

NATURAL - ENERGY EFFICIENT - SUSTAINABLE

# NEES Project

## Natural Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

# Progress to Date

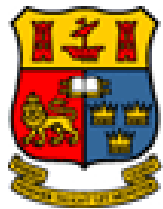
Cork EUSEW Seminar

Cork Centre for Architectural Education

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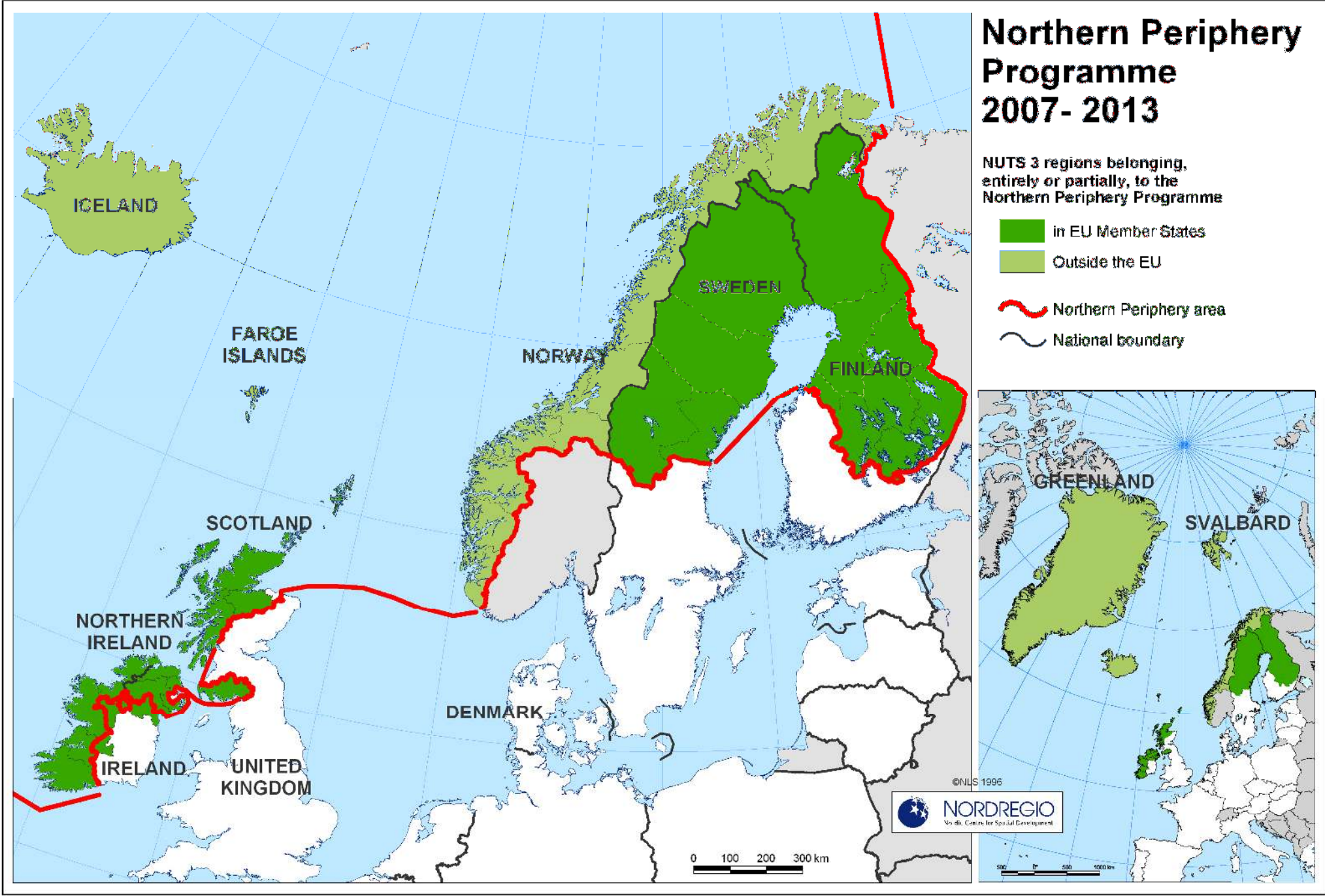
**CORK  
INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA CHORCAÍ



## *NEES Mission*

***Identify and promote products and services that improve energy efficiency in existing domestic buildings, that make use primarily of renewable or recycled materials and of services based on natural processes, which originate or are normally accessible in the Northern Periphery Programme Region, and have the potential for being mainstreamed and commercially disseminated inside and outside the region.***





## *NEES Objectives*

NEES will develop a **model** for the **identification and validation** of innovative products and services for achieving natural energy efficiency, aiming to help providers to develop and diversify their products to reach a larger market.

The (development of this) model will be based primarily on the **12 steps identified**, and the model will be **fully implemented and replicated as a consultancy support service for similar products**, linked to national EEB programmes.

## *NEES 12 Steps (1)*

1. 5 surveys of natural products and services promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in 5 partner regions in the NPP area.
2. A central database and online catalogue of products, producers, services and service providers in the 5 partner regions, available online, with relevant links and background information.
3. A developed package of indicators, starting out from the baseline of the Natureplus label criteria ([www.natureplus.org](http://www.natureplus.org)), and incorporating other environmental, economic and social criteria, to establish a new and unique (TBL) benchmark for natural products and services.
4. An online internet portal and web site to make available products and services identified by the NEES Project, as well as for internal and external communication
5. 15 detailed profiles (3 per region), including visual records and technical fiches of selected the best practice products and services identified in the 5 partner regions, to be individually marketed and disseminated during and after the Project end. These profiles will describe a specific product, such as an external insulation product for existing dwellings, or a specific service, such as green roof or living wall design, or a service for changing behaviour in the use of domestic energy.



## *NEES 12 Steps (2)*

6. 5 feasibility studies of the application of selected products and services identified as best practise (BP) by the Project over the 5 partner regions.
7. 5 study visits by full and associate partners and other key stakeholders to selected best practice in other partner regions
8. 5 demonstration projects (one in each Partner area) identified or implemented, which illustrate the different products and services developed in the different partner regions
9. 5 demonstration projects monitored and evaluated for a significant period during the project life and results will be made available to stakeholders. A photographic and video record of selected products and technologies will be made, which will be uploaded on the project portal and released as a separate promotional video.
10. 5 local workshops and seminars. Linked to the demonstration projects, and covering the range of products and services developed
11. A final project conference, which will be combined with the first gathering of the NEES Network
12. A transnational NEES network of stakeholders that have an interest in promoting and developing the sector will be formed.

## *NEES progress to date (1)*

### **WP1 Project Management**

- 5 Full Partner meetings
- 6 Study Visits (2 x Cork, 2 x Umea, 1 x Down, 2 x Claremorris)

### **WP2 Identifying Best Practice**

- Developed and applied NEES criteria for benchmarking Best Practices
- Holding 2 Calls to date for Best Practices

### **WP3 Benchmarking Best Practices**

- Developed objective Evaluation Process for BP's
- Convened NEES Expert Panel and carrying out Evaluation
- Identified 14 Best Practices to date (6 in Call 1 and 8 in Call 2)

### **WP4 Feasibility and Exchange of Best Practices**

- Carrying out survey of feasibility of Best Practices initiated
- Forming regional Focus Groups to provide feedback on Best practices feasibility

## **WP 4 Feasibility and Exchange of Best Practices**

- Identifying possible funding opportunities for follow-on initiatives

## **WP5 Pilot Projects**

- One completed Pilot Project in Greenland, one in West Cork
- 3 other PP's in planning or progress in Clairemorris, Cork and Aran Islands.
- At least two more PP's (in Sweden) to be progressed
- Looking at way of evaluating in terms of `NEES criteria

## **WP6 Training and Support**

- NEES related training has been carried out by Clar ICH,
- Proposals for Vocational Training Manual and Modules in preparation
- University based CPD training proposals in preparation

## **WP7 Dissemination and Awareness**

- Launch in Cork City, presentation in Scottish Parliament, APPG on Sustainable Construction, East Border Regions Conference., etc.
- Significant number of web site visits (89,000 to date)
- Media coverage in newspapers, newsletters, blogs, etc.
- Exhibitions at NPP Conference (Derry) and Cork EUSEW Seminar



## Main Future Actions

1. **3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Best Practices** – identifying a broader range of products and services from all Partner regions
2. **6<sup>th</sup> Partners Meeting (Greenland)** to focus on developing a definite NEES vocational training package
3. **7<sup>th</sup> Partners Meeting Edinburgh**
4. **Formation of Local Focus Groups** to review progress and specifically the viability and obstacles to deployment of Best Practices
5. **Feasibility of Business Plans of Best Practices** continuing progress
6. **Pilot Projects** – progress and information of those identified and at least 2 additional Pilot Projects.
7. **Vocational Training Development** – commissioning of a Training Manual and vocational training modules aiming at Near Zero Energy Building standard based on the NEES criteria, Best Practices and Pilot Projects
8. **Dissemination Strategy** – Targeted at the key clients, and stakeholders through Social Media and dissemination Events
9. **Public Events** - to showcase Best Practices in every area, like this Energy Week Seminar, to raise awareness, promote best practices and awareness and mainstreaming of the approach, including a Final Network Conference in Brussels.
10. **Follow-On Projects** – to continue development of the NEES model.

## Other Issues

1. **Aiming at a Near Zero Energy House for the Region**  
– This standard that will soon be obligatory in EU directives, so we aim to integrate life-cycle considerations in energy use and carbon footprint of the building and its components.
2. **Develop Cradle to Cradle** principle, including “upcycling” and the “circular economy and its relation to selection of products and services and building design  
**Northern Periphery Programme Priority** – embedding natural energy efficiency into regional strategies
3. **Exploring other National and EU Programmes** that the NEES Objectives can be taken forward on (e.g. SEAI R&D, Horizon2020)
4. **Other suggestions?**

# Work Programme from now to end of Project

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