



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**

2007–2013

Innovatively investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT

Project Name:	The THING Project – Thing sites International Networking Group
Project Number:	JPS 4.7 CAV 304-6421-2009
Report Number:	1
Date Submitted:	15-08-2010

Address:


Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat
Strandgade 91, 4. sal
DK-1401 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

E-mail: secretariat@northernperiphery.eu

Website: www.northernperiphery.eu



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
Date of arrival:		

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Activity Report number:	1	Activity report for period:	10.06.09- 31.03.10
--------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------------


1.1 Project Title
The THING Project – Thing Sites International Networking Group
1.2 Acronym/Abbreviation
THING

1.3 Project Duration
(Copy from main application, if changes request for changes in a separate document and highlight changed period in red and keep previous period within brackets)
Start date: 10.06.09 (01.07.2009) Finish date: 30.06.2012

1.4 Priority	
(Copy from the main application)	
Priority 1: Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral area	
Priority 2: Sustainable development of natural and community resources	X

1.5 Target area / Location of the operation
Copy from the main application, if changes highlight them in red and explain the reason for the change in section 8.1. (Note that any change(s) in the target area need pre-approval by the NPP 2007-2013 to be considered as eligible, please contact Secretariat for consultation in advance.)
Norway (Sogn og Fjordane, Gulen), Scotland (Shetland, Highlands, Orkney), Faroe Islands, Iceland (Thingvellir Selfoss), Isle of Man (Associated partner)

1.6 Partnership information	
Copy from main application, highlight changes in red and explain the reason for the change in section 8.1. (Note that any change(s) in the partnership need pre-approval by the NPP 2007-2013 to be considered as eligible, please contact Secretariat for consultation in advance.)	
Lead Partner:	
Title of institution in English:	Sogn og Fjordane County Council
Legal status of the organisation:	Public Authority
Location:	Leikanger
Country:	Norway
Partner 2:	
Title of institution in English:	Gulen Municipality
Legal status of the organisation:	Public authority
Location:	Eivindvik

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

Country:	Norway
Partner 3:	
Title of institution in English:	Thingvellir National Park
Legal status of the organisation:	Local Authority
Location:	Selfoss
Country:	Iceland
Partner 4:	
Title of institution in English:	Shetland Amenity Trust
Legal status of the organisation:	Public Trust
Location:	Shetland
Country:	Scotland
Partner 5:	
Title of institution in English:	Orkney College
Legal status of the organisation:	Local Authority
Location:	Orkney
Country:	Scotland
Partner 6:	
Title of institution in English:	The Highland Council
Legal status of the organisation:	Local Authority
Location:	Inverness
Country:	Scotland
Partner 7:	
Title of institution in English:	Kunningarstovan
Legal status of the organisation:	Private organization
Location:	Tórshavn
Country:	Faroe Islands
Associated partner	
Title of institution in English:	Manx National Heritage
Legal status of the organisation:	Public Trust
Location:	Douglas
Country:	Isle of Man

1.7 Executive Summary

Provide an executive summary of the reporting period: (maximum 2 pages, this should contain a summary of implementation so far and specific activities for the reported period, please include outputs such as product and service so far. This will be used for wider dissemination on NPP website and other dissemination channels)



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007-2013



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

Activity Report, version 2

For Programme Secretariat use only

Registration no:

CAV number:

Date of arrival:

Executive Summary:

Start up and “Kick Off”

Formal start of the project, as described in the application for funding, was set to the *1st of July 2009*. Following approval of the application, the grant letter, dated *30th of October 2009*, was issued to Lead Partner,

The grant offer was accepted the *11th of December 2009* by lead partner Sogn og Fjordane County, in their letter to the Programme Director, NPP managing Authority.

The start date was later changed to June 10th 2009.

Organizing

Thingvellir National Park, Iceland, was the main organizer of the first Partner Meeting (*September 2009*). The meeting was organized according to the time schedule sketched in the application and functioned as a “kick off” - meeting with the main goal of finding the best functional organization structure concerning implementation of the project.

The first Partner Meeting resulted in the establishment and organization of the four work packages as well as shaping the Management Team group. The Management Team consists of the work package leaders and project coordinators.

In addition the project partners carried out discussions and analyses on how to best proceed with the program according to the approved application.

A number of lectures and work shops were organized as support to the start up process.

Project Coordinators

Lead partner carried out a tender offer process resulting in the engagement of Haugland International Research and Development Center as project coordinators.

The project coordinators started their work in January 2010.

In order to secure close contact and good communication between coordinators and Lead Partner, Sogn og Fjordane County established a contact group consisting of representatives from Lead partner, Gulen Municipality (Partner 2), professional staff and project coordinators.

Communication

In the start-up phase, and after the engagement of project coordinators, communication has been secured by monthly meetings in the Management Team group/WP leaders and by including all partners in meetings.

As stated in the application, communication has taken place mainly by audio conferences and by internet communication.

A IP-telephone subscription for the THING Project now exists, encouraging partners to communicate and share material on internet.



The monthly MT-meetings have included reports on progress and implementation concerning the work packages and activities among partners.

General communication has mainly been through internet, e-mail and telephone.

Specific activities for the reported period:

Partnership agreement

An important step in the process of fulfilling requirements has been the establishment of the Partnership Agreement. The partnership agreement was developed among partners, with the support of project coordinators and lead partner.

 	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
Date of arrival:		

Promotional plan/time schedule.

As a first step, the project coordinators in cooperation with all partners developed a 36 month plan describing work tasks and progress. The plan describes work task and time schedules for the individual work packages, meeting plan, responsibilities and involvement of all partners. Also, the individual work package has developed more detailed plans concerning work tasks and time schedule.

Specific activities and outputs for the reported period.

Six MT meetings have been organized dealing mainly with securing the starting phase of the project and related work tasks.

All-Partner- Meetings have been organized: In the 1st. period of the project the partners have focused on the implementation of the mandatory activities expected to be executed:

Logo/Design/Graphic profile.

A logo for the project has been developed. The logo is to be used in all project activities and as a promotional tool and identity for the project. All partners have taken part in the process leading to the final result.

Parallel with the development of the project logo the partners developed the *graphic profile* for the THING Project. The logo and principles in the graphic profile are to be implemented in the web services, including the project web site and other presentations. The graphic profile underlines the importance of using the NPP logo/EU-flag in all major public presentations /activities, meeting the NPP requirements.

The graphic profile also contains a letter head to be used in connection with project, as well as a color scheme.

Communication plan

Partners have developed a communication plan describing internal and external communication as well as communication strategy, media, tools and target groups.

In context with communication and dissemination strategies, audits have been carried out and general interpretation guidelines have been developed.

Web services

In cooperation with all partners a website has been established: www.thingproject.eu

The website includes an option for discussion forums and communication between partners. All important project documents have been or will be uploaded to the web page. The web page also contains sections for general information, contact information, press releases, news and related links to other organizations, including NPP.


WP4 established the first web 2.0 service by presenting the project in a Facebook version.

Media

A template for press releases has been developed. There is also available on the web page a template for power point presentation to be used by the individual partner in context with the project.

In addition a power point presentation introducing the project has been made available.

A flyer and a conference cover have been designed and are uploaded to the web page.

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

SECTION 2: PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Project Activities

Provide an overall description of project activities so far (Highlighting the most important activities in all work packages and how they interlink)

Organization:

Much emphasis has been put on the development of the organization structure, including engagement of project coordinators (WP1), development of partnership agreement and plans. All WPs and partners have been involved in the process of setting up the organization structure and tools.

Partner and Management Team meetings

The first partner meeting was hosted by Thingvellir National Park (WP4) and organized in cooperation with all WPs and partners. The partner meeting included a number of lectures and work shops.

Six Management Team meetings were organized, involving all partners.

Logo, Graphic design

Activities are interlinked and both the development of logo/graphic profile (WP1), the development of media kit (WP2) and communication plan (WP2/WP1) are related to audits and collected documentation (Wp2/WP3) and have required the effort of all partners. Development and implementation of web 2.0 services (WP4) are linked to the results in WP1, development of logo and graphic profile and to WP3.

Communication

All partners and WPs have been involved in the development of the media kit. In this context, conclusion on logo and graphic design (WP1) was essential and the content also relies on information gathered in WP3.

Development of the communication plan (WP1/WP2) for both external and internal communication, includes the graphic profile and activities in all WPs.


Templates for press releases WP2/WP3 and templates for ppts were based on the project leaflet/flyer produced by WP1 in cooperation with all partners.

Web site

The implementation of a common website (WP1/WP2) required all partners to submit material and involves all partners in maintenance, updates and activities in discussion forums.

2.1.1 Description of project WP 1

Title:	Management and coordination
Strategic Focus:	Project management and coordination to secure the successful operation of the project
Responsible	Sogn og Fjordane County Council


	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
Date of arrival:		

partner:	
Involved partners:	All partners involved
Expected outcome: (Summary of the planned effect of the work package)	Well organized project which fulfils the objectives of the project

Activity description of WP 1


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing the steering committee and Management Team • Face to face meetings, work shops, MT and SC meetings (project indicators): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kick off meeting in Iceland fall 2009 ○ Meeting 2 in Shetland & Orkneys spring 2010 ○ Meeting 3 in Faroe Islands fall 2010 ○ Meeting 4 in Norway spring 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mid-term evaluation workshop ○ Meeting 5 in Scotland Highlands Fall 2011 ○ Final Conference Sogn og Fjordane Spring 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final evaluation workshop • Monthly MT meetings (audio or internet supported) • Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signed project agreement ○ Financial reports ○ Progress reports ○ Final evaluation report ○ Final report • Documents and tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication plan ○ Design and Project logo ○ Adopting web based project management tool ○ Design of the website ○ Public web-site up and running ○ Document templates ○ Project leaflet ○ Presentation template ○ Project presentation 	<p><u>Activity report no 1</u></p> <p>Organising: Management Team consisting of WP leaders was established. Project Coordinators were engaged Steering Committee was established Partnership Agreement established</p> <p>Meetings: Kick off (partner) meeting in Iceland 2009 Partner meeting 2 in Shetland/Orkney spring 2010. Steering Committee meeting spring 2010 Six management team (partner meetings organized).</p> <p>Communication: Project logo developed in cooperation with all partners. Communication plan developed in cooperation with WP 2 and all partners. Graphic profile/design developed in cooperation with all partners. Design of website developed: www.thingproject.eu First test of web site and introduction course.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Results to date from WP 1
1. Project coordinator engaged and regional communication work group established

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

2. Established organization model based on the structure of activities in work package and as described in the application.
3. Management team consisting of WP-leaders was organized and 23 items have been on the agenda.
4. Steering Committee organized
5. Partnership agreement developed and established
6. 1 web site established in cooperation with partners
7. Design and project logo developed
8. Communication plan and tools developed (WP2 and all partners)
9. Document templates, project leaflet, presentation template and project presentation have been produced.

2.1.1.2 Description of project WP2	
Title:	Communication and Dissemination
Strategic Focus:	Communication to secure the effective dissemination of project information and results, and information about the Thing sites.
Responsible partner:	Department of Archaeology, Orkney College
Involved partners:	All partners
Expected outcome: (Summary of the planned effect of the work package)	The awareness of the project and the sites is high at local and regional level. National, regional and local media emphasis on the THING project and Thing sites in feature articles. Increased interest and focus from the local educational institutions and in the urban research communities.
Activity description of WP 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Establish a common website o Separate websites for each Thing Site will be improved and developed o Dissemination strategy will be made o Communication plan will be made. o Organize a training course o Promotional material for conferences, seminar, exhibitions, will be made available o A media kit will also be made o Project presentations o Leaflets o Power points, etc will be available o Press releases o Invite key stakeholders to participate in promotional, open parts of seminars and final conference 	<p><u>Activity report no 1</u></p> <p>Meetings: Participated, actively taking part in all meetings concerning the project.</p> <p>Organizing: Organizing/preparing the 2nd Partner meeting and Steering Committee meeting in cooperation with Shetland Amenity trust/all partners.</p> <p>Communication: Development of internal and external communication plan in cooperation with Lead partner/all partners Developed web site audit concerning partners</p>

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

	<p>and their Thing sites, processing the collected material. Responsibility for the content of the common web page. Submitted material for photo collection. Planning of media kit and promotional material in cooperation with Lead Partner/all partners.</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Results to date from WP 2	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Established web site in cooperation with Lead partner. (Content responsibility) 2. Audit concerning separate web sites developed and distributed 3. Communication plan developed in cooperation with lead partner(all partners) 4. Material for Media Kit developed in cooperation with Lead Partner/WP3/all partners 5. Preparations for organizing partner meeting, workshops April 2010 6. Preparations and planning for media training course and work shops April 2010 	

2.1.1.3 Description of project WP 3

Title:	Analysis of good practices and specifications of new service models
Strategic Focus:	The work package is the key activity of the project and will document the potential of sustainable service development at the Thing Sites and further develop the service models and the set of identified good practices based on surveys, analysis, study trips and inter-regional seminars. WP3 will specify and test the full set of services.
Responsible partner:	Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland, (UK)
Involved partners:	Sogn og Fjordane County Council, Leikanger, (NO) Gulen Municipality, Eivindvik (NO), Thingvellir national park, Iceland, Department of Archaeology, Orkney College, Kirkwall, (UK), The Highland Council. Inverness, (UK), Kunningarstovan, Torshavn (FO) and associated partner Manx National Heritage Douglas, Isle of Man
Expected outcome: (Summary of the planned effect of the work package)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentation of the Thing Sites inter regional influence and history - Adapted interpretations methodology for the Thing sites - Resulting common inter-regional branding and marketing strategies - Recommendations for sustainable tourism services - Recommendations for sustainable site management - Documentation for supporting serial nomination of Thing Sites at the UNESCO World Heritage list. <p>Results and recommendations will also be tested in all regions.</p>

Activity description of WP 3

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey and document the inter-regional Thing site history across the 7 regions regions (start Sept 2009, end June 2010). Develop an agenda for future research. 	<p>Activity report no 1</p> <p>Organizing: Organizing/preparing the 2nd Partner meeting and Steering Committee meeting in</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

<p>2. Establish common set of interpretation methods adapted to the Thing site regions (start Sept 2009, end Dec 2009). Develop a common knowledge platform of the Thing Sites. Make available exhibitions, publications and role play models.</p> <p>3. Documentation of the inter-regional story and the links to other local and regional resources. (Start Jan 2010 – end Dec 2010). Publish information sheets, leaflets, web page articles and entries for regional and international tourism. Guidelines for interpretation and dissemination of the common history will be worked out.</p> <p>4. Establish collaboration with local schools for developing local and regional awareness, motivation and support and produce pedagogical material for schools (Start Jan 2011 – end June 2012)</p> <p>5. Identify and document sustainable site management principles, including conservation, care and visitor management for the long term benefit of the site and sustainable tourism. (start Jan 2011 – end June 2011) . Produce a report with recommendations for a sustainable approach. Make guidelines and strategies, based on investigation of challenges met by the Thing Sites. Cooperation on physical development of the sites, e.g. about signs, paths and security.</p> <p>6. Develop strategies for spreading tourists more in “space and time” through increased collaboration between national tourism gateways (urban areas) and the local Thing sites to stimulate a more sustainable regional tourism development. (start Jan 2011 – end Dec 2011) Develop and market thematic trips between the Thing Sites and to historic paths connected to each Thing Site.</p> <p>7. Develop common strategies and inter-regional collaboration models for the process towards a serial nomination of Thing Sites at the UNESCO World Heritage list. (start Jan 2010 – end June 2012). Produce a report about the opportunity of a serial nomination at the UNESCO World Heritage List. Lead an executive committee of representatives from</p>	<p>cooperation with Orkney College/all partners. Preparations on establishing sub committees (work groups)</p> <p>Meetings: Participated, actively taking part, in all meetings concerning the project.</p> <p>Communication: Audit and gather information : Developed survey for documentation of the inter-regional Thing site history across the 7 regions. All partners involved. Started development of interpretation guide lines. All partners involved.</p> <p>Thing Story: Started the process of documentation of the inter-regional story and links to other local and regional resources.</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007–2013



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

Activity Report, version 2

For Programme Secretariat use only

Registration no:

CAV number:

Date of arrival:

the Thing Sites. Run a seminar on the UNESCO issue.
8. Produce final Good Practice guidelines for sustainable local, regional and international service development. (Start Jan 2012 – end June 2012)
The planned series of inter-regional seminars (one each half year) will support these key activities and processes by presentations & discussions of interim results, including study trip to relevant the Thing site, public authorities and enterprises in the host region.

Results to date from WP 3

1. Developed and implemented survey for documentation of the inter-regional Thing site History.
2. Developed Interpretation guide lines
3. Preparations for organizing partner meeting, workshops April 2010
4. Developed press release template in cooperation with WP1 (all partners)
5. Established work group for UNESCO World Heritage Status – development on common strategies and collaboration models for the process towards serial nomination of Thing sites on the World Heritage list

2.1.1.4 Description of project WP4

Title:	Pilot test web2.0 inter-regional co-production and co-profiling of services
Strategic Focus:	Test Internet web 2.0 platform to enable people and ideas to come together both within and across the Thing site regions. Address the problems of how to attract and mobilize the users and visitors, how to ensure a widespread use of the result from WP 3 and how to enable a dynamic interaction increasing the inter-regional knowledge base initiated by the activities in WP3.
Responsible partner:	Thingvellir National park, Iceland
Involved partners:	Sogn og Fjordane County Council, Leikanger, (NO) Gulen Municipality, Eivindvik (NO), Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland, (UK), Department of Archaeology, Orkney College, Kirkwall, (UK), The Highland Council. Inverness, (UK), Kunningarstovan, Torshavn (FO) and associated partner Manx National Heritage Douglas, Isle of Man
Expected outcome: (Summary of the planned effect of the work package)	Specify the relevant mix of services, set up an inter-regional internet web2.0 test interface, provide content from the results developed and transferred in WP, then stimulate and test mobilisation and networking between the interested end-users, the regional and international mentors, the other regional and international knowledge providers including the regional authorities and regional development agencies.



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007–2013



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

Activity Report, version 2

For Programme Secretariat use only

Registration no:

CAV number:

Date of arrival:

Activity description of WP4

1. Specify and implement test service
 - set up technical structures linked via interregional THING portal
 - selection and training of personnel from Thing sites and regional authorities
 - selection and training of personnel from education and research
 - develop information and interpretation models for Internet services
 - develop a common template for presentations on web
2. First implemented version of service finished June 2010
3. Test with set of target group July 2010- Dec 2011
 - feed content from first analysis of regional good practice
 - feed content from presentations from WP3 seminar
 - feed complementary material from all regions base on the WP3 results
 - stimulate interactivity and wide dissemination of results
4. Plan permanent operation of internet based mobilisation and interaction service and consider possible threats like protecting privacy, securing correct and trusted content, and avoiding disconnected communities. (finished Dec 2011)
5. Verified and modified services based on full set of results (by May 2012)
 - Plan for future operation of internet based service
 - Final Specification of web 2.0 service
 - Report on aggregated results for use of Web 2.0 technological services to support entrepreneurs (May 2012)

Activity report no 1

Organizing:

Organizing/preparing the 1st. Project Partner Meeting and “Kick Off”- meeting in cooperation with all partners.

Organizing workshops:

Four workshops for work packages
All partners involved

Organizing Lectures/

Alice Whitmore PhD Candidate,;
Þingstaðir og staðsetningar út frá landslagi
Alexandra Sanmark PhD
Assembly features and characteristics – is there a ‘model thing site’?
Bergur Þorgeirsson director of Snorrastofa:
Assembly sites in the west of Iceland in medieval text
Svavar Sigmundsson :
Thing as a sitename in Iceland.
Einar Á.E.Sæmundsen:
Thingvellir as masstourism site and a World Heritage site
Adolf Friðriksson :
Archeological excavation at Thingvellir
Gísli Sigurðsson :
Lawspeakers and their role
All partners involved

Meetings:

Participated, actively taking part in, all MT and partner meetings concerning the project.

Communication:

GAGARIN: Digital design company – lecture/work shop
Mapping existing services
Established and implemented first web 2.0 service:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Thing-Project-2009-2012/121049197938754?v=wall&ref=search#!/pages/Thing-Project-2009-2012/121049197938754?v=info&ref=search>

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
Date of arrival:		

Results to date from WP 4	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organized the first Partner Meeting ("kick-off" meeting) 2. Five workshops organized in connection with the partner meeting 3. 7 lectures organized 4. Established 1st. web 2.0 service 	


2.2 Change of activities	
Please report accumulatively any approved activity change(s) in comparison to approved application. (Note that any activity change(s) need pre-approval by the NPP 2007-2013 to be considered as eligible, please contact Secretariat for consultation in advance.)	
Change(s) made/ by WP/ Date of approval	Justification of change(s) made and impact on project implementation
formal starting date for project changed from 01.07.09 to 10.06.09 Approved by e-mail 15 th march 2010 by : kirsti.mijnhijmer@northernperiphery.eu	No practical impact expected

SECTION 3: INDICATORS

3.1 General indicators			
All projects should report accumulatively on general indicators achieved so far on the basis of your approved application. Please indicate if the project deals with:			
Water management		Improving transport links across national borders	
Improving accessibility	X	Improving waste management services	
Developing RTD and innovation networks	X	Actions between rescue services	
Risk prevention		Reducing climate change	
Promoting female entrepreneurship		Furthering adaptation to the effects of climate change	

Please indicate if the project involves:			
Universities / higher education institutions	X	Technology institutes and SMEs	

Equal opportunities: participants in project partnership			No
No. of male < 25 years old		No. of female < 25 years old	
No. of male > 25 years old	11	No of female > 25 years old	12

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
Date of arrival:		

Involvement of Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)	No
No. of SMEs involved as partners	0
No. of SMEs involved as associated partners	0

3.2 Priority Specific Indicators

All projects should report accumulatively on **priority specific indicators achieved so far** on the basis of your approved application:

Priority 1 activity indicators	No
No. of SMEs involved in development of new products and services	
No. of R&D partners involved in industrial collaborations	
No. of new technology transfer models developed suitable for rural areas	
No. of patent applications	
No. of new e-services developed	
No. of businesses modernised through ICT	
No. of improvements in maritime safety/risk prevention	
Priority 1 output indicators	No
No. of transnational networks supporting new products and services	
No. of transnational networks involving local, regional and national actors to inform policy development	
No. of triple helix partnerships	
Priority 1 result indicators	No
No. of transboundary products (refers to added value section)	
No. of transboundary services (refers to added value section)	
No. of new or improved solutions/systems to promote innovation & competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas	
No. of new or improved transportation schemes / services developed	
No. of new or improved ICT services / ICT solutions developed	

Priority 2 activity indicators	No
No. of SMEs involved in development of new products and services	8
No. of R& D partners involved in industrial collaborations	0
No. of risk prevention measures	0
No. of actors adopting "green" products or services	8
No. of businesses with improved sustainable development practises	8
No. of solutions focusing on small scale renewable energy or energy efficiency	0
No. of new rural services developed through urban-rural links	0
Priority 2 output indicators	No
No. of transnational networks supporting new products and services	1
No. of transnational networks involving local, regional and national actors to inform policy development	1
No. of triple helix partnerships	8
No. of urban-rural links	8
Priority 2 result indicators	No

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

No. of transboundary products (refers to added value section)	0
No. of transboundary services (refers to added value section)	1
No. of new or improved solutions for sustainable management of natural or community resources	0
No. of new or improved solutions for sustainable management of cultural heritage	0

3.3 Additional project indicators	No
Report on any additional indicators listed in your approved application and achieved so far:	
International THING website (inclusive WIKI or intranet) and improved regional Web 2.0 based sites (All partners + a common website)	4
International seminars and conference (Project meetings and a UNESCO strategy conference)	1
Reports Surveys and documentation of THING sites history and research questions, site management status of tourism impacts. Reports on: * Thing Sites interregional influence and history * Agenda for research * Sustainable site management principles	0

3.4 Change of indicators	
Please report accumulatively any change(s) of indicators in comparison to approved application.	
Change(s) made	Justification of change(s) made and impact on project implementation
None	None

3.5 Project outcomes
Please provide an overall description of project outcomes so far, by describing the status of the product and or service development and its implementation. Please describe specific features of your product or service which can demonstrate its innovativeness.



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007–2013



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
Activity Report, version 2	
For Programme Secretariat use only	
Registration no:	
CAV number:	
Date of arrival:	

- Project coordinator engaged and Norwegian partners regional communication work group established
- Established organization model based on the structure of activities in work package and as described in the application.
- Steering Committee organized
- Management team consisting of WP-leaders was organized and 23 items have been on the agenda.
- Partnership agreement developed and established
- 1 web site established in cooperation with partners
- Design and project logo developed
- Communication plan and tools developed
- Audit concerning separate web sites developed
- Material for Media Kit developed by cooperation between Lead Partner/WP3/all partners
- Developed survey for documentation of the inter-regional Thing site history.
- Started the process of developing Interpretation guide lines
- Preparations for organizing partner meeting, workshops April 2010
- Developed press release, ppt templates
- Established 1st. web 2.0 service

3.6 Transnational impact

Please describe the transnational **impact** of product and services developed to this date.

Joint development:

During the first period the activity has been on joint development of documentation of inter-regional aspects of Thing sites.

Audit concerning separate web sites has included all partners and common interpretation guide lines have been developed.

Joint development of inter-regional branding and marketing strategies:
Communication plan and strategy for dissemination includes all partners

Joint development of the ICT web2.0 services:
A common website has been developed, involving all regions/partners (service)

All project activities have been carried out in collaboration between all partners and all partners have been involved in all work packages.



 Northern Periphery Programme 2007–2013		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
		Date of arrival:	

SECTION 4: PROJECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4.1 Project Expenditures	
Please state your approved total project budget , the total certified expenditures in the respective project period and sum up the total certified expenditures .	
Please present your total approved project budget: 989 001,85 EUR	Please present your project's certified expenditures for the respective reporting period and total certified expenditure <u>Certified Expenditure period 1</u> 5 out of 8 partners (2 partners pending, 1 associated partner) 83 874,71 EUR Total certified expenditures: Certified Expenditure total so far 83 874,71 EUR

4.2 Financial performance
Make an analysis of financial performance in comparison to your budget in the project decision and to your estimated distribution among Work Packages (% of budget spent vs. % of time spent according to project plan).
The project claim enclosed includes five partners: Sogn og Fjordane County Council, Gulen Municipality, Shetland Amenity Trust, Orkney College, and Highland Council. A major part of the work during this first financial period is done in Wp1, Management and coordination. This was necessary in order to get the project started and to finalize all documents and plans. At this point it is difficult to draw any conclusions about the distribution among the work packages as some reports are still pending (Iceland and Faroe Islands will follow later). Iceland is responsible for wp3.

4.3 Budget changes	
Please indicate aggregated budget changes made between different expenditures, and please describe the impact of the budget change on project implementation. (Note that all budget changes need pre-approval to be considered as eligible. Please contact the Programme Secretariat in advance for consultation).	
Changes made/ Amount/Date of approval There are no aggregated budget changes so far. A request for budget changes will follow this first financial report.	Justification of change(s) made and impact on project implementation None

		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
Date of arrival:			

SECTION 5: ANALYSIS OF PROJECT ACTIVITY AND OUTCOMES PERFORMANCE

5.1 Project activity and outcome performance

Make an **analysis** of project activity and outcome performance **in relation to indicators, time plan and budget** in your approved application.

Project Activity:

Start up:

Formal start of the project, as described in the application for funding, was set to the 1st of July 2009. Following the approval of the application, the grant letter, dated 30th. of October 2009, was issued to Lead Partner.

With approval from the NPP secretariat, Copenhagen, the starting date was later changed to the 10th of June 2009.

The grant offer was accepted the 11th of December 2009 by lead partner, Sogn og Fjordane County in their letter to the Programme Director, NPP managing Authority.

In the same letter is clarified the reasons for delay concerning the engagement of project coordinators. The engagement of Haugland International R&D Center as program coordinators took place January 2010.

The first Partner Meeting in Iceland (September 2009) created a good foundation for future cooperation in the project, and project activity increased substantially after the engagement of project coordinators. After the engagement of project coordinators, the activity have focused on meeting the requirements set for the first project period, organizing and producing mandatory products as described in the project plans.

The activity is reflected in the number of meetings that have been organized, in the communication between partners and in the results achieved so far.

Outcome performance

Communication lines based on internet and audio meetings has been an important tool in ensuring contact and communication between partners.

Partners were well prepared during the first partner meeting and the implementation of the time/progress schedule has contributed to the activity and performance in the project.

Expected challenges in the start up period in the project have been encountered.

However, the project outcome performance has been on a level that has met the challenges encountered, and the project is now well adjusted to the time/progress schedule.

The project activities that have been started have not had any negative consequences for the accepted budget. According to the progress plan, a limited number of activities have been started during the first project period and some project activities that are in the starting phase will be concluded in the next or coming project periods.

 Northern Periphery Programme 2007–2013		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
Date of arrival:			

SECTION 6: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP DYNAMICS

6.1 Project Management dynamics

Provide an **analysis of the Project Management dynamics**, list decisions taken by Project Management Bodies and describe the impact the decision will have on the project implementation.



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
2007–2013



Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

Activity Report, version 2

For Programme Secretariat use only

Registration no:

CAV number:

Date of arrival:

Decisions:

Project Partner meeting Sept 05.09:

Decision on

- organization structure
- WP content, responsibility and activity
- organizing the individual WP, time/progress schedule

Decisions are expected to create a clear, functional organization structure for the project and to clarify work tasks

Lead partner

Decision on :

- accept of grant offer
- establishing County Contact/Communication Group
- engaging Haugland int. R&D Center as Project Coordinator
- engaging accountant and auditor

Decisions are expected to contribute to a well organized project which fulfils the objectives of the project

Management team/WP leaders

Decision on:

- Meeting plan and meeting structure
- Reporting
- Time schedule/Progress plan
- Partnership agreement
- Communication plan
- Logo/design graphic profile
- Website

Decisions are expected to contribute in fulfilling the requirements of the first project period and ensure future progress.



When analyzing the Project Management Dynamics, it is important to bear in mind that the THING Project, NPP, builds on an already established co-operation between the partners. The partners have already demonstrated that they have common aims and interests, a wish and the ability to work together .

A common understanding of project structure, actions and goals, aided by ICT has contributed to easy and smooth communication.

However, the management dynamics in the program would be further improved if all partners had access to the same level and tools concerning internet communication.

Thus, a future challenge in the project in order to further improve project management will be to strengthen the ICT aspects in the program.

Based on profession, competence and interests, joint sub committees have been prepared. The aim is to provide links between partners that are involved in joint project activities.

 Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
Date of arrival:			

6.2 Project Partnership dynamics

Provide an **analysis of the Partnership dynamics**.

The THING project partnership was developed and established through a pre-project funded by NORA. The pre-project identified a strong need for more in-depth collaboration between the sites and the regions. It also identified key activities and potential participants in a main project. The partners met for an international conference at Gulatinget in Gulen, Norway in June 2008, and the partners signed an agreement for further collaboration.

These actions created the basis for future cooperation between the partners and also contributed to define common interests such as to develop shared knowledge and understanding of the history of Thing Sites and further to develop interpretation methods for local and regional content development and branding.

Thus, the partnership represents a strong mix of partners representing regional authorities, local authorities, cultural heritage organisations and information centres. The project partnership has been structured according to the triple helix model bringing together policy, business and knowledge.

The partners have put much effort into the task of creating a good organisational structure for the project and to set up communication lines.

Even though the start-up phase was influenced by the delayed engagement of project coordinators, the first Project Partner Meeting (kick-off meeting) in Iceland, September 2009, ensured the positive and constructive atmosphere in the project.

As a natural consequence of the WP's responsibilities and the agreed plan of activity and progress, the first period of the project has seen varying contribution and activity among partners.



All partners have a clear vision of their tasks and aims and among the partners there is a common understanding of the importance to contribute with specialised knowledge and competence.

Entering period 2 of the project the main task for all partners will be to activate specialised work groups (sub committees), designated to prepare, plan and implement the future work tasks described in the progress plan.

6.3 Project Partnership cooperation

Please indicate any **synergies exhibited with other projects** funded by the Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013 or projects funded by other programmes and **describe concrete cooperation activities**.

Name of project/ funded by (name of programme)	Description of synergies and cooperation activities
Not applicable	

		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
Date of arrival:			

SECTION 7: NPP 2007-2013 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

7.1 Equal opportunities

Please report **concrete steps and activities** to enhance Equal Opportunities and how this changed the working culture in the organisations participating in the project.

To ensure the aspect of Equal Opportunities, the communication plan, as approved by the partners, is designed to reach relevant persons and groups within the equality risk category.

The communication plan states:

“- ensure the project website will be multi-lingual (particularly the minority languages of the participating regions) and designed to conform to EU standards for access by physically disabled
- that communication is designed to reach relevant persons and groups within the equality risk category”

After 1st step of designing the website, the project is now preparing to implement this stage of the communication plan.

The first development and deployment of ICT services (web site/web 2.0 services) is expected to have a beneficial impact on creating equal opportunities by enabling a wide spread of information about the project, the methods developed and its services provided.


7.2 Sustainable development

Please report **concrete steps and activities** to enhance Sustainable Development and how this changed the working culture in the organisations participating in the project.

During the 1st project period this issue has not been directly addressed but is reflected in the general activity/workshops organized by the project.

SECTION 8: PROJECT COMMUNICATION

8.1 Communication Indicators	N°
Please report accumulatively on the mandatory communication measures by using the following indicators:	
N° of websites developed	1
N° of visitors on website	unknown
N° of project logos developed	1

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

N° of promotional materials developed	2
N° of copies of promotional materials distributed or downloaded	unknown
N° of PowerPoint presentations developed	1
N° of project case studies submitted	1
N° of project picture libraries developed	1
N° of times the project attended an Annual Conference	0
N° of times the project attended a Lead Partner & Partner Seminar	1
N° of times the project attended a Thematic Event	1
N° of times the project attended a Training Seminar	1
N° of times the project attended an event organised by a Regional Contact Point	1

8.2 Communication tools			
To exemplify the indicators above, please list all the communications tools and promotional materials developed by your project so far.			
Date	Type of tool/material	Short description	Target group(s)
	Flyer	Printed material, basic info on about the project	Public, politicians, professionals
	Power point pres	Slides introducing/describing the project	Public, politicians, professionals
	Project Web site	General info and news, forum, material for partners and public, photo, links, events.	Public, politicians, professionals and internal
	Face book	Development of general profile and info on the project	Public, politicians, professionals and internal
	Logo	Colour and presented with NPP/EU flag logo	Partners and cooperative organizations
	Graphic profile	Describing the profile and the informing of the implementation of the NPP logo	Partners and cooperative organizations
	Posters series	To be used in connection with meetings.	Public, politicians, professionals, internal

<p>8.3 Provide an analysis of the internal and external communication activities performed during this reporting period. What activities worked well, what activities did not work well? How do you see your overall communication performance? Mention any (innovative) steps your project has taken to enhance its communication performance.</p> <p>Internal communication: Prior to the application process the partners already had established communication lines. Important aims in the THING Project Communications Plan are to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure effective knowledge transfer to all partners and organisations involved. - ensure an integrated approach of all communication applications - ensure service to participants/members in the project,

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	

- ensure increased partner teamwork
- manage implementation of the project through effective communication.

There is developed a common understanding of internal as well as external communication, and an agreement on an integrated approach of all communication tools. This is reflected in the implementation of the communication plan and graphic profile.

Through use of internet tools such as Skype IP-telephone, (audio and video communication) and e-mail programs, the partners have established communication in line with the aims in the communication plan. Some partners have been encountering technical challenges in these systems due to firewalls etc but there is a common wish to develop these communication systems even further, as they seem to be an adequate tool in communication, meeting the needs of the project.

The web page is in an early stage and a stronger involvement from all partners is still needed in order to take full advantage of the functions the website.

The website invites partners to take part in discussion forums and is also containing all relevant documents in the project.

In addition, the website is a place for partners to find and post news and information concerning events.

International telephone conferences have been used when organizing meetings and have been found very useful as a practical tool of communication.

During the first period all partners have been taking part in communication concerning the implement of the project and start-up period of the project.

However, even more effort may be put in when developing and maintaining communication through electronic media.

External Communication

The development of external communication has depended on the progress of development of internal communication, such as common logo and graphic profile and the development of communication plans.


The web page is consequently the main tool developed for external communication in addition to the development of web 2.0 services such as Facebook.

Further, press releases/templates and ppt/templates has been developed for external communication.

It is expected, and in line with the plan of progress, that implementation of external communication does not have an active role in the start-up period of the project.

8.4 Certification of compliance with the NPP and European publicity requirements

All promotional materials comply with the NPP and European publicity requirements, which can be found in the Programme Manual and Commission Regulation No 1828/2006, Articles 8 and 9.	Yes
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

	Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
	Activity Report, version 2	
	For Programme Secretariat use only	
	Registration no:	
	CAV number:	
	Date of arrival:	



SECTION 9: CHANGES IN PROJECT PARTNERSHIP, TARGET AREA AND OTHER CHANGES

9.1 Report on changes	
Please report accumulatively any changes in the project in comparison to approved application . (Note that all changes need pre-approval to be considered as eligible, please contact the Programme Secretariat in advance for consultation)	
Type of change(s)made/ Date of approval	Justification of the change(s) made and impact on the project implementation
<i>Date for start of the project period was changed to 10th of June 2009. Approved by e-mail 15th march 2010 by : kirsti.mijnhijmer@northernperiphery.eu</i>	<i>No impact on project implementation expected. Justification of the change: Practical matters: Lead Partner participated at the NPP seminar in Laukaa, Finland, in June 2009</i>


SECTION 10: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10.1 Feedback and Suggestions
If you have any comments on other things you wish to forward to the secretariat (material, events etc.), please write these comments here.
-

10.2 Supporting Documents
Please mark the relevant enclosures. Number the list and the enclosed documents.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Claim - 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificates of Expenditure for 5 of 7 partners - 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary of Certificates of Expenditure - 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLC checklist - 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examples of information material <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Project Logo 5.2 Flyer 5.3 Poster 5.4 Powerpoint Presentation 5.5 Letterhead 5.6 Project Case Study 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others: Copy of Partnership Agreement and signatures

 Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013		Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013	
		Activity Report, version 2	
		For Programme Secretariat use only	
		Registration no:	
		CAV number:	
Date of arrival:			

--

10.3 Signature	
Please certify that all information given is complete and correct	
Place: N-6963 Dale Date : Sept 01. 2010	Authorized signature for the Lead partner organisation  Arild Bergström <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> Name of the LP representative

For completion and submission to:

Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat
 Strandgade 91, 4.sal
 DK 1401 Copenhagen – K
 Denmark
 (Original blue ink signed copy)

E-mail: secretariat@northernperiphery.eu
 (Electronic copy)