Aquaculture Funding Guidance Sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acronym: NPA</td>
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**Fund synopsis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>European Regional Development Fund (Territorial Cooperation Objective or INTERREG IVB)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>EU-wide for eligible northern periphery Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund amount</td>
<td>Total 2014 - 2020 funds available €56 million (£42 million)</td>
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**Fund purpose**

**Overview**

The upcoming Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 – 2020 forms a cooperation between nine programme partner countries; the Member States of Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (Scotland and Northern Ireland) in cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. The NPA 2014 – 2020 is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and ERDF-equivalent funding from non-EU partner countries. It aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential.

Despite geographical differences, the large Programme area shares a number of common features, such as low population density, low accessibility, low economic diversity, abundant natural resources, and high impact of climate change.

This unique combination of features results in joint challenges and joint opportunities that can best be overcome and realised by transnational cooperation. The Programme operates in a multi-layered policy landscape, making it well positioned to contribute to, and align with, the Europe 2020 Strategy, national and regional policies and development strategies, macro-regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area. In addition, increased interest and rapid developments in Arctic regions have resulted in a more explicit recognition of the Programme’s Arctic dimension in regional development.

This fund might be of interest to the aquaculture sector when considering the ‘Blue Growth’ agenda from the EU.

A map of the eligible areas can be found here.
The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 – 2020 aims to expand the regions’ horizons, building on concrete outcomes and enabling the programme area to be a first class region to live, study, work, visit and invest. The Programme’s vision is to help to generate vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation, expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship and seizing the unique growth initiatives and opportunities of the Northern and Arctic regions in a resource-efficient way.

Eleven thematic objectives can be viewed as relevant to the Programme area. The Programme’s financial resources are expected to be focused on a maximum of four thematic objectives. The ‘best fit’ for the Programme is a combination of the following four thematic objectives:

- **Thematic Objective 1**: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- **Thematic Objective 3**: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (out of 100% of the financial allocation for Programme implementation 30% will be allocated to this objective)
- **Thematic Objective 4**: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- **Thematic Objective 6**: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

### Priorities

There are four main Priority Axes:

- **Axis 1**: Innovation to develop and maintain robust and competitive communities. €14 million (£10.4 million)
- **Axis 2**: Entrepreneurship and SME support to realise the potential of the Programme Areas competitive €14 million
- **Axis 3**: Promoting renewables and energy efficiency to foster energy-secure communities. €9 million (£6.7 million)
- **Axis 4**: Promoting natural and cultural heritage. €9 million

### Proposed supportable activities

Projects need to address the challenges set out in the Cooperation Programme and also need to fulfil a number of qualitative objectives, such as:

- **Concrete**: recognised and tangible outputs that address specific challenges
- **Innovative**: output is new to the organisation, the partners and/or the Programme area
- **Focused**: demonstrating a link between development challenges and relevant Programme specific objectives and the changes they expect to bring about
- **Transnational**: results must clearly draw on transnational cooperation

### How it works

The Programme was launched in September 2014, with a first ‘call’ deadline of November 2014. Further ‘calls’ will be advertised through the website, and applications have to be submitted electronically. There will be two main ‘calls’ for projects each year. There is a continuous ‘call’ for preparatory projects. Check the [NPA website](https://www.northernperipheryandarctic.eu) and [2014 – 2020 Facebook pages](https://www.facebook.com/npasupport) for more, and continuous, information feeds about this fund.
### Grant (the full UK grant will be confirmed in 2015)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Size of grant</th>
<th>Funding will be allocated to projects with a total budget between €250,000 and €2 million.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>View the <a href="#">Cooperation Programme</a> for more information about restrictions on funding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Match funding</td>
<td>A precondition for funding is that the projects provide at least 35 – 50% of the total project costs as match funding through own, national, or regional, sources. The share of the match funding depends on the country where the partner is located. However, SMEs always have to provide a minimum of 50% of their costs in match funding.</td>
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### Guide to eligibility

**Overview**

In general, the Programme is open for public and private partners, of all kinds, from inside the programme area—for example, regional and local authorities and other public sector organisations, research institutions and private entities delivering public services, private-public partnerships, social enterprises, and third sector organisations. Besides that, local and regional SMEs, among these specifically micro-enterprises in remote and sparsely populated areas and business organisations, are also eligible to apply.

**Exceptions and restrictions**

Calls for this Programme will be published twice a year. The [NPA website](#) and Facebook pages hold information about all ‘calls’ as and when they happen, including application guidance and forms. The Programme Monitoring Committee sets out all conditions of grant and eligibility for this fund in order to ensure all accepted projects have a strong match with Europe 2020 priorities and objectives.

**Industry involvement**

If you are interested in applying, contact your [regional coordinator](#) for this Programme. Many businesses within the aquaculture sector might be able to participate in this Programme due to the need to invest in SMEs and the need for innovation.

**Stakeholder involvement**

A degree of transnational cooperation will be expected, and you will need to be part of a partnership to participate in this Programme.

### Contact details for applicants

**Managing authority**

The NPA is administered in the UK by different departments depending on the region of the UK you are in.

**Contact details**

Please visit the list of [regional contacts for this Programme here](#). You will find contact details for all the coordinators of relevance to the UK, including Northern Ireland.

### Useful websites and where to go for other information

**Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme**

- NPA for 2007 – 2013
- NPA Facebook pages
- NPA 2014 – 2020 Factsheet
- NPA Cooperation Programme (2014 – 2020)

**European Commission**

[Beginners Guide to EU Funding](#)