



## Explanatory comments

# Manual for 1st Level Control

In the beginning of December 2008, the North Sea Region Programme submitted to the Audit Authority the Description of the Management and Control System in accordance with Article 71 of the Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006. The 'Manual for the 1<sup>st</sup> level control in the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme', which describes the 1<sup>st</sup> level control set up and contains the standard reporting forms, was part of this description. The Audit Authority is currently assessing the whole document for compliance with the requirements of the above mentioned Article 71.

Beneficiaries of approved projects are strongly recommended to study the 'Manual for the 1<sup>st</sup> level control in the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme' carefully. It contains relevant information and guidance about the 1<sup>st</sup> level control set up in the North Sea Region Programme, the procedure for designation of 1<sup>st</sup> level controllers, the scope of the 1<sup>st</sup> level control and the standard reporting forms as well as the crucial legal references for running a project. Even though the outcome of the Audit Authority's compliance assessment may bring about some changes, these are not expected to be major. The content of the Manual will be on the agenda of the upcoming LB Seminar in Lübeck in the beginning of February 2009.

The Programme is currently developing a new online database, which will facilitate the exchange of information between the projects' Lead Beneficiaries, the Secretariat and other important stakeholders as e.g. National Authorities. As soon as it is technically possible, the forms listed in the Manual will be online. Until this online system is ready, the paper version will be available for downloads on the programme web-site. All beneficiaries of approved projects are encouraged to start the designation procedure with the download version. The current schedule still assumes that the reporting round in March 09 for projects approved during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> call will be carried out online though.

Finance Unit  
January 2009