



The European Year of Volunteering 2011

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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:

[NSRAC Executive Officer](#)
[European Officer Group](#)



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NSRAC Executive Officer

Aberdeenshire Council presently hosts the secretariat of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC). NSRAC brings together stakeholders from the fisheries sector and environmental organisations to provide advice to the European Commission on fisheries matters. A vacancy has arisen for the position of Executive Officer to support the work of the organisation. For further information on the post and how to apply, please visit www.nsrac.org or [contact Martin Brebner](#).

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European Officer Group

Aberdeenshire Council's European Officer Group is due to meet on Monday 21 November to discuss forthcoming European Funding opportunities and EU policy proposals on agriculture and resource efficiency. A presentation will be given on Commission proposals for delivering EU funds in Scotland from 2014, highlighting potential linkages with key Council strategies and priorities. Updates on the Council's European partnerships such as the North Sea Commission will also be provided.

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Funding Update

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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](#).

FUND	CLOSING DATE	EUROPEAN TEAM SITE
Culture Programme – Support For European Cultural Festivals	16 November 2011	Culture
FP7 Space Call 5	23 November 2011	Research
FP7 Security 2012	23 November 2011	Research
Call 10: FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2012	23 November 2011	Research
Media 2007 – Development, Distribution, Promotion and Training	25 November 2011	Audiovisual & Media
Jean Monnet	30 November 2011	Education, Training & Youth
Comenius Individual Pupil Mobility	01 December 2011	Education, Training & Youth
Energy Efficient buildings 2012	01 December 2011	Research
Materials for Green Cars – 2012	01 December 2011	Research
Factories of the Future 2012	01 December 2011	Research
FP7-Transport (TPT)-2012-RTD-1	01 December 2011	Research
FP7- SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST)-2012-RTD-	01 December 2011	Research

1 including European Green Cars Initiative		
FP7-Aeronautics and Air Transport	01 December 2011	Research
ICT For Green Cars 2012	01 December 2011	Research
Smart Cities and Communities	01 December 2011	Research
Research for the Benefit of SMEs	06 December 2011	Research
Support to trans-national networks of procurers	05 January 2012	Research
Marie Curie Initial Training Networks 2012	12 January 2012	Research
Comenius In Service Training	16 January 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig In Service Training	16 January 2012	Education, Training & Youth
FP7 ICT 2011 8	17 January 2012	Research
Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme	18 January 2012	Research
Theme 4 – NMP – Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies – CSAs 2012	24 January 2012	Research
Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters	31 January 2012	Research
Comenius assistantships	31 January 2012	Education, Training & Youth
FP7-SSH-2012 – Collaborative projects (Large scale integrated research projects)	02 February 2012	Research
Comenius Multilateral Projects	02 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Erasmus Multilateral Projects	02 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Projects	02 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig Multilateral projects	02 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth

Erasmus: Intensive Language Courses	03 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Culture Programme – Literary Translation Projects	03 February 2012	Culture
Jean Monnet Programme	15 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Comenius Partnerships	21 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Leonardo da Vinci Partnerships	21 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig Partnerships	21 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Comenius Regio Partnerships	21 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig Workshops	21 February 2012	Education, Training & Youth
FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2012	22 February 2012	Research
FP7-TRANSPORT-2012-MOVE-1	01 March 2012	Research
Transversal Programme	01 March 2012	Education, Training & Youth
FP7 Energy Call Part 2	08 March 2012	Research
Grundtvig Assistantships	30 March 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Media 2007 – Development, Distribution, Promotion and Training	13 April 2012	Audiovisual & Media
Media 2007 – Audiovisual Festivals	30 April 2012	Audiovisual & Media
Comenius In Service Training	30 April 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig In Service Training	30 April 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Comenius In Service Training	17 September 2012	Education, Training & Youth
Grundtvig In Service Training	17 September 2012	Education, Training & Youth

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](#).

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European Fisheries Fund – Axis 4

Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) provides support for fishing dependent and coastal communities and will soon be rolled out in Scotland. The fund will be delivered by Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) which are local partnerships of key stakeholders.

Following extensive consultation with local communities, Aberdeenshire Council submitted a bid for £1.2 million of EFF funds to Marine Scotland on behalf of the proposed Aberdeenshire FLAG. The outcome of this bid is awaited. There is no actual date provided for Marine Scotland to make a decision, however indications are that a decision will be forthcoming soon. For further information on the programme, please visit:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/european_fisheries_fund.asp

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LEADER – Fully Committed

The LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) met in September and approved five new projects for funding. This has resulted in the programme budget now being fully committed. A total of 116 projects have been supported in Aberdeenshire with £4.09m of LEADER funding enabling a total of £16.14m of costs within the area.

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INTERREG North Sea Region – Payment Interruption

UK beneficiaries participating in the INTERREG North Sea Region Programme have been informed that any payments expected for recent and future claims will be delayed. EU auditors have discovered a number of issues with some UK partners, and until these are resolved to their satisfaction no payments will be made to UK partners.

Aberdeenshire Council employees participating in this programme have been informed and await further guidance. No action is required by the Council at this time.

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Intelligent Energy Europe Website

A new website for the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme has been launched. The programme provides funding opportunities for projects in three distinct areas; energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transport. For more information on the eligible activities please visit the website.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/about/index_en.htm

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StratMoS Completed

The INTERREG supported StratMoS project has now concluded its activity, with a final conference held in Brussels on 7&8 September. Aberdeenshire Council was heavily involved in this project, and further information on it can be found at:

<http://www.stratmos.com/home>

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North East Work Skills Project Concludes

The North East Work Skills (NEWS) project has completed its activities, providing over 1,600 people in over 170 companies work place-based literacy and numeracy training. The project, led by Gordon Scott under the stewardship of Anne Simpson, was part-funded under the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland European Social Fund programme. DVDs and a report summarising the main outcomes and achievements of the project have been produced. Please [contact the European Team](#) if you would like more information on the project.



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Policy Update

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[Agriculture](#)

[Climate Action](#)

[Employment and Social Affairs](#)

[Environment](#)

[Information Society](#)

[Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#)

[Regional Policy](#)

[Transport](#)

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Agriculture

CAP Post 2013

The European Commission has published a [set of proposals](#) designed to make the CAP a more effective policy encouraging competitive and sustainable agriculture. There are ten key points to the reform:

- 1) **[Better targeted income support](#) in order to stimulate growth and employment**
- 2) **[Tools to address crisis management](#) which are more responsive and better suited to meet new economic challenges**
- 3) A **['Green' payment](#)** for preserving long-term productivity and ecosystems
- 4) Additional investment in **[research and innovation](#)**
- 5) A more **[competitive and balanced food chain](#)**
- 6) Encouraging **[agri-environmental initiatives](#)**
- 7) Facilitating the establishment of **[young farmers](#)**
- 8) Stimulating **[Rural employment and entrepreneurship](#)**
- 9) Better addressing **[fragile areas](#)**
- 10) A **[simpler and more efficient CAP](#)**

Debates between the European Parliament and Council are anticipated to reach agreement late 2013 with a view to CAP reform being in place early 2014. Further information on the proposals can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index_en.htm

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Climate Action

Kyoto Targets Reports

The European Commission and European Environment Agency have published reports highlighting the EU's progress towards meeting its Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These reports highlight the progress the EU is making in breaking the link between carbon emissions and economic growth. By 2010 the EU succeeded in cutting emissions by 15.5% since 1990 while the economy grew by 41% over the same period. Emissions fell for six consecutive years up to and including 2009. Further information and the reports are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2011100701_en.htm

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Employment and Social Affairs

Social Business Initiative

A Communication has been released setting out European Commission plans to support entrepreneurship. The document identifies a lack of access to funding (both private and public) and the existing legal framework (e.g. State aid) as barriers to the establishment and growth of social enterprises. For further information, please visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1105&furtherNews=yes>

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Environment

Resource Efficiency Campaign Launched

The European Commission has launched a campaign "Generation Awake" which is designed to encourage consumers to make resource efficiency habit. Part of the campaign is the new website; <http://www.generationawake.eu/>

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Information Society

Connecting Europe Facility

The European Commission has tabled a plan to further improve Europe's Transport, Energy and Digital networks through €50bn of investment. Most of the money will be used in the form of project bonds or loans to encourage private sector participation, however there may be scope for a small number of grants and technical assistance.

€9.2bn of this funding will be made available to enable access to high speed broadband across the EU. This investment aims to encourage private sector investment which will be necessary to achieve the total investments required across Europe, outlined within the [Digital Agenda flagship Initiative](#). For further information, please visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/709&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Fishing Opportunities 2012

[Proposals for next year's fishing opportunities](#) have been issued by the European Commission. At this stage, the proposal only contains very few concrete figures, but it will be completed as scientific advice becomes available or annual negotiations with third parties and organisations have taken place. The Common Fisheries Policy itself is undergoing a major reform at present, with proposals issued by the Commission issued earlier this year. For further information on the reform process, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/index_en.htm

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Regional Policy

2014-20 Programme Proposals

The European Commission has presented its proposals for Cohesion Policy from 2014-2020. The aim is to boost growth and jobs across Europe in line with the ambitions of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The package includes regulations on a range of future EU funding programmes including the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and

the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund. At present the Commission has proposed that €336billion be allocated to Cohesion policy instruments for 2014-2020.

Aberdeenshire Council officers are working with partners such as the East of Scotland European Consortium and COSLA to ensure that Aberdeenshire can continue to benefit from European funding. The package shall now be discussed by the European Parliament and Council with a view to adoption by late 2012. For further information, please visit:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1159&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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Transport

TEN-T Guidelines Revision

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for the revision of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) guidelines alongside the new Connecting Europe Facility which will be the main driver for supporting and enabling investment in Europe's Energy, Transport and Digital networks.

Aberdeenshire Council officers represent the North Sea Commission in the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions' TEN-T working group. This has provided a useful opportunity to help shape the policy and ensure that the North East of Scotland is included in TEN-T maps and eligible for financial support. For further information on TEN-T, please visit:

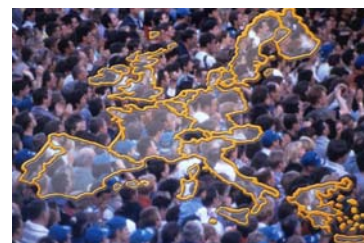
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/connecting/revision-t_en.htm

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External Groups

In this section:

[Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(CPMR\)](#)
[North Sea Commission \(NSC\)](#)
[East of Scotland European Consortium \(ESEC\)](#)



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Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)



General Assembly

The 39th CPMR General Assembly took place in Aarhus, Denmark, on 29-30 September 2011. Debates were held with the European Commissioners for Climate Action (Connie Hedegaard) and the Internal Market (Michel Barnier). Other items discussed included future European funding programmes, the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and Trans-European Transport Networks. The minutes of the meeting are available at:

http://www.crpm.org/pub/cr/82_minutes_-_ga_aarhus.pdf

Energy/Climate Change Workshop

The CPMR Energy/Climate Change group are organising a workshop in Aberdeen on 12 January. The workshop will discuss the implications of future EU funding Regulations and the impact which they may have on energy and climate change policy areas. The workshop will also address the Connecting Europe Facility and how it can support investment in energy infrastructure across the EU.

www.cpmr.org

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North Sea Commission (NSC)



Executive Committee

The NSC Executive Committee met in Brussels on 31 October to discuss the North Sea Region 2020 strategy document. A range of comments have been received from members, including Aberdeenshire Council (discussed by Full Council on 29 September). The NSC will endeavour to respond to these comments and amend the strategy document, which could help shape future EU funding programmes, accordingly. To see the papers for the meeting, please visit:

<http://northseacommission.org/the-news/233-papers-for-the-57th-excom-31-october-in-brussels.html>

Thematic Group Meetings

The Innovation and Education Group met in early November, and the Culture and Tourism Group will meet on 21 November. A meeting of the Sustainable Development Group was scheduled to take place on 23-24 November, however this meeting has been postponed until a later date. Similarly, the Marine Resources group had planned to meet on 22 November however it has also been postponed to a later date.

northseacommission.org

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East of Scotland European Consortium



Future Funds Delivery Models

The ESEC Officer Group last met in late October and the main discussions focused on the potential delivery models of future EU funds at a local level. ESEC will now present a paper to the forthcoming Policy Board outlining the benefits and potential negatives of each of the three models which may be suitable. The Policy Board meeting will take place on 25 November 2011.

www.esec.org.uk

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Current Consultations

THEME	TITLE	CLOSING DATE
Internal Market	Green Paper on the online distribution of audiovisual works in the European Union: opportunities and challenges towards a digital single market	18 November 2011
Research and Technology	Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area	30 November 2011
Climate Action	Consultation on reducing CO2 emissions from road vehicles	09 December 2011
Justice and Fundamental Rights	Public Consultation on Directive 2006/114/EC concerning Misleading and Comparative Advertising and on unfair commercial practices affecting businesses	16 December 2011
Environment	Public Consultation on the Implementation and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to genetic resources and Benefit Sharing arising out of their utilization (ABS)	19 December 2011
Climate Action	Consultation on reducing fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions – Further action at EU level	19 December 2011
Public Health	Consultation on measures for improving the recognition of prescriptions issued in another Member State	08 January 2012
Justice & Fundamental Rights	Public consultation on the Communication “Towards a Stronger European Response to Drugs”	20 January 2012
Environment	Consultation on Water Efficiency in Buildings	08 February 2012
Home Affairs	Public consultation on the Directive on the right to family reunification	01 March 2011

If you are intending to respond to any of the above consultations please inform the [European Team](#).

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Training Calendar

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 Managing ERDF Finances	22	23	24	25
28	29 Youth in Action Programme	30		

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 ERDF Record Keeping
5	6 ERDF Applications	7	8 ERDF & State Aid	9 FP7 Project Management
12	13	14 EU Procurement and Commissioning	15 Grundtvig – Adult Education	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

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Events Calendar

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7 NSC Innovation & Education	8 NSC Innovation & Education	9 NSC Innovation & Education	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 European Officer Group	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5	6	7 European Member Officer Working Group	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

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Contacts and Links for Further Information

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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:

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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
European Parliament
Council of the European Union
Committee of the Regions

www.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
www.europarl.europa.eu
www.consilium.europa.eu
www.cor.europa.eu

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