

East of England Europe & International Affairs Panel Action Plan 2007

IRS Strategic Objective 1: Achieve high quality and sustainable solutions in Growth Areas and other parts of the region facing growth and regeneration pressures<sup>1</sup>

European Commission Strategic Initiative 1: Energy initiatives (strategic review of the Energy Policy for Europe and measures to ensure the completion of the internal market for electricity and gas)

Strategic Initiative 6: Emissions Trading Scheme

Strategic Initiative 16: Green Paper on Post-2012 Climate Change

Aims	Actions	Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
The region's structural funds projects contribute to this objective	To monitor how well projects support this objective	Relevant indicators from the ERDF operational programme (Annex A), e.g.: no. of jobs created / safeguarded, indicators relating to environmental quality (such as BREEAM - British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)	European Programmes Strategy Group members  EERA / partnership officers sitting on Operating Groups	Meetings quarterly  Meetings monthly	Indicators will be collected by the ERDF regional managing authority (EEDA) from 2008 and reported as a standing item on the agenda to the Europe & International Affairs Panel, as well as to EPSG.  EPSG members sitting on the Panel to report EPSG matters to Panel from 2008.

<sup>1</sup> Communities must have strong social and cultural assets and amenities; high levels of environmental quality and design, and a robust economic base providing jobs.

Aims	Actions	Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
	To encourage the reduction of overlap and / or gaps between EU funding programmes	n/a	East of England Steering Group (EESG) members  Panel members  European Programmes Strategy Group members	Meetings ongoing until operational programme signed off  Meetings quarterly from 09/11/07	EPSG first official meeting 09/11/07
The region uses culture as a hook for creating sustainable communities in the region (especially the growth areas) promoted via transnational working and guided by the	Panel to promote continued support for cultural activity	Establish a baseline for:  1. The number of cultural projects awarded EU funding  2. No. of bids for EU funding receiving a good / excellent rating	EERA officers  Arts Council  Malopolska Champion	n/a	Indicators available from 2008

Aims	Actions	Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
region's Cultural Strategy <sup>2</sup>		from evaluators			
The region draws down EU funding through European partnerships for cultural, sustainable development and environmental protection activity (e.g. through, Culture 2000, LIFE, North West Europe programme, etc.)	Funding opportunities are promoted through meetings / events / newsletters / press releases	Establish a baseline for number and quality of projects bid for within the region with cultural, environmental and sustainable development themes (good / excellent rating from evaluators).	EERA officers  Brussels Office	Ongoing	Presentations on Territorial Cooperation given at: Norfolk European Funding Event (30/01/07), SOLACE (02/03/07), Cross Border presentations at Panel (29/06/07), Norfolk SREP meeting presentation (25/06/07), North Programme Cross-border consultation event, London (26/06/07) : Regions' European Spatial Planning (RESP) Interreg "Lessons Learned" document distributed (18/06/07)) EERA team newsletter distributed (13/03/07)
	EERA works effectively through the North Sea	Project information should be available	NSC Vice-Chair on Culture &	From end 2007	To do

<sup>2</sup> The cultural strategy has four key themes to provide a focus for investment and decision-making over the next 10-20 years: 1) embedding culture in growth and regeneration, 2) developing creativity, 3) growing cultural tourism and 4) capturing the benefits of the London 2010 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

Aims	Actions	Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
	Commission to build partnerships to fund projects which contribute to IRS Objective1	from 2008 on the North Sea programme website	Tourism Group EERA officers		
	Panel members disseminate information on funding opportunities to their constituent groups / organisations	n/a	Panel members	Ongoing	To do.

IRS Strategic Objective 2: Harness fully the region's strengths in science, research and development and in the surrounding commercialisation process (there is no specific European Commission initiative which links directly with this objective)

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
The region's inhabitants possess the relevant skills and knowledge to achieve the objective	Lobby for EU funded projects (mainly ESF-funded) to contribute as fully as possible to higher level skills (including management skills, language skills etc.)	Number of learners undergoing training in higher level skills (indicators obtained through ESF programme)	European Programmes Strategy Group members  EERA / partnership officers sitting on	Meetings quarterly  Meetings monthly from end	Successfully lobbied through East of England Skills & Competitiveness (EESCP)  Indicators to be provided to Panel and EPSG by GO East from 2008.

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
			operating groups	2007	
Region becomes a leader in drawdown of FP7 funding	Panel champion to participate in the promotion of FP7 to the region  EERA staff to ensure champion fully briefed	Maximise the value of FP7 funded projects awarded in the region  Establish a baseline for number of bids for EU funding receiving a good / excellent rating from evaluators	EEDA officers (EEDA to lead on promoting FP7 to businesses – function to be in place by Spring 2007)  EERA officers	Begins as soon as first call for applications is launched	To do  FP7 Champion to be nominated by Europe Panel on 09/10/07
EERA engages effectively with the North Sea Commission Innovation & Education Group	NSC champion and / or partnership officers to attend NSC Innovation and Education Group meetings	NSC policy (position statements etc) includes East of England priorities	NSC champion  EERA / partnership officers	3-4 meetings per year	To do
Region is competent in drawdown of Competitiveness & Innovation funding	Raise awareness of opportunities through officer groups and ad hoc events as necessary	Establish a baseline for number and quality of CIP projects bid for within the region	EEDA officers  EERA officers	Begins as soon as first call for applications is launched	To do

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
		Establish a baseline for number of bids for EU funding receiving a good / excellent rating from evaluators			

IRS Strategic Objective 3: Address the causes and implications of persistent deprivation and social exclusion wherever it exists in the region

European Commission Strategic Initiative 4: Social Reality Stocktaking (access to services and economic opportunity)

Strategic Initiative 7: Communication on "pathways towards more flexicurity: achieving better combinations of flexibility and security"

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
The region's structural funds projects contribute to this objective	Monitor how well projects contribute to this goal	Increase in jobs created / safeguarded	European Programmes Strategy Group members  EERA / partnership officers on operating groups	Quarterly from 09/11/07  Monthly	Indicators to be provided to Panel and EPSG by GO East and EEDA from 2008

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
Ensure that as the ESF programme develops due to policy developments and labour market conditions, the Panel ensures East of England priorities are included	Panel to be briefed by EERA officers on developments	East of England priorities included in any new developments	European Programmes Strategy Group members	Quarterly	To do
	Panel to approve responses to developments as appropriate		EERA / partnership officers on operating groups	Monthly	
Promote activity which helps alleviate deprivation/exclusion through the East of England's already established regional alliance strategy	Work with regional partner organisations to develop EU funded projects	n/a	EERA / partnership officers on Interreg Operating Group	Meetings monthly	To do
Promote activity which helps alleviate exclusion and supports equal opportunities	Monitor how well projects contribute to this goal		European Programmes Strategy Group members	Quarterly	To do
			EERA / partnership officers on operating groups	Monthly	

Strategic Objective 4: Effect a step change in the efficiency of resource use and the management of the region's distinctive natural and built environmental assets

European Commission Strategic Initiative 1: Energy initiatives (strategic review of the Energy Policy for Europe and measures to ensure the completion of the internal market for electricity and gas)

Strategic Initiative 6: Emissions Trading Scheme

Strategic Initiative 16: Green Paper on Post-2012 Climate Change

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
EERA works effectively through the North Sea Commission's relevant thematic groups (Innovation & Research, Sustainable Development.)	Regional reps / NSC champion where appropriate engage fully with the relevant groups	EERA priorities apparent in NSC position statements	NSC champion  EERA / partnership officers	3-4 meetings per group per year	May 2007 - East of England political member voted on to the NSC Sustainable Development Thematic Group as Vice-Chair  August 2007 - NSC Transport Group agreed that EERA officers help draft the NSC response to the EU Green Paper on Urban Transport
The region draws down territorial cooperation (Interreg) funding to pursue this objective	Panel promotes through its own authorities and organisations the benefits of transnational cross-border and interregional working	Establish a baseline for number and quality of Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) projects bid for within the	Panel members	n/a	Ongoing

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
		<p>region</p> <p>Establish a baseline for number of bids for EU Interreg funding receiving a good / excellent rating from evaluators</p>			
	<p>Officers promote and disseminate opportunities for funding through panel meetings, officers groups, EERA European newsletters etc.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>EERA officers</p> <p>Successor to Interreg O.G.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>To do</p>
<p>Projects granted EU funding by regional bodies limit carbon emissions as far as possible</p>	<p>The regional Programme Monitoring Committee for structural funds ensures that environmental sustainability is promoted</p>	<p>That all projects endorsed attain the highest possible environmental protection ratings, such as BREEAM (British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)</p>	<p>European Programmes Strategy Group members</p> <p>EERA / partnership officers sitting on Operating Groups</p>	<p>Meetings quarterly</p> <p>Meetings monthly</p>	<p>First meeting 09/11/07</p> <p>From end 2007</p>

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
East of England priorities are included in the EU Maritime Policy White Paper	The maritime task force works to ensure that relevant regional stakeholders (ports, environmental groups, etc.) are consulted on the contents of the East of England response	Regional stakeholders views are taken into account and included in the region's response	Maritime Policy Task Force	June 2007	White Paper due out 10/10/07
	Submit an East of England response to the EU Maritime Policy green paper			Done	Done
East of England response used to lobby others bodies	Submit response to North Sea Commission and the English Regions' Network		EERA officers	Done	Done - East of England response used as a basis by the English Regions' Network in its own response to the consultation.  Done - East of England response also used as a basis by the North Sea Commission in its own response to the consultation.
Ensure that the Panel influences the outcome of energy initiatives	EERA staff and Brussels Office keep abreast of developments and liaise with Panel to effectively	East of England priorities are included in any relevant EU	EERA officers Brussels Office	Begins on publication of the EU's Energy	Brussels Office to present first draft response to Green Paper on Climate Change at Panel on 09/10/07

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
launched by the EU to the advantage of the region (e.g. EU Energy Review, Green Paper on Climate Change).	lobby the EU institutions where appropriate	legislation on energy		Review and Green Paper on post-2012 Climate Change	

IRS Strategic Objective 5: Capture the benefits from – and manage the impacts of – the region’s international gateways and national transport corridors

European Commission Strategic Initiative 15: Green paper on urban transport

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
The region maximises the benefits of EU programmes for sustainable transport solutions, mitigation of environmental impact etc.	Ensure that funding opportunities are promoted through officer groups and facilitated via Panel	Establish a baseline for the number of funded projects relating to sustainable transport solutions etc.	EERA officers	n/a	To do
	Panel members disseminate information to their organisations		Panel members	Ongoing	To do

Aims	Actions	Target/Indicator	Lead	Timescale	Status
The region becomes a leader in tapping into the "new" cross-border programme	EERA officers to promote funding opportunities through officer groups and via Panel	Establish a baseline for the number of projects funded in the region under the cross-border programme relating to transport, tourism etc.	EERA officers	Work begins as soon as first call for applications is launched	To do
	Panel members disseminate information to their organisations				
The region takes appropriate opportunities to influence the contents of the green paper on urban transport	EERA staff and Brussels Office keep abreast of developments and liaise with Panel, CoR members, MEPs etc. to effectively lobby the EU institutions where appropriate	East of England priorities included in white paper	Urban Transport Task Force  Brussels office	Works starts as soon as the Green Paper is published / intelligence on its contents have been gathered	August 2007 - regional Urban Transport Task Force established, including EERA members from Planning, Europe and Environment Panels, plus private sector, officer and NGO specialists.  First task force meeting to be held in October 2007.