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Item 8

47<sup>th</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting,  
4 April 2008.

## NSC Organisational issues

### 1. Promoting the Success of NSC

The findings so far will be presented at the meeting by the consultants.

The final report will be presented in the June meeting.

### 2. Participation in the ESPON project “Territorial diversity”

The NSC Secretariat has been asked by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to take part in a 2 year ESPON project “Territorial diversity”

#### **From the application;**

Summary of the project

*The Territorial Agenda adapted at the informal ministerial meeting in Leipzig in May of 2007 stressed that through the Territorial Agenda the ministers would like to contribute to sustainable economic growth and job creation as well as social and ecological development in all EU regions, this in support of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies of the European Council. It was further stressed that the diverse territorial potentials of regions sustainable growth and economic growth and job creation in the EU must be identified and mobilised. The aim of this project is to look at how regions outside the metropolitan and major urban areas can contribute to the Lisbon/Gothenburg strategy, so as to promote differentiated spatial and regional development policies.*

The project will be led by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in Norway, The other participating stakeholders will come from Finland (Ministry of Employment and Economy ) and Switzerland(Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE). In addition Euromontana and the North Sea Commission of CPMR will be involved.

The partnership has been developed by circulating and discussing the project idea with potential participants at national and regional level with responsibility for regional and spatial policies. These are public authorities which are involved structural funds policies, the Territorial Agenda and its Action Plan. We have also put an emphasis on involving umbrella organisation like Euromontana or the North Sea Commission so as to reach a wider audience. When developing the partnership we have also considered the relationship to projects which deal with issues which are complementary to this project.

The lead partner will set up a steering committee closely monitoring the progress of the project. The steering committee will be composed of the participating stakeholders and representatives of the Euromomontana and the North Sea Commission.

Euromontana and The North Sea Commission will play a key role in disseminating and



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getting feedback on the results of the study through their networks. They will also be invited into participate in the steering committee of the project.

The Secretariat looks at the project as an excellent possibility to promote ourselves. There is no economic cost for NSC to participate, except staff time. Members of the Executive Committee, their support officers and the Adviser's will be asked for input during the project period. Reports and results from the project will be published on the NSC website.

### **3. New NSC website**

As informed at earlier meetings there is a need for updating and re-organising the NSC website, and there is set of some money for this in the budget for 2008. There has been a discussion to have all geographical commissions' websites under the CPMR website, but this is not happening. As a result of this have the Executive Secretaries of the NSC and BSC decided to look for a joint solution and inviting the other commissions to join our solution to save costs.

The Executive Secretary of BSC, Anne Ståhl Mousa, has IT-expertise and is investigating different technical solutions.

The new website is planned to have the same functionalities as today, but with possibilities for easier chairing documents, direct comments to papers under preparations, blogging etc. Parts of the website (the working area) will be closed for public access.

The cost for the new website is not clarified yet and must be discussed later. There was set aside money for updating the website in 2007 that is not used (part of the surplus for 2007) the 2007 budget

### **4. Open Days 2009**

At the ExCom meeting 2 November 2007 the Secretariat was asked to investigate the possibilities for NSC to take part in the Open Days 2008 (OD08). With help from our Dutch colleagues the issue was investigated and it became clear NSC hadn't the time or possibilities to prepare a workshop/meeting for the OD08.

If the ExCom want NSC to take part in OD09 the Vice-President for External relations together with the Secretariat and the Adviser's is responsible to prepare the NSC contribution.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. *For discussion, decision and information***
- 2. *The progress of the project Promoting the Success of the NSC is for information***



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3. *NSC Secretariat takes part in the ESPON project as described in this paper.*
4. *The work for updating the NSC website is a responsibility for the Secretariat. The work will continue within the costs of the budget*
5. *NSC aim for to contribute to the Open Days 2009, responsible is the Vice-President for External relations with help from the Secretariat and the Adviser's.*



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