, national and European support for the development of the North Sea Grid | 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 | | | |
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| Key action area | Objectives | Key activities | Timeline |
| New EU policies and regulations relating to smart regions, attractive and sustainable communities | Participate in the European debate relating to new legislative proposals | Participate in public consultations Support CPMR lobbying activities | Continuous |
| | | Prepare position papers for the NSC Executive Committee | Continuous |
| Project development and participation | Use Interreg North Sea and other relevant programmes to develop projects related to the remit of the Smart Regions Group | Organise project bourses at every meeting | Continuous |
| | | Use meetings to discuss project development | Continuous |
| Support the development of creative and sustainable economic diversification in North Sea communities | Raise awareness and increase capacities of regions to exploit digital economy opportunities and challenges with focus on e-commerce, collaborative economy/digital platforms, broadband connections and creative business development. | Arrange a workshop/seminar on this theme summer 2020 | Q1-2, 2020 |
| | Raise awareness of the circular economy with focus on waste management and industrial opportunities | Follow-up results of summer 2019 seminar | 2019-2020 |

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| <i>(Cont.)</i> | Exchange good practices on tourism development, focus on new types of offers, culinary tourism, activity tourism and health tourism | Follow the European Capitals of Smart Tourism project, and the European Tourism Day | 2020 |
| | Support youth networks in culture and youth participation in NSC activities | Discuss an awareness campaign/project | Q2, 2020 |
| | | Initiate youth participation in NSC activities | 2019-2020 |
| | | Organize a youth forum in conjunction with the North Sea Conference 2020 | 2019-2020 |
| | | Ensure broad youth participation at the 2019 Cultural Summit on Mors | Q3, 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 | Sharing of best practice on fast track integration of migrants | Organise a seminar on this theme summer 2020 | Q2, 2020 |
| 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 | Follow-up results of autumn 2019 conference | 2019-2020 |

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| <p>Promote knowledge transfer and crossovers between different sectors in the North Sea Region</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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| Strategic Issues | | | |
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| 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 | | |
| | A North Sea Region post 2020 Strategy | Continue process for a revised NSR Strategy post 2020 | Continuous |
| 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 |

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| | | Participate in the strategic work of the CPMR Secretariat | Continuous |
| | | Involve the CPMR representatives in the NSC ABM and Executive Committee | Continuous |
| Attract new members and keep the existing | 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 |

| Communication Activities | | | |
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| Key action area | Objectives | Key activities | Timeline |
| Member involvement & stakeholder outreach | Ensure members and relevant stakeholders are informed about NSC activities, events and consultations | Regularly update the webpage (www.cpmr-northsea.org) and the Twitter account | Continuous |
| | | Send out a newsletter every two months | 5-6 times/year |
| | Enable more members to participate in NSC meetings | Identify possibilities to web stream NSC meetings and events | 2019-2020 |
| Keep close contact with European policy makers | Make sure that relevant decision and policy makers at all levels are informed about the new NSC strategy and policy positions. | Arrange and attend relevant meetings, events and workshops, e.g. European Maritime Day and European Commission events on energy cooperation and on blue growth | Continuous |
| | | Inform the incoming Members of the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions from the North Sea region | 2019-2020 |
| | | Inform relevant DGs and officials in the European Commission, particularly about the development of the North Sea Region strategy post-2020 | Continuous |
| Promoting projects and project results | Communicate involvement and achievements in the North Sea region projects | Monitor and share information about relevant calls for project cooperation | Continuous |
| | | Spread information about NSR projects results and outputs | Continuous |