



## **News release**

### **Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF)**

Partners from cities and regions across Europe have come together on a project to raise the agenda for urban fringes.

Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) is a 3 year project, which aims to unlock the potential of the urban fringe, the areas of landscape which link urban and rural environments. These areas are often neglected, and under threat from urban growth, expansion and inconsistent spatial planning policy.

Project partners from the UK, Germany, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands are working to deliver a common approach towards urban fringe development and address the challenges facing these areas.

Urban Fringes are recognised as valuable assets, which can provide a high quality environment in an urban setting, creating vital areas for the health and well being of local communities.

The project started in September 2009 with the objective to achieve a more sustainable future for urban fringes by –

- Reviewing urban fringe policies and developing a set of policy guidelines to tackle issues of governance and spatial planning.
- Providing a common platform for experts and institutions to exchange information, strategies and policies on dealing with urban fringes.

- Engaging policy analysis to tackle urban fringe challenges, which include: complex issues of ownership and administration; declining biodiversity; deteriorating water quality; low green space value; and poor access.
- Looking at the benefits urban fringes can bring to local communities helping to create places where people want to live, work and do business.

Project partners are developing their own urban fringe initiatives to establish best practice and share their experiences with project partners and the wider community.

The Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) Project is part of the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme and is partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Further information can be found on the project website at [www.sustainablefringes.eu](http://www.sustainablefringes.eu)

## **Ends**

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## **Notes to editors:**

1. The Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) Project Partners are:  
UK - Aberdeen City Council, School of the Built Environment at Leeds Metropolitan University, City of Bradford and Norfolk County Council;  
Netherlands: City of Enschede, Saxion University, City of Almelo and City of Hengelo; Belgium: Province of East Flanders and Province of West Flanders; Germany: City of Hamburg; and Sweden: Municipality of Harryda
2. The Interreg IVB, North Sea Region Programme promotes transnational co-operation through four Programme priorities. The Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project was approved in 2009 under the “Delivers

Sustainable and Competitive Communities” category.

<http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/home/>

3. Interreg IVB, North Sea Region Programme is part of the European Territorial Co-operation Programme which is supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
4. This programme is designed to encourage cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional co-operation and balanced development of the European territory.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/citiesandregions/european/europeanregionalddevelopment/europeanterritorialcooperation>