

# The E-CLIC Model

## A Connected Ring of European Collaborative Innovation Centres





# Preface

The E-CLIC model is a main output of the E-CLIC project, showing how the project has been structured and how the established E-CLIC centres have been working as regional hubs with the aim to foster innovation in the field of broadband media services. The model has been tested, evaluated and developed by the project partners during the three and half years that the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme project E-CLIC has been running.

Based of this model the E-CLIC project's results will help to implement the Digital agenda in the North Sea Region.



Katarina Nordmark  
Project Manager

# The E-CLIC Model

## - A Connected Ring of European Collaborative Innovation Centres

The E-CLIC model is a tested and evaluated model for regional and transnational collaboration in the field of innovation, applied research and development of broadband media services. The model has been developed and tested during the three and half years that the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme project E-CLIC has been running.

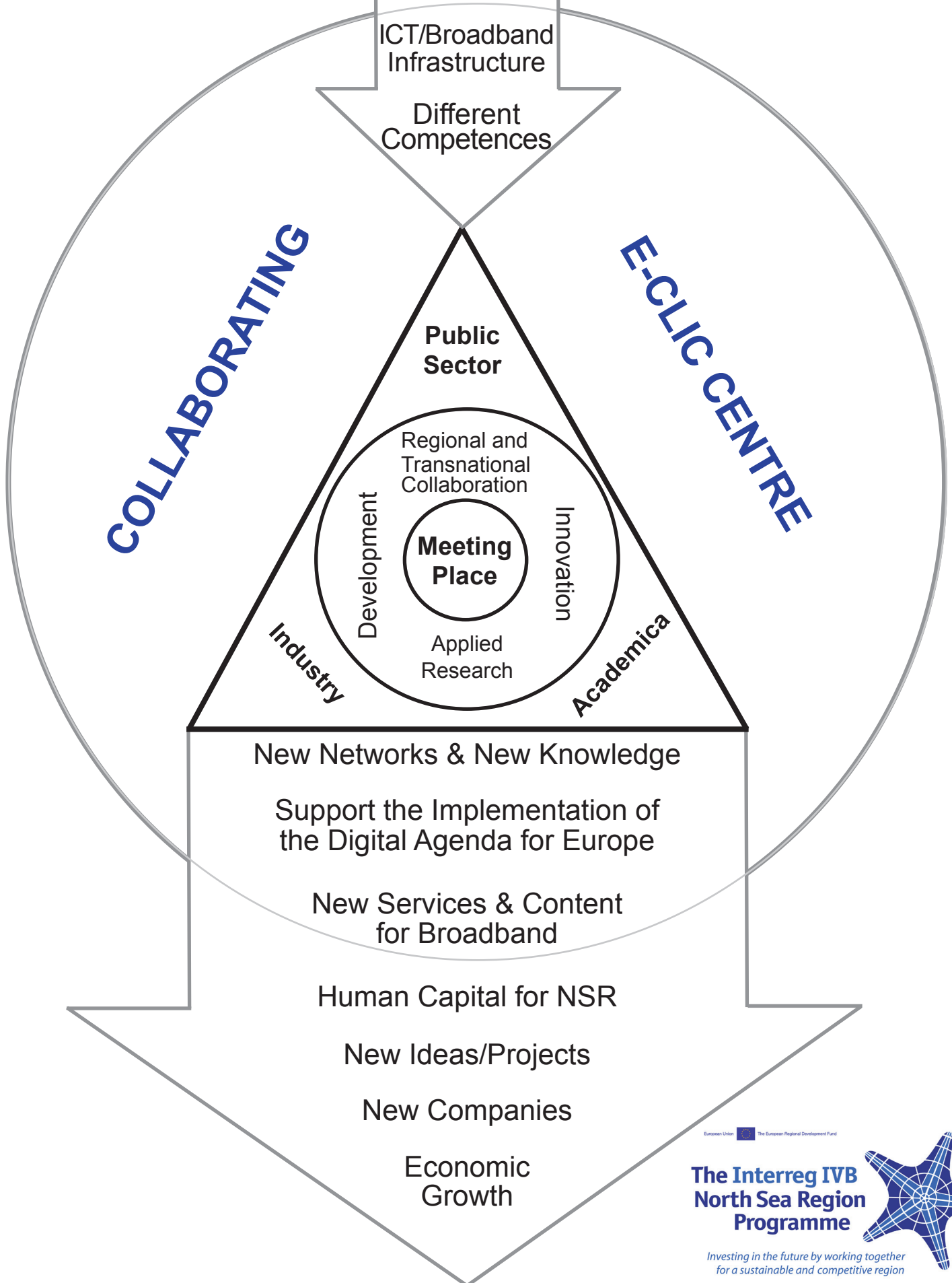
The overall aim of the E-CLIC project has been to stimulate innovation through the establishment of eight new European collaborative innovation centres for broadband media services, and to develop the capacity for growth and employment across the NSR through collaboration in a North Sea cluster. The E-CLIC centres have been set up in accordance with the Triple Helix model, which is based on active participation and interaction between the public sector, industry and academia. All centres are placed in public buildings, such as universities, regional media centres or test labs to create a place where people can meet and exchange knowledge and new ideas. Thus, create innovative environments for ICT actors in the NSR.

To gain top position in Europe, as the most advanced region in the development and provisioning of innovative broadband services, the establishment of a connected ring of collaborative innovation centres has been a crucial instrument. Businesses, regional clusters, public bodies, universities and young talents in co-operation constitute the innovation centres and form the innovation network. All centres have complementary competencies. One centre working independently of centres in other regions/countries cannot achieve this position alone. Transnational co-operation is key to the further development of innovative broadband services.

The core of the model is the meeting place, which is important to encourage transfer of knowledge. By involvement of students in the centres' regional and transnational activities, knowledge exchange is secured. The students move on into new contexts of companies and organizations and thus disseminate knowledge from the E-CLIC cluster.

The background of the E-CLIC project is the existing ICT/broadband infrastructure in the NSR. The infrastructure is however not utilized to its full capacity. E-CLIC partners set up a strong NSR cluster in the area of broadband services, media technology and broadband systems to fulfil regional and national strategies together with the i2010 initiative and the EU 2020 goals of smart, sustainable & inclusive growth. There is also a need to find solutions for challenges that rural areas face, with an ageing population, and environmental issues. The development and provisioning of broadband services is by nature an interdisciplinary activity involving teamwork and international collaboration. In order to succeed in developing new innovative broadband services, a wide range of different competences from both national and transnational partners are needed.

The cluster of E-CLIC centres has worked to develop networks in order to stimulate the commercialisation of the participating regions' knowledge base, to support the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Europe and encourage the development of both new projects and new employment opportunities. A particular priority has been to strengthen the links between research bodies and commercial companies in order to commercialise existing knowledge, inspire innovation, and develop new ideas that can be exploited through national and European research programmes. By securing transnational cooperation, the overall capacity of the NSR will be developed through effectively increasing the critical mass of available skills and experience. This will ultimately generate human capital for the NSR and stimulate economic growth in the NSR area.



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