

Public consultation on the North Sea Region Programme 2021-27

Introduction

Thank you for joining this consultation focusing on the design of the next North Sea Region Programme. Your inputs will help us develop a robust new programme for the period 2021-2027, designed to meet the challenges ahead and foster a green, resilient, and flourishing North Sea Region.

We will compile and analyse all responses in a report which will be presented to the Programme Preparation Group for their consideration. In addition, it will be published on our website.

Please note that your answers will be treated anonymously and GDPR rules will be respected.

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. It is open until 30 September at the close of business.

We appreciate your ideas, opinions and suggestions very much.

**With sincere thanks,
the Joint Secretariat**

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Basic information about you

For the purpose of analysis, we kindly ask you to fill in some details about yourself.

* 1. Which country are you from?

* 2. Which type of organisation do you represent?

- Public sector organisation
- Private sector organisation
- Academic/research institute
- Civil society sector e.g. NGO, council and association etc.
- Consultancy
- Intergovernmental organisation
- Interregional cooperation organisation e.g. North Sea Commission, KIMO etc.
- None
- Other (please specify)

* 3. Which level does your organisation represent?

- Local level (municipality)
- Regional level (e.g. province, Länder, region)
- National level
- Interregional/ European level
- Other (please specify)

* 4. Have you participated/are you participating in the current North Sea Region Programme (2014-2020), e.g. in a project or in programme administration?

- Yes, I am / have been involved in a North Sea Region project
- Yes, I am / have been involved in programme administration (e.g. Monitoring Committee, Steering Committee, National Contact Points, first level control)
- No, I have not participated during the 2014-2020 period.
- Other (please specify)

* 5. Are you considering participation in the new North Sea Region Programme 2021-2027?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Why / why not?



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Content of the programme

On this and the following pages, we invite you to contribute your views and ideas about the topics the new programme should focus on. We have designed the survey based on the five policy objectives adopted by the European Commission for Interreg programmes during the 2021-27 programme period.

Please note: The content of the new programme is still under discussion. The outcomes of this survey will help inform the work of the Programme Preparation Group, however the final programme may not cover all of the topics presented in this survey.

6. Please list the topics that are most important to you for the new programme to focus on.

Some examples of topics (the list is not exhaustive: feel free to list different topics): *smart specialisation, business support, public sector innovation, digital transformation, maritime spatial planning, blue growth, green growth, circular economy, bio-economy, water management, green energy transition, climate adaptation, low-carbon transport, management of biodiversity and ecosystems, public health, liveability, urban/rural linkages, low-carbon technologies, social cohesion, demographic trends.*

* 7. How would you rate the relevance of the following approaches for delivering North Sea Region projects (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Skills development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizen involvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bottom-up approaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pilots, trials, demonstrations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Triple/quadruple helix collaboration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-topic collaboration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrated territorial approaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feasibility studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If you are missing any approaches in the table above, please list them here. Feel free to add any comments or reflections.



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A. A smarter Europe

One of the broad thematic areas that the new North Sea Region Programme may focus on is innovation and smart economic transformation.

* 9. How important and relevant do you think this thematic area is for the next North Sea Region Programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. In your opinion, which themes and topics should the programme address to foster innovation and smart economic transformation?

* 11. Below are the four key topics which the European Commission has identified within 'a smarter Europe'. Please rate the importance of each of them in the new programme (1 = 'not important' and 5 = 'very important'):

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies and governments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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B. A greener, low carbon Europe

The second thematic area that the new North Sea Region Programme may focus on is clean energy and the environment.

* 12. How important and relevant do you think this thematic area is for the next North Sea Region Programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. In your opinion, which themes and topics should the programme address to foster clean energy and the environment?

* 14. Below are the seven key topics which the European Commission has identified within 'clean energy and the environment'. Please rate the importance of each of them in the new programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important'):

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Promoting energy efficiency measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting renewable energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting sustainable water management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting the transition to a circular economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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C. A more connected Europe

A third broad thematic area that the new North Sea Region Programme may focus on is transport and digital connections.

* 15. How important and relevant do you think this thematic area is for the next North Sea Region Programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. In your opinion, which themes and topics should the programme address to foster transport and digital connections?

* 17. Below are the four key topics which the European Commission has identified within 'transport and digital connections'. Please rate the importance of each of them in the new programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important').

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Enhancing digital connectivity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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D. A more social Europe

The fourth thematic area that the new programme may focus on is skills, education, and health.

* 18. How important and relevant do you think this thematic area is for the next North Sea Region Programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. In your opinion, which themes and topics should the programme address to foster skills, education and health?

* 20. Below are the four key topics which the European Commission has identified within 'skills, education and health'. Please rate the importance of each of them in the new programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important').

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life long learning through developing infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring equal access to healthcare and fostering resilience of health systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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E. A Europe closer to citizens

The fifth thematic area that the new programme may focus on is a Europe closer to citizens by fostering sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives.

* 21. How important and relevant do you think this thematic area is for the next North Sea Region Programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important')?

1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. In your opinion, which themes and topics should the programme address to foster sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives?

* 23. Below are the two key topics which the European Commission has identified within 'Europe closer to citizens'. Please rate the importance of each of them in the new programme (with 1 being 'not important' and 5 being 'very important').

	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Final question on contents

* 24. In your opinion, which thematic areas are most important?

- A smarter Europe
- A greener, low carbon Europe
- A more connected Europe
- A more social Europe
- A Europe closer to citizens

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Addressing impacts

25. How can the programme most effectively deal with the repercussions of crises such as the Covid-19 crisis? Please provide your thoughts.

Administrative procedures

26. If the programme continues using a two-step application process, how could it be improved?

27. Is the online monitoring system (OMS) sufficient for your needs in relation to project management?

If not, why?

28. The Programme uses a flat rate (currently 15% of staff costs) to reimburse projects for office and administration costs. Would you like to see more options like this, e.g. a flat rate to reimburse travel and accommodation costs?

Please specify:

29. Please share your thoughts on project design in the new programme (e.g. scope, duration, partnership size):

30. How can the National Contact Points best serve the project community in applying for and implementing projects? Please share your thoughts.

Final reflections

31. Please feel free to add any reflections on this survey or its contents.



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Thank you for your contribution

Your inputs are very much appreciated and will be valuable input for the further programme development.

You can follow the further process of developing the North Sea Region Programme 2021-2027 in several ways:

- **Regularly check the Programme's [website](#), where we will post news on the progress.**
- **[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) and receive regular news from the North Sea Region Programme directly in your inbox, including information about the programming process.**
- **Join our [LinkedIn group](#) for stakeholder exchange about the future programme.**

Also, feel free to contact the Joint Secretariat with any inputs you might have regarding the next programme. Please send your message to info@northsearegion.eu.

Thanks again for your invaluable help in shaping the future of the Interreg North Sea Region Programme!

The Joint Secretariat