



KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

European Officer Group	2
Open Calls For Proposals	3
Interreg Project Ideas	5
Interreg First Level UK Audit Controls	5
Employment in Europe Report 2008	8

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

	European Team Developments	2
	Funding Update	3
	Policy Update	7
	External Groups	11
	Current consultations	12
	Contacts & links	13

This newsletter is designed to update readers on developments in European funding and policies, and to report on the work being carried out by the Council's European Team in Aberdeenshire and Europe. The European Team is based in the Economic Development Service of Transportation and Infrastructure.

European Team Developments

In this section:

[European Officer Group](#)
[European Member Officer Working Group](#)
[Project Guidance Packs](#)

[Back to Main Index](#)

European Officer Group

The European Officer Group is next scheduled to meet on January 14th 2009. The European Team are compiling a 2009 workplan based on the European Commission's 2009 workplan which was released earlier this year. This paper will be the first opportunity to present to the group the main areas of high priority for 2009, and as such all services are requested to be represented to ensure agreement between all services on the workplan.

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

European Member Officer Working Group

The European Member Officer Working Group met on November 12th. At this meeting the group endorsed two EU Green paper responses, one on Territorial Cohesion, the other on Migration and Education. The group requested that the European Team look into a robust system to ensure that all undertakings have a corporate approach to ensure that Aberdeenshire Council comply with State Aid legislation. The European Team hope to present a proposal to the European Officer Group in January 2009.

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

Project Guidance Packs

The European Team have Guidance Packs available for Structural Funds programmes (ERDF and ESF) and also for Transnational INTERREG programmes (North Sea Region and North West Europe). These packs are undergoing slight adjustments due to changes made to the respective programmes, but should be available by mid-December. The packs are designed to provide support with the administrative side of project management. As always, the European Team welcome project ideas from all services and can offer advice on ideas with regards to any EU funding which may be available.

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

Funding Update

In this section:

[Open Calls for Proposals](#)

[European Project Themes](#)

[North East Structural Funds Network](#)

[INTERREG Project Ideas](#)

[New Comenius Regio Programme Launched](#)

[Back to Main Index](#)

Open Calls for Proposals

The table below outlines the current calls and their respective programmes. A link is provided to the fund as well as to the relevant European Team page on Arcadia. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the [European Team](#). Funds in **bold** have been added since the last newsletter.

FUND	CLOSING DATE	EUROPEAN TEAM SITE
Scotland Rural Development Programme – Rural Priorities	February-09	Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Rural Aberdeenshire Leader	17-Feb-09	Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Round 3	28-April-09	
Round 4	28-July-09	
Round 5	03-Nov-09	
Round 6		
Television Broadcasting of European Audiovisual Works	27-Feb-09 26-Jun-09	Audiovisual & Media
Culture Programme – Literary Translation Projects	01-Feb-09	Culture
Comenius/Grundtvig In-Service Training	16-Jan-09 30-Apr-09 15-Sep-09	Education, Training and Youth
Comenius Assistantships	30-Jan-09	Education, Training and Youth
Leonardo da Vinci Mobility	6-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
Jean Monnet Programme	13-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
Comenius/Leonardo da Vinci/Grundtvig Partnerships	20-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
Comenius Regio Partnerships	20-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
Grundtvig Workshops	20-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
C,LdV,G. – Multilateral Projects,	27-Feb-09	Education, Training

Networks and Accompanying Measures		and Youth
Leonardo da Vinci - Transfer of Innovation Multilateral Projects	27-Feb-09	Education, Training and Youth
Grundtvig – Assistantships, Senior Volunteering Projects	31-Mar-09	Education, Training and Youth
Transversal Programme	09-Apr-09	Education, Training and Youth
Youth in Action – National Agency	1-Feb-09 1-Apr-09 1-Jun-09 1-Sep-09 1-Nov-09	Education, Training and Youth
Youth in Action – Executive Agency	1-Feb-09 1-Jun-09 1-Sep-09	Education, Training and Youth
TEN-E	Feb/March 2009	Energy
European Fisheries Fund	Ongoing	Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
Support For Television Broadcasting	27-Feb-2009 26-June-2009	Information Society
INTERREG North Sea Region Fourth Call	02-Mar-09	INTERREG NSR
INTERREG IVC	30-Jan-09	INTERREG IVC
FP7 Ideas – Starting Independent Researcher Grant	10-Dec-08	Research
FP7 Capacities – International Co-operation	12-Jan-09	Research
FP7 Co-operation - Health	03-Dec-2008	Research
FP7 Co-operation - Space	04-Dec-2008	Research
FP7 Capacities – Research for benefit of SMEs	18-Dec-2008	Research
FP7 Co-operation – Security	04-Dec-2008	Research
FP7 Co-operation – Joint Technology Initiatives	15-Jan-2009	Research
FP7 People – Marie Curie Reintegration Grants	31-Dec-2009	Research
FP7 ICT Call 4	01-April-2009	Research
FP7 Joint Call ICT and Energy 1	31-March-2009	Research
FP7 PEOPLE	27-March-2009	Research
FP7-ERANET-2009-RTD	21-April-2009	Research
FP7 People ERG	31-Dec-08	Research
FP7 People IRG	31-Dec-08	Research

FP7 – Co.: FET Open Scheme	06-Jan-09	Research
European Research Centre – Starting Independent Researcher Grant	10-Dec-08	Research
Actions in the Field of Urban Mobility	31-Mar-09	Transport

European Project Themes

Potential European projects should fit into one or more of the five European themes adopted at Infrastructure Services Committee on 22 June 2006:

- Innovation
- Self-sufficient and Inclusive Communities
- Sustainable Transport
- Recreational tourism
- Sustainable Energy

If you are considering applying for European funding, please contact [The European Team](#).

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

INTERREG Project Ideas

The INTERREG programmes have produced information books outlining project ideas that different organisations are working on. Some of these projects are looking for partners. The ideas books can provide links to potential projects that Aberdeenshire Council may have an interest in or help to spark off ideas for other new projects. These idea books for the three INTERREG funds that Aberdeenshire Council is eligible for are available on-line at the following links:

[INTERREG IVB North Sea Region projects idea book](#)
[INTERREG IVB North West Europe projects idea book](#)
[INTERREG IVC projects idea book](#)

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

INTERREG First Level UK Audit Controls

The North Sea Region have indicated that a decision on the UK first level audit control rules shall be posted on their website in the near future. Unfortunately, at the time of publication, there has been no update from the Secretariat, however the European Team hope to be able to update the European Officer Group in January 2009.

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

New Comenius Regio Funding Programme Launched

On November 3rd the European Commission launched Comenius Regio, a new action under the Lifelong Learning Programme. With an annual budget of EUR 16 million, Comenius Regio Partnerships will support cooperation between local and regional authorities, schools and other learning organisations across Europe. The European Team are preparing a report on this new funding programme to present to the European Officer Group in January 2009.

Further information can be found [here](#).

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

Policy Update

In this section:

[Agriculture](#)

[Economic and Monetary Affairs](#)

[Employment and Social Affairs](#)

[Enterprise](#)

[Fisheries](#)

[Information Society](#)

[Environment](#)

[Internal Market](#)

[Maritime Affairs](#)

[Regional Policy](#)

[Back to Main Index](#)

Agriculture

CAP Health Check Will Help Farmers Meet New Challenges

The European Commission welcomes the political agreement by EU agriculture ministers on the Health Check of the Common Agricultural Policy. The Health Check will aim to modernise, simplify and streamline the CAP and remove restrictions on farmers, thus helping them to respond better to signals from the market and to face new challenges. Among a range of measures, the agreement abolishes arable set-aside, increases milk quotas gradually leading up to their abolition in 2015, and converts market intervention into a genuine safety net. Ministers also agreed to increase modulation, whereby direct payments to farmers are reduced and the money transferred to the Rural Development Fund. A full report can be found [here](#).

Political Agreement On School Fruit Scheme Worth EUR 90m Per Year

The European Commission welcomed today's political agreement in the Agriculture Council on its proposal for a European Union-wide scheme to provide fruit and vegetables to school children. European funds worth EUR 90 million every year will pay for the purchase and distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables to schools. This money will be matched by national and private funds in those Member States which chose to make use of the programme. The School Fruit Scheme aims to encourage good eating habits in young people, which studies show tend to be carried on into later life. Besides providing fruit and vegetables to a target group of schoolchildren, the scheme will require participating Member States to set up strategies including educational and awareness-raising initiatives and the sharing of best practice. The scheme will begin at the start of the 2009/2010 school year. Further information can be found [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Economic and Monetary Affairs

[Economic Sentiment Indicator Reaches Historic Low](#)

In November, The Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) declined considerably in the EU and the Euro area. The ESI fell by 6.7 points in the EU and by 5.1 points in the Euro area, to 70.5 and 74.9 respectively. This puts the ESI for the EU at its lowest since January 1985, and that for the Euro area at its lowest since August 1993.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Employment and Social Affairs

[Demography Report – Towards Better Societies For Families and Older People](#)

The second European Demography Report has been published on 21 November 2008. The Report is published every two years by the European Commission and provides the latest facts and figures that are needed to assess where Member States stand in responding to the challenges of demographic change. The 2008 report focuses on the ageing society and changing family and household patterns in the EU. For further information, click [here](#).

[Employment In Europe Report 2008](#)

This is the 20th annual edition of the Employment in Europe report, which has become one of the main tools of the European Commission in supporting Member States in the analysis, formulation and implementation of their employment policies. The Employment in Europe report 2008, as in previous years, addresses topics that are high on the European Union's employment policy agenda. It gives a comprehensive overview of the employment situation in the EU, as well as an analysis of key labour market issues, including: immigration, post-enlargement intra-EU labour mobility, quality of work, the link between education and employment. To view the report, click [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Enterprise

[European SME Week](#)

The European Commission is organising the first European SME week from 6 to 14 May 2009 to inform SMEs about available support at EU and national level and to encourage more people to become entrepreneurs. The SME week will be launched in Brussels on 6 May but the vast majority of events during the week will take place across Europe in the Member States. Further information is available [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Environment

EU Commission Presents Strategy For Safer Ship Dismantling

As many ships sail under the flag of an EU member state, and even more are owned by European companies, the situation is of concern to the EU. Community legislation is affected in so far as it prohibits the export of hazardous waste to developing countries. The Strategy aims to identify potential dangers and provide terms of good practice in order to improve the safety and conditions of ship dismantling. Further Information can be found [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Fisheries

Fishing Prospects for 2009

The European Commission has tabled a [proposal](#) on fishing possibilities and fishing effort for 2009 for the main stocks in the North-East Atlantic, including the North Sea. This takes account of the latest scientific advice on the state of fish stocks from the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#), advice from the Commission's own [Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries \(STECF\)](#) and input from stakeholders. The Commission is proposing 25% reductions in quotas and fishing intensity for North Sea Cod and a 7% increase in quotas for North Sea Sole. Further details are available [here](#).

In addition, a further [proposal](#) on 2009 guide prices has been published. The document proposes an increase in price for most pelagic species, but a decrease for white fish and frozen products. Further information is available [here](#).

Control and Compliance Overhaul

The European Commission has [proposed a new Council Regulation](#) recasting the EU fisheries control system. The aim of this proposal is to develop a completely modernized system for inspection, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) rules throughout the market chain, from catch to the retailer. In general, all aspects of the control and monitoring of fisheries activities should be simplified and made more efficient by the new rules. Further information can be found through [this link](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Information Society

Europeana Digital Library

An online digital library called 'Europeana' has been launched, offering access to more than two million books, maps, recordings, photographs, archival documents, paintings and films from national libraries and cultural institutions of the EU's 27 Member States. The portal is available at www.europeana.eu.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Internal Market

Commission Adopts Proposal To Regulate Credit Agencies

This proposal is part of a package of proposals of reform to deal with the financial crisis situation. The new rules are designed to ensure that credit ratings to be used in the EU are independent, objective and of the highest quality. Further information can be found [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Maritime Affairs

Maritime Spatial Planning

A Communication on a "[Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving common principles in the EU](#)" was adopted by the Commission on 25 November 2008. It provides information on current maritime spatial planning practices in EU Member States and in third countries outlines the instruments which impact upon it and sets out key principles underpinning it. The Communication seeks to encourage a broad debate on how a common approach to maritime spatial planning can be achieved in the EU. The roadmap is an important product of the EU's new Integrated Maritime Policy, which the Commission launched in October 2007. A full report is set to be discussed at the Council's next European Officer Group meeting. Further information can be found [here](#).

Offshore Wind

The European Commission has published a [Communication on Offshore Wind Energy](#), which identifies the challenges that need to be tackled to exploit Europe's potential for offshore wind energy, and how EU action can help in meeting these challenges. Key themes include the need for more cross-border cooperation to share experiences and coordinate better in fields such as electricity grid and maritime spatial planning, regulatory practices regarding interconnector investments, and environmental impact assessments of wind farms. Further information is available [here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Regional Policy

Court Of Auditors Publishes Annual Report

The EU's accounting books have been given a clean bill of health by the European Court of Auditors. The Court also found that the majority of EU payments it checked were regular, though errors were still too frequent in some areas, particularly in spending on EU regions and to boost employment (cohesion policy), where grants are managed by national authorities. Outside of this area, the Court estimates that 95% or more of payments are error free.

However, the annual report in acknowledges improvements in management and monitoring linked to the Structural Funds. The number of errors in payment requests made by Member States, which may lead to undue transfers from Community funds, remains however too high. On 16 February 2008 the Commission launched an action plan to strengthen surveillance of the Commission in the joint management of structural actions. An interim report adopted on 5 November 2008 indicates that effects of these measures are already being felt.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

External Groups

In this section:

[Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(CPMR\)](#)

[North Sea Commission \(NSC\)](#)

[East of Scotland European Consortium \(ESEC\)](#)

[Back to Main Index](#)

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)



Energy Working Group

The CPMR Energy Working Group met in Aberdeen on the 13th and 14th November. The theme of the seminar was to discuss "How to reconcile the goals of territorial cohesion with reducing the causes of climate change".

All presentations from this event can be found on the CPMR website [here](#).

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

North Sea Commission (NSC)



Maritime Policy Project

The development of an NSC Maritime Policy Project is still under development by the Marine Resources Group. This was discussed at their recent meeting in Hirtshals, Denmark. Other items discussed included lobbying the Norwegian government over proposals to bury a World War II submarine wreck containing large quantities of mercury and the role of technology in reducing by-catch and therefore discards of non-quota fish. The next meeting will take place in Kiel

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

East of Scotland European Consortium



Policy Board

The ESEC Policy Board is due to meet on Monday December 8th. The group will hold discussions on the possibility of proposing revisions to the current LUPS Structural Funds Operational Programme as it has been indicated that there is a window of opportunity available to make changes in light of a poor uptake of the funding available. The meeting will include presentations from Elspeth Atwool MEP and Alyn Smith MEP.

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

Current Consultations

THEME	TITLE	CLOSING DATE
Agriculture	Agricultural Product Quality	31.12.2008
Competition	State Aid – Public Service Broadcasting	15.01.2009
Competition	Application of the EC Merger Regulation	01.12.2008
Consumers	Green Paper on Consumer Redress	01.03.2009
Education	Green Paper on Migration and Education	31.12.2008
Energy	Green Paper on Secure, Sustainable & Competitive European Energy Network	31.03.2009
Fisheries & Maritime	Rights-Based Management Tools in Fisheries	N/A
Information Society	Towards a strengthened network and information security in Europe	09.01.2009
Internal Market	Consultation On Control Structures In Audit Firms and Consequences To The Market	28.02.2009
Public Health	Mutagenic and Carcinogenic Substances	02.12.2008
Regional Policy	Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion	28.02.2008

If you are intending to respond to any of the above consultations please inform the European Team.

Consultations being responded to:

Green Paper on Migration and Education: Lorraine Grant
(lorraine.grant@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion: Martin Brebner
(martin.brebner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

[Back to Main Index](#)

Contacts and Links for Further Information

In This Section:

[Aberdeenshire Council European Team](#)
[European Institutions & Advisory Bodies](#)
[External Groups](#)
[Funding Opportunities](#)

Aberdeenshire Council European Team

Aberdeenshire Council's European Team is based in the Economic Development Service of Transportation and Infrastructure. For further information on any of the issues addressed in this newsletter or on other European please contact us:

Martin Brebner
 European Services Executive
 01224 665 225
martin.brebner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Pamela Cruickshank
 Project Support Officer
 01224 664 713
pamela.cruickshank@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Stuart Bews
 European Officer
 01224 664754
stuart.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Alternatively, information can be obtained from the [Aberdeenshire Council web pages on European Matters](#) or the [European Team pages on Arcadia](#).

European Institutions & Advisory Bodies

European Commission	www.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
European Parliament	www.europarl.europa.eu
Committee of the Regions	www.cor.europa.eu

External Groups

East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC)	esec.org.uk
Scotland Europa	www.scotlandeuropa.com
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)	www.cosla.gov.uk
North Sea Commission (NSC)	www.northsea.org
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)	www.cpmr.org

Funding Opportunities

Europa – EU Homepage	ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm
Euro Info Centre	www.euro-info.org.uk/
Scotland Europa	www.scotlandeuropa.com
Grant Finder	http://www.grantfinder.co.uk/

[Back to Main Index](#)