Priority 1 Building on our Capacity for Innovation

Strong Potential for Submission

1.02 AeroMare / Tool Kit for change management
Wirtschaftsförderung Wesermarsch GmbH, Germany

1.04 International Climate ExChange
Cambridgeshire County Council, United Kingdom

1.05 North Sea Energy Ring (NSER)
Department of Economic Affairs, Province of Groningen, The Netherlands

1.06 Northern Maritime University (NMU)
Kiel University of Applied Sciences, Germany

1.07 Smart Cities
e-Government Division, City of Edinburgh Council, UK

1.13 European Regions for Innovative Productivity
One NorthEast, United Kingdom

1.18 The North Sea Incubation Network for Food and Life Science
Øresund Food Network / Øresund University, Denmark

1.20 Cooperative Networks of Innovation
ExDRA, United Kingdom

1.21 CAPACITY - Responsible partnering between research, business and policy makers. Capacity building to implement the OECD recommendations
Region Värmland, Sweden

Work in Progress

1.01 Advanced Networking
Stimuland, The Netherlands

1.03 Industrial Barometer through Innovative Foresight Planning
Asplan Viak, Norway

1.08 X-GOV
Intercommunale Leiedal, Belgium

1.09 Citizens' Content
Intercommunale Leiedal, Belgium

1.10 energy innovation
stimuland, The Netherlands

1.12 Innovative signalisation towards and in business parks
West-Vlaamse Intercommunale wvi, Belgium

1.14 North Sea Screen Partnership
TayScreen, East of Scotland, Scotland

1.16 Incubating innovation in Clusters
Alucluster, Denmark

1.17 Spirit of Democracy -alternative titles: ourDemocracy, or yourDemocracyhow to use interactive and advanced e-services to support and strengthen democracy
Bureau Walburg, The Netherlands

1.19 Knowledge transfer in novel crops to deliver high value and sustainable supply chains to coastal zone agriculture.

University of East Anglia, United Kingdom

1.22 Innovative and Sustainable Maritime Economy for Coastal Communities (ISMAREC)

K & M Consult, Germany

Strong Potential for Submission

1.02 AeroMare / Tool Kit for change management

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Project Description

Socio-economic structural changes in the North Sea Region are an ongoing process. Lots of regions suffer from economic decrease and declining jobs and partly breakdowns of the "elder" (producing) industries. New sectors and services are not easily to be launched. SMEs need specific entrepreneurial environments of coherent interactions by all responsible institutions. SME s need not only positive reactions but active communication processes, often in the sense of coaching and accompanying them on their way through the structural changes. Experts with a lot of practical experience have to face those aspects in their daily work (in the field of economies and planning). Focussing on visible clusters in the North Sea Region sectors like maritime industries, port and harbour logistics and the aviation industries are of special relevance. To manage the process, very specific and often tiny instruments are necessary, preferably within an "easy" tool box. A good mixture of relevant disciplines and experts should work out the top ten instruments for this tool box. The single tools should be based on comparison and common further development of good practice in the North Sea Region. Research should included. Politicians and stakeholders should be involved to rise awareness of the "KISS -principle" (Keep it small and simple).

Central Aim

Development of appropriate instruments on the micro - level of socio-economic development to support SMEs in the handling of structural changes and to help local and regional authorities to support and manage the regional economic development process.

Envisaged Output

SME related tool box for pro active change management; theme oriented handling instruments for regional authorities (e.g. business development); coherent modules for strategy building and concept development to support the Lisbon strategy and the Gothenburg Agenda; network of "land workers" with practical approaches to solve regional problems on the bottom - up level

Thematic Keywords:	Change management; Cluster strategy; pro active advisory; innovative development tool kit
Partners Found Already:	Expressions of interest expected from Province Groningen / NL, Viborg Amt / DK, East Cork / IE, Västra Götalands Regionen /SE
Partners Requested:	UK, N, others in NL, DK, SE
Estimated Total Budget:	€500,000
Date:	06-06-2006

1.04 International Climate ExChange

Organisation:	**Cambridgeshire County Council**	
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Project Description

The policy framework is in place in many EU countries to ensure the development of a low carbon economy in the near future. Whilst this is the case, matching the demand for mitigation and adaptation products, businesses and processes from consumers with the supply of solutions, labour and skills requires capacity building and innovation. In line with the Marrakech Process, removal of barriers to pro-environment behaviours and the tools to enable consumers to act differently are also essential to ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption. In light of the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agenda, strengthening the capacities of North Sea Region's clusters in the climate change industries is crucial to delivering transnational innovation and enterprise to create competitive business solutions. This will lead to the development of skills, jobs and growth required for a low carbon economy in North Sea Region. Additionally, the supply of environmental goods and services will be accelerated. The 'International Climate Exchange' project sets out to establish transnational activities that will channel and exchange the partners' competitive advantages in innovation and research on climate change technological solutions and enterprise. Crucially this will integrate with world-class vocational, academic and business training and skills. It will maximise added value from external resources and competencies - exchanging in global networks. Centres of Excellence - both physical and virtual - will create and sustain learning and enterprise platforms to seed and support innovation, knowledge transfer and ultimately sustainable communities with improved quality of life.

Central Aim

To provide networked centres of excellence that define the partner regions as world class hubs for the key climate change industries (both mitigation and adaptation, such as renewable energy, renewable fuels, water conservation and sustainable building processes/waste management) and deliver low carbon, sustainable growth and business through innovation, education, skills and enterprise.

Envisaged Output

1. Effecting lower carbon forms of economic growth and enterprise development.
2. Formation of Sustainable Enterprise Hubs (physical and virtual) with multi-purpose visitor centres, knowledge transfer centres and training centres.
3. Labour, skills and expertise orientation and, where appropriate, re-orientation (such as, exploring transfer from agricultural to climate change employment e.g. bio-fuels)
4. Establishing education, training and employment supply in low carbon skills (such as, introduction of EU-transferable qualifications for bio-fuel skilled automotive technicians, and similarly in other sectors).
5. Establish a transnational sustainable business leadership education programme and expertise / research and student exchange programme.
6. International exchange of learning, expertise and trade links.

Thematic Keywords:	Climate Exchange Competencies, Competitiveness, Critical mass
Partners Found Already:	City of Hamburg/TuTech and City of Malmö
Partners Requested:	Growth areas with commitment to delivering a low-carbon economy and sustainable living.
Estimated Total Budget:	€9,000,000
Date:	22-01-2007

1.05 North Sea Energy Ring (NSER)

Organisation:	**Department of Economic Affairs, Province of Groningen**	
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Project Description

Energy is a prominent global issue. The North Sea region plays a distinctive role in the European energy structure. The region surrounding the North Sea has a traditional strong energy economy. The availability of natural resources (especially oil and gas) - onshore and offshore - has formed substantial energy clusters with integrated networks of large enterprises, SME's, facilitating governments and knowledge institutes.

The EU-economy remains highly energy-dependent, despite positive efforts to improve energy-efficiency. Diminishing oil and gas reserves, internationalization / privatization, security of supply and the urge for a more sustainable energy supply alter the perspectives and dynamics of the energy market. Current developments force existing energy regions to reorganize and shift their activities towards a more innovative and sustainable approach. Even more so since our concerns regarding related emissions of carbon dioxide seem to be sincere it is time to change.

Within several countries surrounding the North Sea local governments, businesses and knowledge institutes are working together to facilitate and support the necessary transition regionally. Since the North Sea region is facing the same challenges in the energy transition process it has substantial added value if the individual energy clusters could be linked more to each other. This internationalisation process is necessary in order to stimulate the exchange of knowledge, increase the possibilities for energy innovation and to combine forces to efficiently proceed to a more sustainable energy supply in Western Europe.

Central Aim

The aim of the North Sea Energy Ring is to link the individual energy regions (or energy clusters) in order to exchange knowledge, stimulate the energy-economy and furthermore facilitate the process of energy transition.

The overall theme in this project is 'energy transition in the North Sea region'. This theme is divided into three thematical Work Packages (WP). Each partner can decide if the want to participate in WP1 and/or WP2 and/or WP3.

WP1: Energy knowledge : Identifying key energy knowledge research and education capabilities within the participating regions in order to create a complementary international network for energy knowledge exchange. By doing so joint research and educational programmes can be developed. This will lead to an improved energy knowledge base in the North Sea region. This work package especially aims at (energy) knowledge institutions in the North Sea Region.

WP2: Energy business : In order to stimulate the transition process towards a more sustainable energy supply it is essential to involve SME's and large companies. Companies are open to energy transition if there are enough incentives to invest. The process of energy transition is creating new markets, stimulating innovation and thereby shifting the traditional energy economy towards a different (more sustainable) energy economy. By linking cluster, branch and intermediary organisations together effective ways to stimulate (energy) innovation can be identified. The organisations can identify international developments, projects and form possible coalitions. The central aim behind this is improving international business-to-business contacts. This work package especially aims at (energy) cluster, branch and/or intermediary organisations in the North Sea Region.

WP3: Facilitating energy transition: Local implementation is the key word for actual realisation of energy transition in the region. Facilitating the process of energy transition is optimised by intercalate energy transition into policy and policy measurements. This work package aims especially at policy makers in the North Sea Region. These policy makers can originate from local, regional and national organizations.

Envisaged Output

Output indicators WP1:
- An overview of the individual energy research and education programmes in the North Sea region;
- Development of a common strategy for complementary international energy knowledge exchange;
- Implementing the mutual strategy by (for example):
1. Setting up web based database on energy research and education (an internet portal);
2. Exchange of energy experts and expertise (meetings and seminars);
3. First outlines of joint research programmes;
4. First outlines of joint educational programmes, including an framework for the exchange of energy students.

Output indicators WP2:
- An overview of the individual ways to stimulate energy innovation in the North Sea region;
- An overview of 'energy companies' in the North Sea Region in order to develop an international portfolio of available business partners;
- Identifying the best practices of 'sustainable energy business development';
- Stimulate business-to-business contacts by identifying new projects and forming new coalitions;
- Defining international and local 'multiplier' strategies for using local entrepreneurs and resources for realizing the highest added value for the region.

Output indicators WP3:
- An overview of regional policy on energy transition
- Inventory of local resources connected to the theme of energy (resources such as gas, wind, water, biomass are necessary in the process of energy transition)
- Defining an optimal international strategy for local implementation and defining optimal complementary local strategies
- Building up an international energy policy network in order to exchange experiences
- Creating networks for international projects and implementing local spearheads in policy, for example:
1. Sustainable city development (comparable energy footprints)
2. Sustainable energy resources in the build environment
3. Sustainable mobility (local and international)

Thematic Keywords:	energy transition, innovation, policy, knowledge, business
Partners Found Already:	Partners:Netherlands: Province of Fryslân, Netherlands: City of Groningen, Netherlands: Energy Valley Foundation (www.energyvalley.nl)Germany: Oldenburg Energiecluster (www.energiecluster.de) Scotland: Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (www.aberdeenrenewables.com)
Partners Requested:	Netherlands: Province of Drenthe, City of Leeuwarden, City of Assen, MKB-Noord, VNO-NCW, Univeristy of Groningen (Edrec), Hanzeuniversity, Carthesius InstituteGermany: City of Oldenburg, Weser-Ems-region, Windagentur Bremen, University of Oldenburg, ForWi
Estimated Total Budget:	€25,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

1.06 Northern Maritime University (NMU)

Organisation:	**Kiel University of Applied Sciences**	
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Project Description

The Northern Maritime University (NMU) will be a network of universities in the NSR as well as the BSR. The maritime units of the participating universities will offer a range of maritime business related modules and deliver joint degrees (BA and MA). A strong focus will be on blended learning. Furthermore the NMU will be the nucleus for common research projects in the maritime sector.

Central Aim

The importance of maritime transport for the NSR is unquestioned. To maintain an efficient and effective management of maritime transport, well trained managers are required. The NMU project seeks to increase the capacity for innovation within the maritime sectors of the NSR as well as the BSR by establishing a strong transnational network between universities dealing with maritime business management.

Envisaged Output

- Common curricula for maritime business management study programmes (BA and MA).
- Integration of existing and development of new e-learning modules.
- Establishment of the (virtual) Northern Maritime University (NMU) (incl. accreditation of the study programmes).

Thematic Keywords:	Maritime Transport-Learning
Partners Found Already:	Discussions with several individual partners and networks are in progress.
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	26-01-2007

1.07 Smart Cities

Organisation:	**e-Government Division, City of Edinburgh Council**	
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Project Description

"Effective and innovative public administrations are essential to a globally competitive Europe." - i2010 e-Government Action Plan, April 2006Many municipalities and other public organisations around the North Sea are transforming their organisations and regions through ambitious e-Government Strategies. For example, City of Edinburgh Council's Smart City Vision is to be: "recognised as the UK leader in the delivery of modern, integrated and interactive public service through the intelligent application of technology". However, certain municipalities/organisations excel at certain strategic themes - e.g. transforming customer service, delivering through partnership working, realising the benefits and efficiencies, facilitating active citizenship, or maximising opportunity for all. The reasons an organisation excels at particular strategic themes form a complex web of inter-related factors, such as local service needs, existing supplier relationships and the national policy environment. During the traditional strategy development process, municipalities/organisations have explored these factors through benchmarking, knowledge sharing and collaborative learning with their regional/national peers. However, municipalities/organisations already at the forefront of e-Government best practice in their national arenas must now carry out this benchmarking, knowledge sharing and collaborative learning at a transnational level to support the future development of more ambitious ICT Strategies which aim to deliver e-Government innovation and excellence in the North Sea Region.

Central Aim

To bring together the North Sea's leading e-Government municipalities/organisations to identify what works best and why in the development and delivery of e-Government strategy, to help transfer e-Government success across national borders, and to equip these leaders with the knowledge and ambition to achieve further innovation in the delivery of IT-enabled public service.

Envisaged Output

This project will create a network of North Sea e-Government leaders with very ambitious e-Government Strategies aiming to deliver innovative and excellent public services which improve quality of life and enhance competitiveness. Beyond the immediate benefits to participating regions, this will deliver the following benefits for the North Sea Region:- Participating organisations will become e-Government Strategy mentors for their peers, passing on their knowledge, skills and contacts through existing local, regional and national networks- Participating organisations will be equipped with the necessary real life experience and transnational perspectives to engage more effectively with regional, national and EU e-Government policy making through existing consultation networks- Participating organisations will be in a uniquely informed position to help local, national and multinational ICT suppliers identify emerging e-Government trends through existing supplier contacts

Thematic Keywords:	e-Government, strategy, best practice, benchmarking, collaborative learning
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	5-10 municipalities, organisations or other agencies with ambitious e-Government/ICT Strategies and a proven track record in delivering innovative e-Government/e-Health/e-Learning projects + academic institutions to carry out benchmarking and/or evaluatio
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	

1.13 European Regions for Innovative Productivity

Organisation:	**One NorthEast**	
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Project Description

This proposed North Sea Interreg project will deliver the following practical actions:
Promoting public-private partnerships to strengthen support systems for the transfer of technology to SMEs:

Over the past five years One North East has funded and developed the North East Productivity Alliance (NEPA), a major public/private initiative, which has been designed to improve the manufacturing efficiency of a wide range of companies in the region. This initiative has spanned companies from all sectors of industry including metal processing and finishing, food and clothing production and general engineered goods. To date interventions have been made in 150 companies and, within these companies across all sectors, the general level of productivity has been increased by 20% with associated benefits such as absenteeism reducing by up to 50%. The RDA currently funds the programme with additional funding supplied by the European Social Fund (ESF). The programme has current funding until 2009 with a strong expectation of UK government funding to 2011. Links to improve access to scientific knowledge and technology transfer between R&D facilities and international centres of excellence. The current NEPA Best Practice Dissemination Programme (DPDT) disseminates the techniques of a regional centre of excellence into general manufacturing. In the NEPA case the regional centre of excellence is Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK Ltd (NMUK), which is the most productive car plant in Europe and within Nissan's own plants (including Japan).

The role of NEPA is to disseminate the techniques of the Japanese automotive industry into general manufacturing to increase competitiveness. The process commences with a Productivity Needs Diagnostic (PNA) to determine the correct tools and techniques to be applied to a company. Engineers ideally seconded from local industry facilitate the intervention activities. Sustainability is introduced by using the project engineers to train company changes agents. Each engineer produces four changes agents per year. However, flexibility will have to be developed to enable support to be applied to small companies. The development of the engineers and change agents is underpinned by nationally recognised qualifications. Results to date show an initial lean success rate of 60%, which compares favourably with the researched figure of 10%. It will be the intention to engage an industrial centre of excellence in each country.

The methodology of the proposed Interreg project is, in essence, knowledge transfer, action and implementation. The transnational co-operation activities proposed will strongly support the transnational dimension of clusters and research/innovation networks. The project will also transfer the base methodology used in the NEPA programme to other regions in the North Sea Programme area of Europe to develop productivity institutes. Recognised centres of excellence in each country will act as exemplars. The productivity institutes will act as a conduit for technology transfer between companies, regions and universities. Underpinning and retention of the knowledge and learning involved will be achieved through the involvement of experienced academics in the Universities of Newcastle, Gronningen, Gent and other interested parties.

The Interreg project also has the potential to deliver and support interface between the public and private sector at the transnational level and involve a range of different actors involved in the innovation process.

Central Aim

This Interreg project recognises the impact of globalisation on the EU and proposes to deliver an integrated approach to Priority 1 of the North Sea Programme through a cross-sectoral transnational approach involving a wide strategic partnership. The rapid development of India and China as well as other Asian countries is resulting in severe economic pressure on manufacturing companies within the European Community (EU). The main impact, at this point in time, is labour costs resulting in the transfer of manufacturing jobs out of the EU.

Following an initial conference organised by Groningen University in Holland, it became clear that the available technology exists, however:

- the knowledge of the technology is not widespread;
- the tacit knowledge of how to apply the technology is mainly within a few big corporations;
- universities may not be teaching or supporting companies with the appropriate technology beyond the 'text book' content. The current 'text book' content is also questionable with regard to the latest thinking;
- regional government is not fully aware of the potential impact of the technology;
- there is a will to address the above points and a programme has been commenced very successfully in the North East of England.

It is therefore important that existing competencies and skills are shared and developed in the participating regions. To do this a strong network of academics and industry with the support of regional governments will be facilitated. Clusters of companies need to share manufacturing and training best practice. This 'best practice' needs to be identified and taught to workforces in the participating countries. Universities are required to teach the most relevant knowledge to the next generations of managers and engineers who will enter industry. This part of the proposed Interreg project will define what these key stages of development are and how to apply them. The definition and application model will allow for the development of educational material.

Envisaged Output

The prime objective is to give SMEs access to the technology and innovative techniques required enabling a company to increase its competitiveness in the face of global competition. The principle feature is the mechanism of technology transfer to ensure the tools and techniques are embedded within a companies organisational structure and hence its culture.
I) to transfer the company improvement methodology developed by the NEPA initiative to companies in the North Sea Region.
ii) to transfer the base knowledge and expertise from the NEPA Lean Manufacturing programme in the North East of England to the above regions
iii) to enable the NEPA programme to develop the current methods utilised
iv) to develop interregional training initiatives
v) to develop formal mechanisms for sharing experience and expertise across a wide range of industrial sectors
vi) to promote inter-business transfers of staff
vii) to investigate trading opportunities within the regions included
viii) development of linked productivity institutes throughout NE Europe
ix) to develop skills and knowledge within European companies through interaction
x)to develop a clear role for the local Universities in supporting and underpinning the initiative
xi) introduce the current leading elements of manufacturing production systems into teaching material to enable students to be better prepared for industry
xii) to initiate the development of new teaching products within companies in these regions through the non-competitive sharing of product development methodologies and market opportunities. Output indicators: Expertise, knowledge of local conditions and experiences in developing high levels of manufacturing efficiency will be achieved by a variety of practical and concrete transnational activities including:
I) workshops, which will be the principle mechanism for the transfer of knowledge and will be facilitated initially by staff from NEPA with a wide experience of the methodologies employed in the highly successful programmes in the North East of England. The workshops will produce change resulting ultimately in productivity improvement which can be evaluation both in financial and performance terms
ii) international transfer of knowledge, experience and staff (as change agents) to promote collaboration between companies, which will be grouped together on the basis of similarity in terms of processes, problems, products, etc These groupings will be determined by experienced staff from NEPA
iii) workshops to identify the best-practise tools and techniques and implementation methodologies for productivity improvement across a range of industrial sectors within an international environment
iv) workshops to identify the best-practise tools and techniques and implementation methodologies for new product development
v) structured visit programmes – staff development and institutional learning. The Centres of Excellence will provide a focal point for improvement
vi) workshops and collaborations between similar companies in different locations to provide input on the influence of local conditions and promote learning

The outputs listed above will also support the following:
- stimulation of regional and trans-national collaboration within and between various clusters as well as benchmarking of the related public policies and exchange of best practice through jointly developed

transferable results
- creation of example solutions to strengthen particular industrial or business clusters through he development of joint longer-term strategic actions and the provision appropriate social infrastructure (e.g. communication, centres of excellence)

Result indicators:
The will be several concrete results from the proposed project:

I) measured, documented productivity improvements relating to changes in quality, costs and delivery within the collaborating companies;
ii) structured workbooks which will act as a guide to productivity improvement methodologies across various industrial sectors and – a structured methodology for new product development programmes across various sectors;
iii) the development and output of developed clusters in terms of learning opportunities
iv) working seminars where companies present their achievements and problems. This was trailed by Groningen in June 2006 and was very successful
v) Identification of factors which enhance significantly the chance of change becoming embedded in a company

With regard to the environment it is the intention of the programme to eliminate waste in all forms therefore, it is expected that increased efficiencies will reduce energy usage. This reduction can be quantified as financial savings and carbon reduction.

Thematic Keywords:	Innovation, productivity, businesses, cross-sector collaboration
Partners Found Already:	This Interreg proposal is concerned with the North Sea Programme regions of the North East of England, the northern part of Holland, Belgium and North Eastern Germany. It arises from discussions between academic colleagues in the Universities of Newcastle and Groningen and representatives of the Regional Development Agencies (RDA) in the North Eastern Region of the UK and the North of Holland. The RDA in the North East of England proposes to be the lead partner.
Partners Requested:	Open to offers
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	13-03-2007

1.18 The North Sea Incubation Network for Food and Life Science

Organisation:	**Øresund Food Network / Øresund University**	
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Project Description

The agro-food industry is a core industry for the countries in the North Sea Region, ranking among the top three sectors in terms of employment and BNP. Until recently, the food industry was considered to be a traditional industrial sector with a low capacity for innovation. However, the globalisation of the food market in addition to changing consumer preferences profoundly affects the food sector. Nowadays, innovation is put forward as the main instrument to generate added value and to stay competitive within the global food market. In addition, innovation plays a central role in European policy as advocated by the revised Lisbon agenda. Given the structural characteristics of the food sector, it has been struggling with the challenge of expanding the innovative performance to small and medium sized companies and the creation of new R&D based food companies not at least. Based on this there is an urgent need for a supporting innovation structure enabling the initiation and growth of new start-ups and spin-offs. However, recognizing that the conditions for start-up and incubation processes in the food sector are different from those of e.g.. ICT, environment or biotech sectors a number of specialised incubators dealing with food/life science commercialisation processes have emerged around the North Sea. Likewise, it has also been recognised recently that there is a need for critical mass in terms of resources and competences in the complex process of supporting food innovations. On this background, this project targets the potential of pooling resources within existing food /life science incubators in the North Sea Region. In order to strengthen the capacity for innovation the project will be centralised around the creation of a virtual incubator for food/life science, linking existing food incubation actors. The Virtual incubator comprises the creation of:
a) An exchange programme for start-ups/spin-offs such that companies from one incubator can be located for a limited period of time in another incubator in another part of the North Sea Region, in order to gain access to new knowledge, new markets, new capital, new networks, new technologies and services. b) An exchange programme for the staff providing food incubation services, with regards to capacity building, exploration of IP, coaching processes and access to resources and capacities. An important element in both exchange programmes is the mutual learning and pooling effects derived from the actors complementary strengths and weaknesses. The points of interest are the bottlenecks and success factors explaining these differences. These will be explored through regional comparison and –benchmarking involving regional stakeholders in the participating regions.

Central Aim

The objective is to optimize the infrastructure for incubation and start-up processes in the field of food, nutrition and life science, in the North Sea Region. This in order to overcome the structural problems in the food sector, to improve innovation performance and the creation of new companies, thereby securing the long term competitiveness of the food sector.

Envisaged Output

1) Pooling of resources – a tested structure for pooling resources and competences in a Virtual incubator stretching across the North Sea Region.
2) New companies – a quantitative and qualitative improvement of the process by which new innovative food companies are emerging. Contributing to a higher survival rate among the companies by incubating them in a cross-border environment adjusted to globalisation challenges.
3) Synergy with EU, national and regional policies – Enhancing the effects of EU, national and regional food innovation policies and programmes in the involved countries, as the project is a supplement to existing initiatives.

Thematic Keywords:	Innovation, Incubation, Food, Life Science, Start-ups
Partners Found Already:	East Netherlands – BioPartner Center Wageningen (incubator) and Regional Development Agency East NetherlandsContact persons: Joep Koene (joep.koene@oostnv.nl)Jeff Gielen (gielen@biopartnerwageningen.nl)Rogaland (Norway) – Rogaland Science Park and Rogaland County CouncilContact person: Marit B. Hagland (hagland@kunnskapsparken.no)Øresund Region (Sweden + Denmark) – Øresund Food Network, coordinating the involvement of the following actors: Ideon

	Agro Food (incubation services), Lund BioIncubator, Faculty of Life Science at University of Copenhagen, IFAU -Institute for Food Studies and Agroindustrial Development.Contact person: Noel Brings Jacobsen (nbj@oresundinnovation.org)Flanders region (Belgium) – Ghent University and operating Technical Service Centers (TSCs).Contact person: Koen Dewettinck (koen.dewettinck@ugent.be)Scotland – Targeting InnovationDerek Gallaher (dgallaher@targetinginnovation.com). Emilia-Romagna (Italy) – Aster, including the involvement of the business incubator I TECH-OFF.Contact persons: Sara Monesi (sara.monesi@aster.it)Lucie Sanchez (lucie.sanchez@aster.it)
Partners Requested:	Open
Estimated Total Budget:	4.00
Date:	31-05-2007

1.20 Cooperative Networks of Innovation

Organisation:	**ExDRA**	
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Project Description

The project will be focused on 3 principle activities:
• The development of vibrant and sustainable networks of Innovation (businesses, financial & educational institutions, support agencies) in each of the partner regions
• Activities to support effective cooperation, collaboration and knowledge transfer across these regional networks of Innovation, and
• The delivery of programmes of specialist innovation support services to stimulate the emergence and development of a new generation of innovative businesses and entrepreneurs.

Central Aim

The objectives of the project are to:
a) support the development of a critical mass of new innovative businesses in North Sea Regions, and
b) to help attain a cultural shift in business aspirations in North Sea Regions towards the creation of higher value knowledge based companies.

Envisaged Output

We would expect a raft of outcomes including:
• the establishment of new businesses based on sound business models,
• the survival and growth of a higher number of early stage innovative businesses,
• new jobs created and inward investment attracted as the result of
• a greater number of collaborations between SMEs, and between SMEs and the research base
• new product designs being developed
• a range of new technologies, products and services being trialled and brought to market,
• new licensing deals secured
• increased sales and new markets accessed,
• an increase in R&D projects undertaken

Thematic Keywords:	Innovation Networking Specialist Innovation Support
Partners Found Already:	Norfolk Network
Partners Requested:	Yes
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	30-05-2007

1.21 CAPACITY - Responsible partnering between research, business and policy makers. Capacity building to implement the OECD recommendations

Organisation:	**Region Värmland**	
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Project Description

The Commission pinpoints in their Communication “Putting knowledge into practice” - COM(2006)502 – at the urgent of translating investments in knowledge into new products and services. The ultimate benefit of a knowledge region does not only lie with the generation of knowledge (in which European universities are as good as any other university in the world), but in the translation and application of knowledge (often referred to as the European Knowledge Paradox) into innovations (products, interventions and strategies) effectively delivered to profit, not-for-the profit and non-profit organizations. To reach this innovation-objective, the entire process must be pursued within the context of user-oriented research, good ethics, effective policy, adequate resources and international cooperation, which are the pre-conditions the project-consortium has based its project on. The basic idea of CAPACITY is to refine and further develop the slightly different triple helix models that have been built and developed around the research-led clusters in the consortium-regions. This development is to be conducted by an intensified collaboration within the established consortium. The initiative to form the consortium was taken as a response to the positive and encouraging results and recommendations presented in the still on-going OECD-evaluation "Supporting the contribution of Higher Education Institutions to Regional Development", where all the consortium partners were involved. The OECD peer review-analysis and the self-evaluations forms a solid basis for establishing a concrete and well prepared joint action-plan for improving the R&D and innovation capacity in the regions. CAPACITY will build a platform for planning and preparation of Inter Sectoral cluster projects. Based on a regional dialogue with SMEs and other stakeholders and an expert-led “supply and demand”-analysis – using reversed engineering methods – the mechanisms framing valorisation will be systemized and synthesized. This will form the basis for introduction of or refinement of Regional Research Agendas with evidence-based policy-measures.

Central Aim

The overall objective for CAPACITY is to bring academia and SMEs in the Consortium-regions closer to each other by raising the awareness among SME’s of the benefits of research and the value of direct access to a qualitative research infrastructure and to develop and systemize evidence-based techniques to valorise knowledge as the basis for new or refined Regional Research Agendas. CAPACITY aims at laying the foundation for an improved regional governance to mobilise resources for and the development of more concerted and effective regional R&D- and innovation policies, with special concern directed towards the transfer of knowledge in general and the inclusion of SMEs in particular. The aim translates into the following short-term objectives that can be reached during the project-time. The general objective of CAPACITY is to improve the regional governance in order to increase the R&D- and innovation-capacity in the Consortium-regions by:
- Raising the awareness among SME’s and other stakeholders of the (potential) benefits of research and direct access to a qualitative research infrastructure
- Improving the system that translates research conducted into applications as marketable products, processes, interventions and strategies (the valorisation-process)
- Fostering entrepreneurial spirit and the creation of technology-based enterprises

The measurable and/or verifiable objectives for the project are:
- Development and systematization of evidence-based techniques to include SMEs in and improve the innovation-capacity of research-led clusters
- Building a platform for planning and preparation of Inter Sectoral cluster projects
- Completing and synthesizing the analysis conducted and exchange of experiences in order to form the basis for introduction of or refinement of R&D-programmes and integration of the research- and innovation-agenda in concerted regional development- or growth-programmes etc., well connected to national research- and innovation-programs, as well as EUs Framework Programmes and Structural Funds - Evaluation and dissemination of the experiences and results which are to be published in a web-based handbook

Envisaged Output

The project will be based on a thorough exploration and Meta-analysis of good practice techniques to include SMEs in and improve the R&D and innovation capacity of research-led clusters. The Consortium-partners have the advantage of being part of an on-going OECD-evaluation, which gives a good starting-point as well as an excellent basis for complementary analysis and new input for developing their respective knowledge-regions. The consortium is forming an international network of practitioners and researchers of very high standard. Those preconditions implicate an ability to perform well-grounded analysis. Knowledge-valorisation lies as a core-task for the project. The definition of RTD needs among SMEs is to be investigated by different methods, such as reversed engineering and interviews, where dialogue with the SMEs lie at the forefront. The results of the inquiry of SME needs and preconditions in order to improve their innovation-capacity will – in combination with the Meta-analysis performed – form the basis for new Regional Research Agendas presenting the best set of actions, focusing on SMEs. The project will also deliver a solid basis for building or redesigning the regional platforms - as part the Regional Research Agendas - where the different actors and stakeholders can find the best ways to co-operate. The methods that will be recommended for the Regional Research Agendas will per se contribute to a more effective interplay between the research-community and the industry in general and SMEs in particular. The project will emphasise SMEs linking to research driven clusters in particular. The Regional Research Agendas developed will contain guidelines for a financial structure, including regional, national and EU funding. Some of the activities – concerning knowledge valorisation etc - that are foreseen could probably be financed via the Structural Funds. The Regional Research Agendas will contribute to a renewed political commitment which should be expressed in the will to earmark and increase funding for research from the regional and national budget as well as the Structural Funds and other EU programmes. Linking the different stakeholders in research driven clusters (as well as other networks) closer to each other, leads to a better understanding of their different roles and will improve the prospects for joint partnerships for future European initiatives. Implementation of the Regional Research Agendas will not only concretize regional cluster co-operation but also have a long-term impact of strengthening the research capacity and improving performance. It will also identify and strengthen the storage and means of sharing knowledge, and thereby the learning capacity for the regions. Another expected impact of the project is an intensified Inter-sectoral co-operation that might result in new transnational projects that could be financed by and with regional, national funding and/or EU funding. The intensified contacts between cluster-leaders planned will strengthen the basis for Inter-sectoral as well as Cross-sectoral co-operation. The “solutions” developed in the project are also expected to – with obligatory pre-analysis and adaptation - be applied in less developed regions (as for instance in convergence regions). The policy measures proposed can also be used in other non-commercial sectors.

Thematic Keywords:	Inter Sectoral Clusters, SME dialogue, Triple helix, Research-led clusters, Regional research agendas
Partners Found Already:	Region Värmland, Øresund Science Region, Universiteit Twente, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Napier University, Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Ltd, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia.
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	5,000,000
Date:	25-05-2007

Work in Progress

1.01 Advanced Networking

Organisation:	**Stimuland**	
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Project Description

To find exactly the right expertise in networks which go across knowledge and national boundaries is difficult and often results in inefficiency and suboptimal return on investments. Implementation of our method, advanced networking, will result in improvement of network efficiency.

Central Aim

Improvement of knowledge sharing and cooperation in NSP knowledge areas.

Envisaged Output

Implementation of at least one and if possible more sustainable advanced networks, e.g. on innovation, health care, environment and/or sustainability. See for example http://www.sharingpoint.net/

Thematic Keywords:	Advanced Networking
Partners Found Already:	Innovation Platform, Collexis Ltd
Partners Requested:	Knowledge networks based in different countries willing to improve the efficiency of their networking
Estimated Total Budget:	€180,000
Date:	18-05-2006

1.03 Industrial Barometer through Innovative Foresight Planning

Organisation:	**Asplan Viak**	
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Project Description

Throughout the North Sea region expected industrial development are assessed in different ways. Systematic use of the knowledge of the industry itself is one important way, like the "Industrial Barometer" prepared for a number of regions in Norway. This type of foresight planning is done in an active dialogue with the industry, industrial associations as well as individual companies. The analyses is also carried out in dialogue with a steering group consisting of a partnership of institutions from public and private sector. The analyses comprise assessments on how the market will develop, turnover, employment, investments and export. Using an e-mail based Quest Back programme provides input from a great number of companies with limited resources. This is an innovative approach as development of industries and markets are based upon companies learning from each other, their customers and their suppliers. This should contribute to creation of higher value added activities in order to generate more and better paid jobs. The analysis also make basis for decision making in public sector about economic development.

Central Aim

- To exchange experiences and best practices on innovative foresight planning within industries
- To develop the methods of innovative foresight planning related to expected development within industries through active dialogue between private and public sector
- Contribute to introduction of new and improved products and processes resulting in the creation of higher value added products and services
- Contribute to cooperation between partners in the North Sea Region that will create new alliances and possibilities for new business

Envisaged Output

- Improved basis for decision making in meeting challenges and utilising opportunities, both for the industries and for the public bodies related to industrial development
- Developed improved methods for innovative foresight planning
- Improved cooperation between public and private sector
- Enhanced industrial cooperation within regional clusters as well as between industries in partner countries

Thematic Keywords: Innovation; Foresight planning; Industrial development; Public private partnership

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: €2,000,000

Date: 26-01-2007

1.08 X-GOV

Organisation:	**Intercommunale Leiedal**	
Contact Person:	Peter Hautekiet	
Address:	President Kennedypark, 10 8500 Kortrijk Belgium	tel. +32 56 24 16 16 e-mail: peter.hautekiet@leiedal.be

Project Description

A transnational expertise network of local and regional e-government centres resulting in a transnational knowledge centre for local and regional e-government within the North Sea Region

Central Aim

The general aim is to foster innovation in and competitiveness of the participating regions, by improving local and regional e-government. In order to achieve that, the project's objective is to create a transnational expert network on local and regional e-government within the North Sea Region in order to create a transnational knowledge centre for local en regional e-government. The X-Gov project seeks the empowerment of local e-government project leaders and policy makers by supporting them with- a network of peers- vision and strategic views- best practices, examples, methodologies- promotion.

Envisaged Output

The project will deliver following products:• A local e-Government knowledge network (a multichannel and multilingual extranet based on the new achievements and insights from knowledge management and socials software movement) offering practical examples, procedures and standards, a relevant document repository, a contacts database, specialist and technical applications. • Virtual workgroups among the regional partners• International workshops and seminars, study visits and an international conference• Extensive dissemination of results, examples, procedures and cases• A measurement tool for local and regional governments, including check lists to realise successful e-Government projects• An "North Sea Good Practice" label, awarded to local and regional governments for e-Government initiatives by a board of experts, government officials and user groups• Pilots• Policy recommendations for central governments and the European Union

Thematic Keywords:	E-government / Innovation / Knowledge management / Empowering local and regional government
Partners Found Already:	Partners allready contacted are : Norfolk County Council, Institut für Informationmanagement (Bremen), Napier University (Edinburgh), Regio Värmland
Partners Requested:	Municipalities, organisations, academic institutions or other agencies with ambitious e-Government/ICT Strategies and a proven track record in delivering innovative e-Government projects
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

1.09 Citizens' Content

Organisation:	**Intercommunale Leiedal**	
Contact Person:	Bob Bulcaen	
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Project Description

Local government services, especially e-government services, are becoming more and more available. However, most citizens, organisations and companies are unfamiliar with those services. This project aims to increase the take-up of e-government projects and improve the services by involving the target groups into the policy and creation of services. It does so by working at the target groups level and by familiarizing citizens with ICT services in general.1.IssuesLocal governments have set up many e-government initiatives during the past 5 years and are still adding new projects to improve digital services. These initiatives are to often unknown or unsupported by the customer (citizen and company) who needs to start using the new services. Local servants are also confronted with two major problems about communication. 1. the amount of services are increasing and it is difficult to communicate them in an orderly way and an easily understandable language. Information overload leads to information loss.2. the amount of channels to communicate have increased. Traditional means of communicating still have to be used next to new channels such as text messaging and interactive digital television. Local governments can not limit themselves to few channels, but need to use all broadly used communication methods. Research indicates:- Citizens and businesses are willing to make more use of digital services. (e.g. the success of online banking), they want to make use of the municipality website for those services. Citizens and politicians also want to increase the participation to local policy. 2. Solutions To help resolve these issues the Citizens Content project wants to set-up following projects.2.1. Collaboration with other regions Many regions in Europe are confronted with these issues. By bringing those regions together and sharing experiences, all regions can learn from each other. During the project five best practices conferences will be organised to share ideas and brainstorm about new ways for governmental communication and how to increase the take-up of new e-government projects. 2.2. Shared service for communication To help local governments with their communication on (e-government) projects, a shared service will be initiated in each region. This shared service may be a person or organisation which helps the municipalities or other local government initiatives with their communication. It does so by;- Investigating local communication needs by questioning target groups for their information and service wishes and the channels they prefer to use.- Creating a communication strategy for local governments with advice on how and in what way communication should consist of.- Helping civil servants on setting up communication projects with the aim of increasing the take-up of e-government services. 2.3. Increase participation In order to specify the real needs for services and communication, citizens and businesses have to be involved in local policy. The gap between policy and citizens and the digital divide can be closed by creating projects doing both. Community centres. In order to reach the target groups as good as possible the community centres will be organized with public pc’s and supporting ‘buddies’. Workshops will be organized to set up a community blog, collect digital photo’s about the neighbourhood,… and use local digital services. The results will be published on the municipality websites. Participation. The local council policy will be more accessible by creating means to publish decisions in readable texts and order them by target group and community. A tool to ask questions to the council will be created.2.4 Supporting technology To support the communication strategy and take-up of e-government services, IT tools will be created to;- Centralize available information. A system to spread the same content to different channels, even for those channels with specific technical requirements- Exchange information with different other organisations and platforms. E.g. publish local information on national government portals.- Build a taxonomy for categorising information for different target groups. E.g. all information for community youth centres.- Combine community build information and websites with local government websites and web 2.0 applications. For existing applications on the internet, easily readable manuals will be created. All technology tools will be created in co-operation by all partners in this project. So all partners can share the same technology consultancy and a generic technological solution.

Central Aim

- Increase the take-up of local e-government initiatives
- Get an exact view on information and service needs of citizens and businesses.
- Increase participation of citizens and companies in local policy.
- Increase the use of ICT tools, close the digital divide by the use of ‘fun’ tools.
- Help local governments communicate on e-government initiatives.
- Approach target groups by custom made information and services.
- Create sustainable communities.

Envisaged Output

- A higher take-up of e-government initiatives
- A better participation on local policy.
- An overview of best practices on e-government communication initiatives in Europe.
- Well informed, interactive and participating communities.

Thematic Keywords: e-government, take-up, digital divide, communication

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested: 5

Estimated Total Budget: €1.930.000

Date: 01-06-2007

1.10 energy innovation

Organisation:	**stimuland**	
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Project Description

Exchange knowledge and experiences about innovative combinations of sustainable energy production in different countries and implement pilot projects that are new for a certain country but that could have been tried in another country already. Learning from each other how in the different situations, the different management, logistic, planning and technical issues are tackled (examples could be, combination of biogas and bio ethanol production plant, biogas production in combination with greenhouses or living areas, bio-oil from organic waste material from households etc.

Central Aim

give a good impulse toward the realisation of sustainable energy production and improving the use of the produced energy e.g. using the warmth of an electric plant for new energy production

Envisaged Output

realisation of two innovative pilot projects and giving an impulse towards improving the energy efficiencies of sustainable energy plants

Thematic Keywords: innovative techniques , innovative combinations, energy, environment, learning

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: €600,000

Date: 30-09-2006

1.12 Innovative signalisation towards and in business parks

Organisation:	**West-Vlaamse Intercommunale wvi**	
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	Belgium	e-mail: e.huyghe@wvi.be

Project Description

Development and Installing of an innovative electronic -system for signalisation and information towards and within over more than 100 business parks. The system will be related and connected to a GIS database, so that the information on site is always up to date.

Central Aim

using modern technology, data transmission and GIS database to create a cost-efficient, sustainable and reliable signalisation towards and within business parks

Envisaged Output

A better sustainable quality of business parks, better accessibility towards and mobility in business parks, a substantial reduction of the maintenance-costs of signalisation on Business parks by introduction of data-transmission technology

Thematic Keywords:	Electronic signalisation within business parks
Partners Found Already:	None
Partners Requested:	Yes
Estimated Total Budget:	€2,500,000
Date:	07-06-2006

1.14 North Sea Screen Partnership

Organisation:	**TayScreen, East of Scotland**	
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	DD1 4DY Dundee	fax: +44 1382 432252
	Scotland	e-mail: info@tayscreen.com

Project Description

The aim of this project is to establish a network of organisations in member states seeking to promote the North Sea Commission area 's strengths in the film/media sector. The network would enable the region to combine it's assets (the sum of the assets being greater than it's constituent parts) and offer a whole package of benefits to incoming film/media production. The North Sea region has many strengths relevant to the media industry including excellent environmental quality, geographic diversity, good transport & communication links, a skilled workforce, quality training centres and high quality support services (i.e. accommodation). Many regions of the world are now benefiting from a joined up and cohesive approach to the media industry i.e. Australia/New Zealand and Singapore. They are achieving significant benefits from strategies such as the development of regional hub groups with associated promotion and incentives for production and post-production. Cohesion at this level does not exist within the North Sea Region and wider Europe. A North Sea Screen Partnership would provide the opportunity to promote a global identity for the region. The project would be implemented around the following themes:
- development of a highly visible transnational network and co-operative working to promote the region to the global screen sectors, attracting incoming production and enable regionally based companies & services to access global media markets;
- foster business development and organisational innovation to encourage regional production for the entertainment, educational and advertising/corporate sectors;
- co-operation with the educational sector to provide a forum for input into educational production, setting best practice in media literacy and raising awareness of business/career opportunities.

Central Aim

The key aim of this project is to develop a network approach to promoting and developing the media industry in the North Sea Region.

Envisaged Output

Possible Project Activities Development of brand identity and digital marketing tools including web, web TV presence and industry databases that support promotion of the North Sea region and the project partner regions, the diversity of regional culture and locations and availability of production and post-production services. Representation/presence at industry events and festivals with selection of events to provide best opportunities to raise profile by sector (e.g. advertising, film, TV) and geographically (Australia/New Zealand, Asia Pacific, Europe). Participation at industry events such as presentations and panel membership. Regional networking events for different industry groups including production companies, post-production, animation and advertising with participation by industry leaders and mentors to share experience. Mediation/agency service and tools, including online resources, to facilitate co-production and joint ventures and assist companies in business development and project bidding. Sharing of best practice and data on business development services and marketing including industry and project research and CRM (customer relationship management). Public relations events incorporating media planning to maximise promotional opportunities from production work, film premieres and personnel resident in or visiting the region such as actors, directors, producers and craftspeople. The activities and outcomes will be strengthened following discussion with partners. The development of a North Sea Screen Partnership would have a number of positive and additional outcomes that address the key aims of the new Programme. The Partnership would increase levels of innovation across the region, build a transnational cluster of screen businesses/commissions, develop new and improved products and services for the screen industry in the region and enhance the region's competitiveness and will use ICT applications as an enabler across the sector. The Screen Partnership has the opportunity to better exploit regional potential, strengthen the profile of areas within the North Sea region through transnational European co-operation aimed at facilitating their connectivity and integration. Key outcomes:- improved global awareness of the North Sea Region as a centre of excellence in the screen sector and a highly attractive area for both production and business development - creating a network of film offices co-operating to ensure business opportunities in the area are maximised;- increased production in member states and business for regional companies & services;- development or expansion of a designated number of SMEs throughout the North Sea Region;-

partnership between companies to achieve a best value approach to marketing, maximise the use of technology and facilities and improve chances of securing co-production funding;- transnational partnerships between educational institutions to promote exchange of information and experience and more efficient use of and access to facilities;- ability to exchange good practice and encourage individual areas to develop new working practices based on the lessons learnt. The diversity, quality and unique cultural features of the North Sea Region would combine to create a formidable package - allowing the North Sea Region and its constitute parts to gain attention in a crowded media.

Thematic Keywords:	Film & media, networking,
Partners Found Already:	Tayscreen comprises Dundee City Council, Fife Council, Angus COuncil, Perth & Kinross Council,
Partners Requested:	Any
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	23-03-2007

1.16 Incubating innovation in Clusters

Organisation:	**Alucluster**	
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Project Description

To find exactly the right expertise in clusters which go across knowledge in the Aluminium technology and the Offshore industry, is difficult and often results in inefficiency and suboptimal return on investments. Implementation of our method, advanced networking (Clustering), will resulting improvement of network efficiency

Central Aim

Improvement of knowledge and using technology transfer among the partners in the NSE, sharing information and knowledge in cooperation in the North sea region

Envisaged Output

Implementation of a cluster to cluster effect for more sustainable advanced networks, where innovation and new methodical cooperation among the offshore and aluminium business will see new daylight!

Thematic Keywords:

Partners Found Already: yes

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: 675000,00

Date: 14-05-2007

1.17 Spirit of Democracy -alternative titles: ourDemocracy, or yourDemocracyhow to use interactive and advanced e-services to support and strengthen democracy

Organisation:	**Bureau Walburg**	
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Address:	Smaragdstoep 21 NL-9403 SE ASSEN The Netherlands	tel. +31 592 406570 fax: 0031 592 406055 e-mail: bureau.walburg@iaf.nl

Project Description

Democracy:
subject of constant care! The citizens' interest in politics in the North Sea Region has dwindled to such an extent over recent decades that the legitimacy of the elected politicians is being brought into question. Figures show that:
* fewer people are using their right to vote (in non-mandatory circumstances);
* membership of political parties has plummeted, and
* the choice of political representatives is narrowing as fewer people put themselves forward for election.
Therefore, Democracy needs continuous and constant care from municipal to European level, not only in election time, and especially in a growing Europe. Building on Objective 5: 'strengthening participation and democratic decision-making in Europe' in the i2010 EU eGovernment Action Plan (April 25th, 2006), the inventory 'E-democracy initiatives in Council of Europe member states' (Council of Europe, April 16th, 2007), earlier eDemocracy initiatives in European regions, e.g. at Bristol (UK), and the results of the Interreg IIIB North Sea Region project evoice 2004-2008 (see: www.evoice-eu.net), the future project Spirit of Democracy will transnationally explore and investigate how modern communication techniques and (interactive) e-services, combined with new forms of social/political organisation and governance, might and should be used and implemented to reinforce democracy. Links might also be made to the policy intentions formulated in the (draft) paper on eParticipation of the Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations.
Some possible themes of interest are:
* how to join forces to empower democracy: a transnational approach;
* councils of the future: digitally enabled;
* interactive e-consultation and e-voting;
* high-quality broadband applications to support advanced democracy services;
* introduction of floor quest for youth participation;
* web 2.0 technology: how to encourage political interaction.

Central Aim

how to empower Democracy in a growing Europe by an innovative, interactive and effective approach to eParticipation

Envisaged Output

a co-operative and transnational strategy on democracy; an approach to enable councils digitally; modern broadband applications and advanced eDemocracy services to support eParticipation; stronger youth participation

Thematic Keywords:	Democracy and eDemocracy, interactive eParticipation, citizens and politics, councils of the future, high-quality broadband applications and eDemocracy services
Partners Found Already:	* Municipality of Hoogeveen, NL (intended leadpartner);* NOFA (a co-operation between the Municipalities of Dantumadeel, Dongeradeel, Achtkarspelen en Kollumerland in the North-east of the Province of Fryslân, NL);* Municipality of Groningen, NL;* Province of Groningen, NL;* the Municipalities of Uddevalla, Ale and Harryda, S;* Norfolk County, UK;* Intercommunale Leiedal (B);* Chatfone, Groningen/Den Haag, NL.interested* Hordaland County (Bergen), N;* Municipality of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK;* Municipality of Wolverhampton, UK;* Municipality of Sneek, NL;* Gdansk City Council, PL;* entera, environmental planning & ICT, Hannover, FRG* mySociety, London, UK
Partners Requested:	municipalities, regions, national authorities, research institutes and private partners from the seven countries participating in the North Sea Region

Estimated Total Budget: 7million

Date: 24-05-2007

1.19 Knowledge transfer in novel crops to deliver high value and sustainable supply chains to coastal zone agriculture.

Organisation:	**University of East Anglia**	
Contact Person:	Dr John French	
Address:	NR4 7TJ Norwich United Kingdom	tel. (+44) (0) 1603 456161 fax: (+44) (0) 1603 458553 e-mail: john.french@uea.ac.uk

Project Description

The exploitation of new alternative and non-food crops offer significant advantages to agriculture and to building sustainable communities particularly to those located in high risk coastal zone areas seeking to diversify into new high value supply chains. This project seeks to develop a number of new alternative crops and agricultural systems by using technical co-operation, research and innovation and then commercialisation to overcome barriers to the exploitation of new crops. The project will involve trials with crops in coastal zones areas that have been defined as being 'at risk' from inundation and where adaptation of local practices can contribute to maintaining sustainable communities in these areas as well as demonstrating adaptation to climate change.

Central Aim

The central aim is to deploy the combined knowledge transfer capability of a number of research institutes, universities and development agencies in order to stimulate the systematic investigation, piloting and implementation of innovative new crops in coastal zone agricultural areas. The trans-national KT network would be linked to commercial partners in each of the north sea countries in order maximise the exploitation of innovation in real situations with beneficial economic impact.

Envisaged Output

i) Sustainable agriculture in coastal zones through the development and exploitation of alternative and non food crops that contribute to new supply chains associated with high value nutraceutical, pharmaceutical, industrial and bio-energy markets.
ii) Co-ordinated Knowledge transfer through the formation of a trans-national KT network to deliver objective i., together with commercial and agricultural partnerships capable of delivering new rural enterprises and rural community sustainability
iii) Spatial co-ordination of applied research and development through the development a co-ordinated set of trial sites for the managed investigation and exploitation of alternative and non-food crops in coastal zone locations
iv) Exploitation of new technology through the utilisation of post harvest co-processing to maximise exploitation of plant products
v) Commercial infra-structure as legacy from the project through the formation of co-operatives to sustain new rural enterprises

Thematic Keywords:	Knowledge, Innovation, Coastal, Agriculture, Sustainability
Partners Found Already:	Lead Partners: University of East Anglia;East of England Development Agency; Institute of Food Research;
Partners Requested:	Partners requested from non-UK north sea locations
Estimated Total Budget:	5.0
Date:	31-05-2007

1.22 Innovative and Sustainable Maritime Economy for Coastal Communities (ISMAREC)

Organisation:	**K & M Consult**	
Contact Person:	Hanns Buchholz	
Address:	Nord St 56 D-30966 Hemmingen Germany	tel. +49 5101 2717 fax: +49 5101 925806 e-mail: buchholz@km-consult.org

Project Description

The comprehensive conversion of the oceans into assets has begun. A new innovative and sustainable maritime economy has to be developed in order to create growth and employment, and the coastal communities should try hard to share this development. It is a chance to overcome disadvantages of a periphery and to achieve balanced spatial living conditions. Each offshore activity (oil and gas extraction, wind energy, maricultures hydrogen production, new forms of tourism etc.) needs an abutment on land (logistics, maintenance and repair, service shipping, pre-production of offshore installations, processing, trade, education etc.). In transnational co-operation local and regional planners and promoters, completed by external experts, enterprises etc., will discuss future potentials and will define what has to be considered today for the future in learning institutions, in organisational forms to promote contacts between producers and investors, in spatial planning etc.

Central Aim

Awareness for innovative and sustainable maritime economy as well on the local level, improvement of economic growth and employment, strategies for pro-active communal planning.

Envisaged Output

Advice for action for the local authorities regarding the innovative and sustainable maritime economy, draft of a new spatial and functional layout of the resp. community considering the new maritime economy, establishment of a special institution/department for the promotion and acquisition of suitable parts of the new maritime economy.

Thematic Keywords:	innovative maritime economy, sustainability, coastal community
Partners Found Already:	under negotiation
Partners Requested:	Coastal communities from the NSR
Estimated Total Budget:	€500,000
Date:	19-05-2006

Priority 2 Promoting the Sustainable Management of our Environment

Strong Potential for Submission

2.01 Agriculture and land management responses to climate change
Environment Agency, United Kingdom

2.02 BEVIPP - Better Energy With the Virtual Power Plant
HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

2.03 Biomass Optimisation and Production of Energy from the Countryside (BOPEC)
Province of Fryslân, The Netherlands

2.04 Computerised flood management and control in densely populated areas
Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland, The Netherlands

2.05 Development of an Integrated Management Strategy for North Sea Shipwrecks
Emu Ltd., United Kingdom

2.06 FISH Strategic Fish Plan North Sea Region
LINKit consult, The Netherlands

2.08 Improve regional economies by innovative integrated water management
Province of Fryslân, The Netherlands

2.11 Sustainable Estuarial Cities
Environment Agency, United Kingdom

2.13 The day after tomorrow, safety project
Province of Zeeland, The Netherlands

2.14 The North Sea Energy Transition Path
Province of Fryslân, The Netherlands

2.16 Waterline Economy
Province Drenthe, The Netherlands

2.17 Climate Proof Areas (Coastal Communities - Ready for a changing world)
Province of Zeeland, The Netherlands

2.18 North Sea CRed
Suffolk County Council, Strategic Development, United Kingdom

2.19 EMRES - EMergency RESponse in larger transport corridors (work title)
Norwegian Coastal Administration, Norway

2.50 Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER PLUS)
BIS Bremerhaven/REM • Consult Hamburg, Germany

2.65 FATDMA planning tools
RDANH, Denmark

2.74 Network for Innovative Use of Renewable Fuels
SWECO, Sweden

2.77 North Sea Pollution, Fire and Resilience
Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, United Kingdom

Work in Progress

2.07 Hamburg Port Authority

Hamburg Port Authority, Germany

2.10 STORM - Sustainable Technology Overviewing ecological Risk Management

Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK), The Netherlands

2.12 Sustainable River Management

Regional Co-operation Urstromtal Elbe from Dömitz to Hamburg, Germany

2.15 Water

Stimuland, The Netherlands

2.20 CommSoil (Enhanced Communication and effective Decision-making Support for Soil Protection and Sustainable Land-use)

Büro Freiraum und Umwelt, Germany

2.21 enerCOAST - BlueGreen Coastal Energy Community

University of Oldenburg - COAST Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development Research, Germany

2.22 Energy for the process industry by direct combustion of biomass

School of Tecnology and Design - Dpt. Bioenergy Technology, Sweden

2.24 Evaluating the Sustainability of Urban Drainage Systems (ESUDS)

Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK), The Netherlands

2.28 Integrating renewable energy devices into new forms of multi-functional sea defences

The Highland Council, United Kingdom

2.32 Planning of urban environments using storm water as a ressource

Odense Municipality, Denmark

2.33 Radar-based flow management

Hamburg Wasser, Germany

2.35 Sensitive Port towns Innovate for Changing the Environment (SPICE)

Gemeentewerken Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2.37 Sustainable management of the North Sea

Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Norway

2.38 SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Hamburg Wasser, Germany

2.39 ICZM-guided solutions for the growth of employment and the securing of the ecosystem (Practiczm)

K & M CONSULT, Germany

2.44 CLIMAR

Flemish Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services - coastal division, Belgium

2.45 Water Protection Management System in the North Sea Region: Enhancing sustainable management of fruit production

Dep. of Horticulture, SLU, Sweden

2.46 New ways for wastewater

Waterboard Groot Salland, The Netherlands

2.47 Integration WFD / N2000

Province of Drenthe, The Netherlands

2.48 Storm water management in the urban environment

Parks and Landscape Administration, City of Göteborg, Sweden

2.49 W.I.S.E.R.

Province of Drenthe, The Netherlands

2.51 CLIWAT -Adaptive management of water bodies in a more extreme future climate

Region Midtjylland, Denmark

2.52 Carbon neutral industrial estates

POM West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

2.53 Sustainable business clusters

POM West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

2.54 SAWA - Strategic Alliance for integrated Watermanagement Actions

Agency for Roads, Bridges and Waters, Germany

2.55 Greenhouses and sustainability

Dienst landelijk gebied (Government organisation of land and water management, The Netherlands

2.56 Robust Nature - The Resilience of Coast and Uplands and their capacity to cope with and Influence Climate Change.'

Northumberland NAtional Park Authority, UK

2.57 Problems of grazing areas adjoining the North Sea

Norfolk County Council, UK

2.59 Energy Farming

Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Government service for land and water management, The Netherlands

2.60 Energy Landscaping

Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Government service for land and water management), The Netherlands

2.61 Coasts for the future.

Provincie West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

2.71 SO-BE-XTREME: Soil best practices for coping with weather extremes

Faculty of Management and Organisation, Business development and Knowledge Management group, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

2.75 Energy Guided Landscapes

Departement of Planning and Environment Faculty of Spatial Sciences
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

2.76 Sustainable Flood Risk Communications

Environment Agency, United Kingdom

Strong Potential for Submission

2.01 Agriculture and land management responses to climate change

Organisation:	**Environment Agency**	
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Project Description

Development, communication and implementation of optimal agricultural and land management responses to climate change. Working title RUBENS - Rural Benefits from Sustainability.

Central Aim

The project aims investigate how agriculture and land management can best act to both limit and adapt to climate change in the moderate to high intensively farmed North Sea Region, and ensure that these recommendations are effectively communicated to both practitioners and policy makers at the European, national and regional levels

Envisaged Output

1) Exploration of future scenarios for agriculture and land-use in the North Sea Regions through integration of research and stakeholder engagement. Creation of a vision for agriculture in the North Sea Region.
2) Exploration and identification of policy needs at the European, national and regional levels to deliver sustainable responses to climate change in agriculture and more broadly the vision identified in objective 1. Effective dissemination of these results to policy makers and lobbyists.
3) Sharing of successes and best practice, and difficulties and failures, between the partner regions with a view to optimising implementation of environmental and climate change action on farms in accordance with current policies.
4) Production of farm plans and implementation of holistic on farm responses to climate change, with a focus on ensuring sustainable rural economies. Development of innovative financial mechanisms to achieve these responses.
5) Detailed examination of the impacts of current European agri-environment schemes on appropriate adaptive responses to climate change, particularly in respect of protection of coastal and fresh water quality and minimising flood risk.

Thematic Keywords:	RUBENS, agriculture, climate change, water quality, flooding
Partners Found Already:	Potential lead partners found are: - United Kingdom - Environment Agency and Macaulay Institute - Netherlands – Delfland and Fryslan - Denmark – Ministry of Environment - Germany - Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachen and Umwelt University
Partners Requested:	National and regional bodies with close involvement with moderate to high intensively farmed regions of the North Sea Region and strong linkages to either agricultural policy or development of individual farms. Note - proposal development meeting 8-9th M
Estimated Total Budget:	€3 million
Date:	18-01-2007

2.02 BEVIPP - Better Energy With the Virtual Power Plant

Organisation:	**HafenCity University Hamburg**	
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Project Description

A virtual power plant is the aggregation of decentralized electric generation (e.g., small scale heat and power co-generation; emergency back-up generators in hospitals) and controlled electric load shedding in times of peak demand (e.g., temporarily shutting off air conditioning, cookers, or postponing industrial heat processes). Such an intelligent composition of power sources on the supply and demand side saves natural resources and emissions associated with power generation. It creates new markets in which a variety of actors can enter (e.g., communities and small businesses that sell controllable loads in their buildings) and generates revenues at the local level. Marketing the virtual power plant, aggregating power sources and providing the ICT to carry out such projects creates new business opportunities. -- BEVIPP brings together decentralized generation sources and controllable loads in the city of Hamburg's public and private sectors to sell them to a German virtual power plant operator. The project is already under way between the engineering firm SUMBI, the city of Hamburg, Department for Economy and Labour, and a German virtual power plant operator. Hamburg real estate and facilities are already identified that could generate controllable loads, and their impacts on aggregate load curves are already investigated. BEVIPP looks for partners in other countries to build and share experiences in integrating virtual power sources into the electricity grid. Partners in the United Kingdom, Denmark and Netherlands would add special value, due to those countries' high shares of co-generation and their experiences in reforming the electricity grid regulation, respectively.

Central Aim

(a) Develop and promote the virtual power plant (VIPP) strategy that can significantly reduce CO2 emissions and other environmental impacts of electric power generation, (b) Save money for society by avoiding the cost of constructing new electric generation capacity; (c) Generate revenues for society; e.g. public sector agencies (who run schools and infrastructure installations, etc.), private companies (who run hospitals); owners of infrastructure installations (ports, tunnels, train stations) etc.

Envisaged Output

(a) Develop a methodology for estimating a city's potential for generating "megawatts", and electric power that balances unplanned deviations of supply from demand. (b) Establishing a technical and administrative-economic protocol for aggregating decentralised electric reserve and balancing power and its trade in the electricity wholesale market

Thematic Keywords:	Electricity Demand Side Management, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Energy Generation
Partners Found Already:	(1) SUMBI -- Ingenieur-Büro für Sozial- und Umweltbilanzen Hamburg; Engineering Firm for Social and Environmental Assessment; www.sumbi.de (contact person Hans Schäfers); (2) Hamburg BWA (Behörde für Wirtschaft und Arbeit), Department for Economy and Labor (contact person Winfried Albrecht)
Partners Requested:	Cities and/or their municipal utilities and/or power generators in other countries who are willing to engage in a similar endeavor and exchange experiences as we go along
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

2.03 Biomass Optimisation and Production of Energy from the Countryside (BOPEC)

Organisation:	**Province of Fryslân**	
Contact Person:	Geert Boesjes	
Address:	P.O. Box 20120 NL-8900 HM Leeuwarden The Netherlands	tel. +31 58 292 5578 e-mail: g.boesjes@fryslan.nl

Project Description

Development and implementation of strategic management plans in every participating region for an integrated and optimized use of biomass. The focus of these biomass-management plan lies on the analysis of opportunities, problems and solutions for the region and on the feasibility of new realisations. To optimise the regional use of biomass the plan focuses not only on the energy pro-production but also on the possibilities for maximising the use of the biomass for other applications such as food, feed and the refinery of cosmetics, fine-chemicals and industrial products. This will further maximize the economic output from the crop production. Depending on the region several biomass-streams will be dealt with in an integrated approach.
The management plan includes the impact on the environment and socio-economic effects in the region. With assistance of the project partners (advice, knowledge, network) in every region the management plan will be worked out in close cooperation with politicians, policy-makers, researchers and entrepreneurs. The interregional exchange of expertise and knowledge is also an important issue within the realisation of these management plans. To support and stimulate the implementation of the management plan demo's and pilots are set up or will be optimized together with knowledge exchange and dissemination. New developments in technologies such as bio-refinery and pyrolyse can be used in the project. Instruments that also will be used or optimized are :
1.An extended network of Branch offices in every participating country. The branch offices will provide a `one stop shop for dissemination of information to politicians, businesses, newspapers, Education facilities e.g. schools and universities. They will also provide an in-terface where the general public can easily access information on bio energy and a plat-form for discussions on socio economic topics and ecological aspects of bio energy. The transfer of information will be coordinated and facilitated by the branch office through a series of international expert exchanges, conference and meeting organisation etc.
2. Models for the transfer of information, infrastructure and technology to new member states will be produced
3. Integrate new innovative technologies into the existing plants e.g. decentralised systems
4. Exchange of expertise between the partners
5. Energy contract models

Central Aim

Stimulate the (regional) independence of fossil energy in a sustainable way; Better use of bio energy, new market opportunities for small to medium scale enterprises within the countryside, development of value added chains.
Increased bio energy production, improved efficiency and reduced `greenhouse gas´ emissions.
Knowledge transfer between old and new member states. Economic impulse for SME and farmers in the rural area

Envisaged Output

1. Biomass management plans
2. A network of branch offices in every participating country
3. Demonstration plants / pilots with relevant technique for the region
4. Dissemination and promotion of integrated and optimize use of biomass
5. Promotion of regional economy and development of new employment opportunities

Thematic Keywords:	Sustainable biomass production, bio refinery, management, bio en-ergy, bio based economy.
Partners Found Already:	POM West Flanders – Belgium, Highland Birchwoods – Scotland, 3N – Germany, Province of Fryslan – The Netherlands, DLG-Ministry of Agricultural – The Netherlands
Partners Requested:	Countries from Scandinavian and the Baltic Sea Region
Estimated Total Budget:	€6 million

Date: 25-01-2007

2.04 Computerised flood management and control in densely populated areas

Organisation:	**Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland**	
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Project Description

Climate change brings us more heavy rainstorms than we were used to in the past. The recent floods in many European countries calls for a new approaches to management of flooding situations. In particular in densely populated and highly industrialized areas, like the Delfland area in The Netherlands, the capital value is enormous. While the area is at risk of flooding from the surrounding waters as well as extreme precipitation which falls inside the area, careful management of such extremes becomes a prerequisite in day to day operations of pumping stations, outlets and temporal flood basins. Automatic monitoring of the status of water systems is common practice in many countries these days. However, even in the most urbanized areas not all spots can be monitored in detail, because of missing wired networks of electricity and telephony. Current day wireless communication using SMS, GPRS, UMTS and other technologies, permits new detailed monitoring, which was not possible in the past. Using these technologies, in combination with modelling approaches, creates options for detailed spatial representation of high water levels and inundations. This allows the water manager to deal with flooding better since he/she knows the details of the water system which are necessary to propose the right operations and other mitigation measures. Detailed information from centralized computerized systems permits decision makers to have a realistic view on flooding situations, from where they can unambiguously determine control strategies such as the use of overflow areas for temporal storage of water, up to the level of issuing evacuation calls to the inhabitants of flood prone areas.
Optimum control of water systems during excessive conditions, creates space to use all available capacities of a water system in terms of storage and discharge, before flood happens. This is considered vital in present-day water management. Moreover, during those situations control systems cannot rely on heavy communication. For that reason present developments are in the direction of decentralized computing and intelligent local control of water systems, taking into account overall control policies and strategies.

Particular application of the proposed approach is taking place in the Delfland area (NL). On this area of 41,000 hectares, about 1.4 million people live and work, and approximately 40,000 businesses are established. This makes the Delfland region one of the most densely populated and most highly industrialized areas of the Netherlands. The region is furthermore famous for its intensive glasshouse horticulture.
The three key tasks of Delfland - maintenance of dikes and dams, water-level control, and water quality control - initially do not seem to have much in common. But you can't tell a book by its cover. Often you cannot view one task separate from the other. The manner in which you construct and maintain quays, for example, has consequences for the quality of the water. Which is why Delfland always performs its tasks with "a broad view". In other words: taking into account all possible relevant factors. This is also known as integrated water management. To that end, Delfland strives for cooperation with other authorities and institutions.
The main or so-called primary maintenance of dikes and dams consists of two components: the seawall and the river flood defence structure. This primary maintenance of dikes and dams of Delfland must be able to withstand a wind-force and water level which, on average and statistically speaking, do not occur more than once every 10,000 years.
Water management involves the regulation of the water level in streams, lakes, ditches, moats and canals. This is vital for developments, agricultural businesses, the shipping industry, nature and recreation. The height at which the water level of an area is set depends on the use and function of that area. The level in wildlife areas, for instance, often fluctuates, while farmers prefer a relatively low water level to prevent their land from becoming too wet. The management of water levels is also of great importance for the shipping industry. If the water level is too low, large ships will run aground; if it is too high, the vertical clearance under bridges will become insufficient.
At present Delfland starts initiatives to switch to computerised decentralised computation and control of the entire water system with 700 level areas and 200 pump stations and automated weirs. Presentation of GIS-based spatial information to water managers and other decision makers is considered essential in the new approach. Intensive use will be made of wireless communication.

Central Aim

To develop and implement new and innovative approaches for automated computation and control of water systems, in particular using wireless communication with new technologies such as GPRS and UMTS, to provide higher levels of safety and protection of densely populated and industrialised areas against floods.

Envisaged Output

New and in practise tested approaches of wireless communication for information transfer in flooding situations Development of algorithms to determine optimum control strategies for combined urban and rural water systems Centralised information systems for overall views of detailed water levels and flows on the basis of which water managers can take action for flood mitigation.

Thematic Keywords: innovation, water management, environment,

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: €10,000,000

Date: 08-06-2006

2.05 Development of an Integrated Management Strategy for North Sea Shipwrecks

Organisation:	**Emu Ltd.**	
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Project Description

There is a clear need for transnational integrated management of wreck sites because of the multiplicity of stakeholders with an interest in wrecks including: living relatives of the deceased; wreck owners; marine archaeologists; fishermen; divers; salvage companies; and government regulators for safety and the marine environment. Focusing on 2 study areas - The Battle of Jutland wrecks and the Skagerak we will collate existing data / collect new data, and by extensive consultation with stakeholders identify the key issues to develop a management strategy which can form part of regional spatial planning strategies.

Central Aim

Development of an integrated management strategy for North Sea wreck sites for submission as a consultation document to the EU, IMO and other trans-national bodies.

Envisaged Output

An integrated wreck database and GIS for the 2 study areas, collating data on the condition of the wrecks, their historical significance, environmental hazards / footprint and importance to other users. Comprehensive data sets to allow effective site management based upon existing / new data. Measures to facilitate the appropriate interment of human remains. A generic environmental risk assessment tool for evaluating pollution / munitions hazards for wreck sites. Investigation of possible links between geochemical hotspots and anthropogenic wreckage. A report documenting all of the above. An integrated management strategy for each study area encompassing conservation objectives, remediation action plans, protocol for use by different stakeholders and appropriate custodians for data.

Thematic Keywords:	Wrecks, cultural-heritage, pollution, risk-assessment, munitions
Partners Found Already:	Joint Nautical Archaeological Policy Committee UK, Stranding museum, Denmark, Department of Culture in the Netherlands, British Geological Survey UK
Partners Requested:	Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Geological Survey of Sweden, Kulturarvsstyrelsen, Copenhagen, Geological Institute of Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	€2.5 million
Date:	15-12-2006

2.06 FISH Strategic Fish Plan North Sea Region

Organisation:	**LINKit consult**	
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Project Description

This project proposes the sustainable economic development of the inland fishery sector, development fishery related tourism and restoration of the fish migration routes around the North Sea. Strong transnational partnerships between regional governments, water managers, research institutes, inland fishery sector and recreational fishery boards will be established to jointly tackle the problem. The project focuses on the develop of innovative fishing techniques, boosting fishery tourism, transnational coastal fish management and network development. This all to develop better environmental circumstances for the inland fish stock, to prevent the extinction of fish species like the Eel and have a viable fishery sector.

Central Aim

Economic innovation of inland fishery sector and integrated coastal fish management in the whole North Sea region.

Envisaged Output

Sustainable and economical viable inland fishery
? Analysis of the economics of inland fisheries of migratory species, with special emphasis on commercial & recreational aspects;
? Joint best practice of North Sea wide sustainable fishing techniques;
? Joint best practice on fish management plans for inland water systems;
? 3 pilot projects between public and private partners on fishing techniques and fish management plans;
? Communication and marketing strategy to promote sustainable inland fishery, (for example: green fish logo);
? Exchange visits.

Fishery tourism and recreation
? North Sea wide analysis of economic added value of fishery tourism and recreation for rural communities (see above);
? Innovative marketing to boost this type of tourism and recreation;
? Innovative methods to create economic added value for fisher men;
? Exchange visits;
? 3 Pilot projects on innovative fishery tourism and recreation.

Coastal fish management
? Analysis and identification of the main migratory fish species (in number and in biomass) in the North Sea region and assessment of current situation regarding man-made barriers on watershed biodiversity;
? Analysis of the impacts of man-made barriers (e.g. pumping stations) on fish dispersal and biodiversity of watershed areas;
? Practical vision and approach towards restoration of fish migratory routes of key migratory species in the North Sea region;
? Testing and implementation of innovative technical devices aimed at unhindered passage of migratory fish species across man-made barriers in the whole North Sea region;
? New, innovative fish monitoring techniques with recreational and professionals fishery sector;
? Exchange visits;
? 3 Pilot projects on fish migration and/of innovative fish migration techniques.

Network development and influencing policy
? Establishment of a lasting network of professional water managers working in fish migration issues in the North Sea region;
? Communication strategy to influence national, regional and European water management plans, favouring fish migration possibilities;
? 2 International conferences on a Strategic Fish Plan for North Sea region, together with for example the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission

Thematic Keywords:	Fisheries, fish migration, economics, innovation
Partners Found Already:	British Environmental Agency UK, Fisheries Secretariat SW, Agency Nature and Forest BE, Flemish Environmental Agency BE, DIFRES DE, Dutch Fish Product Board NL, Dutch Angling Association NL, Province of Drente NL and several Dutch Water boards
Partners Requested:	From Northern Germany, Sweden and Norway
Estimated Total Budget:	€5 million
Date:	26-01-2007

2.08 Improve regional economies by innovative integrated water management

Organisation:	**Province of Fryslân**	
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Project Description

Water managers have to face a lot of demands in the next future. Not only by the changing of the climate and the fulfilling of the Water Framework Directive, they also have to take in account other important European Directives such as the Bird Habitat Directive, Swimming Water Directive and the Nitrate Directive. It all comes to good, sustainable water management and it will only succeed if people see the advantage. The challenge will be to turn water management demands into water management profits. For example the advantage of good water quality for the health and well being of people or the fact that living on the waterline, close to nature, is profitable for the value of real estate. Also the way people / stakeholders are involved in water management and the integration of the new European directives asks for a really democratic way of decision-making in the implementation processes. This will lead to an different approach of water management. The idea is to have pilots in each partner country in which sustainable water management by using innovative techniques will take place in a democratic way and see how this approach can lead to better regional economy.

Central Aim

Turning water management demands into water management profits, integrating the relevant European Directives, and doing this in a innovative and democratic way.

Envisaged Output

A better regional economy in the pilot areas. Improvement of the quality of live in the pilot areas. Learning from working together on integration of different European directives.

Thematic Keywords:	innovation, sustainable water management and regional economy.
Partners Found Already:	within the running NOLIMP and WCII projects there are several partners interested in this approach.
Partners Requested:	new partners / Baltic partners?
Estimated Total Budget:	€5,000,000
Date:	15-02-2006

2.11 Sustainable Estuarial Cities

Organisation:	**Environment Agency**	
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Project Description

The prosperity of Europe depends on trade and much of that trade passes through cities situated on North Sea estuaries. The vulnerability of people and property to tidal flooding has been evident on many occasions in the past, most recently in 1953 and 1962. Flooding from freshwater rivers and surface water presents equivalent threats, albeit of a lower magnitude.

The growth of cities such as London, Hamburg and Rotterdam/Dordrecht in the last 50 years has placed at risk property of greater value and increased the potential consequences of a flood, should defences not prove adequate. A major North Sea flood that affected seriously all three cities could have a devastating impact on the lives of thousands of people, for the international insurance market and for the economies of the three countries and for Europe more generally.

If the consequences of flooding have increased, so has the chance. Sea level rise, driven by global warming, may accelerate unless international controls on the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are made effective. This must presently be regarded as less than certain. In addition, the most vulnerable areas to storm surges are the estuaries of the Elbe, Scheldt and Thames. The result is that flood risk is increasing around the North Sea (and elsewhere) and, unless accommodated successfully, could jeopardise the functioning of the major city ports on which Europe depends for much of its economic performance.

Central Aim

To contribute to maintaining the vitality of North Sea estuarial cities facing sea level rise, demographic change and the need for regeneration through integrated flood risk management and spatial planning, accommodating the social, economic and environmental aspirations of the city administrations and people affected.

Envisaged Output

? Building resilience to flooding; demonstration projects
? Flood resilient urban infrastructure
? Integrating urban drainage with flood risk management
? Accommodating residual flood risk with spatial planning including open space and provision for the natural environment
? Flood tolerant port facilities and associated transport arrangements
? Incident response and emergency planning arrangements
? Public awareness and acceptance of risk management and spatial planning measures
? Strategies to prepare for extreme sea level rise.

Thematic Keywords:	Sustainable Estuarial Cities
Partners Found Already:	London – a consortium of the Greater London Authority, the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Thames Gateway London Partnership, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, Environment Agency and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.Hamburg - the Land and City of Hamburg City of Dordrecht, Hollands Delta Water Board, and possibly, both the Province of South Holland and Rijkswaterstaat.
Partners Requested:	This could be extended to include both Antwerp and Bremen. Although not situated on the North Sea, Gdansk in Poland might be considered also as it faces similar challenges and in order to involve one of the states recently acceded to the EU
Estimated Total Budget:	€100,000
Date:	08-06-2006

2.13 The day after tomorrow, safety project

Organisation:	**Province of Zeeland**	
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	The Netherlands	e-mail: r.de.meyer@zeeland.nl

Project Description

Several INTERREG IIIb project were aimed at safety, risk and crisismanagement in relation to coastal flooding. This project want to bring together and combine their results in relation to the chain of safety. This should result in a network of all relevant stakeholders, i.e. national- regional and local authorities, emergency services, knowledge institutes and citizens who will aim at the implementation of a NSR contingencyplan for flooding for the whole North Sea Region covering all checkles of the safetychain, i.e. proaction, prevention, preparation, response and aftercare.

Central Aim

The aim of the project is to facilitate cooperation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between North Sea Regions in the event of coastal flooding. By bringing together all knowledge and experience on coastal flooding within the whole safety chain throughout the North Sea Region, and exchanging materials, equipment and manpower it aims at optimisation of cooperation amongst those regions. This will minimise the casualties and damage caused by coastal flooding.

Envisaged Output

- crisis-management cooperation coast- and sea-authorities;
- developing prevention and response measures to flooding from the North Sea;
- developing and implementing cross-border agreements and cooperation on national and regional scale, in all checkles of the 'chain of safety':
  - o pro-action: spatial planning, making a contingency-plan;
  - o prevention: preserving strong(er) dikes and dunes;
  - o preparation: awareness-campaigns, joining knowledge and equipment, Early-Warning System;
  - o response: stop the flooding, communication to the public, evacuations;
  - o after-care: structural repairs, repatriate the evacuated people, repair financial damage, psycho-social help;
- training of authorities on transnational cooperation through the chain of safety

Thematic Keywords:	Coastal flooding; Safety Chain; risk and crisis management
Partners Found Already:	Partners from the current Chain of Safety Project
Partners Requested:	National- Regional, local authorities, emergency services, knowledge institutes dealing with the checkles of the safety chain in NSR regions prone to coastal flooding:- Belgium: West-Flanders, East-Flanders, Antwerp;- Netherlands: Zeeland, South-Holland,
Estimated Total Budget:	€5,000,000
Date:	25-05-2007

2.14 The North Sea Energy Transition Path

Organisation:	**Province of Fryslân**	
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Project Description

A joint approach is proposed to speed up the process of energy transition in the North Sea Region. Energy transition offers new opportunities for regions that at this moment have no substantial energy production but have a potential in sustainable energy (agriculture, wind, sun, etc). It also challenges regions that now heavily rely on fossil fuels to develop a new source of income and economic activity (e.g. offshore production). Energy transition will have substantial effects on the way societies are organised, e.g. in urban and rural planning. Such an approach should take into account all aspects of this energy transition path: from using fossil fuels more sustainable and improving energy efficiency to focusing on renewable energy production.

Building further on experiences in the running programme this approach should elaborate on specific regional strengths and specifically look for (economic) opportunities arising from sustainable energy. Foreseen topics are: bio-energy and bio fuels, sustainable mobility, alternative energy supply (e.g. sun, wind, natural gas), energy efficient building, energy from waste. An interesting element of the project could be the position of islands, whose unique situation provides a perfect demonstration site for sustainable developments.

The project should also address the need for training and education as well as cooperation on environmental technologies and innovation within the North Sea Region. As national policies are often very influential in matters of energy production, the approach should be undertaken as a joint effort between regions and national departments.

Central Aim

To speed up the process of energy transition in the North Sea Region

Envisaged Output

A consistent overall strategy for North Sea regions, that links long term transition goals with specific short term actions (future and parallel projects) in concrete investments projects, funding schemes and knowledge development.
The project also encompasses concrete demonstration projects to test knowledge and facilitate faster implementation.

Thematic Keywords:	Energy Transition, Regional (economic) development.
Partners Found Already:	Fryslân already has a big network of partners in existing energy pro-jects, like ERE and North Sea Bio Energy. But all interested organisations are welcome to discuss cooperation.
Partners Requested:	Also partners from the Baltic Sea Region
Estimated Total Budget:	€10 million
Date:	25-01-2007

2.16 Waterline Economy

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Project Description

Waterline Economy unites the European goals of the Lisbon Agenda and the Göteborg Agenda. Waterline Economy formulates a procedure whereby, from the initial concept phase, economic growth and employment opportunities are integrated in environment-friendly and sustainable water projects. This results in new projects in which the implementation of the Water Framework Directive goes hand in hand with innovative business, attractive living and healthy recreation. Such an approach is expected to generate more support and greater financial possibilities for the far-reaching and expensive activities to facilitate more water-catchment areas, improved water quality and sustainable environmental development.

Central Aim

Contributing to the goals of the Lisbon Agenda by innovative projects along the waterline combining economic development, socioeconomic advantages, implementation of water frame work directive and natural 2000 goals.

Envisaged Output

- innovative projects around 4 themes
* Waterline Economy and Water Quality (socioeconomic benefits of improving water quality)
* Waterline Economy and Quality of life (living and recreation)
* Waterline Economy in harmony with Nature and WFD (solutions for conflicting targets WFD and Natural 200)
* Waterline Economy and changing climate (flooding, water retention etc)

- Economic Science in water projects
* bringing the economic approach in the water/nature projects
* cooperation with Universities in this respect

Thematic Keywords:	Economy, climate change, water management, WFD, Natural 2000
Partners Found Already:	Within the 57 regions in the North Sea Area participate in Waterline Economy Interreg III B programme
Partners Requested:	Norway
Estimated Total Budget:	€12 million
Date:	08-06-2006

2.17 Climate Proof Areas (Coastal Communities - Ready for a changing world)

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Project Description

Due to climate change and the resulting socio-economic problems, there are several areas in Europe's North Sea Region facing the same set of urgent topics which are getting more and more difficult to cope with: e.g., increasing flood risks, deteriorating agricultural situations, needs to modernize the regional economic structure, an increasing number of elder people and the need to sustain the landscape.
Changing climate leads to a rise of sea levels causing increasing flood risks. Especially in areas near the sea, at sea level or just above, these problems are most severe. To cope with these situations, solutions have to be found with help of new water-defences (zone defence instead of line defence) and a spatial planning adapted to possible flooding.
Firstly, the possibly flooded areas will be analysed with regard to the reasons causing floods. In these charts, the areas affected, frequency, and flood level will be shown. Flooding analyses will show where spatial planning is not yet sufficient. For example, where buildings are located in flooded areas. It will be possible to analyse which measures will be useful to decrease the impacts of flooding:
- decrease of chances: different kinds of defence zones (as developed in EU-Interreg IIIB ComCoast): which parts in the area are suitable for these zones?
- decrease of impact: redirecting the overflowing water to places where it will neither cause victims nor damage: for example creating flood control areas with secondary dikes.
- decrease in the number of possible victims: create higher grounds for refugees
- decrease of damage: reorganise the land use.

Within this project, it would be very useful to work out the solutions and chances for different pilot sites in different EU-countries. Two sites in The Netherlands and Germany have already been identified, further are needed:
- Within the Province of Zeeland (Netherlands), the island of Schouwen-Duiveland is a good pilot location for this project. The community of Schouwen-Duiveland has to deal with all the problems mentioned above. Also, rising sea levels will be a problem for the lower parts of the Netherlands, including Schouwen-Duiveland. The national and regional administrations focus their attention on these problems, including innovative coastal defence measures, secondary dikes, evacuation etc. Additionally, to design with water is of great interest for the different parties.
- The coastal administrative district Wesermarsch (Landkreis Wesermarsch, Germany) (www.landkreis-wesermarsch.de) is seeking to develop a strategy to adapt to radical changes in many fields of community planning and management: (i) flood and water management, (ii) conversion of harbour and maritime industry, (iii) structural shift in coastal farming and fisheries (iv) nature conservation. The strategy can be elaborated and implemented best in an integrative and participatory way.
- UK

Central Aim

It is the aim to manage problems in adaptation to climate changes and changes within the socio-economic sphere and nature on the coastal community level. This will lead to a picture of one or several robust development alternatives for a climate proof and socio-economically thriving area in the coming 25 years, making use of a worst case scenario for sea-level rise and precipitation and making use of several scenarios for political and socio-economical development.

Envisaged Output

The merging of spatial solutions for future socio-economic problems and solutions for decreasing damage and victims of flooding, will lead to a robust prevention against flooding, and in case this prevention would fail, to map of areas where "climate-proof" spatial planning will be shown:
- Safety: The pilot area will be safe against flooding in the future
- Economic: There are new chances for living and working
- Ecologic: The area is attractive and the water quality is good
- Social/cultural: The environmental quality of the area is improved.

Also, the map will show a list of measures needed to realise this spatial planning. At the end, these measures will be realised.

Thematic Keywords:	Climate-change, sustainable, spatial planning,
Partners Found Already:	Gemeente Schouwen-Duiveland; Rijkswaterstaat Zeeland; Landkreis Wesermarsch; Waterschap Zeeuwse Eilanden; University of Oldenburg??; Possibly UK?
Partners Requested:	UK, DK?
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	01-02-2007

2.18 North Sea CRed

Organisation:	**Suffolk County Council, Strategic Development**	
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Project Description

The particular threats posed to the North Sea Region by Climate Change make finding practical means of reducing carbon and establishing sustainable energy consumption of critical importance. If we are to meet the EU goal to achieve a 20% carbon reduction by 2020, it needs to be translated into concrete measures across Europe. This project aims to bring together partners across the North Sea region to test a comprehensive and innovative range of measures to reduce the carbon emissions of communities, individuals, organisations, and businesses.
The project partners so far have identified the following work streams:

a) innovative approaches to developing positive attitudes and behaviours towards carbon reduction:
- Demonstration projects to improve the journey from information to understanding to acting through campaigns involving a range of target groups. Examples of interventions include: Carbon loan / grant scheme and kite mark Community energy sourcing schemes Signed carbon reduction commitments via dedicated website
- Demonstration projects to pilot models for rewarding and incentivising individuals, communities and organisations in their efforts to minimise their carbon footprint. Such groupings could include social housing, communities (village / street, town), public sector and schools. Examples include: The concept of a 'carbon makeover' Voucher scheme Competitions Community level carbon offsetting- Identify and test the technology available to measure the impact of real time carbon savings and find and test ways to certify emission reductions in everyday life
- Undertake behaviour impact studies of various social groupings to demonstrate step changes as well as studies which demonstrate ways of overcoming fuel poverty issues
- The UK CRed (community carbon reduction) project in East Anglia could act as a source of inspiration for other partners. Aspects of the CRed initiative may be of interest to other North Sea regions as a model for development; CRed is building a community of partners who are deciding how they want to cut their emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2). CRed was founded by the internationally renowned School of environmental science at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Further information can be found at www.cred-uk.org/suffolk

b) Lower carbon business networks
- Identify and use best practice from transnational partners in developing environmental business networks for SMEs. Develop a low carbon dimension of these business networks linking into corporate social responsibility
- Promote CO2-reduction measures to businesses, their clients and their employees and give people the chance to check their CO2 footprint while getting information on saving CO2 and costs. Including a web based portal.
- Develop a carbon reduction awards scheme for SMEs promoting best practice in the North Sea Region.

c) Best practice in the public sector
- Study lower carbon and energy efficiency management in public authorities and highlight good practice measures to deliver the public sector's responsibilities in carbon reduction. This will directly respond to the up and coming EU directive on building energy consumption
- Demonstration projects to investigate sustainable energy for public authorities. This could include whole-life sustainable procurement policies and establishing associated supply chain development and common procurement strategies to enable wider and long term usage of sustainable energy sources including bio fuels / mass
- Identify a common North Sea standard for public authorities to meet their responsibilities through alternative energy and greener travel usage. This includes addressing any knowledge gaps in procurement and property teams; e.g. CO2 emission factors could be defined as an indicator through the public procurement process.

d) Studying ways to include CO2 reduction campaigns into education curricula for universities, schools and the preschool sector
- Investigation to integrate climate change information, adaptation and responses into official curricula including exchanges. In the UK this would link into the eco schools agenda.

e) Delivering lower carbon impact transnational projects
- Throughout the project, the partners would actively lead on delivering a lower carbon project by using and investing in the technologies available to enable sustainable collaborative working. These include Microsoft live meeting software, video conferencing, tele-conferencing, web based chatrooms and show-casing good practice in carbon offsetting.
- The project would actively engage other north sea programme projects to influence their practices for transnational dialogue and communication to ensure that as many projects as possible can demonstrate and quantify their low carbon impact.
- Seek adoption by the north sea secretariat in the first instance of a multi language electronic good practice guide.

f) marketing
- Cross cutting theme for the whole project Based on the practical initiatives, pilot projects and studies, the project will seek to influence policy makers within public institutions and the private sector in set up frameworks and strategies to reduce carbon emissions in the short, medium and long term.

Central Aim

The project's central aim is to generate measures that will achieve lower carbon economies and societies with reduced carbon footprints in a climate of raised awareness. The North Sea regional involved will lead the way in identifying innovative approaches to carbon reduction. The project will lead to sustainable communities, businesses, individuals and authorities by influencing and addressing attitudes and behaviours. Cross evaluation of best practices will lead to most efficient approaches on how to stimulate people's concern for our planet and seek to stimulate demand for renewable technologies with the knock on effect of enabling local business growth.

Envisaged Output

- A high profile North Sea carbon reduction network.
- Demonstration projects testing models and technological solutions to reward low carbon behaviour in public, private and communities and measuring these to demonstrate carbon footprints.
- Good practice guide on ways of creating and facilitating low carbon business networks, in particular post project completion.
- Good practice guide on delivering low carbon impact transnational projects.

Thematic Keywords:	energy efficient consumption, alternative energy schemes, Demonstration projects, Sustainable communities, Energy efficiency, Climate change dialogue, Climate change awareness
Partners Found Already:	Transnational.Germany: The Senator for Construction, Environment and Transport of the Federal State of Bremen. The local climate protection agency Bremer Energie-Konsens. The environmental network of businesses called "partnership enterprise environment" leaded by the RKW Bremen e.V. Bremen partners are supported by Ecolo, Agency for Ecology and Communication based in the Sustainability Centre Bremen.Belgium: Province of West Flanders. Regional Development Agency of East Flanders.Denmark: South Denmark region.UK: Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, CRed Suffolk Partnership, University of East Anglia.
Partners Requested:	Business support organisations, Local authorities, Energy agencies.
Estimated Total Budget:	to be considered
Date:	17-05-2007

2.19 EMRES - EMergency RESponse in larger transport corridors (work title)

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Project Description

Over 90% of EU external trade goes by sea and more than 1 billion tonnes of freight a year are loaded and unloaded in EU ports. Maritime transport will continue to be the most important transport mode in developing EU trade for the foreseeable future. European citizens have the right to expect their maritime passenger and goods transport to be safe, secure and clean (EMSA).This project relates primarily to the Priority 2 in the new program: Promoting the sustainable management of our environment. Larger transport corridors are necessary in the North Sea and the Northern Atlantic and the Baltic to improve the accessibility of places in the North Sea Region, ensure overall quality of life, more and better jobs and communities that are attractive places to live and work. The idea of the project is to focus on how regions and member states should deal with risk in larger transnational transport corridors to avoid acute pollution. A strategic project on maritime safety should aim to interact with other relevant initiatives in the program and neighbour] programs to make transport corridors more safe and attractive for trade (potential for synergy effects and mutual benefits). The project will demonstrate how to cooperate on braking down barriers to get an optimal and harmonised transnational emergency response along the whole transport corridor. The project will also focus on harmonised actions that should be taken in planning and in emergency response for the coastal zone along larger transport corridors, related to an increasing transport of large volumes of hazardous goods at sea. The project will also deal with coastal zone management related to risk from transport corridors. Main focus of the project:
1. Transnational sharing of ship traffic data. The project will demonstrate how traffic data and related information will be shared transnational along Motorways. Exchange of sensor data as IMO's new initiative LRIT, new ways of using AIS and satellite, IMO's eNavigation and EMSA's SafeSeaNet will be demonstrated. Traffic data for statistical and logistic use (innovation.)
2. The future optimal ship traffic picture for monitoring and emergency response. New sensor data will be combined with information from SafeSeaNet and other sources to build the future's traffic picture of transport corridors. Results from S@S will be taken further and use of regional centres will be dealt with. The possibilities by sending traffic information back to the ship will be dealt with, related to IMO's initiative on eNavigation.
3. Dynamic risk assessment in emergency response. Cooperation with other initiatives in dynamic risk assessment. The aim is to create a dynamic risk based emergency response from tugboats and other relevant actions to be prepared in case of "unnormal behaviour" in the transport corridor. Next generation risk assessment tool for oil transport building on results from S@S project.
4. The future emergency towing response built on network and results from S@S. Cooperation and harmonisation on transnational optimal towing response along transport corridors (innovation).
5. Coastal zone management and management of sea areas related to risk from large transport corridors. Relevant measures among regions and meme states along a transport corridor to be prepared for emergency situations. Integrated land and seamaps for the coastal zone, sailing corridors, influences from changing climate implications, places of refuges from S@S etc. In effect the project aims at contributing to the overall objectives of EMSA “to ensure a high, uniform and effective level of maritime safety and prevention of pollution by ships within the Community”. EMSA's most important supporting tasks are to improve cooperation with, and between, Member States in all key areas. The high priority safety work in IMO, DG TREN / EMSA and meme states will be supported and demonstrated by the project.

Central Aim

Maritime passenger and goods transport in the North Sea and the northern area shall remain safe, secure and clean in the future. The project aim is to prepare for and to contribute to a development of a preventative and responsive transnational maritime safety regime along large transport corridors in the north sea area and the neighbouring areas.

Envisaged Output

For maritime safety in large transport corridors:
- Demonstration of transnational sharing of traffic data, also for commercial use- Demonstration of optimal ship traffic pictures and the beginning of eNavigation
- Dynamic risk assessment in emergency response and next generation risk assessment tool for oil transport
- A future transnational emergency towing concept
- Measures in coastal zone management and management of sea areas related to risk from large transport corridors
- Strategic synergy effects and mutual benefits by related projects working closely together

Thematic Keywords:	Maritime safety, emergency response, sharing traffic data, traffic picture, risk assessment, transport corridors, coastal zone management, strategic effects
Partners Found Already:	Norwegian Coastal Administration
Partners Requested:	Regional and national authorities, private companies, NGO's, R&D institutions and universities
Estimated Total Budget:	5.00
Date:	31-05-2007

2.50 Pushing Offshore Wind Energy Regions (POWER PLUS)

Organisation:	**BIS Bremerhaven/REM • Consult Hamburg**	
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Project Description

Offshore wind farms contribute significantly to the objective of enhancing renewable energy sources and to combat climate change in the European Union. The North Sea Region (NSR) is the world's leading region in offshore wind energy (OWE). The project's intention is to strengthen and upgrade this excellent position and aims to promote the high potential of offshore wind energy as a sustainable source in the European energy mix due to the fact that it is considered to be in long term a reliable, available, politically secure and cost efficient energy source.Therefore various stakeholders from industry associations, research organisations, and public authorities of six member states have cooperated through an initiative on offshore wind energy issues between 2004 and 2007. On these transnational findings made and lessons learnt several actions are planned to be tracked within the planned project to further promote Europe’s excellent position in the area of OWE. Provisional work packages may focus on following issues like a) creating greater awareness on OWE, b) managing regional OWE clusters, c) skills development in the area of OWE and d) cross section tasks / PM

Central Aim

The central aim of POWER PLUS is to further strengthen and extend the NSR competence network on OWE. Certain activities in the area of OWE such as the increased cooperation to the wind energy industry are expected to be further enhanced through this project. POWER PLUS is drawing attention on utilising the enormous potential of wind energy in order to face recent environmental challenges and current economic needs in the respective regions. Furthermore this project encourages more regions to participate in wind energy activities due to fact that the NSR is still providing a huge potential in terms of energy supply and economic development in the OWE sector. Therefore comprehensive recommendations to policy makers and other involved actors will be provided, in order to meet the requirements of OWE in the NSR.

Envisaged Output

One emphasis within this project lies in the creation and development of an NSR wide OWE cluster. Its tasks lies in the global promotion of OWE in the NSR, in assessing the requirements of the cluster, in concentrating on the improvement of supply chains in the regions and in the development of a joint business platform to foster cross border business development and internationalisation of SMEs in the OWE sector. Furthermore new cooperation linkages between different maritime industries and the cluster should be implemented likewise the integration of OWE into other maritime sectors, e.g. gas, oil, wave / tidal plants, sustainable aquaculture, tourism will be assessed. Another accent concentrates on the enhancement of awareness and understanding of OWE. European citizens should get in direct contact with OWE and its daily impact on one lives. Thus visualisation of OWE excellence including an online information site with web cams etc. are going to be developed. In addition to virtual promotion more real world info centres as such in Oostende/Belgium are going to push public awareness and "sensing" of issues related to OWE and provide vivid information for both pupils and students. In order to have the ability to identify new obstacles and bottlenecks appropriately and on time this project is going to keep track with current and sudden industry developments through the implementation of a continuous assessment of the state of industry. Another work package will concentrate on the issue of skills development. The project is going to hold up regional training courses and summer schools for OWE workforces. In addition to the development of already involved manpower, POWER PLUS wants to assess chances of the integration of unemployed workers and long term unemployed workers within a pilot project. Moreover, in the area of higher education POWER PLUS will be working on the development of a set of coherent educational modules on OWE technology and management, e.g. to be offered as one block for students in the Bachelor education programmes.

Thematic Keywords:	offshore wind energy, skills and workforce development, competence network, maritime industries, supply chain, cluster
Partners Found Already:	within the existing POWER consortium
Partners Requested:	NSR cities and regions and their different stakeholders - especially from SE and NO - interested in fostering renewable energies and supporting and realising the economic and technological potentials of offshore wind energy in their regions.

Estimated Total Budget: 3000000,00

Date: 21-05-2007

2.65 FATDMA planning tools

Organisation:	**RDANH**	
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Project Description

TOOLS for AIS FATDMA planning in relation to European AIS masterplan
- EMSA coordinates an EU AIS masterplan
- The national authorities need planning tools on different levels and even for private entities using shore based AIS
- The established regional cooperation need a further cooperation with regards to coordination between the national authorities, with regards to a common exploitation of the available non inifinte resources

Central Aim

Establishing of web based simulation tools, that can support national authorities in their AIS planning, illustrating consequences of shore based AIS distribution (geographical coverage, FATDMA, DGNSS, etc.) and hence support transnational coordination

Envisaged Output

web based simulation tools to be used primarily on European level, but can be extended to worldwide usage

Thematic Keywords:	AIS, FATDMA, DGNSS, planning, resources
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	500000,00
Date:	01-06-2007

2.74 Network for Innovative Use of Renewable Fuels

Organisation:	**SWECO**	
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Project Description

The investments in renewable energy production (such as wind, solar, wave and biofuels) are rapidly increasing. Due to climate change and the need for security of energy supply it is also in the center of political interest. Still it remains hard to sell locally produced electricity to the grid. The common barriers for that are limited peak load capacities of the electricity grid and bureaucratic and regulatory issues. Furthermore the renewable fuels which are already available at a limited number of fuelling stations are used by vehicles with quiet conventional engine technology. Though the renewable energy production is taken up speed now, it is still unsure which combination of renewable fuels and innovatie engine technology will turn out to be most successful on the long run. The starting point for this project is the need of one truly integrated long-term market for renewable fuels (incluling sustainably produced electricty). All renewable energy production options together form the supply side for renewable fuels. The demand side can be defined as engine alternatives available to use the renewable fuel. The type of carrier for the renewable energy can change over time, i.e. biodiesel, ethanol, bio-methane, hydrogen, blends or battery electricity. Although the composition of the supply side and the demand side will change over the coming decades, this concept should make it possible to communicate to the general public and the politicians that all types fit within one long term renewable fuels strategy. Furthermore the concept is a stimulus to use the synergies in the production, distribution infrastructure and use of renewable fuels.From this long term perspective on one integrated market of renewable fuels this project will focus on accelerating the development of more effective engine technologies for renewable fuels. The focus is on engines using new flexible and more efficient technologies; for example bifuel, multifuel, hythane, hydrogen, fuel-cells, and hybrids. The project will bring together businesses and universities working on key elements to put those new engines to the market. This project builds upon existing clusters in the North Sea Region programme area and strengthen these by building connections across borders. Between those clusters and other nodes an innovation network will be created that shall stimulate the commercialisation of the improved technologies.

Central Aim

Formation of a transnational network of multidimensional clusters between business, industries, SMEs, researchers, universities and public administrations to increase the innovation performance on the field of more effective use of renewable fuels. This network should encourage the introduction and development of new and improved technologies for the use of renewable fuels. It shall stimulate SMEs, research institutes and public administrations to work together on a transnational basis and to develop and commercialise globally-competitive products.

Envisaged Output

More favourable environment for SMEs, business development and economic growth. Faster uptake of better engine technologies for renewable fuels. Promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs and industry. Increased levels of investment in R&D.More cooperation between businesses and universities on the improved technologies.

Thematic Keywords:	innovation, sustainable transport fuels, hydrogen
Partners Found Already:	Hydrogen Sweden association; Chalmers University in Gothenburg, Sweden; Innovatum in Trollhättan, Sweden; Hydro Norway; Hytrec technology and research centre in Trondheim, Norway; H2-Logic, Denmark (some to be confirmed)
Partners Requested:	To be an engine for innovation the triple helix approach will be used; that means the interaction will be organised to take place between actors from business, public administration and the research community. Partners from all three types of actors in th
Estimated Total Budget:	3 400 000,00
Date:	01-06-2007

2.77 North Sea Pollution, Fire and Resilience

Organisation:	**Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service**	
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Project Description

This project is designed to bring together European partners in the North Sea coast to better address practical transnational cooperation during incidents at sea of fire risk and explosions; and to deliver resilience against marine and coastal pollution in the context of outcome-focused tasks. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (a member of the UK Maritime Incident Response Group) is part of Northumberland County Council on the North Sea east coast of the UK and will be the UK partner in this project.
It is envisaged that the partners will develop protocols for practical cooperation for incidents at sea, based on best practice, expertise and experience, in line with the Territorial AGenda of the European Union (draft 27.3.2007), particularly in terms of tackling Trans-European Risk Management. This will assist in delivering local action to create sustainable employment and economic growth, impacting upon life long learning, the use of information and communications technology and respect for the environment - all linking to the Lisbon strategy - by stronger risk management at sea traffic. Credible, solid relationships will be forged by dedicated partners working together in seeking innovative solutions to address North Sea coastal risk posed by ship fires and associated pollution hazards whilst still at sea. This, in turn, delivers secondary benefits with regard to culture and tourism by the prevention of coastal pollution (beach protection, leisure facilities on the coast) thereby respecting our shared coastal environment.

Central Aim

To establish "joined up" collaborative working for offshore incidents in the North Sea covering procedures, communications, detailed working protocols addressing the risk posed to life, transportation and the environment by fire and associated pollution risk.

Envisaged Output

Following detailed partnership working evaluating experience, best practice, training and concepts (including innovation development when identified as necessary or beneficial), the envisaged outcome will be clear working protocols delivering tangible outcomes to better protect North Sea communities from coastal pollution resulting from vessels or installations in distress at sea. The increased trade in energy has resulted in large cargoes of highly dangerous Liquid Natural Gas, oil being moved with increasing frequency along our shores.

Thematic Keywords:	Joint Maritime Operations Environmental Protection
Partners Found Already:	Fire and Rescue, Sea vessel Firefighting Agencies, Environmental Protection Partner Organisations in Denmark
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	1.8million
Date:	01-06-2007

Work in Progress

2.07 Hamburg Port Authority

Organisation:	**Hamburg Port Authority**		
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Project Description

Many tidal estuaries have undergone significant changes e.g. in order to secure human health by diking and to enable shipping and trade by river deepening. Resulting hydromorphological changes (e.g. loss of floodplains, channelling of the river) in combination with sea level rise and changing rainfall patterns in the catchment have led among other effects to an increase of tidal range, elevated surge peaks, salutation of shallow areas and loss of biotopes. A concept for a sustainable management of tidal areas is necessary in order to effectively counter the impacts of anthropogenic activities, especially with regard to the expected influence of climate changes. The concept, which shall be developed within this project, will seek for a combination of engineering measures in the estuary like artificial islands, restoration of flood plains, and narrowing of the river mouth. These measures shall result in cushioning the tidal range, in reduction of the flood-dominated sediment transport upstream into the river, in lowering the storm surge peaks, and in restoring biotopes. On the long run, a concept like this will result in a reduction of dredging and sediment relocation activities as the current transport of sediment into harbour basins would be reduced.

The management concept will need to be environmentally compatible and socially acceptable while not compromising the economic function of the area. Communication among stakeholders including the public will be fostered. An implementation of measures in project scale is envisioned.

Central Aim

to exchange experience and facilitate communication on the topic of environmentally compatible engineering methods in tidal estuaries to counter negative impacts of anthropogenic activities and climate change.

Envisaged Output

Development of a conceptual model for tidal areas in order to improve flood and sediment management on a long term, and implementation of measures in project scale

Thematic Keywords:	tidal areas, harbours, climate change, sustainable engineering measures, sediment
Partners Found Already:	Patrick Meire, Univ. of Antwerp
Partners Requested:	Habours and metropolitan areas facing similar challenges
Estimated Total Budget:	€4,500,000
Date:	08-06-2006

2.10 STORM - Sustainable Technology Overviewing ecological Risk Management

Organisation:	**Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK)**	
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Project Description

Historically the function of urban drainage systems was to efficiently remove redundant water out of the urban area. Combined sewer systems and centralised wastewater treatment plants are common within this region. Urban water management policy within most countries of the north sea region is shifting towards alternative systems such as separated sewer systems, local storage, retention and reuse, now-a-days aiming for an improvement of surface water quality coupled with direct use at source and water reuse.

There is, however, often insufficient knowledge about the actual environmental impact of these new approaches because the environmental risks depend on intrinsic ecosystem values (which differ within and across eco-regions). Under what circumstances and conditions are these systems more sustainable than the traditional ones? What are the consequences of these new systems related to the Water Framework Directive; is the achievement of "good" quality standards at risk as a result of the implementation of so called sustainable solutions in urban water management? And, not least important, how does society react to these developments; What are the drivers of implementation of specific techniques, how to gain commitment and how to maintain a ‘sustainable’ situation? How should policymakers, regulators and innovators approach these issues as they cannot at the present time be left solely to market forces as they are largely untested?

Central Aim

This project focuses on the question if there is in fact an environmental improvement by applying alternative urban drainage systems and how the sustainability of these systems can be assessed. The project team reconsiders current policy and solutions for urban drainage. In the project monitoring programmes will be developed and implemented on several existing and new urban drainage systems differing in the degree to which sustainability has been included. Monitoring results on the environmental impact will be compared with results of an adapted substance flow model.

Envisaged Output

The outcome of this project is a better understanding of the environmental, economical and social risks of the reviewed different urban water systems, and to provide a transparent decision process tool.

Thematic Keywords:	Alternative solutions in urban drainage Monitoring of environmental impact on aquatic ecosystems Water Framework Directive Social, economic and ecological sustainability
Partners Found Already:	Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK) (Netherlands)TNO (Netherlands)Ingenieursgesellschaft Prof. dr. Sieker mbH (Germany)Pennine Water Group - University of Sheffield (UK)
Partners Requested:	Municipalities
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	19-05-2006

2.12 Sustainable River Management

Organisation:	**Regional Co-operation Urstromtal Elbe from Dömitz to Hamburg**	
Contact Person:	Anke Küsel	
Address:	Markt 15 D - 21502 Geesthacht Germany	tel. +49 4152/13-412 fax: +49 4152/13-412 e-mail: anke.kuesel@geesthacht.de

Project Description

As a result of the German reunification and the emerging East European economies the pressure for a more intensive economic use of the river Elbe is constantly increasing. The river is subject to various and mostly competing themes and objectives ranging from inland water transportation including hydraulic structures to insure its navigability, water tourism and urban development plans, nature protection areas and biosphere reserves. All of these aims have got great influence on the water dynamics of the river. In addition, the impacts of the economic attitudes over the past decades are revealed through climatic changes, which also have effects on water dynamics. Therefore, the enhanced economic development is directly connected with the requirement to develop a sustainable approach to a lively future perspective of the river. The latter has become more and more evident due to the more or less unpredictable floods and low water experiences in the last 4 years. The so called "century flood" in 2002 has been topped just 4 years later.
The region described by the Regional Co-operation Urstromtal Elbe from Dömitz to Hamburg has experienced and suffered a lot by the last floods in 2002 und 2006. The experience shows that it is high time to take a more holistic perspective on river water management and land management, and develop a common and integrative approach, not stopping at administrative borders. The Urstromtal Elbe region is built by 13 communities belonging to 5 districts in 4 states. The administrative fragmentation is a great challenge especially in terms of sustainable river management.

Central Aim

Lay the ground for a holistic perspective and approach to river water management. Elaboration of GIS based plans to visualize the water dynamics of the river and the danger zones and to use as tools to apply for sustainable development concepts and guidance for flood protection plans and actions, no longer focusing on administrative but on naturally given borders, taking the river as an indivisible sensitive ecological system.

Envisaged Output

GIS based plans visualize the water dynamics of the river and danger zones, e.g. flood levels, flood pikes, low water levels, flash floods impacts, flood plains, flood detention basins, dikes, main currents, hydraulic structures and their impacts.
Catalogue shows necessary activities - flood protection and flood control measures in an interregional context.
Concept for a regional, cross-border approach on river water management and land management

Thematic Keywords:	sustainable river water management; regional concept and cross border approach to water management and land management, sustainable development; ecology
Partners Found Already:	under negotiation; the budget still needs to be estimated
Partners Requested:	partners from the North Sea Region dealing with similar subject
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	07-06-2006

2.15 Water

Organisation:	**Stimuland**	
Contact Person:	Gerry Hemink	
Address:	Strangeweg 25	tel. +31 529478180
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Project Description

The European Framework Directive in the field of water policy prescribes the member states of the EC to obtain certain goals in 2015. In The Netherlands the government works together with the different Water Boards on the package of measures. The measures van only be successful when people are involved in the whole processus and when they're ready to contribute. This project will stimulate the collaboration between government and practice and also stimulate knowledge exchange. Nowadays, for Water Boards and for agricultural enterprises knowledge about application of measures in the rural areas is scarce.

Central Aim

To stimulate the development, the accessibility to knowledge / experiences and stimulate the application of measures in the field of water management in the rural areas focussed on the Framework Directive Water.

Envisaged Output

Participants of this project have developed a strategy (description of the process of best-practices) to improve water management in rural areas, focussed on obtaining the objectives of the European Framework Directive water.

Thematic Keywords:	Application of knowledge about water management in rural areas
Partners Found Already:	Different Water Boards in the Overijssel province in The Netherlands.
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	€250,000
Date:	18-05-2006

2.20 CommSoil (Enhanced Communication and effective Decision-making Support for Soil Protection and Sustainable Land-use)

Organisation:	**Büro Freiraum und Umwelt**	
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	D-30453 Hannover	fax: +49 511 2135434
	Germany	e-mail: buero@freiraum-und-umwelt.de

Project Description

In the cities of the North Sea region areas of soil sealing, soil pollution and industrial fallow increase. Possibilities for a decrease and an exchange between the cities about this is very important. CommSoil offers an exchange about soil protection and sustainable land-use as a steered communication procedure. Strategies, instruments and experiences (best practice) of urban soil protection will be compared within the national and local conditions. Scientific support of the project and integration of two European city networks is intended. The discussion about sustainable land-use will lead together ecologists and town planners of the city administration as well as scientists of soil research.

Central Aim

As a result of CommSoil there should be innovative opportunities and solutions (f.e. projects) in European soil protection and the establishment of a durable network. The project will form the basis of a durable co-operation between the cities to develop innovative projects, common strategies and coordinated research for sustainable land-use. Because of this the cities will win security in action and save costs for soil protection. They will get as well new settlement areas as "sustainable communities".

Envisaged Output

- New opportunities and solutions (best practice) in urban soil protection- Generalizable procedures or guidelines (simply, application orientated, comprehensibly and scientifically founded), research and advanced training need- Installation of a durable network and co-operation between the cities

Thematic Keywords:	urban soil protection, sustainable land-use, communication between the cities, durable networking, innovative solutions
Partners Found Already:	European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) e.V., European Secretariat of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
Partners Requested:	Cities in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Great Britain
Estimated Total Budget:	€1,500,000
Date:	31-01-2007

2.21 enerCOAST - BlueGreen Coastal Energy Community

Organisation:	**University of Oldenburg - COAST Centre for Environment and Sustainable Developmen**	
Contact Person:	Thomas Klenke	
Address:	P.O. Box 2503	tel. +49 441 798 5276
	D-26111 Oldenburg	fax: +49 441 798 3404
	Germany	e-mail: klenke@icbm.de

Project Description

A pioneer project to mobilize the North Sea Region's domestic energy potential with particular focus on renewable lower carbon bioenergy resources currently treated as waste and innovative marine bioenergy production. The Community is to be built up of 3-5 regional clusters representing coastal areas and their hinterlands and is designed to link entrepreneurial small-scale bioenergy plants (energy farmers) and their potential supply chain partners in a regional marketplace context. The establishment of a regional bioenergy network is designed to provide the decentralised bioenergy community with sustainable economies of scale needed to penetrate the internationally structured energy market. Economic performance will be assisted by the implementation of a Sustainable Supply Chain Management business model. In order to deliver a defined increase in regional bioenergy deployment the project development will progress from a clustered communication and technological exchange network to a virtual bioenergy marketplace serving coastal communities.

Central Aim

- Reduce regional dependency on imported energy through activation of domestic resources
- Intensify co-operation between waste management and energy infrastructure authorities and stakeholders
- Boost regional bioenergy production and the innovation capacity of farming communities
- Support multisectoral rural economic transition processes via an enhanced supply chain knowledge base
- Deliver a regional contribution to the EU target of 20 % renewable energy

Envisaged Output

- Establishment of a functional regional bioenergy market network
- Exchange and transfer of innovative bioenergy technology
- New sustainable income for small
-scale energy farmers typical of the Region's agricultural community
- Sizeable contribution to reaching waste management planning objectives through redirection of waste streams with high bioenergy content

Thematic Keywords:	renewable energy, marine bio-resources, socio-economic development of coastal communities
Partners Found Already:	Partner clusters in Lower Saxony (D), NE Scotland (UK) and Rogaland County (N)
Partners Requested:	Regional development authorities and agencies, renewable energies networks, farming associations, business for environment networks from around the North Sea
Estimated Total Budget:	€4,000,000 approx
Date:	25-05-2007

2.22 Energy for the process industry by direct combustion of biomass

Organisation:	**School of Tecnology and Design - Dpt. Bioenergy Technology**	
Contact Person:	Björn Zethræus	
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	SE 351 95 Växjö	fax: +46 470 708 756
	Sweden	e-mail: Bjorn.Zethraeus@vxu.se

Project Description

Background
Energy use in developed countries – Western Europe, North America and the industrialised countries in Southeast Asia – is surprisingly similar. About 35 % of the total energy used in most countries is consumed by the domestic sector; about 35 % by industry and the remaining 30 % are used for transport. The Scandinavian countries are among the world leaders in the efficient utilisation of bio fuels for district heat as well as for individual domestic heating purposes. Intensive research is also carried out in order to develop technologies to utilise black liquor as well as woody biomass for automotive fuels. The latter processes are with no exceptions based on gasification followed by some kind of synthesis process, which makes them complicated and reduces their total efficiency.

Only minor research and development efforts are invested into the direct utilisation of biomass in industrial processes. One reason or this might be a fear – rational or irrational – that biomass ashes and gas components may have an adverse effect on the product. Another reason is probably the conception that biomass cannot be used directly in high temperature processes because of too low flame temperatures.

Worldwide, there is a market for biomass based high-temperature combustion technology aimed for the process industry, glass-making, metal casting, steel heating for rolling, burning of bricks etc.

Aim of the project
The current project aims to demonstrate the direct use of biomass – wood powder – in a high temperature application where the demands on purity of the product are extremely high – glass melting.
The concept of the technology will be developed within the existing network of bio energy industries and research groups established in Kronobergs län, Sweden. The technology will also be demonstrated in full scale at a glasswork in Kronobergs län.

Project outline
The basis of the combustion process will be a regenerative wood-powder burner. Regenerative burners are characterized by extremely high air preheat temperatures, above 1000 oC, and have been commercially available for a long time for gas and for oil – but not for wood powder

Central Aim

To demonstrate the direct use of biomass combustion – wood powder – in a high temperature application where the demands on purity of the product are extremely high – glass melting.

Envisaged Output

Dimensioning criteria and operational experience for regenerative wood powder burners aimed for high-temperature process industry. Results will be transferred to relevant industry.

Thematic Keywords:	Renewable energy - Process industry - Innovative technologies
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	Refractory suppliers, combustion technology companies, (glass industry)
Estimated Total Budget:	€600 000 cash contribution sought
Date:	12-05-2006

2.24 Evaluating the Sustainability of Urban Drainage Systems (ESUDS)

Organisation:	**Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK)**	
Contact Person:	Robin Bos	
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	The Netherlands	e-mail: r.bos@hhnk.nl

Project Description

Historically the function of urban drainage systems was to efficiently remove redundant water out of the urban area. Combined sewer systems and centralised wastewater treatment plants are common within this region. Urban water management policy within most countries of the north sea region is shifting towards alternative systems such as separated sewer systems, local storage, retention and reuse, now-a-days aiming for an improvement of surface water quality coupled with direct use at source and water reuse. There is, however, often insufficient knowledge about the actual environmental impact of these new approaches because the environmental risks depend on intrinsic ecosystem values (which differ within and across ecoregions). Under what circumstances and conditions are these systems more sustainable than the traditional ones? What are the consequences of these new systems related to the Water Framework Directive; is the achievement of "good" quality standards at risk as a result of the implementation of so called sustainable solutions in urban water management? And, not least important, how does society react to these developments; What are the drivers of implementation of specific techniques, how to gain commitment and how to maintain a ‘sustainable’ situation? How should policymakers, regulators and innovators approach these issues as they cannot at the present time be left solely to market forces as they are largely untested?

Central Aim

This project focuses on the question if there is in fact an environmental improvement by applying alternative urban drainage systems and how the sustainability of these systems can be assessed. The project team reconsiders current policy and solutions for urban drainage. In the project monitoring programmes will be developed and implemented on several existing and new urban drainage systems differing in the degree to which sustainability has been included. Monitoring results on the environmental impact will be compared with results of an adapted substance flow model.

Envisaged Output

The outcome of this project is a better understanding of the environmental, economical and social risks of the reviewed different urban water systems, and to provide a transparent decision process tool.

Thematic Keywords:	storm water, urban drainage systems, ecosystem
Partners Found Already:	Waterboard Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK) (Netherlands) TNO-Imares (Netherlands) Ingenieursgesellschaft Prof. dr. Sieker mbH (Germany) Pennine Water Group - University of Sheffield (UK) DTU (Denmark)
Partners Requested:	municipalities, waterboards, research institutions
Estimated Total Budget:	€4 million
Date:	30-01-2007

2.28 Integrating renewable energy devices into new forms of multi-functional sea defences

Organisation:	**The Highland Council**		
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	United Kingdom	e-mail:	elizabeth.marshall@highland.gov.uk

Project Description

Rising sea levels have meant an increased need for new sea walls and other forms of sea defence to be built at great cost. Where these are near harbours and centres of population there is the possibility of developing a standard methodology for designing and integrating renewable energy devices into these constructions to produce heat and power and maximise the use of resources

Central Aim

Economic sea defences given climate change and rising sea levels threatening coastal populations

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	coastal protection, economy, energy efficiency
Partners Found Already:	Not yet
Partners Requested:	Not yet
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	08-06-2006

2.32 Planning of urban environments using storm water as a ressource

Organisation:	**Odense Municipality**	
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Project Description

Traditional means of handling urban storm water include large sub-surface pipes, no involvement of the citizens and no use of the water. The method has proved to be cheap and efficient. However, when used with caution, water in cities are an important recreational asset rather than merely a waste product. Further, once designed and constructed, the sewer systems are sensitive to changes, for instance by the predicted climate change leading to heavier rainfall. Heavy rainfall on local and regional scales leads to flooding of urban areas, causing much damage. The project intends to develop new methods for handling storm water in urban areas, construct test sites using and testing the ideas developed and disseminate the results. A key aspect is stakeholder ownership and involvement. This also implies looking at the planning process within the local government and identification of means to overcome barriers for the new methods..

Central Aim

To identify and test new methods for handling of storm water that use the water as a resource and find ways to ensure that the methods are implemented..

Envisaged Output

Urban areas that are robust to climate change impacts and have a large recreational value. A handbook will be produced that will inspire others to explore new methods for handling of urban storm water..

Thematic Keywords:	urban storm water, climate change, stakeholder involvement
Partners Found Already:	Odense Municipality
Partners Requested:	3-5 partners, primarily municipal governments
Estimated Total Budget:	€4,000,000
Date:	17-05-2006

2.33 Radar-based flow management

Organisation:	**Hamburg Wasser**	
Contact Person:	Kim Augustin	
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Project Description

The aim of the radar-based flow management is that based on prognoses of rain events using radar, the capacities of the sewer network is being used and management in an optimal way. By this, the amount of combined sewer overflows and the resulting pollution of surface waters can be further minimised and the urban flooding can be reduced.

Central Aim

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords: Flow management, Technology, Crisis Management,

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 08-06-2006

2.35 Sensitive Port towns Innovate for Changing the Environment (SPICE)

Organisation:	**Gemeentewerken Rotterdam**	
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	NL-3002 AP Rotterdam	fax: +31 104764836
	The Netherlands	e-mail: Jcj.jacobs@gw.rotterdam.nl

Project Description

Port towns in the North Sea region show a slow movement of withdrawing the harbour from the town towards the sea, resulting in a search for new cultural and economic activities. In addition, as port towns are situated in vulnerable lowland areas where they are faced with rainfall, water from the sea and from the river, they specifically have to deal with water related issues. Especially in the perspective of the climate change there is an urgent need to search for new approaches in which water has to be integrated in urban areas instead of being excluded. In SPICE, we want to show that adding water and rearranging activities lead to new ways of urban water management in combination with the development of exciting areas as perfect places to live and work in. In this way the increase of water can and will be used as an opportunity for improving the spatial quality of port towns instead as a being seen as a threat .

Central Aim

The central aim is to create and to prove in practise a strategy that contributes to a solution against the hazard of water and to the improvement of spatial development projects within port towns in the same time.

Envisaged Output

Envisaged outcomes are: Implemented projects to improve the safety and quality of life.
- translate the new strategy into specific pilot projects.
- Investigate how port towns have to be organized both on urban water management and spatial development to protect themselves against an increase in the amount of water
- Strategies to make people become aware that water might become a hazard but that it is not too late to anticipate.

Thematic Keywords:	Port towns, climate change, spatial development, water management, quality of life
Partners Found Already:	Rotterdam, NL; Hull, UK; Glasgow, UK; Copenhagen, DK; Hamburg, D (Melbourne, AUS and Athens, GRE are linked with the project, but finance their own part).
Partners Requested:	2
Estimated Total Budget:	€7,000,000
Date:	01-02-2007

2.37 Sustainable management of the North Sea

Organisation:	**Norwegian Institute for Water Research**	
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	Norway	e-mail: john.selvik@niva.no

Project Description

Sustainable management of the North Sea: As a part of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the development of a new marine strategy we want to develop pilot mangagement plans for land - coast - ocean in different regions around the NS. Sustainable management must be knowledge based. To develop management plans we therefore need to understand the consequenses of human activity on the ecosystem and be able to predict the ecosystem tipping points to assure that the level of activity is on the safe side. To be able to do this it i crusial to have a close link and a good communication between sciens and management. The pilots will be used to test and develop guidances and best practis for knowledge based planning.

Central Aim

The aim of the project is to enable sustainable economic development in the coastal zone around the North Sea and combined with environmentally responsible practices by developing proposals for holistic management plans, including components of
- data availability to enable for planners and the public
- enable public participation
- habitat modelling and mapping of recourses
- develop monitoring programs to assure knowledge based management
- adjust and develop management models to combine different EU directives

Envisaged Output

- proposals for holistic management plans for the selected pilot areas around the NS.

Thematic Keywords:	Sustainable development; coastal zone; knowledge based planning
Partners Found Already:	no
Partners Requested:	yes
Estimated Total Budget:	10million
Date:	30-05-2007

2.38 SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

Organisation:	**Hamburg Wasser**	
Contact Person:	Kim Augustin	
Address:	Banksstrasse 4-6 20097 Hamburg Germany	tel. +49 40/3498-54200 fax: +49 40/3498-54099 e-mail: kim.augustin@hhse.de

Project Description

The Hamburg Public Sewage Company is dedicated to the further development of the exist-ing urban water infrastructures. The aim is to prevent excessive use of resources. New cir-cular economy concepts are developed in conurbations including eco-sanitation in Hamburg as well as abroad. Sustainable handling of resources in the field of wastewater treatment is for the Hamburg Public Sewage Company not only a question in rural but also essential in urban areas. Wastewater treatment technology in conurbations in industrialised countries is a well established technology with a long history. Finding future solutions shall not focus on finding replacing alternatives but must include further development of the existing system. New water infrastructure systems designed for cities have a common feature: streams of substances are kept separate close to their sources. With the management of streams of substances (material flow management), individual parts of wastewater streams are collected, treated according to specific requirements and then returned to a production process (material recycling). The aim is to create processes which are almost complete cycles (circular economy). In the case of new communal supply and disposal concepts, the resources water, energy and nutrients are made available again for a new production cycle. This recy-cling enables substitutes to be used instead of primary resources. Primary energy sources are replaced with renewable raw materials and this results in a general reduction of resource consumption.

Central Aim

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	Water Infrastructure Innovation Resources Sustainability
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	08-06-2006

2.39 ICZM-guided solutions for the growth of employment and the securing of the ecosystem (Practiczm)

Organisation:	**K & M CONSULT**		
Contact Person:	Hanns BUCHHOLZ		
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Project Description

Nearly every economic development includes an impact into the ecosystem. This fact limits enormously the economic performance in coastal zones, at least if we proceed as we always proceeded. But the application of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) will reduce the negative impacts decisively. Consequently it will promote the economic development including employment, without changing the ecosystem too much. Problematic is the lack of experience in ICZM processes so that many decision makers of all administrative levels hesitate to follow the rules of ICZM.The project "Practiczm" intends to apply an ICZM procedure on concrete planning and development cases in the coastal zone in order to help these cases to achieve sustainability based on an ecosystem-based approach.One planning and development measure will focus on the careful provision of industrial area for a factory for renewable energy. A special problem appears under the aspect that we have to consider the enormous growth of sealed-up areas and in addition to this the amount of appropriate areas is very limited at the sea-coast.Iczm means the bundling of all interests if possible, i.e. in this case the municipality/region, the port authority, the dike authority, the Chamber of Agriculture, an environment-oriented association and, of course, the investor, stakeholders and engaged citizens. In other cases the set of interested institutions will be other.

Central Aim

To achieve a sustainable solution for economic development and employment in the coastal zone under environmental, economic and societal aspects, and to keep the methods in a manual for next and other cases.

Envisaged Output

Definition of the specific planning and development demand. How to arrange the set of interests for a planning and development project in the coastal zone. How to guide a participatory process. Identification of synergy effects in order to save resources. Construction of a compensation and replacement measure (e.g. a wet area) in the frame of ICZM.

Thematic Keywords:	ICZM, economic development, participation, sustainability
Partners Found Already:	City of Brake, others under negotiation
Partners Requested:	municipalities, relevant authorities, private investors
Estimated Total Budget:	1.4 million
Date:	30-05-2007

2.44 CLIMAR

Organisation:	**Flemish Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services - coastal division**	
Contact Person:	Miguel Berteloot	
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	Belgium	e-mail: waterwegen_kust@lin.vlaanderen.be

Project Description

A sustainable approach for addressing climate change issues in the North Sea region is needed. Next to preventive measures, adaptive measures are necessary to cope with the primary and secondary impacts of climate change.

CLIMAR aims to develop the required tools and instruments for the evaluation of adaptation measures on their sustainability and their impact on marine activities. Through research and modelling, the primary impacts of climate change and the secondary impacts on the ecological system and the social-economic activities in the North Sea region, will be differentiated.

An evaluation framework will be developed, based on extensive case-studies (coastal flooding, fisheries sector, tourism). This evaluation framework will allow to assess the value of the scenarios for each specific marine sector. The evaluation tool scores both economical, ecological and social merits and damages of an adaptation strategy.

The success of the implementation of adaptive strategies will depend on the understanding by the society of the importance of these strategies, establishing the need to take this aspect into account during the study from the beginning.

Recommendations will be formulated towards North Sea future policy and its different socio-economical activities. The output will consist both of practical tools (modelling, assessment) as well as quantified results and applications.

Central Aim

To develop an evaluation framework for assessment of the economical, ecological and social impacts of climate change in the North Sea region.

Envisaged Output

- extensive case-studies of the impact of climate change on different sectors (coastal flooding, fisheries sector, tourism sector) for the global North Sea environment;
- differentiation of the primary impacts of climate change from the natural evolution at the North Sea scale.
- assessment of the secondary impacts of climate change both on the ecological system and the socio-economical activities.
- develop instruments that can evaluate the adaptation measures on their sustainability and their impact on marine activities;
- evaluation of the effects and possible adaptation scenario's in the North Sea;
- development of an evaluation framework to assess the value of the adaptation scenarios for each specific marine sector;
- proposal for adaptive measures both for the ecosystem as well as for the other marine activities will be formulated.

Thematic Keywords:	Climate change, sustainability, impact assessment, adaptation
Partners Found Already:	Flemish Region (Coastal Division, Hydraulic Research Laboratory, Fisheries Department), Ecolas
Partners Requested:	UK, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	€5,000,000
Date:	15-03-2006

2.45 Water Protection Management System in the North Sea Region: Enhancing sustainable management of fruit production

Organisation:	**Dep. of Horticulture, SLU**	
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Project Description

The project will focus on transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of measures to protect inland and sea water from chemical pollution related to fruit production.The project includes cooperation on:
1. common and facilitated dealing with regulations concerning the use of chemicals in fruit production within, or close to water protected areas (WPA).
2. an economical, profitable fruit production based on improved pest and crop management with reduced chemical input.
3. dissemination and implementation of new knowledge regarding environmental safer fruit production technologies.
4. trans disciplinary approach leading to high quality produce from environmentally safe, sustainable methods.

Central Aim

1. Preservation of natural water and cultural resources with connections to fruit producing areas in the selected regions of the participating European countries (Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany).
2. Transfer and development of innovations related to fruit production
3. Co-operation between fruit growers and authorities for an effective implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.
4. Strengthening the position of fruit producing areas in the selected regions

Envisaged Output

- Clean water in fruit producing areas
- A model for monitoring the water status in areas with fruit production.
- A sustainable and profitable fruit production, which generates employment and contributes to enhance the position of communities in rural areas.
- An improved and effective non- or reduced-chemical control of weeds, pests and diseases in fruit production.
- A responsible and skilful decision making process concerning chemical use in fruit production.
- An operational communication strategy between authorities and the fruit producers.

Thematic Keywords:	water protection, water status, fruit production, reduced use of chemicals
Partners Found Already:	Lead partner:Organisation: Swedish University of Agricultural Science, LTJ-Faculty, Dep. of Horticulture Project manager: Birgitta Svensson (+46 40 415358)Address: P.O. Box 44, SE 230 53 Alnarp, SwedenPartner 2:Organisation: Chamber of agriculture of Lower Saxony, GermanyPartner 3: Organisation: Fruit research and extension centre Jork (OVB Jork), GermanyContact: Kristin Dröge, 0049-4162-6016-161Partner 4:Organisation: Applied Plant Research, (Wageningen UR - PPO-fruit).Address: P.O. Box 200, 6670 AE Zetten, The Netherlands.Contact: Marcel Wenneker (+31 488 473745)Partner 5: Organisation: The University of Aarhus, The Faculty of Agricultural Science, Dep. of HorticultureAddress: Kirstinebjergvej 10, 5792 Årslev, DenmarkContact: Hanne Lindhard Pedersen (+45 8999 3271)
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	1000000,00
Date:	31-05-2007

2.46 New ways for wastewater

Organisation:	**Waterboard Groot Salland**	
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Project Description

Increasing environmental problems related to the water quality and climate change require other ways of handling our wastewater. With the current ways of collecting, transporting en treating of wastewater a lot of energy is destroyed, much greenhouse gasses are produced and an increasing number of environmental unfriendly substances reach the water system.

In order to prevent this increasing problems new ways of handling our wastewater have to be developed. In this project research will be done in a way of collecting and treating of wastewater, by which a total removal of substances can take place in a closed cycle in an efficient manner, with less use of fossil materials. This will take place through separate collection and treatment of urine. In urine most of the problematic components are present, as there is, nutrients, hormones en medicines.

If separate handling of urine, but also other concentrated wastewater like wastewater from hospitals, will be possible, the treatment of the remaining wastewater can take place with less use of energy and less risks for the environment and public health. In this way the water cycle, including drinking water, will not be uploaded with increasing problematic substances as a result human consumption. Furthermore the costs of wastewater treatment as a result of increasing urbanization on the one hand and environmental requirements on the other hand will be lower in the future if the cycle of environmental unfriendly substances will be closed.

Central Aim

The central aim of the project to give a contribution to the new ways of collecting and treating of wastewater, with less environmental pressure and lower cost for the future.

Envisaged Output

Knowledge and experience with separate collection and treating of urine and its contribution to a better environment.

Thematic Keywords:	Wastewater treatment, urine, environment
Partners Found Already:	Possible partners: Austria, university, Sweden
Partners Requested:	?
Estimated Total Budget:	€500,000 (excluding costs of partners)
Date:	26-03-2007

2.47 Integration WFD / N2000

Organisation:	**Province of Drenthe**	
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	The Netherlands	e-mail: B.Os@Drenthe.nl

Project Description

Both the Water Framework Directive (WFD) as well as the Habitats Directive (HD) operate with objectives, management plans and measures to improve quality for an aquatic habitat or water body if it is situated in a Natura 2000 area. Member states are under obligation to make a management plan according to both directives. Both management plans must meet the demands as settled in the respective directive. It is anticipated that the administration of the two directives, in order to meet the demands, won't be running parallel. An actual mismatch between the objectives of the two directives can be foreseen in certain areas. It might be even more difficult to ensure a proper and sufficient fulfilment of the directive demands, if the area at the same time is demarcated as an area with drinking water interests, where there would be special needs for groundwater extraction and demands for land use. To ensure a reasonable an efficiënt administration for a given lake, stream or fiord, the demands of the two directives should be integratedSpread over the North Sea Region a number of N2000 areas will be selected as pilot regions. In these areas the authorities responsible for implementation of the WFD and the organizations in charge of the management of N2000 will work together on an integrated management plan for the area. The local community and other stakeholders like entrepreneurs, industry and agricultural organizations will be actively involved in the process. In each pilot region activities will be carried out in 4 steps: 1. Analysis of the requirements of the HD and WFD for the specific area2. Research on possible measures to implement both Directives. This also involves an economic underpinning of alternative measures including an analysis on the economic effects. Implementation of the Directives is expensive, but also creates possibilities for sustained economic viability of the region. A cost-benefit analysis will not only show the costs but also the benefits for the local economy. Such an analysis can be used to underpin the management plan (for decision makers) and to justify use of tax revenues. 3. Process: pro-active involvement of the community, farmers and entrepreneurs4. Implementation plan that has political commitment and support from the local community. To enlarge the impact of the project and to optimize the exchange of knowledge, each pilot will have its own characteristics. The waterline from source to estuary will be covered and the pilot regions will be selected on their own issues like recreation, agriculture, nature and water. The characteristics and problems of any region ask for specific approaches and solutions. The result of the project will be an implementation plan for several N2000 areas in the North Sea Region in which the management plan for HD and the implementation plan for the WFD are incorporated and that can be used as an example for other areas. The project idea is developed as an outcome of the Waterline Economy project.

Central Aim

To develop an innovative, integrated regional implementation- and management plan, meeting the integrated objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive, with maximal involvement of the local community and politicians. Sound economic research and a cost-benefit analysis are important elements of the plan. These show the costs and economic benefits for the region. This information will be used to inform politicians and the public.

Envisaged Output

- Innovative model(s) for regional management according to WFD and HD
- Integration of objectives, management plans and measures from both directives for a given area
- Transformation of overall objectives and measures into measurable targets
- Cost benefit analysis of measures
- Quantification of socio economical and direct economical spin off from the applied measures
- Testing of the models in pilot areas
- Dissimilation of results

Thematic Keywords:	innovation, sustainable economic viability, community involvement, environment
Partners Found Already:	National Park Drentse Aa (Netherlands), Ministry of Environment (Denmark), Landeswirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen (Germany)
Partners Requested:	organizations and authorities responsible for implementation of the WFD and the HD, knowledge institutes and economic experts from other countries in the North

	Sea Region
Estimated Total Budget:	2000000,00
Date:	14-05-2007

2.48 Storm water management in the urban environment

Organisation:	**Parks and Landscape Administration, City of Göteborg**	
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Project Description

Water elements such as ponds, canals and wetlands contribute in a positive way to the attractiveness and spatial quality of the urban environment. These water element are also recievers of storm water from the urban environment that often carries pollution (metal pollution from roof materials, asphalt roads, metal pollution from traffic etc). If this pollution can be reduced and handled in a sustainable way it will have a positive impact on the water quality in the city environment and consequently in the water systems further downstream.Also due to the climate change heavy rainfall will be more normale then now. More innovative watermanagement will be necessary to handle these lanrge amount of water.
The project idea is developed as an outcome of the Waterline Economy project.

Central Aim

Improve adaptation to climate change in storm water management with special attention to environmental risks and quantity management.

Envisaged Output

* Innovative methods and solutions for reducing and handling metal pollution (for example copper) in storm water and storm water sediments * Innovative methods and solutions for securing a high quality storm water purification in an environment with changing rain patterns and storm water volumes.* Multifunctional pilot projects for innovative and sustainable storm water management

Thematic Keywords:	Storm water management, metal pollution
Partners Found Already:	Partners participating in the NSR IIIB project Waterline Economy
Partners Requested:	Knowledge institutes, urban regions and cities
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	09-05-2007

2.49 W.I.S.E.R.

Organisation:	**Province of Drenthe**	
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Project Description

One of the challenges of the North Sea Region is to mitigate and ameliorate the anticipated social and economic consequences of climate change. The development of traditional water management plans and the implementation of water retention facilities can provide a solution to extreme high water and droughts. These are very costly solutions mainly paid by the tax payer.A sound water management and good quality water can on the other hand generate multiple economic benefits. People are willing to pay more for houses with water in their backyard and lakes attract tourists and visitors, enjoying nature and water. The challenge is to find innovative solutions that incorporate not only the costs but also the economic benefits of water projects. This requires a change in approach. Elements of this change of approach are as follows:• the realisation that the use of our “Green Space” needs to change, within boundaries;• water management is contributory to our welfare;• reducing risks and damage has a positive economical effect also;• living with water in stead of fighting against it;• the creation of a “together stronger” feeling;• the inclusion of private investors and innovative oriented organisations (such as “Wetsus” or “the Carthesius Institute”) and involvement of educational organisations in the earliest stages of projects. The involvement of citizens in projects will be heightened as these organisations can also act as catalysts;• Communication and participation are paramount to create public understanding for European funded projects. Instead of specific, costly water projects, large investments along the waterline will become innovative integral management plans that have the support from the local community and private sector and that provide innovative solutions for the climate change while contributing to socio-economic growth in the area.The project comprises 4 types of activities: research, improving cooperation with regional parties, production of a handbook and pilots.Research- transnational research on effects of climate change in river catchment areas- identifying best and bad practices- research on economic possibilities within project proposals at an early stage by an Economic Team (Universities, Economic Experts)- research on innovation possibilities by an Innovation Team (Universities, Innovation Institutes)Improve cooperation with regional (private) parties- workshops on improving cooperation with local private investors, entrepreneurs etc.- presenting plans on risk management and research results to private parties- workshops with private partners on innovation and economic benefits- individual coaching of private and public organizations on how to involve private stakeholdersHandbook- handbook on developing innovative integral water management projects including how to involve economic partners in project developmentPilotsIn several pilot regions research will be done and methods on cooperation and handbooks will be tested. The results will be disseminated among the partners. A few pilot areas will be chosen to research and to use as a test for best methods for involving local communities and local private parties in an early stage of a water management project.

Central Aim

Contributing to the goals of the Lisbon Agenda by innovative projects along the waterline that combine economic development, water management and implementation of the WFD and the Natural 2000 goals

Envisaged Output

- Clear insights on effects of climate change in river catchments areas based on transnational research conform Flood Risk Directive.- integrated approach on water management projects accompanying climate change - best practices on incorporation of all relevant stakeholders from the beginning of the process, especially private parties- overview of economic and innovation possibilities in water management projects

Thematic Keywords:	WFD, Innovation, Sustainability, Economy, Risk Management, (W.I.S.E.R.)
Partners Found Already:	University of Groningen, DLG (Netherlands), Intercommunale Leiedal (Be), Municipality Langenhagen (Germany), Telemarken (Nor), Environment Agency (UK),
Partners Requested:	universities, economic institutes, innovation institutes and partners from other NSR countries Sweden and Denmark.
Estimated Total Budget:	6.000.000,00
Date:	29-05-2007

2.51 CLIWAT -Adaptive management of water bodies in a more extreme future climate

Organisation:	**Region Midtjylland**	
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Project Description

Climate simulations on climatic changes indicate that precipitation in the northern part of Europe will increase, however with significant seasonal variations. The winter time will get more wet with increased risk of flooding, while the summer time will experience longer dry periods (droughts). . The climate changes are expected to change the groundwater flow pattern leading to higher groundwater levels (up to 0,4 meters) and higher annual flux of groundwater to rivers and coastal waters. It is also expected to lead to a forced outwash of nutrients from agricultural areas and pollutants from industrial areas and old landfills. This leads to increased threats to groundwater bodies and dependent aquatic ecosystems (lakes, rivers and coastal zones) that formerly were considered as well protected. Hence the climate change may work against measures taken to assure good chemical status for European water bodies by 2015, and will affect the derivation of groundwater threshold values as required by the Water Framework and Groundwater directives to assure good status for dependent aquatic ecosystems. The project will include an investigation on the challenges for clean groundwater systems and the status assessment of water bodies in the investigated sites. It will include investigations on the forced leaching from point sources and agricultural sources into the hydrological system (Incl. rivers and lakes). The climate changes will have impact on possible industrial and agricultural development and the challenges for industry and development will be investigated. The relation between research and policy is part of the project from the beginning. This can in practice be obtained by regular workshops with representatives or establishing a board of advisors presenting the stakeholders.

Central Aim

Extend the knowledge on climate changes impact on water and contaminant fluxes hydrological cycles with emphasis on groundwater influence on its dependent aquatic ecosystems. With the knowledge propose how to manage the future challenges and possibilities within the water sector.

Envisaged Output

In order to ensure a sustainable development for the future the project will point out where to take action when climate changes alter groundwater quality and the interaction with the aquatic environment. The project will focus on the future protection on ground water systems when dealing with climate changes. Deliver and analyze aspects of new opportunities to the water dependent industry and waterworks. Develop a web based interface connecting to the database in which the effects of climate changes can be made visual to public and decision makers. This could be in the form of “what if” scenarios, linking large scale climatologically models to regional scale effects on environment.

Thematic Keywords:	Ground water, sustainable development, climatic change, new opportunities to water dependent industries
Partners Found Already:	Geus (DK), Environment Centre Ribe (DK), Environment Centre Aarhus (DK), TNO (NL), GGA (D), Lanu (D), BGR (D)Region Syddanmark (DK), Region Midtjylland (DK), BSU (D), Horsens Kommune(DK).
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	3000000,00
Date:	21-05-2007

2.52 Carbon neutral industrial estates

Organisation:	**POM West-Vlaanderen**	
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Project Description

In view of the effects of climate change and the current and future targets on carbon dioxide emission reduction, extra efforts will have to be made to reduce energy consumption and to maximize the use of renewable energy sources. This is especially a challenge for Small and Medium sized enterprises (SMEs), because they commonly do not have expertise nor time to invest in this matter. As SMEs constitute the majority of the companies, it is essential that they contribute to the efforts on carbon emission reduction in order to reach the targets. Since many SMEs are located on industrial estates, this offers potential for clustering in the field of energy efficiency, heat exchange and local, decentralized energy production from renewable energy sources. Current programs in Flanders stimulate the creation of new carbon neutral industrial estates, but there is room for increased efforts on existing estates. The proposed project aims to convert a number of existing industrial estates (or parts thereof) into carbon-neutral or low-carbon industrial zones. The project focusses not only on information gathering, inventarisation and feasibility studies, but also on implementation of new techniques in demonstration areas. As not all regions in the North Sea area are at the same level with respect to the implementation of renewable energy sources, the aim is to learn from experiences and pilot projects in other regions and to exchange knowledge.

Central Aim

The project aims to convert existing industrial estates into carbon neutral zones by creating clusters for local energy production based on renewable sources, improving energy efficiency and stimulating exchange of excess heat. The overall goals are:
* the inventarisation of opportunities and feasibility studies
* the implementation of pilot projects and demonstration areas on selected industrial estates
* the creation of an international network for knowledge transfer concerning energy clustering on industrial estates
* the promotion of alternative energy and energy clustering on industrial estates

Envisaged Output

1) Identification of (existing) industrial estates with great potential to convert in a carbon neutral estate. This could be, for instance, industrial estates housing a company with large amounts of excess heat available. In this process, clustering with public services as for instance civic amenity sites of municipalities may be considered. Civic amenity sites have traditionally large amounts of combustible garden pruning, grass clippings or lawn mowing available which could be used as biomass for local energy production.
2) Information gathering on energy use and energy management at the industrial estates identified during the first phase. The companies will be questioned concerning their energy needs, the availability of excess heat (type, amount, heat capacity, …) and the availability of organic wastes (potential for biogas plants). Also, the potential for wind energy, solar energy, geothermal applications etc will be investigated, as well as the availability of vacant land to allow construction of cluster installations on renewable energy. Based on this information, in each participating region a selection will be made of two or three industrial estates most suitable for conversion in a carbon neutral estate.
3) Feasibility study to investigate possibilities to convert an existing industrial estate into a carbon neutral zone. Such study will be performed for the selection of two or three cases (per region) identified during the 2nd phase, and includes a financial plan with breakdown of necessary infrastructure works and associated estimation of investment and operational costs, as well as an identification of potential partners for implementation.
4) Implementation of a number of demonstration areas for new techniques on the selected industrial estates, for instance new types of photovoltaic cells, small scale on-shore wind turbines, etc. The pilot scale demonstrations are performed in order to: - obtain information for technical scale-up- obtain information for business and financing plans- promote carbon neutrality towards other (similar) sites, SMEs and municipalities In addition experience and knowledge exchange with other projects, demonstrations and similar technologies (in e.g. other applications) are necessary in order to obtain a high level of demonstration credibility and convincing power.

Thematic Keywords: Industrial estates, energy efficiency, renewable energy production, clustering, CO2

	reduction, carbon neutrality
Partners Found Already:	POM West-Vlaanderen
Partners Requested:	Regional authorities, development agencies, business associations, research institutes
Estimated Total Budget:	5000000,00
Date:	18-05-2007

2.53 Sustainable business clusters

Organisation:	**POM West-Vlaanderen**	
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Project Description

Sustainable business clusters are a powerful tool to promote regional sustainable development. The idea is that geographically close businesses (for instance, companies located on the same industrial estate) can benefit from working together. This leads not only to economic savings but also to environmental and social gains, ultimately benefiting the local community and the entire region. Businesses can co-operate on a large number of issues in order to improve their sustainability performance. A non-exhaustive list of examples is presented below:
* Physical environment: businesses co-operate for a higher quality public and private space by collective maintenance contracts for green areas, signalisation, external lightning,
* Facilities: businesses co-operate on waste management and disposal, collective security contracts, joint parking,
* Utilities: businesses collectively purchase energy, reduce water use by exchange of rain water,
* Employment: businesses work together for child care, employee training programs, sustainable transport systems,
* Development: businesses are working together for a positive image. Working together in sustainable business clusters is particularly interesting for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), because they reap the benefits without spending costs and time for doing it alone. This project builds on existing experience from previous projects in West-Flanders and East-Flanders since 2003. We wish to broaden our expertise and share it with other partners in the North Sea region.

Central Aim

The project aims to promote sustainable development by business clusters. The clusters consist of groups of geographically close businesses wishing to work together on a number of issues in order to:
(1) promote local entrepreneurship and make the economical activities more sustainable;
(2) reach a higher quality level of the private and public space to prevent expensive revitalisation.

Envisaged Output

Improved competitiveness of local businesses because of reduced costs, better (environmental) management, improved staff motivation, enhanced reputation with key stakeholders and increased market opportunities due to networking. Higher quality public and private space and prevention of brownfields.

Thematic Keywords:	co-operation, clustering, businesses, industrial estates, brown field prevention
Partners Found Already:	POM West-Vlaanderen, POM Oost-Vlaanderen
Partners Requested:	(1) regional authorities and development agencies with experience in clustering, (2) business associations, groups of geographically close businesses as "clients" of the project
Estimated Total Budget:	3000000,00
Date:	18-05-2007

2.54 SAWA - Strategic Alliance for integrated Watermanagement Actions

Organisation:	**Agency for Roads, Bridges and Waters**		
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Project Description

There are three main driving forces which make regions attractive for people to life, work and invest in. It is a well balanced combination of thriving local economies, healthy natural environment and self-sustaining well established social communities. Over the past decades the North Sea region has been successful in building a prospering setting for this. Nevertheless current threats like depopulation, ageing societies, unemployment, urban and rural inequalities, social segregation, environmental pollution and finally climate change are endangering this complex system. We need innovative strategies and business solutions in the North Sea region to cope with and mitigate or neutralize their negative effects. One of the major global challenges in this century is with no doubt climate change. The question is not if climate change will take place but rather to what extent it will influence society. The impact of the expected changes is manifold. The changing weather patterns suggest heavier and more intense rainfalls in the years to come which results in an increased flood risk in costal and fluvial regions. A reflection of this posible trend has alrady been noticable over the last ten yeras werhe the EU has suffered more than 100 severe floods which have caused billions of Euros of damage.This is makes it very clear that societies need to develop longterm strategies to overcome this global challenge. The European Commission has recognized this increasing flood hazard. To tackle it, the commission has started the process of implementing a legal European framework on how to assess and manage the risk of flooding in all member states. Experts are expecting the Flood Directive (FD) to come into force within the year 2007. Through a process of catchment based flood risk management planning one will know where the high risk areas are and what strategies and measures are required to cope with. All elements of the flood risk management cycle should be looked into (Prevention, Protection, Preparedness, Recovery, Evaluation) with the focus on the three "P"s. This new information will have a direct impact on businesses within the high risk zones and their future investments in the region. Water is in general considered a very positive element of natural or developed landscape. Living close to the riverside or lake shore increases prices for properties. A big challenge is to take the risks related to water into account in the future development of these areas. Flood risk is only one part of the hazard when dealing with water, equally important is the water quality and the status of water ways. In the year 2000 the EU released a framework directive (EC 2000/60/EC, Water Framework Directive, WFD) covering the aspects of water quality. The planning and implementation of WFD measures can have a negative or positive influence on flood risk in a river basin and vice versa. To what extent and how there are synergies or antagonise between WFD and FD measures has not been studied in depth. It is evident that the strategies, measures and actions of both directives are linked with in the water cycle and therefore they must be harmonized. This harmonization will be a vital part to guarantee the economic, social and environmental performance and attractiveness of the North Sea Region.

Central Aim

SAWA has identified the need to link the existing WFD with the upcoming FD. Since a Euro can only be spent once, administrations must optimise their investment to improve water quantity and quality control at the same time. We need to minimize possible economical and ecological impacts due to the legal appointment of flood hazard zones and their level of risk to local business, especially to small and medium size enterprises (SME) and the local community. Thus we have to identify and establish a Strategic Alliance among beneficial partners and fruitful measures to generate sustainable integrated Water management Actions. A solid communication and information strategy has to be developed to transmit this new situation properly. This may range from short-term information to active participation in the decision process up to long-term awareness building with a well understood action plan for all affected people and businesses in these risky zones. Set up upon the findings in the INTERREG IIIB projects FLOWS, FLOODSCAPE, FLOOD-SITE, ELLA etc. on how to communicate flood risk in a better way, SAWA wants to build up a North Sea Region network for communicating flood related issues. This will help to give the North Sea Region a common voice and to learn and improve the national communication strategies and public involvement on climate change and flood risk issues. General aims and objectives There is little experience for public authorities on how to apply the new FD in their countries. The following questions need to be addressed on a transnational and regional level:
- Who are the strategic partners for the different required actions in a river basin?
- How can the FD and WFD measures be combined and produce synergies?

- What is the best method to define flood areas?- What does a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) look like and what are the strategies to establish it?
- How can the FRMP be implemented and communicated to the different target groups (politicians, educational institutions, businesses)? Which strategic alliance might be helpful?
- How can we use urban inner space in a multifunctional manner to gain retention areas?
- How can we change the paradigm from “Fighting against Flood” to “Living with Flood”?
- What is the societal impact of flooding in low land areas in the light of climate change?
- How can we speak to an "event and action driven"
-generation to make them sensitive for flood and water management issues?

Envisaged Output

The partnership in SAWA believes that young people in schools and universities are a very important target group when talking about flood risk and climate change. They are the decision makers of the future and it must be made clear to them that society is facing an enormous global challenge. In order to build trust, understanding and a feeling of transnational responsibility each partner country wants to organize a student exchange program between different educational institutions within the SAWA partnership. We create animations / games which can be used in information centres for water management and climate change. The project will deliver at least five pilot Flood Risk Management Plans, which will show possible implementation strategies for European countries and prepare local markets for future investments and innovative business ideas to adapt to future flood hazard (e.g. floating homes, retrofitting measures, etc.), including a best practice guideline for integrated water resource management based on experiences in pilot areas (as a part of a book or handout). While running through the water management cycle proposed by the FD the partnership will identify possible links to planned measures in the WFD and find innovative solutions on how to harmonize them in a cost-effective manner.

Thematic Keywords:	Flood risk, Flood Directive, FD, Water Framework Directive, WFD, Climate Change, harmonizing, GIS, modelling, DSS, SUDS, Student Exchange, Flood Risk Communication
Partners Found Already:	Agency for Roads, Bridges and Waters Hamburg, University of Technology Hamburg-Harburg (Dept. River and Coastel Engineering) , LEUPHANA University of Lüneburg (Faculty III, Environment & Technique),Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony (District office Uelzen), Province of Flevoland (NL), Waterboards (Noorderzijlvest, Hunze &Aa, Delfland, Zuiderzeeland), Norwegian Energy and Water Directorate, County Administrative Boards of Värmland and Vastra Götaland, Swedish Hydrological and Metrological Institute, Swedish Geotechnical Institute, Karlstad University, Municipalities around Lake Vänern
Partners Requested:	UK and DK
Estimated Total Budget:	8000000,00
Date:	25-05-2007

2.55 Greenhouses and sustainability

Organisation:	**Dienst landelijk gebied (Government organisation of land and water management**	
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Project Description

New districts for greenhouse horticulture will be developed in the North sea area. In order to improve the accessibility of the area it will be necessary to create new infrastructure. The area will face new challenges. Besides the spatial planning aspect the greenhouse activities are expected to be sustainable addressing the needs of the nature and environment. There is a need for investigating a sustainable way of hydrology, for example by pumping up groundwater for the use of irrigation water.There will be a need for an integrated approach including the needs from different sectors for example ecology, economy, horticulture and traffic.

Central Aim

To develop a sustainable form of hydrology in the greenhouse district. To offer opportunities to the greenhouse farmers to expand their businesses in the future in a sustainable way.

Envisaged Output

-a sustainable way for using irrigation water applied in a district of 200 hectares involving 15 greenhouse businesses.
-a sustainable way for the use of other utility supply like gas and electricity

Thematic Keywords:	Innovation, Sustainability, Knowledge sharing,
Partners Found Already:	Province of Friesland (Geert Boesjes)
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	To be developed
Date:	28-05-2007

2.56 Robust Nature - The Resilience of Coast and Uplands and their capacity to cope with and Influence Climate Change.'

Organisation:	**Northumberland NAtional Park Authority**	
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Project Description

There are already proven ways of working with the grain of nature when planning for the future impacts of climate change. This project aims to take the best of such practices and roll them out across a series of Protected Areas in order to provide a dynamic group of partners as examples of sustainable resource management, with a particular focus on uplands and coastal habitats. We are all aware of the potential impacts that climate change could have on our landscapes and their wildlife. As well as changing the fabric of the environment, it may change the behaviour of visitors and local communities, altering the economic and social condition of the uplands and coast. A project of this nature can only address so much with the resources which may be available, but the starting point for this project is an understanding that through working on natural and conservation – led solutions to the potential impacts of climate change is complementary with more traditional approaches surrounding energy conservation and recycling etc. Our Protected Areas can lead the way in this work.

Central Aim

We aim to focus on developing approaches to coastal and upland management in several ways (see below) and to sharing this practice with, and learning from, others.

Envisaged Output

THE RESILIENT AND DYNAMIC COAST - Our project would focus on coastal habitat creation, managed realignment, dune migration and future planning policy for site based conservation would all be part of this work. We aim to understand how coastal habitats can survive climate change and find sustainable solutions for the people living there. Our project will show how, with careful planning, this work can meet the conservation needs of today and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

PEATSCAPES – The peatlands of the UK hold more carbon than all the forests of the UK and France combined. Our project aims to show how upland habitats, notably peat, can be managed sustainably to ensure that they can remain a sink of carbon rather than a carbon source. At the same time this work will benefit today's wildlife, conserve past environments and cultural heritage, reduce water colour (and the cost of removing it) and ameliorate against downstream flooding. Careful monitoring of the work is also a vital component of this project, to ensure that the impacts can be measured and the learning shared with others beyond the life of the project.

HIGH ALTITUDE HAY MEADOWS – With climate change we are likely to see a change in some of the characteristic species of hay meadows, which require cold winters in order to frost the seeds for germination and to prevent rhizome rotting. We can maintain species rich grasslands at lower altitudes but may lose some of the higher altitude meadows which have more northerly distributed species. There are several measures we would investigate the soil characteristics of higher altitude fields to see if they could in time become the hay meadows of the future; we would highlight current high altitude meadows and target adjacent or nearby fields for restoration to create larger units of habitat and increase future resilience. We would aim to share this practice with others and learn from their solutions to similar problems.

ACCOMMODATING AND PROMOTING RENEWABLES – Upland and coastal landscapes can sometimes have only limited ability to absorb renewable energy development without compromising landscape quality and character. This project find ways to integrate new technologies into spectacular and cultural landscapes without compromising their special qualities. It would ideally involve the production of guidance, alongside seminars and ideally a delegated grant regime to promote small scale renewable technologies and community energy audits. LEARNING TOGETHER - A strong educational dimension will be built in to the project. This will ensure that visitors and local people of all ages are given opportunities to learn about the issues surrounding this work, be it issues of climate change or conservation management. Whilst addressing climate change, we'd aim to look at our geological heritage and that of partners, in particular exploring past climates and environments and comparing them to those of today. We will aim to include formal and informal educational opportunities as part of this programme and share practice between partners. As a mechanism to engage visitors we would to investigate ways in which visitors can offset their journeys by contributing to carbon reducing programmes either their own area or the area they are visiting.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY - The project will look to involve local communities in as much of this work as possible. It will take the approach that these are currently living, working landscapes and should remain so in the future. The project should build capacity in local people to manage and understand this resource into the future and should in part be led by their current expertise.

Thematic Keywords:	Climate change, sustainable resource management
Partners Found Already:	North Pennines AONB, Northumberland coast AONB
Partners Requested:	Other Protected Areas or cultural landscapes
Estimated Total Budget:	5million
Date:	30-05-2007

2.57 Problems of grazing areas adjoining the North Sea

Organisation:	**Norfolk County Council**	
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Project Description

There are areas along the west coast of mainland Europe and the east coast of the United Kingdom that have traditionally been rich in biodiversity and have had specific agricultural management, especially of grazing livestock. Economic pressures have severely reduced animal numbers in all these areas and arable expansion has significantly reduced biodiversity, altered the balance between natural and man-made environments and impacted on skills and livelihoods. For instance, it is reported that cattle numbers in Denmark have fallen substantially with dairy farmer numbers decreasing from 63,000 to 4,600 in 30 years, and beef producers from 13,00 to 8,500.The East of England has seen a decline in livestock numbers over recent years. This is having a negative effect on how marshes are managed. These areas support habitats of high environmental importance; many are SSSIs and BAP priorities. They are also an important asset to the economic and social sustainability of the region by providing highlights of landscape quality favoured by local communities and visitors to the region. However they exist mostly as small and scattered remnants of formerly more extensive habitats in a region which is now dominated by arable cropping. Many are divorced from mainstream arable agricultural management on surrounding land, low in agricultural productivity and with difficult terrain. So the cost of management to achieve optimal environmental condition can be high. The declining profitability of livestock farming increases the difficulty of maintaining appropriate management. Marshland management is increasing in importance due to the value of the habitat as a buffer to climate change. Salt marsh, river valleys and estuaries all provide a valuable resource to protect against sea level changes, the effects of severe weather conditions and protecting sea and river defences. Many of these areas are well developed tourism areas, however there is a lack of knowledge by local people and visitors of the value of grazing and the importance of this management system to landscape protection and biodiversity.The Norfolk project will focus on the grazing areas of the Norfolk Broads National Park, North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Wash Estuary (including areas of Lincolnshire). We are in discussion with Denmark on the design of their complementary project; they in turn are seeking potential partners in Germany and Holland where there are similar coastlines with similar issues.

Central Aim

This project will examine the extent of these changes in four countries and develop local strategies to enhance the profitability of livestock production, enabling farmers to revert to more traditional forms of husbandry with positive impacts on the environment. The project will ensure the exchange of information between partners, enabling innovative practices to be tested across a wide area experiencing similar challenges.

Envisaged Output

While each partner will develop their own programme, shared areas of work will include:
- The connection between landscape, wildlife and livestock.
- An evaluation and development of ways of working with local supply chains to find economically sustainable options.
- Partnership working with local, regional and thematic groups.
- Piloting methods to get high-value isolated or otherwise ‘difficult’ sites managed.
- Improved communication and interaction between existing businesses and potential new businesses.
- Evaluating current economic management systems delivering environmental outcomes and developing ways of tackling the main issues
- Connecting the public and tourists with the value of landscapes.

Thematic Keywords:	livestock; protected landscapes; grassland; coastal management; sustainable development
Partners Found Already:	Denmark
Partners Requested:	Holland; Germany
Estimated Total Budget:	1,200,000
Date:	25-05-2007

2.59 Energy Farming

Organisation:	**Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Government service for land and water management**	
Contact Person:	Ko Munneke	
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Project Description

In densely populated areas, the agriculture is under pressure because of an increasing claim on the production factor ground. Developments of new nature, water recovery- and retention areas and new residential areas have a raising impact on the demand and value of agricultural lands. This development makes it increasingly difficult for the traditional agriculture to survive. This development coincides with the liberalisation of the agro-commodities market and the lessening of production protection. On the other hand will the growing demand of biomass for energy lead to a new role and position of agriculture. The tension between the Food vs. Fuel and between Nature and Agriculture must be changed into a symbiotic relation, which delivers the food ánd the energy ánd the nature the world needs. This calls for new strategies and policies. What will those strategies be? How can we develop them, what are the best practices and what can be learned from them?

Central Aim

Developing new strategies for agriculture in the field of energy farming.

Envisaged Output

Exploration of chances and threats for energy production on agriculture farms. Development strategy for broadening the activities on agriculture farms..

Thematic Keywords: Energy Farming, Developments strategy, Structural change

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 31-05-2007

2.60 Energy Landscaping

Organisation:	**Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Government service for land and water management)**	
Contact Person:	Ko Munneke	
Address:	Trompsingel 1 9700RM Groningen The Netherlands	tel. (+31)050 317 8750 e-mail: f.j.munneke@minlnv.nl

Project Description

Nature areas and natural elements can make a valuable contribution to CO2 reduction by exploiting the biomass for energy production. With the development of new nature this can already be taken into account (type plants, logistics, conversion routes, etc.). From the view of energy- and cost efficiency is it however necessary to determine a strategy with which the biomass is brought to value and how the CO2 reduction can be maximised. New methods of nature conservation must be developed to use the vast potential of the European nature.

Central Aim

The aim of this project is to make the potential of nature for energy production transparent and to develop new conservation strategies and methods to maximise the energy output and CO2 reduction, combined with the goals of nature development.

Envisaged Output

Scenarios to valorize streams of biomass from nature areas and natural elements New drafts on the field of design and maintenance of nature

Thematic Keywords: Sustainable land management, Valorisation of biomass. Spatial planning

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 31-05-2007

2.61 Coasts for the future.

Organisation:	**Provincie West-Vlaanderen**	
Contact Person:	Lies Lefevere (+ Kathy Belpaeme)	
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Project Description

Specific objectives:
-Update the on-line coastal atlas (www.kustatlas.be)
-Linking the coastal atlas to sustainability indicators for the coast
-Awards for sustainable coastal projects (follow-up of first awards scheme; www.dekustkijktverder.be): Including training for coastal actors on sustainable management. Specific attention will be paid to private actors at the coast.
-An indicators-led approach to measuring sustainable development at the coastoIntegrate scientifically sound indicators in decision-making and planning instruments (at local, regional, national level).
Promote the use of coastal indicators by authorities (also harbours) and other actors (NGO's, …)
Intensify the communication about indicators and coastal processes (publication Coastal Compass, optimising the website)
Link the indicators to the Coastal atlas. oLook for linkages between the indicators.
Link indicators to policy measures.
-Make use of indicators and coastal atlas for making young people and the public aware of coastal problems. Amaze them with the facts and figures.

Central Aim

Stimulate and promote integrated management of the Coast (ICZM)

Envisaged Output

-High quality on-line coastal atlas, making use of the more modern developments (google earth e.g.). Should be promoted for use with coastal actors and schools.
-Optimised indicators which will have an important alarm function, and will operate to measure sustainability at the coast
-Award scheme for sustainable projects at the coast.

Thematic Keywords:	coast, atlas, awards, indicators
Partners Found Already:	Province of West Flanders. Interest shown by: Denmark, Dorset Coastal Forum
Partners Requested:	Norway, Germany, The Netherlands, UK
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	01-06-2007

2.71 SO-BE-XTREME: Soil best practices for coping with weather extremes

Organisation:	**Faculty of Management and Organisation, Business development and Knowledge Mana**	
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Project Description

Over the coming years climate change is predicted to have a pronounced effect on rainfall patterns. Prolonged periods of severe droughts during the growing season are predicted which will impact on the sustainability of arable farming. And predicted increased periods of heavy rains during the winter will also have significant effects e.g. greater risk of flooding and reduced stability of slopes both natural and civil engineered constructions like dykes and the cuttings that surround and embankments that support both roads and railway lines.Soils, rich in organic matter and biological life, function both as a water buffer during periods of drought and as drainage during periods of heavy rains. Increased rooting depth due to biological activity increases soil stability and hence reduces run-off and erosion. Skilled farmers and land managers can increase the amount of carbon sequestered in soils by applying dedicated agricultural or land managing practices which increase soil organic matter, biological activity, soil biodiversity and soil stability. For instance, an increase of 1% SOM (soil organic matter) can add 1.5% additional moisture by volume at field capacity, which is equivalent to the absorption of an additional 6 mm of rain in the top layer of a well managed soil (to 40 cm below surface). The developed best practices need to be transferred to the land-manager, i.e. the farmer or land-owner, by raising his consciousness of upcoming extreme weather events affecting the sustainability of either farm or civil constructions. A user-dedicated approach is followed, based upon the individual attitudes of the farmers and land-owners to change and to learning, which enhances the adoption of developed best practices.

Central Aim

The aim of this project is to share, develop and transfer best practices for stabilizing soils and increase soil resilience to withstand periods of enduring droughts and heavy rains.

Envisaged Output

1) Development of strategic alliances between land-managers of different regions for knowledge transfer and sharing of existing best practices.
2) Development and demonstration for land-managers on field scale of best practices for increasing water holding and drainage capacities of soils by managing organic matter, for example by minimal tillage, compost, cover crops, hydrophilic polymers, etc.
3) Development and demonstration for land managers on field scale of best practices for increasing soil stability of slopes of civil engineered constructions.
4) Transfer of developed best practices based upon a user-dedicated approach.

Thematic Keywords:	soil biodiversity, soil stability, technology transfer, weather extremes, water holding capacity
Partners Found Already:	Netherlands, UK-Scotland, Germany-Niedersachsen
Partners Requested:	Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden
Estimated Total Budget:	8.000.000
Date:	31-05-2007

2.75 Energy Guided Landscapes

Organisation:	**Departement of Planning and Environment Faculty of Spatial Sciences**	
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Project Description

Towards innovative approaches in integrating energy and spatial design within the North Sea Region

The awareness of reducing the use of energy is growing fast. Fossil energy sources are finite, and the coming generation of energy sources — amongst others the renewables — has not yet fully matured. The issue of climate change also contributes to the urgency to invest in energy transitions. These transitions need to be realistic and feasible. As such, energy cannot be considered as a stand alone issue. Spatial design is considered to have substantial impact on energy use. Current investments focus largely on design at the dwelling level and on transport and mobility. And with success. What is still lacking however, are considerations regarding energy and spatial design at the sub city, urban and regional level.
These levels between sub city and region, energy can be a valuable guiding principle for spatial design. The examples in support of this assumption are scarce, but rapidly growing in number. In The Netherlands the ‘Grounds for Change’ project has a focus on the regional level, building on the principles of ‘exergy’. Through this project built up areas are being allocated differently, taking in mmd for example geographical conditions for the production of wind energy and the availability of geothermal heath, and positions for heat producing activities. Aalborg (DK), Barcelona (E), Villach (Au) and Malmö (S) are successful examples at the urban level. Malmö for example wants redevelopment projects to be self-sufficient (autarchic) areas from an energy perspective, which means a strong focus on the ‘trias energetica’, smart urban design and intense cooperation between spatial designers and energy experts. Blyth (UK), Assen (NL), Heerhugowaard (NL) and IBA Emscher Park (G) show initiatives at the sub city level. These first initiatives might be successful, they are also rather ad hoc and stand alone situations. There is by far no common understanding on how to regard energy as a guiding principle for spatial design.
The North Sea region has a tradition regarding energy, energy production and other energy related activities. Additionally, the North Sea region is blessed with solid spatial planning and design systems. Therefore, this region has all what it needs to compose a common understanding of how to integrate energy and spatial design at the sub city, urban and regional level. In this proposal the few Best Practices available are taken as the starting point to elaborate on commonalities on the one hand and situation specific conditions on the other. These Best Practices will differ because of differences in (national) planning and design systems, but also in the way the various energy related functions are linked together.
Quite common are linkages such as windmills and farmhouses, and solar panels and dwellings. Quite rare are examples, where multiple energy sources are integrated with a mixture of spatial functions. What is needed is an overall understanding of the various situations possible, regarding energy sources and spatial functions. It should result in concrete and practical methods and policies in support of both energy use and spatial planning and design. And this understanding should bring us the right conditions to move further towards energy guided landscapes, towards innovative forms of spatial planning and design, and towards successful governance strategies. This proposal therefore will contribute to both the Göteborg and Lisbon Agendas and, as such, to a sustainable future.

Central Aim

Stimulating an energy transition in the North Sea region by building on spatial design and regional development. To realise sustainable and efficient energy use, local and regional stakeholders have to be involved as they form the framework in terms of policies, legislation and finances. They will stimulate the process towards innovative forms of spatial design and enhance regional development by realising efficient energy use. The experiences of the various project partners can be exchanged after which knowledge is generated and spatial methods and instruments can be developed to contribute to successful energy guided landscapes

Envisaged Output

The research proposal consists of three work packages:
• Work package 1 “Best practises”
• Work package 2 “Monitoring”
• Work package 3 “Dissemination”
WP 1 compares the available examples and analyses the best practices to find commonalities on the one hand and situation specific conditions on the other regarding energy sources and spatial functions. In this way, we are able to understand how energy and spatial design can be integrated and deduce the right or even essential conditions and mechanisms. A design workshop can be used for exchanging knowledge and creating ideas. The Faculty of spatial Sciences (RUG) has good experiences with this urban planning technique within the project “Grounds for Changes”. Furthermore, also the Northern provinces of the Netherlands are implementing these type of workshops more and more as an instrument for accommodating decision-making.
WP 2 applies interesting ideas in various typical examples and monitors the progress. The result will be innovative approaches and practical methods for the synergy between energy and spatial design at the sub city, urban and regional level. A guidance document elaborates on these concrete methods and instruments.
WP 3 focuses on knowledge exchange to improve the decision making process and governance strategies in support of both energy use and spatial design within the North Sea Region. Furthermore, the results are promoted by using appealing methods, for example a contest between participating “examples” in the North Sea area. These joint activities will enhance the cooperation and knowledge exchange between the different North Sea partners.

Thematic Keywords:	energy transition, sustainable landscape, spatial design, sub
Partners Found Already:	Malmö, Ethics etc. . .(UK), region Groningen-Assen, in progress: Kopenhagen, Aalborg, Municipality Groningen, Province of Drenthe, Province of Fryslan, Municipality AA en Hunze
Partners Requested:	Open to offers, Province of Groningen, Belgium, Germany, Norway
Estimated Total Budget:	1900000,00
Date:	23-05-2007

2.76 Sustainable Flood Risk Communications

Organisation: **Environment Agency**
Contact Person: Eleanor Wilson
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United Kingdom

Project Description

Common across Europe is the recognition of the vulnerability of coastlines and their associated hinterlands which face increasing pressure from the effects of climate change and rising sea levels. The 'traditional' methods of providing flood defences is no longer applicable and inevitably, the move towards very different solutions to Flood Risk Management (FRM) involves new challenges around communicating the social, economic and environmental impacts which will involve local, regional and national partners, both in the public and private sector. This is a particular issue for areas with few people where the flood defences are no longer sustainable.The Environment Agency recognises that a critical factor for success in the sustainable management of flood risk is communicating risk to society and involving them in the solutions that manage this risk. Good community and stakeholder communications and engagement actions are critical to this approach. We recognise that people assimilate information in very different ways and different business and social communities need very different information in order to encourage contribution and make informed decisions. In order to engage and communicate more effectively, it is necessary to make a clear transition away from the traditional UK public body communication methods based on the 'decide, announce, defend approach' to more participative and inclusive processes to balance the needs of all to deliver sustinable flood risk management solutions and competitive, risk aware regions. In addition, regional and local governance organisations need to be encouraged to participate more fully in this area of risk management in terms of financial and other planning due to the potential to impact negatively on the economic success of a region. Using the UK government's emerging high level strategy and policy framework 'Making Space for Water' and the Environment Agency's own Flood Risk Policy and 'Working With Others' initiative and mindful of the European Aarhus Convention, this project aims to develop a practically proven suite of methods and actions to deliver a 21st century FRM stakeholder relations to to underpin the deployment of sustainable flood risk management strategies . The Environment Agency is looking to European partners to share their knowledge and expertise in this area of stakeholder engagement and community consultation gained through past experience and future project implementation. The project outcomes will be delivered through practical actions associated with real sites and activity. In particular, we are keen to explore with partners the real impact of schemes in sparsely populated areas, how governance structures contribute to delievry of successful schemes; how current and past methods of stakeholder management especially in terms of expectations, description and importance of socio-economic and environmental benefits to the various stakeholders have been managed; and what is the true perception of flood risk and its impacts and how stakeholder respond to this

Central Aim

Using the implementation of flood risk strategies at key sites and activities along the East Coast of the UK, this project will investigate the issues surrounding the sustainable management of flood risk projects to develop arrangements, tools and methods for improved communication channels and engagement with stakeholders and communities.

Envisaged Output

A range of methods, models of engagement and visualisation tools suitable for use with a wide range of communities and stakeholders to enable the sustainable of flood risk. A number of UK and European case studies based on real examples to demonstrate and disseminate actual scheme based results . Outcomes that include the consideration of social justice issues, how to facilitate delivery of environmental objectives along with economic outcomes with potential for new cost benefit outputs – jobs, growth poles (tourism etc) for more sparsely populated areas.

Thematic Keywords: engagement sustainability flood risk management

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested: Potential partners are sought in Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, and could be local authorities, development or investment agencies, private sector enterprises and research institutions such as universities.

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 25-05-2007

Priority 3 Improving the Accessibility of Places in the North Sea Region

Strong Potential for Submission

3.01 Dryport
Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

3.02 High speed railway to strengthen intermodal transport corridors
Rogaland County Council, Norway

3.03 Invisible Intermodal Transport
Rogaland County Council, Norway

3.04 Maritime minipartenariats in the North-West of Russia
Maritime Forum South East Norway/Regionsamarbeidet Buskerud, Telemark,Vestfold, Norway

3.06 MoS Strategic Demonstration Project
Rogaland County Council, Norway

3.15 GATEWAY / GATE / SEAGATE (working title)
South East England Development Agency, United Kingdom

Work in Progress

3.07 Accessible Regions - policy tools for a change
Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

3.08 Launching New Water Links
Southend Borough Council, United Kingdom

3.09 Nisch Port Development (nipod)
Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

3.10 SustAccess 2
Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

3.11 PERI-FERRY
Transport Research Institute, Napier University, Scotland, UK

3.16 E-Route Entrepreneurship
Reach Europe AB, Sweden

3.17 Bike points
VZW Mobiel, Belgium

Strong Potential for Submission

3.01 Dryport

Organisation:	**Region Västra Götaland**	
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Project Description

The flows of goods will increase in the near future, making the road based transport system under dimensioned. This will ultimately lead to less attractive gateways as the delivery cannot be guaranteed. Hinterland solutions are essential to avoid congestions and traffic related problems, unreliable freight management, loss of market positions and loss of work capacity. Hinterland solutions can help in the process to find sustainable transport solutions that in the end are part of the struggle to meet the threat of a climate change. The freight handling capacity of gateways depends on the smoothness of transport, on space and on expansion possibilities. The strategic function of a gateway depends more and more on good and functional hinterland accessibility. A dry port is the hinterland point for a gateway, where goods come in for shipment already in the hinterland, are transported to the gateway by rail or inland waterway and the dry port is an integral part of the transport system with the same IT as the major ports. The concept of a dry port offers the opportunity to regionalise harbour activities, to strengthen the local industry as transport solutions are around the corner and is an important instrument to shift freight from road to rail. Main focus is to become the forepost of a gateway in a region's inland. The immediate advantages are less road movements and smooth handling of goods at the spot. The side effects can be that a dry port offers space for a gateway (storage, reparation, slot time space). A side effect can be that knowledge on sustainable transport is decentralised and thus is available for regional SME's. Dry ports could have as an impact that existing regional employment remains and future growth of employment.

Central Aim

To establish a network of dry ports around the North Sea
to shift goods flows from road to rail/ inland waterway
to develop a common market strategy
to study legal aspects of inland harbour systems
to study and implement smart integrated computer systems for both gateway and dry port

Envisaged Output

Dry ports as a rail and inland waterway alternative for middle range transport flows that normally tend to be transported by road.
Dry ports as integrated transport chains from gateway to final destination, from producer to destination, from dry port to gateway.
Smooth and reliable handling of goods taking away the pressure on gateways as main entrances.
Employment opportunities in the Hinterland. Decentralised logistic knowledge available for SME's.

Thematic Keywords:	dry port, sustainable transport, rail and inland waterway. smart IT cooperation,
Partners Found Already:	Municipality of Falköping, Sweden & Region Västra Götaland
Partners Requested:	Thames Gateway England, Scotland, gateway entrances in Germany, Belgium The Netherlands
Estimated Total Budget:	€6 million
Date:	26-01-2007

3.02 High speed railway to strengthen intermodal transport corridors

Organisation:	**Rogaland County Council**	
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Project Description

Background
High speed trains (HST) reduce regional traffic by planes. In this respect they have significant experiences in France. The emmission of CO2 makes alternative transport modes to airplanes on regional connections very important, and high speed trains may in many cases be such an alternative.to planes as well as private cars· New railway tracks for high speed trains are not only to the advantage of passenger transport, but this may also increase the capacity of cargo transport by rail. Concentration of transport (passengers as well as cargo) along transport corridors is a means of shifting passengers from planes and private cars to trains, and to shift cargo from long haulage trucking by road to rail. Efficient cargo transport on rail enhances intermodal transport when connected to sea transport. Development of primary and secondary networks will enhance the transport corridor's efficiency.But what are the impacts for the regions, and what are the actions that should be carried out in parallel with establishing HST to secure the full benefit of HST. For instance, HST has limited number of stations, so how should the development be at these placed and how should the district around the station be serviced by public transport etc. Or, how can the infrastructure for the HST as well as the old rail infrastructure, enhance the cargo service on rail. There are a number of HST implemented and under planning in the world; there are a number of EU projects on HST and related issues. The proposed project will build on these experiencesThe Vision of this project is therefore:that HST is a means of connecting regions in an environmental and competitive manner, so that businesses develop and jobs are created, contributing to reduced emission of green house gasesThe project will have the following Work Packages:
WP A: Project Coordination
·WPB: HST Concepts
WP C: Potentials for modal shift·
WP D: Socio-economic and environmental impacts
WP E: Innovation and foresight planning
WP F: Investments and implementation

Central Aim

To demonstrate the long term viability of high speed train system in terms of benefiting the regions it serves and in terms of environmental benefits, in respect both to transport of passengers and cargo

Envisaged Output

Envisaged outputs:·
- Overview of concepts for HST and the development of hubs at HST stations
- Potential modal shift by HST- Socio-economic impacts and environmental impacts of HST- Demonstrated benefits of HST by innovation through foresight planning- Proposals and funds for investments and implementation Envisaged results:·
- High speed trains as an element in national transportation plans·
- Highs speed trains as en enhanced element in the TEN-T

Thematic Keywords:	High speed trains· - Regional connections· - Sustainable transport·- Innovation· - Foresight planning
Partners Found Already:	Rogaland County CouncilSouth East England Development Agency
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	€5 million
Date:	30-05-2007

3.03 Invisible Intermodal Transport

Organisation:	**Rogaland County Council**	
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	Norway	e-mail: guei@rogfk.no

Project Description

Intermodal transport corridors are the backbone of the North Sea Region for the movement of goods. Developing more efficient and effective logistical processes, including intermodal technologies, also offers benefits in increasing capacity in the existing infrastructure and increased utilisation of intermodal transport.

However, very often the market looks at intermodal transport as costly, inflexible and time consuming. The shift from one mode to the other is perceived as cost driving and time consuming, even when intermodal transport is competitive to trucking. Therefore the transport industry has an image challenge as well as a challenge to make the intermodal transport efficient and competitive. In this respect the efficiency in the logistical hubs is a key factor.

This project is geared at making the shift from one mode to the other "invisible" to the market so that intermodal transport also is fully perceived as a competitive door-to-door transport. In particular the shift between ship and train will be pursued. The project will concentrate on the functioning of hubs and how the actors can coordinate their services as well as pricing and payment so that the customer, being shippers or transport forwarders, will experience a door-to-door service that functions as trucking the whole way, i.e. a "one-stop-shopping" arrangement that does not make the routing and modes of transport "visible" and a criteria for choice of mode of transport.

The project will therefore search for improvement of and innovations in cargo logistics systems in port operations, intermodal transport interfaces and transport monitoring systems. The project will also contribute to development of organisational arrangements to maximise efficiency across transportation modes.

The project will actively involve both the private and public sector through regional clusters that are networking with regional clusters in other parts of the North Sea with connections also to the Barents Sea.

Central Aim

To make the shift between modes "invisible" as well as contributing to making intermodal transport competitive to trucking.

Envisaged Output

- Improved cooperation between actors in the intermodal transport hubs and chain
- Demonstrate combined pricing and payment of intermodal transport
- Improved image of intermodal transport

Thematic Keywords: Intermodality; Logistic hubs; Pricing and payment; Competitiveness

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: €2,000,000

Date: 28-01-2007

3.04 Maritime minipartenariats in the North-West of Russia

Organisation:	**Maritime Forum South East Norway/Regionsamarbeidet Buskerud, Telemark,Vestfold**	
Contact Person:	Helge Grobæk or Thrond Kjellevold	
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Project Description

In connection with the future development of the oil- and gas fields in the Barents Region (Russian), the project plan is to establish maritime "mini"-partenariats" in the north-west of Russian (one or several pr. year) in the next 3 years. Scandinavian and European SMBs in the North Sea Region.

Central Aim

Presentation of products, services, exchanging innovation, making joint ventures and expanding and develop new networks.

Envisaged Output

To develop and expand business opportunities for small and medium-sized maritime companies in Scandinavia and the North Sea region; producers/suppliers, naval architects, consultants, maritime regions, harbours etc.

Thematic Keywords:	Maritime "mini"-partenariats in North-West Russia
Partners Found Already:	Danish, Swedish and Russian partners
Partners Requested:	More Scandinavian and European partners will be of interest.
Estimated Total Budget:	€200,000
Date:	09-05-2006

3.06 MoS Strategic Demonstration Project

Organisation:	**Rogaland County Council**	
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	Norway	e-mail: guei@rogfk.no

Project Description

Background:·
The concept of Motorway of the Sea (MOS) was introduced in the TEN-T, and the MOS Vademecum spells out criteria for MOS investments. A Task Force for Motorway of the North Sea is initiated. The mandate for this Task Force is to provide a framework for MOS in the North Sea region, including connections to the Barents region. The Task Force has prepared a draft regional call for MoS proposal by May 2007, and the intention is to launch the call mid year 2007 with a submission date around September 2007. The Operational Programme of the Interreg IVB promotes strategic projects and mentions a “Master Plan for the Motorways of the North Sea” as an example. The present project idea is pursuing this strategic concept. A strategic project should build on the call for proposals from the Task Force and facilitate MOS projects as well as SSS initiative. But in addition, a strategic element should in particular be how the NMC as a sea corridor can be connected to other transport corridors/transport axes within the North Sea region as well as be connected to other regions like the Baltic Sea region, Northern Periphery Region, including North West Russia, and North West Europe Region.A strategic project may therefore have the two following features:- Connecting transport corridors and develop concepts for main hubs.
- Demonstrating relevant MOS initiativesThe Work Packages will be:
WP A: Project Coordination, with emphasis on coordinating activities, prepare common material and guidelines and prepare project documentation and dissemination
WP B: Connecting Transport Corridors, with emphasis on how the NMC as a corridor can be well connected to other transport corridors in other regions, in terms of physical and organisational aspects of the hub
WP C: Potential MOS and SSS Initiatives, with emphasis on extracting and facilitating potential MoS and SSS initiatives within North Sea Region as well as neighbouring regions
WP D: Support to MOS and SSS Initiatives, with emphasis on maintaining and expanding the network established in the NMC project, providing R2R/B2B meetings, facilitate market studies and givng guidance on MoS and Marco Polo application, maintaining and developing also the arena for networking with Russia·

The initiators for the two Project Ideas ”Emergency Response in Larger Transport Corridors” and ”MoS Strategic Demonstration Project” are both emphasising the potential for synergy effects and mutual benefits by related projects working closely together. The synergy effects and benefits could be such as utilising a wider network of partners and results from each other’s former and present projects, disseminating results to a wider audience, combining commercial approach and environmental and safety approaches, and having a common reference group at national level (like the one established in Norway for the NMC project). The cooperation should be well structured and resources allocated, for instance in the form of a common work package. This Work Package could be common for more than the two mentioned projects.

Central Aim

To develop workable concepts for connecting transport corridors, and to initiate and/or support initiatives that eventually is developed by the relevant actors, including concrete applications for support through the MOS regime and the MP regime

Envisaged Output

Envisaged outputs:·
- Concept for hubs connecting transport corridors-
Overview over potential MOS initiatives·
- R2R/B2B meetings Envisaged results:·
- MOS applications·
- MP applications

Thematic Keywords: Intermodal transport, MOS initiatives, Sustainable transport, Strategic project

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget: €5 million

Date: 31-05-2007

3.15 GATEWAY / GATE / SEAGATE (working title)

Organisation:	**South East England Development Agency**	
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Project Description

Improve port connectivity and accessibility to maximise the efficient use of existing European transport infrastructure (sea, rail, inland navigation, road)
-Maximise the economic productivity of ports through the development of new & existing:
1.port operations & services
2.information & communication technology (ICT)
3.safety, security & environmental measures
-Maximise the wider regeneration benefits of European port development for the local and regional economy
-Implement a number of targeted demonstration infrastructure investments
-Develop innovative funding and partnership mechanisms to deliver future European transport priorities
-Bring together public sector agencies and commercial sector organisations such as port, transport & network operators and logistics companies to:
1.implement joint actions & deliver regional, national & European policy
2.improve interaction & communication between the sectors and ensure the transfer of knowledge and innovation

Central Aim

Maximise the role of North West European ports as:
• European gateways to inter-regional and international markets & trade
• Facilitators of sustainable inter-regional and international transport (freight & passenger)
• Drivers of the regional, national and European economy

Envisaged Output

Increased European connectivity & accessibility
-Increased modal shift and improved co-modality
-Increased productivity and capacity of port and wider transport sector
-Development & transfer of knowledge and expertise to assist effective decision making & future planning (public & commercial sector)
-Maximise added value of European port development by capturing wider regeneration benefits

Thematic Keywords:	ports, rail, intermodal, shipping, transport
Partners Found Already:	The project is based on the existing INTERREG NWE co-financed IMPACTE project (www.impacte-project.net)
Partners Requested:	Ports, Regional and National Public Sector Authorities, Transport and Network Operators, Logistics Sector
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	24-05-2007

Work in Progress

3.07 Accessible Regions - policy tools for a change

Organisation:	**Region Västra Götaland**	
Contact Person:	Dirk Harmsen	
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	S-40523 Gothenburg	fax: +46 31 630970
	Sweden	e-mail: info@sustaccess.org

Project Description

The main concern in many regions is the concentration of work, education, leisure, health care in central urban areas. The main focus of many regional policies is to spread work and other facilities over the region and make it worth while to live and work in rural areas. Newer policies talk about enlargement of the region. This can be implemented from the urban perspective where people should have the opportunity to travel between home and Gateway in an easy and attractive way. From an ecological point of view this should be public transport on the first hand. It can also be implemented from the rural point of view by bringing the services and the employment to the inland. This implies good communication systems with the gateway too, but also good IT infrastructure for example in order to be able to work with the world at home.
In order to meet future challenges and restrictions, changes of mode are needed more than ever to guarantee a sustainable access to the regions around the North Sea and to reach a decisive reduction of road traffic according the European White book.
The project 'accessible regions' operates in the field of above mentioned larger policy decision making , more exactly in the process towards such decisions. It is there, visions and reality have to meet and where economical feasibility determines too often what can and what cannot be realised. With the great problems ahead like the climate change and the dependency of oil drastical policy changes might become necessary. The Stern report calculates enormous future costs for flood protection for example if nothing is done now. One of the main reasons for the climate change is the increase of transport based on fossil energy. The need to cut down on car related transport is obvious. The answers are not that easy, neither for the policy maker nor for the consumer.
The project is knowledge based policymaking, combining research, information and policy tools. The thought is to organise a travelling information campaign on big issues, informing and updating local and regional politicians in their own region. Well known lecturers would do a series of lectures for all partner areas within the project.
The second instrument would be the so-called peer review where a team of spatial planners travels around in the same partner areas offering policy support and critical evaluation of the regional sustainable transport planning (other fields are possible too)
The third element would be to supply the regional planner and policy maker with support in prestudies, flows analyses, cost effectiveness calculations - whatever is needed to prepare and set a new policy. There the regional research institutes could assist with their knowledge.

Central Aim

To supply regional planner and policymakers with a policy toolkit that is based on information, peer review and analysis support.
To ensure that local and regional resources are incorporated in policy development processes

Envisaged Output

Better understanding of the need to change regional and local policy in order to meet future challenges.
Support to normally isolated individual planning preparation processes.

Thematic Keywords:	sustainability lectures, change of policy, peer review, research on sustainable accessibility
Partners Found Already:	none
Partners Requested:	transport institutes from all countries around North Sea, regional authorities
Estimated Total Budget:	€3 million
Date:	26-01-2007

3.08 Launching New Water Links

Organisation:	**Southend Borough Council**	
Contact Person:	Andrew Harding	
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	SS2 6ZQ Southend-on-Sea	fax: +44 1702 339607
	United Kingdom	e-mail: andrew.harding@zen.co.uk

Project Description

The potential contribution of water links to local and regional transport is not fully exploited. This project aims to explore through a number of work packages the impact that standardised fast ferries, alternative propulsion systems, integrated inter-modal terminal design, advanced IT systems to provide integrated marketing, information and ticketing through a wide range of media, and alternative business models could make to improving overall viability. Assessment of viability will include economic, environmental, and social aspects. Pilot projects would seek to demonstrate these impacts through feasibility studies on a limited number of potential new water links and facilitate their launch. The project would help inform debate on EU, national and regional transport policies relating to water links.

Central Aim

The project would support the launch of new or enhanced local water-based transport through a transnational exploration of the scope for standardised fast ferries, low or zero emission propulsion systems for those vessels, and ensuring such services were an integral part of regional inter-modal networks. Pilot initiatives would include feasibility studies for new services, the design of ferry terminals as transport interchanges, the use of IT to market water transport including information and ticketing as part of integrated inter-modal networks, and exploration of alternative business models.

Envisaged Output

Evaluation of the potential benefits of a standard range of fast ferries, including impact on the ferry building market. An evaluation of alternative low or zero-emission propulsion systems. A best practice guide to feasibility and design of effective new water links, including assessment of alternative business models. A review of EU, national and regional transport policy in relation to water links. Consequent improvement in sustainable access for peripheral areas and cost-effective increase in transport capacity in congested areas. In turn this will lead to a boost in modal shift to sustainable water transport, and boost in employment opportunities in ferry construction and water transport operations.

Thematic Keywords:	Sustainable, inter-modal, low-emission, water transport
Partners Found Already:	Southend Borough Council, Elektroboot Gent, Derechtsteden, Province of South Holland,
Partners Requested:	German, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian transport authorities
Estimated Total Budget:	8000000
Date:	31-05-2007

3.09 Nisch Port Development (nipod)

Organisation:	**Region Västra Götaland**	
Contact Person:	Dirk Harmsen	
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Project Description

Containerisation of goods changed the freight handling drastically. The effect is a structure change of huge dimensions. One the one hand it enabled smooth handling with the help of IT, making traceable delivery common now. Stewadoring functions changed from manual to hight tech flow handling. On the other hand it implicated large changes in port structures. Large harbours more and more concentrate on container flows only. Flows of containers increased and forces port authorities to find transport solutions for growing amount of goods to and from the final destination. An important side effect of this development is that the position of small ports also changed. The flows of goods that not are containerable, more and more are handled by smaller ports around major Gateways. Formerly fighting for survival, many of these ports have better results than ever. The goods that is handled arrives as bulk or is of non container size. Yet another tendency is that some of these small ports get specialized in one or two specific types of goods. In the recent past smaller harbours barely survived and were not of regional or local interest. Subsequently there has been low priority in infrastructure investments, often harbour equipment is old fashioned, IT investments are too expensive. The bulk character of the goods implies many transport movements from and to the harbour. Often the lorry is the only way to transport these commodities onwards. On roads that not really are apted to that traffic. On railway systems that are not updated if existing. NIPOD strengthens the development potential of smaller ports, enables a possible growth of employment in the hinterland and seeks green transport solutions.

Central Aim

to improve the market position of small/niche ports
to develop hinterland connection lifting freight from road to rail/Inland waterway
to facilitate common marketing and freight promotion
to give access to IT based transport systems through common purchase

Envisaged Output

A stronger economic support for small ports on the international market and less road based freight transports.

Thematic Keywords:	IT for small ports, marketing, promotion rail/inland waterway
Partners Found Already:	Varberg/Uddevalla/Lysekil/Vänern in Sweden; Brake/Nordenham/Emden in Germany; Northern provinces of Netherlands
Partners Requested:	Small ports from all countries around North Sea, preferably interest or development organisations/associations like Vänerråd -Sweden or the Danish Westcoast Harbours association
Estimated Total Budget:	€5 million
Date:	26-01-2007

3.10 SustAccess 2

Organisation:	**Region Västra Götaland**	
Contact Person:	Dirk Harmsen	
Address:	Norra Hamngatan 14 S-40523 Gothenburg Sweden	tel. +46 317044977 fax: +46 31630970 e-mail: info@sustaccess.org

Project Description

SustAccess deals with the transport of goods and passengers between Hinterland and Gateway. In order to meet future challenges and restrictions, changes of mode are needed more than ever to guarantee a sustainable access to the regions around the North Sea and to reach a decisive reduction of road traffic according the European White book.

SustAccess 2 is a hinterland focused transport umbrella, embracing two relatively autonomous sister projects - one focused on passenger transport, the other on freight - with possibly two separate project leaders. The SustAccess' overflow between the 2 parts is guaranteed by the obligation of one yearly interchange happening to inform each other mutually. This happening can be a conference, an intensive study visit program, or an interchange of expertise. One of the sister projects allows a part of its budget for cross projectal coordination, whilst the other reserves part of its budget for the interchange programmes.

Central Aim

To encourage and implement sustainable transport planning with a Hinterland perspective To elaborate innovative ways to sustainable transport planning flows through ITCTo improve the door-to-door public travel opportunities for passengers To involve stakeholders in public planning

Envisaged Output

- Strengthening the regional competitiveness and changes in transport flows, respectively growth of public transport.
- The creation of a network of transport hubs and dry ports for effective goods flows as well as attractive and smooth passenger door-to-door transport schemes.
- a cross-sect oral transport network for research and logistic support' dissemination of sustainable transport planning to other Interreg regions using the 20 % opening in the Objective 3 programme

Thematic Keywords:	ITC/real time solutions; Dry port & flow axis; alternative fuel use; change of transport mode; smooth door-to-door passenger transport
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	Baltic, freight partners in Belgium; Netherlands & passenger partners in Germany
Estimated Total Budget:	€6,000,000
Date:	19-05-2006

3.11 PERI-FERRY

Organisation:	**Transport Research Institute, Napier University**	
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Project Description

There are many ferry services throughout the North Sea Region which provide essential lifelines to peripheral island and peninsula communities and indeed help to sustain these communities and economies. Many of these ferry services are subsidised, albeit based on quite different central and/or local administrative approaches. In instances where EU law is applicable, state subsidised ferry services are generally subject to competitive tender arrangements. However, it is clear that there is a wide diversity between the tender arrangements and subsidy schemes applied in each state, as well as differences in private and public sector operations themselves. Further differences relate to decision making/scope for flexibility and innovation on the preferences for type and design of ferries employed, the routes selected, port infrastructure, treatment of competing transport services, and ferry service promotion (e.g. tourism market). The ferry industry serving remote peripheral communities still tends to be highly fragmented, and this could be holding back the efficiency and effectiveness of services operated at a very local level, the latter perhaps not subject to industry scale economy advantages (e.g. in terms of human resources, training, ship design and acquisition, marketing, information technology etc.). Fast rising subsidy levels meantime represent an increasing concern for government, as are the not always positive impacts of ferry services with regard to population retention in peripheral locations.

Central Aim

The primary aim of PERI-FERRY is to help improve the level of innovation, accessibility, competitiveness and sustainability of peripheral region ferry services for the benefit of the communities and economies concerned.

Envisaged Output

The outcomes of PERI-FERRY will ensure enhanced learning for all key actors involved in provision, and support of peripheral ferry services. Partners involved will be expected to coordinate user group workshops in their areas, and to have a strong input at the transnational level. Case studies of ferry services in each area will be undertaken, covering all relevant aspects of the operation and management, as well as subsidy schemes, traffic flow analyses etc. Transnational workshops and seminars will provide the forum for presentation and dissemination of results, as well as generating important feedback, and giving an opportunity for B2B interaction. It is expected that a detailed review and understanding of current practice throughout the NSR will enable the partners and key actors involved to then further fine tune and improve the way they organise and operate peripheral ferry services, for the ultimate benefit of the communities and economies served. PERI-FERRY will therefore help to bring about innovative, competitive, highly accessible and sustainable ferry services throughout the NSR region, and provide important learning potential for other EU regions and neighbouring states.

Thematic Keywords:	Competitiveness; innovation; sustainability; accessibility
Partners Found Already:	Napier University; Orkney Islands Council; Shetland Islands Council
Partners Requested:	Local authorities; ports; ferry operators; national governments
Estimated Total Budget:	5,000,000
Date:	30-03-2007

3.16 E-Route Entrepreneurship

Organisation:	**Reach Europe AB**	
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Project Description

The United Nations has decided to extend road E 45 from Gothenburg to Karesuando as this road is of crucial importance for tourism, trade and industry as well as for the overall development in the inland regions in northern Europe. This extension is an important contribution to the E road network in Europe and brings forward a possibilitiy to connect the outermost rural regions in the north to urban areas in central and south Europe, thus addressing the problem with “missings link” between the Nordic Triangle and the transport networks in central/south Europe. This should be seen as an important contribution to the cohesion in Europe. Interfaces causing low compatibility between European/national and regional transpost networks may hamper access to market areas why one must find structres to combine diffrent E-roads with TEN objectives.Having identified this route as a “missing link” in the European transport network this project aims at launching settlements structures along E 45 to enable growth and competitiveness in the region. This will be done by diffusion of innovation and entrepreneurship related to SMEs within the tourism and industry sector.

Central Aim

To transform the “missing link” between Europe’s north and continental transport network to a sustainable and successful investment route by promotion entrepreneurship and innovation along road E 45.

Envisaged Output

- Creating stronger urban/rural partnerships along the route.
- Enhancing the capacity and diffusion of entrepreneurship among SMEs in the tourism sector.
- Facilitating potential investments in the region in order to allow for an intensified route marketing for related businesses and stakeholders.
- Better integration and accessibility to transport networks in rural areas. By visualising this route one can connect isolated and peripheral regions with more central areas (which is in line with the EU cohesion policy). Good connections to bigger transport networks and highly concentrated economic areas will enable possibilities for investments in the region.
- Development of North Sea tourism products by planning and launching of a transnational tourism and investment route.

Thematic Keywords:	Entrepreneurship, innovation, accessibility, tourism, SME
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	25-05-2007

3.17 Bike points

Organisation:	**VZW Mobiel**	
Contact Person:	Gunter de Baerdemaeker	
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Project Description

Facilities such as secure storage of bikes, bike hire and servicing are often available at rail stations and other main transport interchanges across the NSR region. These facilities may be offered by the train operator, but more often are offered independently. They are not usually part of a regional/country wide network. As a consequence it is difficult to get information on the facilities available before arriving at the destination. In the absence of information fewer passengers chose the integrated public transport + bike option. The needs of commuters, students, and tourists vary, and facilities may not be designed to cater for all three categories. The Dutch OV-fiets association is one of few that offers a nationwide integrated package. The project will:-examine the scope for standard categories of 'bike-points'; examine the scope for standard conditions for use e.g. for cycle hire; examine the practicality of inter-available cycle hire, being able to hire a bike in another region without time-consuming rules, via smartcard, transport card, or payment card, using IT booking; explore standard approaches to cycle rescue and repair;explore alternative management models for 'bike-points' including social enterprise, with jobs and training opportunities created; and initiate transnational promotion of 'bike-points' and their services.Pilot projects will be pursued to illustrate:- the advantages of a comprehensive approach to the provision of 'bike-points'; a network of 'bike-points' in partnership with the local/regional transport industry and providers;an effective integration of needs of commuters, students, tourists and business users; and practical issues of integrating information provision and test various ways of using IT and mobile phones in booking, rescue and services.

Central Aim

The project would pave the way for transnational promotion of the bike as the perfect complement to travel by public transport. This will encourage modal shift as well as improve access and reduce the dependency of a car. By exploring a transnational approach paving the way for an NSR-wide and potentially an EU-wide network of 'bike-points', each with a standard offer of facilities, standard conditions of use, and inter-availability of access to make use easy and convenient for visitors. It relates to the Programme objectives of promoting regional accessibility strategies and the development of multi-modal transport corridors.

Envisaged Output

Pilot projects that prove the relevance of EU-wide integration of bikes and public transport. A strategy for EU-wide implementation of 'bike-points' including standard conditions and quality, inter-available cycle hire and other services, and transnational promotion. A best practice guide to implementing the strategy, including alternative business models such as social enterprises. A consequent boost to modal shift, creating sustainable communities, and a boost to employment.

Thematic Keywords:	bike in public transport, integration, EU standard, modal shift
Partners Found Already:	Mobiel, Belgium, OV fiets Netherlands, City of York, UK
Partners Requested:	Regional authorities in Denmark, Sweden, Germany
Estimated Total Budget:	4000000
Date:	25-05-2007

Priority 4 Promoting Sustainable and Competitive Communities

Strong Potential for Submission

4.01 CREST II

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, Sweden

4.02 Developing Innovative Solutions for healThy Independent Living ('DISTIL')

Gemeente (municipality) Heerenveen, The Netherlands

4.03 ERIC - Environmental Retrofit in the City

HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

4.04 Landscape resources as income and job creator

Center for Tourism and Culture Management - Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

4.06 Transforming Rural areas to Competitive Economic regions (TRACER)

Transforming Rural areas to Competetive Economic regions (TRACER), The Netherlands

4.32 Making places profitable

Sheffield City Council / South Yorkshire Forest, United Kingdom

4.50 SASSICA Project (small scale business clusters in coastal areas

Colchester Borough Council, United Kingdom

Work in Progress

4.11 CAPACITY OPTIMISATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (Metro), United Kingdom

4.13 Demographic change, regional consequences and policies

Regio Twente, The Netherlands

4.16 HNVF in peripheral areas

Shetland FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group), United Kingdom

4.17 Landcare: New linkages in managing the natural assets of the rural areas.

Province of Groningen, The Netherlands

4.18 Landscape INTERFACE NSR

Landscape Interface Studio Kingston University London, United Kingdom

4.19 Passive House

Region Västra Götaland, Sweden

4.20 Regional Parcs

Regio Twente, The Netherlands

4.26 vital rural area/vital villagesalternative title: V2V (Vitality to Villages)

NOFA, The Netherlands

4.31 „Best Ager - In the best years“ – The use of potentials and opportunities from an experienced generation for a better economic and social future

REM Consult / CSR consult, Hamburg, Germany

4.33 4C4D Competence, Connectivity, Culture and Creative Industries for regional and local Development

The City of Molndal, Sweden

4.34 Mobility Management

City of Emden, Germany

4.36 SURF: Sustainable URban Fringes

City of Enschede, The Netherlands

4.37 P+R

Västtrafik, Sweden

4.38 Water World International

Province of Fryslân, The Netherlands

4.39 Improving Districts - Together (IDT!)

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg / REM • Consult Hamburg, Germany

4.41Regional Transition Strategies

Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Governement Service for Land and Water Management), The Netherlands

4.47 Canal Link Plus

British Waterways, United kingdom

4.49 Towards a Healthy Outdoor Economy (THOE)

Province of Fryslan, The Netherlands

4.51 BACARDI - Balanced City and Airport Development Initiative

UNICONSULT Universal Transport Consulting GmbH (in cooperation with the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), Germany

4.52 Inspiring New Schemes and Projects in Rural Environments (INSPIRE)

Peak District National Park Authority, United Kingdom

4.57 Attractive Sustainable Communities

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, United Kingdom

4.58 New “Glocal” Food – local origin and global market

Øresund Food Network, Denmark

4.59 STEAM

Waterboard Regge & Dinkel, The Netherlands

4.60 Prevention of light pollution

West-Vlaamse Intercommunale, Belgium

Strong Potential for Submission

4.01 CREST II

Organisation:	**County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland**	
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Project Description

The nature of CREST is to develop sustainable tourism solutions that will continue beyond the life of the project and be applicable to a wide range of different communities around the North Sea. Follow up actions within the frames of CREST II will therefore include lobbying at local, regional and national levels regarding the implementation of policy recommendations.

CREST II will encourage the work of implementation of good practice tourism. The needs identified in the CREST project will be transformed to implementation in CREST II. CREST II will implement, and if needed refine the tools developed by CREST in a wider transnational context. CREST II will promote and give informative support regarding the toolkit in a local, regional and national level. The developed guidelines with suggested actions will be promoted to a wider audience. Communication activities and media strategy is an important part of the project.

Regardless, it is anticipated that the partnership in CREST, in one way or another, will continue in CREST II, due to the value of the established relationships formed and the added value obtained through its continuation, particularly in terms of good practice dissemination. Implementation of the project results will be expected to be carried out by a combination of private sector organisations, businesses and local authorities or similar organisations, dependent upon the action concerned.

Central Aim

The aim of CREST II is disseminate knowledge about sustainable tourism destinations in the North Sea region to a wider audience. CREST II will implement the guidelines for good practice tourism and address the economical, social and ecological issues in an transnational context.

Envisaged Output

CREST II will focus on lobbying at local, regional and national levels regarding the implementation of policy recommendations. Sustainable tourism solutions and examples of good practice tourism will be applicable to a wide range of different communities around the North Sea.

Thematic Keywords:	sustainability, tourism, destination, guidelines, implementation
Partners Found Already:	Sweden – Koster Island (tbd)Denmark – Læsø Island (tbd)Norway – Hvaler Island (tbd)UK – Whitby (tbd)UK – Orkney Island (tbd)Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation (tbd)
Partners Requested:	Organisations with aim to implement sustainable tourism in coastal management. Partners in national, regional and local level.
Estimated Total Budget:	€1,000,000
Date:	30-01-2007

4.02 Developing Innovative Solutions for healThy Independent Living ('DISTIL')

Organisation:	**Gemeente (municipality) Heerenveen**	
Contact Person:	Simon Waley	
Address:	Crackstraat 2 NL-8440 GA Heerenveen The Netherlands	tel. +31 513 617 426 e-mail: s.waley@heerenveen.nl

Project Description

The project will bring together and 'interconnect' expertise in the field of improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Four aspects will be included:
- bringing together activities and knowledge concerned with prevention of illness- developing a centre concentrating activities concerned with stimulating healthy living
- developing services, products and concepts helping people to live longer independently
- developing, bringing together and making accessible knowledge and expertise in the field of people-oriented healthcare technology including telehealth, domotica, home adaptations and ergonomic solutions.

For all four aspects, added value through the potential for synergy will be central. The project is aimed at both the service provider organisations and the end users, the 'general population'. Service providers are having to adapt fast to their new role in increasingly competitive conditions while within the general population the increasing number of (very) elderly requires affordable solutions to an independent and fulfilling lifestyle. These developments also bring with them new economic opportunities in terms of employment and in the development of innovative, new products and services. Within each partner region there will be a variety of organisations concerned with care/healthcare/wellness/housing etc. involved. The project will enable them to work transnationally to develop solutions of generic applicability and to develop best practice guidelines.

Central Aim

To stimulate joint working between providers of services designed to improve people's health and wellbeing. The project will set up 'platforms' in which the range of organisations involved will work together to develop sustainable solutions to the health and wellbeing of today's but able all tomorrow's population with increasing numbers of the elderly living independently in their own homes but ales other generations seeking a healthy(ier) lifestyle. The project will develop new products and services but also look at their most effective delivery. For example, in this region a 'health boulevard' has been established and the project will aim to maximise the potential for synergy which this brings with it, including the education and training aspects. The project also aims to examine the potential for remote/ICT delivery of services based on telehealth and domotica.

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	healthy independent living / lifestyle, synergy
Partners Found Already:	within own region: major health insurance company, home help organisation, housing corporation, Further Education College, the provincial authority, Health Boulevard company
Partners Requested:	similar types of 'package' of organisations in other partner regions
Estimated Total Budget:	€2,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

4.03 ERIC - Environmental Retrofit in the City

Organisation:	**HafenCity University Hamburg**	
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Project Description

Achieving a high level of urban sustainability in the North Sea Region (NSR) requires looking beyond innovation in new construction and tapping the more challenging resource conserving potential of the existing building stock. The urban centers of the NSR harbour enormous potential for efficiency gains in energy, water and raw materials through integrated implementation of techniques that, among others, include: policy reform, demand management strategies, recovery of brownfield land, decentralised heat and power production, insulation retrofitting, wastewater source separation, wastewater energy harvesting and decentralised pretreatment. Barriers to implementation of these approaches are often institutional, political or due to the lack of a cooperative framework. Environmental Retrofit in the City (ERIC) is a project designed to tackle these barriers and devise strategies for the implementation of practical plans for realising the full resource efficiency potential of existing urban communities. Instead of attempting to address entire urban regions, ERIC will focus its efforts at the more manageable neighbourhood level, engaging a defined urban area in development and implementation of an environmental retrofit strategy. Through development of a project network including local stakeholders, local authorities, regional authorities, research institutions and relevant SME's, ERIC will generate real world lessons, local experience, interregional knowledge exchange and significantly raise the profile of untapped resource efficiency potential in the existing urban environment. Participating urban areas will act as demonstrative areas and actively promote their efforts in surrounding regions and invite relevant NSR actors to observe the process and outcomes. The ERIC project will also solicit the partnership of complementary projects focused on urban sustainability issues. Benefits for participating urban quarters include cleaner, more liveable neighbourhoods, operational cost reductions for authorities, businesses and residents, reduced vulnerability to supply resource interruptions (energy disputes, droughts, blackouts etc.), and reduction of the urban ecological footprint.

Central Aim

(a) Generate technical strategies for the environmental retrofit of existing building compounds of various types and eras, (b) generate strategies for coping with regulatory/administrative obstacles to implementing integrated neighbourhood scale environmental retrofitting, (c) generate practical methodologies for developing and implementing environmental retrofits, (d) demonstrate and publicise real world examples of environmental retrofit in the city.

Envisaged Output

(a) Successful demonstration environmental retrofits in two or more city districts in the NSR, exploiting the maximum feasible potential for environmental and resource efficiency improvement, (b) three or more environmental retrofit strategies (including the two implemented) for NSR city districts, (c) demonstration of innovative technical and policy/administrative measures that further the goals of the ERIC project, (d) comprehensive publicity, dissemination and project demonstration tours.

Thematic Keywords:	Resource Efficiency in Buildings, Sustainable Building Technology, District Revitalisation
Partners Found Already:	(1) HSE (Hamburger Stadtentwässerung), the Hamburg Wastewater Management Company (contact person Dr.-Ing. Hans-Otto Weusthoff)(2) BSU (Behörde für Stadtentwicklung and Umwelt), Hamburg City-State's Dept. for Urban Development and Environment
Partners Requested:	City administrations, municipal energy/ water / wastewater utilities, regional urban authorities, relevant SMEs, research organisations, city district organisations, resident associations, business associations, construction contractors and urban oriented
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

4.04 Landscape resources as income and job creator

Organisation:	**Center for Tourism and Culture Management - Copenhagen Business School**	
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Project Description

Globalisation implies a new and more pronounced labour division. As a consequence a transformation the rural production is needed if a depopulation of the rural areas shall be avoided. The goal of the project is though research and cooperation to activate landscape resources and nature by creating new marked products by the use of experience economy. The project will contribute to the development of new job- and profit creating products and offerings based on nature resources like Forest areas, Lake Districts, Rivers etc.
The reasons why the project is relevant is the ongoing process of depopulation and the decline in job creating industries in the rural areas. The higher efficiency of the agricultural industry has resulted in fewer jobs and unemployment in the rural areas.
The challenge is to develop market goods in relation to free goods like nature and open green spaces.
As a parallel development it is interesting to notice the transformation of many harbours and industrial areas in total new and creative ways.
The idea of this project is to consider how woodlands and extensive farm areas that no longer are profitable as resources for the primary sector production can be refined and reused in new creative and sustainable ways. The project will seek to identify the options that exist for making supplementary and experience based products what will generate a new economy in rural areas. The goal is by research and cooperation to qualify the product development in this field by applying the opportunities which the experience economy offers.
The experience economy gives the options of offering products which are based on the resources of the landscape and nature such as tourism, events, retreats, educational offerings, niche production, art etc. Offerings that include values like authenticity, storytelling, experiences, services, and aesthetics etc. can be sold at a much higher price than the industrialised products. Ways to attain a new sustainable economy in the rural areas are by developing multiple products that customers are willing to pay for in a degree which makes the basis for jobs and future investments.

Central Aim

The projects central aim is create sustainable options to avoid the depopulation of rural areas and to create new job and income opportunities.

Envisaged Output

The envisaged outcomes of the project will be the creation of new jobs and also cross North Sea learning on new utilization of landscape resources.

Thematic Keywords:	Activating landscape resources by using experience economy
Partners Found Already:	No
Partners Requested:	We are seeking cooperation partners interested in the same topic and villing to comparative studies.
Estimated Total Budget:	to be defined
Date:	19-05-2006

4.06 Transforming Rural areas to Competitive Economic regions (TRACER)

Organisation:	**Transforming Rural areas to Competetive Economic regions (TRACER)**	
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Project Description

To deal with depopulation, population change and loss of economic activities TRACER will deliver an effective strategy and best practices for low dynamic rural areas to transform towards strong, competitive regions. The project will focus on identifying opportunities to tackle issues like out migration of youth's, ageing population and opportunities to boost the economic development and innovation capacity of the rural areas. Among others, realizing urban-rural cooperation, strengthening innovative capacities of businesses and local actors and improving network cooperation between actors will be important solutions to deal with the changes facing the rural areas.

Specific knowledge questions we want to answer are:
• How can we realize new economic activities/functions in old historical buildings? What kind of measures are effective, needed and will lead to an effective approach? What are innovative financial arrangements to achieve this?
• What are effective measures and strategies on housing, healthcare, transport and service and energy provision to keep the villages economically vital and sustainable, in a context of depopulation?
•What are effective measures and strategies to preserve SME's in villages and make them more innovative and let them contribute to the aims and requirements of the 'knowledge economy'?
• What are effective measures and strategies to realize more economic activities/firms based on and making use of historic (including industrial heritage and cultural traditions) and natural cultural heritage qualities?

Part of the project is to implement innovative pilot projects related to these knowledge questions and opportunities identified such as:
• new economic alternatives for farmers and new economic functions in old cultural historic buildings and within high value natural cultural landscapes;
• strengthening entrepreneurship, stimulate people to set up new businesses and making micro-businesses/SME's more innovative;
• new ways of service provision and access to services; setup healthcare projects as economic activity;
• realizing energy, heat and water efficient villages, collaborating with farmers;
• using 'clean dredging sludge' to create new attractive housing areas and restore cultural historical elements;

From this will emerge lessons which we will work out in a guidance book (with best practices, structural approaches, policies and strategies) how to let rural areas make the transition to transform into competitive, innovative regions. We will also implement in each partner region concrete projects based on economic development plans which contribute to the same aim but will be financed by the regions themselves and additional European Funds not being Objective three funds.

Central Aim

To develop and implement innovative concepts, strategies, measures and pilot projects to enable low dynamic rural areas make the transformation towards strong, competitive regions.

Envisaged Output

Outcomes are envisaged both on a process level as on a content level: - implemented pilot projects in the partner regions - improved public private cooperation in the partner regions - development strategy which explains (based on the projects experience in partner regions) best practices to realize the transformation process. Additional capacity will be created with new local mentors for community enterprise and business development. The approach will also deliver building blocks for renewal of (national) policies for rural areas

Thematic Keywords:	Low dynamics; population changes as opportunity; public-private cooperation; implementation pilots; slowness as strength; regional competitiveness
Partners Found Already:	Groningen (NL); Northumberland (UK), Deventer (NL) and Värmland (SWE); West Flanders (Belgium)

Partners Requested:	Germany and Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	€6,000,000
Date:	26-01-2007

4.32 Making places profitable

Organisation:	**Sheffield City Council / South Yorkshire Forest**	
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Project Description

The delivery of sustainable communities demands a long-term commitment to maintain high-quality places and to manage the right balance of legitimate activities, not just providing the right mix of physical development ('place-making'). 'Making Places Profitable' therefore introduces the concept of 'place-keeping', and its delivery through partnerships. It will apply the proven approach of mainstreaming best practice across the North Sea Region (NSR) in order to tackle the problem of maintaining the positive impact of concrete actions, in perpetuity.

Why?
A key challenge facing urban and rural communities throughout NSR is to offer a high quality of life, in order to attract highly skilled employees in the global knowledge economy. This is a concern shared by areas facing decline, and those struggling to cope with rapid growth and expansion. As a result, regional economic strategies commonly include work to enhance and 'sell' overall attractiveness to investors, accompanied by attempts to improve the public realm and cultural offer.Through its Structural and Cohesion Funds programmes, Europe has made great progress with the 'building' regeneration agenda. However, it could be argued that less satisfactory progress has been made towards the longer-term aspects of regeneration, including physical management, capacity building and stewardship. In particular, public-private-partnerships (PPPs) for environmental maintenance and true 'community-led' initiatives are notable in their absence across many regions. What examples show how private enterprise and communities can come together to kick-start and maintain the regeneration process, leading to the creation of jobs and growth?

Central Aim

Making Places Profitable aims to demonstrate how the positive socio-economic impacts of investing in physical, public realm improvements can be maintained in the long run ('place-keeping') by implementing innovative partnership approaches and new service delivery models, involving local businesses, communities and the public sector.

Envisaged Output

1. Review of innovative models for 'place-keeping', examining a wide range of different models for long-term management (proposal development and initial scoping phase). Innovation in this respect might involve social entrepreneurialism and community-led regeneration, public sector delivery or other models as well as PPPs. This work would build on existing evidence of the links between city-region competitiveness, liveability and environmental quality.
2. Development of transferable good practice in place-keeping (efficient long-term management). This will involve identifying successful models, and analysing which structures and approaches work well in different settings. Scenarios would then be prepared to demonstrate where partnerships or single organisation delivery approaches are more/less likely to succeed, along with demonstrable advantages (e.g. public sector access to private sector skills, risks in procurement, efficiency of integrated approaches to design, construction, management and finance).
3. Production of model agreements for the establishment and implementation of place-keeping partnerships, covering such practical issues as procurement, contracting funding, tenure, troubleshooting, monitoring and evaluation.
4. Concrete actions applying and testing best practice for the long term management of physical spaces, involving real-time evaluations of cost-effectiveness and pre-defined socio-economic outcomes. Investments would be targeted towards market failure areas, and could include a wide range of physical interventions such as public realm enhancements, business districts landscaping, new greenspaces, flood risk management measures and riverside walkways. Their common features would be: (a) design and delivery through partnerships/engagement between communities, enterprise and the public sector; and (b) the integration of cost effective place-keeping structures or measures (ensuring durability beyond the life of the project).
5. Development of policies and strategies for sustainable communities at the local, regional, national and transnational levels. Influencing work would be supported by joint action to assess the impacts on the regeneration process in NSR of Corporate Social Responsibility, new governance models and public

participation.
6. Practical demonstration of the transition of responsibility for stewardship from the public sector to local people and businesses. Does this response engender a sense of pride? When we change places with communities, can this inspire confidence and help lift aspirations as well as achieving physical impacts? Regeneration schemes usually tend to anticipate the needs of a wide range of potential users (the public, business enterprises) rather than involving them in the process of planning and implementation. The 'Making Places Profitable' approach aims to reduce the danger of making inaccurate assumptions and second-guessing by professionals.

Thematic Keywords:	Sustainable communities, management, public space
Partners Found Already:	South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, Sheffield City Council and University of Sheffield
Partners Requested:	Potential partners are sought in Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, and could be local authorities, development or investment agencies, private sector enterprises and research institutions such as universities.
Estimated Total Budget:	7 million
Date:	25-05-2007

4.50 SASSICA Project (small scale business clusters in coastal areas

Organisation:	**Colchester Borough Council**	
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Project Description

Maritime heritage has been identified as a unique and common bond between the people living in the North Sea Region. The SASSICA Project, located in the field of maritime heritage, seeks to enhance the quality of the environment, and help the development of dynamic and successful communities by promoting both business and supporting maritime heritage which is recognised as being under threat from a number of quarters. The project will undertake this at a primary level by encouraging and sponsoring both business clusters within coastal regions and developing skills based training programmes. The former will follow sustainable development principles, including energy efficiency, and the latter will be underpinned by an analysis of employment and labour market trends. The clusters will be used as models of good practice to assist maritime heritage business operators in developing their business skills. The manifestation of maritime heritage will be used to promote locations for contemporary businesses, help provide a suitable workforce, and make more attractive space in which to live and work. The projects transnational focus will, in addition to the modelling of business clusters, focus on the exchange of specific skills that have been lost in partner locations. It will also develop up to date training methods suitable for contemporary markets. Innovative methods of sharing training through the use of ICT will enable, initially partners, and then the general public to access to this information. A sound and tested methodology has been established within the framework of previous and current Interreg Programmes, and we plan to involve local, regional and national strands of government in developing our ideas and achieving project aims. A travelling exhibition will visit all partner countries, linking business clusters, heritage operators and local and regional government. Additionally will be achieved by involving arts, culture and tourism in some of these events. Whilst based in Priority 4, the SASSICA Project seeks to create strong links with other projects working in the other Priority areas. We seek to develop transnational and multidimensional partnership approaches between businesses, SMEs and universities seeking conditions for sustainable economic development.

Central Aim

Regenerate areas of redundant maritime heritage by promoting small scale business clusters with a focus on the sustainable creation of employment. This will actively be supported by developing training skills both vital to the promotion of maritime heritage and of high value to other businesses. The project will also aim to utilise the transnational element of the project to enhance the training opportunity, share knowledge and solution management, create an information base on employment and the labour market as the basis for strategy development and monitoring, and create a broad based connectivity between the partner sites.

Envisaged Output

1) Plans for development of Business Clusters will be produced for all partner locations.
2) Business clusters will be established in some project partner sites. These will be used as exemplars for the business community, maritime heritage operators, local and regional government.
3) Training facilities and courses will be developed in some partner sites, with a focus on the transnational sharing of expertise and raising employment opportunity.
4) An ICT skills toolkit demonstration package will be developed, recording and sharing skills so that they can be used across the partnership and within a wider audience in the North Sea Region.
5) Exchange of learning expertise will be developed. “Training by doing,” not just an educational and skills issue but also enhancing tourist and community involvement; as restoration and boat building are attractors.
6) Creation and development of attractive maritime heritage sites and objects in which communities are encouraged to feel ownership and pride and which enhance locations making them more attractive to the establishment of businesses. Involvement at all levels of government, leading to exemplars of good practice.
7) There will be improved employment and learning opportunities providing equal opportunities within partnership locations, guided by knowledge of the particular employment and labour market characteristics of coastal regions
8) Documentation produced detailing good practice.
9) Broad networks of associated business and political groups established with a framework and achievements to outlive the project.
10) SASSICA Expo, a travelling show by road and sea visiting all partner countries with a focus on jobs,

business, heritage, arts, culture, tourism and political networking.

Thematic Keywords:	Maritime, heritage, business, skills, community
Partners Found Already:	Colchester, Waveney, Dundee. Emden, Vlissingen, Oostende, Hamburg, Provincie Oost Vlaanderen, Excelsior Trust, SIEDH, West-Vlaamse Intercommunale
Partners Requested:	Any who are able to add to, or promote our objectives
Estimated Total Budget:	5-6m
Date:	30-05-2007

Work in Progress

4.11 CAPACITY OPTIMISATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation:	**West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (Metro)**	
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Project Description

High quality passenger transport is fundamental to achieving connectivity within and between urban areas and their rural hinterlands to support economic growth and provide the means by which the people of the North Sea Region (NSR) will access employment and training opportunities. Increasing the role and use of public transport can also help offset the potentially damaging environmental impacts of economic growth and contribute to attractive, competitive places which will attract further investment. The organisation of passenger transport differs across the NSR members states from free market competition to franchise arrangements. An area of commonality is that local political administrations are responsible for the funding and coordination of some, if not all, of the passenger transport network. This can involve difficult decisions regarding the use of limited financial resources in pursuit of a range of policy objectives such as managing costs, maximising patronage, improving social cohesion and accessibility, encouraging modal transfer and reducing transport emission levels. Political administrations are also responsible for the integration of transport planning with spatial planning in the pursuit of higher level economic, social and environmental objectives. This project seeks to inform the financial, policy and legislative context for realising high quality, fit for purpose, passenger transport and at the same time deliver concrete outputs that support the planning of the most optimum public transport networks.

Central Aim

The central aim is to explore the optimal approach in the NSR to the specification, evaluation and performance of passenger transport networks in urban areas and their rural hinterlands. The project will address:

- all aspects of local passenger transport networks including bus, tram, rail, light rail
- geographic areas of decline and the transport needs of disadvantaged communities
- challenges faced by expanding areas with growing traffic congestion and environmental impacts
- demographic change
- urban-rural and City-region relationships

The project will use trans-national co-operation to understand common problems and different administrative and legislative contexts and procurement regimes. The project will be informed by investigations and pilot actions to produce the following outputs:

a) Economic impact: patronage including modal split, revenue from charging mechanisms and ticketing, funding requirement, network design, interchange with car, bicycle etc
b) Accessibility standards for employment, but also education & training, health, leisure
c) Environmental impact: changes in emission levels
d) Marketing, promotion and information: targeted strategy based on geo-demographic and lifestyle analysis to ensure the travelling public fully understands and utilises passenger transport.
e) Evaluation of case studies: to determine how lessons learnt can be applied transnationally
f) Spatial planning and regeneration: to address the interaction of passenger transport planning with large scale spatial and investment planning
h) Investigation of organisational structures for more effective delivery e.g. City Regions
i) Linkage with previous / current Interreg and other projects

Envisaged Output

The project will deliver a concrete legacy in the development of:
1. Definition of transport, social, environmental and economic objectives of stakeholders
2. A common product: Specific analytical software, to evaluate effectiveness in delivering social, environmental and value for money objectives in planning passenger transport networks
3. A common competence: Providing a menu of approaches for the specification and evaluation of passenger transport networks, including investment decisions in networks/infrastructure/marketing
4. A communications and lobbying strategy to guide policy at local, regional, national and EU level

Thematic Keywords: Capacity improvements, Technical innovation, Evidence

Partners Found Already:	Possible partners: Vasttrafik (Goteborg region Passenger Transport Authority, Sweden), Hamburg, Emden (Germany), Odense (Denmark), Nexus (Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority, UK)
Partners Requested:	Transport Planning Authorities, Passenger Transport Authorities, passenger transport operators
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	31-05-2007

4.13 Demographic change, regional consequences and policies

Organisation:	**Regio Twente**	
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Project Description

All developed countries, sooner or later, will have to deal with processes of demographic change (decreasing number of inhabitants, shrinking labour force, diminishing number of young people, ageing, etc.). Demographic change is foremost a result of low birth rates, which are a direct consequence of cultural and socio-economic changes, as growing prosperity, emancipation of women, secularisation, etc. Many regions in Europe already have to deal with this relatively new phenomenon of structural demographic shrinkage.Though in itself population shrinkage is not a problem most northwestern European regions are at the moment not ready to cope with this changing perspective. Policymakers and politicians are usually still working within an old paradigm of continuous growth, leading to misplaced policies and measures, for e.g. competing housing- and labour markets. On a transregional or even European scale this causes overinvestment and spill of scarce resources. The big challenge is to change the paradigm of growth and quantity towards a new paradigm of sustainability and quality.The following activities will be part of the project:1. detailed analysis of regional data on demographic change in both qualitative (labour force, ageing, migration) and quantative terms.2. find out, debate and evaluate the effects of demographic change for the social, economic and spatial conditions in different regions in the Nortsea area. 3. develop and implement new policies, instruments and strategies to cope with these effects.

Central Aim

To improve acknowledgement of policymakers and private organisations of changing demographic circumstances and the consequences for the labour force and economy, the health sector, facilities and services, liveability, the housing market, mobility and education. To ensure that regions in the EU are ready to cope with their new demographic future. This means both dealing with the negative effects of demographic change (decline) and, at the same time, taking advantage of the chances offered by demographic change.

Envisaged Output

Transnational cooperation will contribute to the exchange of knowledge of:- ideas for running the process addressing demographic change;- how to handle a theme which deals with a huge diversity of policy fields, from healthcare to housing, from labour market to liveability;- the possible consequences demographic changes have for a region;- (test) strategies that can be developed to handle these consequences;- innovative pilot and demonstration projects to tackle issues that arise by demographic change.Transnational cooperation hopefully leads to a toolkit, which allows regions to deal with shrinkage in a smart and balanced way. Demographic changes are inevitable for many regions in Europe. Cooperation on a transnational level will contribute to the acceptance of this fact and it might serve as a trigger: most regions in Europe are already dealing with the consequences of a shrinking and changing population. Other regions may be afraid to fall behind and this positively influences agenda-setting and awareness (‘we are not unique, let’s accept, learn form each other and work on it’ instead of ‘please keep quiet that our population might shrink, let’s fight against it'). Last but not least, transnational cooperation can be the start of mutual European adjustment in policy answers to demographic shrinkage. Regions will be challenged to compete for inhabitants, especially for the high-educated part of the population. As competition as such can have positive influences, a battle for people with all developed regions in Europe involved without an overall European strategy, might lead to huge spilled efforts (not to forget the competition with Asia, America, Australia, etc.). Moreover, this will lead to some ‘winners’, but foremost to ‘losers’. First ‘losers’ in this so-called battle will be the nowadays already less attractive and peripheral regions.

Thematic Keywords:	demographic analysis, labour force, health care, toolkit, sustainable policies, pilot projects
Partners Found Already:	Province of West-Flanders (BEL), Kommunalverband Niedersachsen/Bremen (GER), Metropolitan region of Hamburg (GER), Lawaetz Stiftung (GER), Kristiansand Kommune (NOR) Parkstad Limburg (NL), Oost-Groningen (NL)
Partners Requested:	Regions from UK and Sweden
Estimated Total Budget:	4000000,00

Date: 16-05-2006

4.16 HNVF in peripheral areas

Organisation:	**Shetland FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)**	
Contact Person:	Sue White	
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Project Description

Defining High nature value farming (HNVF) for the environment and communities in peripheral areas. HNVF is a new concept worthy of consideration for environmental and rural development objectives in regions that can never support sustainable agricultural systems within a global scale, but which have a huge wealth natural and cultural resources. Investigate possibility of defining HNVF as a new support mechanism which might offer a more socially acceptable method of paying for public goods in marginal areas

Central Aim

Explore environmental, economic and social criteria for HNVF and investigate whether HNVF might become the vehicle for delivering long term support to naturally handicapped rural agricultural communities.

Envisaged Output

Workable definition of HNVF. Environmental and social/ economic data from HNVF regions involved. Network of HNVF regions working towards sustainable rural development in the context of HNVF. Political recommendations for use of HNVF concept as a means of paying for public goods in marginal rural areas.

Thematic Keywords: High Nature Value Farming

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested: 5

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 05-06-2006

4.17 Landcare: New linkages in managing the natural assets of the rural areas.

Organisation:	**Province of Groningen**	
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Project Description

The natural and cultural assets of the rural area around the North Sea are one the main capital goods. These aspects make areas attractive for tourism and for settlement of the well-to-do "grey" population which is a growing group everywhere. This is especially important in areas with low dynamics where there exists little economic opportunities and there is a risk of migration towards the more dynamic areas. Until now, farmers are one of the most important managers of the rural landscape. They also play an important role in nature development. However with changing EU agricultural politics, farmers go through a difficult time and many do not continue. The disappearance of farmers might provoke a deterioration of one of the capital goods. We should promote new linkages in the rural areas with e.g.. the new population or the urban centres to interest them for nature management and we should promote opportunities for farmers to get an alternative income from nature and landscape. We will support farmers organisations to professionalize and support them to build links with community organisations to sustain nature and landscape

Central Aim

Encourage new forms of management of the natural assets of the rural areas of the North Sea countries by community involvement and enhancement of the knowledge base and skills of farmers in order to maintain the environmental resources as a base for long term social and economical viable rural communities. Besides learning from each partner, much attention will be given to the transnational exchange of experiences of farmer groups which should result in recommendations for other areas and farmer groups

Envisaged Output

- improved farmers organisations
- improved linkages between farmers and community organisations
- enhancement of the natural assets of the region of the pilot projects- a more sustainable basis for viable communities

Thematic Keywords:	innovative public involvement, building linkages in rural areas, new roles and professional organisations for farmers producing nature and landscape, sustainable land management,
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	all other north sea partners
Estimated Total Budget:	€5,000,000
Date:	23-05-2006

4.18 Landscape INTERFACE NSR

Organisation:	**Landscape Interface Studio Kingston University London**	
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Project Description

Landscape INTERFACE NSR is about promoting interaction between people and the environment, at social scales from the individual to communities. and at physical scales ranging from immediate public space to administrative regions, urban and rural, topographic, ecological, catchment areas and navigation routes in the North Sea region including infrastructures at the regional, national and transnational scales.

The project is about empowering individuals, agencies and communities (through new transnational relationships) to generate ideas and action to maximise the value and potential of distinctive public space and environments, and exercise the power of this action to generate, regenerate and sustain vibrant and competitive communities.

The Landscape INTERFACE NSR project will be piloted in a range of sample conditions at a range of scales across local and national boundaries,. working with individuals and communities to build and reinforce local knowledge and skills and define methodologies for sustaining dynamic environments.

Potentials will be exposed and refined through preparatory reconnaissance and on-site interactive workshops in a rolling programme of diverse and inclusive events in the public realm in partner urban, peripheral and rural locations in the North Sea region..

Central Aim

Landscape INTERFACE NSR aims to test and activate a dynamic process of interaction between individuals, communities and their environments that can be set on course to realise sustainable distinction and viability in a range of sample conditions at different scales in (and perhaps beyond) the North Sea region. The project aims to define a working process for wide communication and application.

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	people environment interface process communication
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	to be identified
Estimated Total Budget:	to be calculated
Date:	24-01-2007

4.19 Passive House

Organisation:	**Region Västra Götaland**	
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Project Description

Increased energy efficiency can reduce Europe's dependency on imported fossil fuels and is essential if we really want to create a sustainable energy system. The potential for energy savings is particularly high in the housing and building sector; Swedish research shows that the energy demand can be reduced with at least 50 % in this sector. Such a reduction would immediately have a positive impact on the climate change. The passive house concept is one of the most promising ways to reduce the energy demand in the construction sector. Passive houses have good indoor climate, use simple techniques and are cost efficient. Austria and Germany are the largest passive house markets in Europe, with small but emerging markets in the counties around the North Sea. The Region of Västra Götaland actively supports the different actors on the regional passive house market and established a regional passive house centre from where support and information is given to local companies, focussing on regional networks and new demonstration projects. The Region feels it as a responsibility that an authority should take and wants to work actively to engage similar authorities in the North Sea Region. One oft the major hinders for a faster growing passive house market is lack of knowledge among builders, entrepreneurs and architects. Since the passive house markets in the North Sea region still are very small and weak, transnational collaboration could stimulate the passive house concept. Main challenge is to transform this concept to the climate conditions in the North Sea countries and to adapt the principles to the North European building tradition that differs from the Central European countries. Second challenge is to imply the principles not only on new houses, but also on refitting existing houses and buildings to the standards of the passive house tradition. Thirdly, regional and local authorities can influence and change towards more energy efficiency when planning for new schools, hospitals, stations or other public buildings.The thought is to involve over-regional bodies (like the East of Scotland) with the expectation to reach out on the widest level - many educational and research institutes work already over-regional and with the intention to establish a large variation of pilot projects in the regions involved. One county/Landkreis/province could concentrate on new passive houses, yet another on refitting and a third on a school. All would benefit of a solid monitoring programme, supported and realised on the overarching level.The passive house project supports - Exchange of experience and expertise (study tours, workshops, seminars, experts etc) - A common North Sea standard/definition of passive houses that incorporates the North Sea climate conditions - Demonstration and evaluation of different types of passive houses - Local building exhibitions - Education/information programs - Incitement programs for architects and entrepreneurs-Technique and design competitions-Research and monitoring schemes. Contacts are established with already existing information and promotion networks and in close cooperation with these networks a solid pilot project will be developed in the North Sea Region that leads to spread the passive house concept in policy and practice.

Central Aim

To adapt and transform the Central European passive houses principles to the specific climate conditions in the countries around the North Sea and to the specific Northern European building techniques. To showcase and demonstrate passive house concept in the different sectors of the housing and building market in close cooperation between the private and public sector. To involve and influence education and research. To strengthen and to enlarge the market for passive houses and related energy efficient construction techniques.

Envisaged Output

Main output is a substantial growth of realised passive houses and public buildings in the participating countries that lead to an increased demand and supply of passive houses and similar energy efficient building techniques. Main output is also to make a large step forward in the refitting of exiting houses/ buildings following passive house standards. A policy change is expected where the energy efficiency becomes visible in regional and local housing regulations. A higher awareness is expected amongst architects, firms and entrepreneurs in the construction sector of the possibilities and cost effectiveness of passive houses. Economic development due to growth in and export from companies producing passive house components and of knowledge needed to build energy efficient houses and building.

Thematic Keywords: energy saving, housing and public buildings, passive house concept, fossile fuels reduction, sustainable energy system

Partners Found Already:	East of Scotland, East of England, Northern provinces in the Netherlands, Schleswig Holstein, Hamburg and Bremen in Germany, Region Värmland and Västra Götaland in Sweden
Partners Requested:	Over-regional entities from remaining countries around the North sea as well as interested ones in all countries. Organisations aiming at reducing the energy demand in the building sector like regional and local authorities, knowledge and education centre
Estimated Total Budget:	5,500,000
Date:	27-05-2007

4.20 Regional Parcs

Organisation:	**Regio Twente**	
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Project Description

The cultural landscape of urbanised areas in Europe are in many ways unique selling points. The accessibility however of this landscape in the urban surroundings is diminishing. Highways, industrial areas, housing areas are huge barriers. This is especially the case in the urbanised areas of the North Western Europe. Meanwhile the need for recreation, space and quietness is growing rapidly.

The 'Regional Park' is a strategy to make the urban and rural areas complementary. Besides the enhancement of spatial quality, it's goal is to stimulate the development of new economic activities by improving the quality of recreation and branding the region. Urban and rural development, landscape protection and recreational connectivity are integrated in this concept.

Note: In Twente the Regional Park project is part of the Regional Spatial Planning Strategy.

Central Aim

The central aim is to design a Regional Park in which the landscape 'carries' the rural and urban land use functions. This Park enhances connectivity between the urban areas and the surrounding countryside (and vice versa) and will improve the recreational qualities of the region. Old and new cultural elements will be designed as recreational 'junctions'. Local initiatives will be intercalated in this Regional Park program.

Envisaged Output

- the development of a Regional Park concept (exchange ideas and concepts)
- the implementation of this concept into a program (learn from each other strategies)
- initiation of local initiatives that bottom-up will shape the Regional Park (incl. involvement of stakeholders)

(exchange knowledge how to address, involve and facilitate stakeholders as well as bottom
-up initiatives)
To summarise: the transnational cooperation will enhance knowledge how to reach these envisaged outcomes of the project.

Thematic Keywords:	regional park; urban-rural connectivity; recreation; landscape protection; cultural heritage
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	regional goverments and other organisations working on regional parc concepts
Estimated Total Budget:	€1,000,000 (+/- 6 to 8 projects)
Date:	29-01-2007

4.26 vital rural area/vital villagesalternative title: V2V (Vitality to Villages)

Organisation:	**NOFA**	
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Project Description

To achieve sustainable development of the North Sea Region, the economical, educational and cultural reinforcement of the - often vast - rural areas, viz. the villages, the countryside and the regional towns, is an issue of particular interest. An innovative and creative approach based on co-operation between local, regional and national authorities, the business community, the educational field and the citizens is necessary.The project vital rural area/vital villages will be organised on the basis of a number of interconnected and interlinked work packages, e.g.:
work package 1) how to initiate transnational development of an active and innovative co-operation between local, regional and national levels of government, taking into account the differences in national laws, (administrative) culture and local/regional circumstances in the participating countries (co-operative agreement approach);
work package 2) how to support, promote and strengthen the attractiveness and the attractive environments of rural regions in a practical way, e.g. by a target-group-related and content-oriented integral regional marketing strategy aimed at for instance talented young families, midlife career changers, active retirees, clean and sustainable sme's, and tourists;
work package 3a) how to stimulate, support and encourage local and regional sme's to set up new commercial activities, using, for instance, the results of national and international (scientific) research, preferably in co-operation with the local and regional field of education;
work package 3b) how to foster existing teaching and training activities in rural regions, and to stimulate schools to set up new courses in modern technology, e.g., the use, operation and control of ICT applications, preferably in co-operation with, and tied up to the demands of the local and regional sme's;work package 3c) how to stimulate, support and reinforce the creativity of (settled) citizens, (existing) sme's and (civil) organisations to improve the quality of local and regional entrepreneurship;
work package 4) how to experiment with new ways of living and/or housing to increase the quality of life using innovative (ICT) -technologies (domotica; broadband and satellite applications in the home; e-health and e-care facilities) in existing villages and regional towns, and in the country side, to make these areas more attractive and agreeable places to live and work in for talented people of all ages needed in the further development of the region;
work package 5) how to use the multi media dialogue approach (MMDA) as developed and advocated by the current Interreg IIIB evoice project to increase (inter-)active citizenship(see also: www.evoice-eu.net)

Central Aim

to strengenth rural areas by an innovative, integral and cross-sectoral co-operation between the local, regional and national levels of government, educational organisations and (private) companies (priority 4, with a strong link to priority 1)

Envisaged Output

co-operative agreement approach; integral strategy for regional marketing; results on experimental ways of living and housing; more and stronger (inter)-active citizenship; new alliances between the educational field and the business community; results of (technological) innovation in sme's

Thematic Keywords:	co-operative agreement; regional marketing strategy; experimental ICT technologies; interactive citizenship; education and business
Partners Found Already:	NOFA, a co-operation between the Municipalities of Dantumadeel, Dongeradeel, Achtkarspelen en Kollumerland in the North-eastern part of the Province of Fryslân, NL: intended leadpartner;* Region Värmland (S);* County Administrative Board of Värmland (S);* Municipality of Eda (S);* City of Langenhagen (FRG);* Municipality of Östfold (Norway). interested:* Intercommunale Leiedal (B).
Partners Requested:	municipalities, regions, national authorities, research and educational institutes in each of the countries participating in the Interreg IVB North Sea Programme that are interested in a practical development of rural areas

Estimated Total Budget: 7 million

Date: 24-05-2007

4.31 „Best Ager - In the best years“ – The use of potentials and opportunities from an experienced generation for a better economic and social future

Organisation:	**REM Consult / CSR consult, Hamburg**	
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Project Description

The present project wants to show how the so called "Best Ager" (55+) can be activated for the improvement and stabilization of the competitiveness ability of our cities and regions in regard to the economy and the society and which chances can be developed from it. In addition the participating regions should raise exemplary projects, testing their efficiency, develop new cooperative and transnational attempts and approaches and general recommendations for the improvement of the framework conditions should be worked out.

Central Aim

Basic aim of the project is the mobilization of people over 55 years to engage themselves besides their daily work respectively after their retirement on a voluntary basis for the society and economy. Because of that on one hand they are more integrated in the active and social live and on the other hand they support through their competences, experiences and know-how the social and economic structures (win-win-situation, synergy effect).

Between rural regions/medium sized cities/metropolitan regions (to be more specified doing the project development) a network shall be initiated which leads to the interchange of experiences and know-how, the inquiry of qualitative data and the development of collective projects.

Envisaged Output

Outcomes for potential project partners are the creation of networks, the development of coordinated and exemplary strategies, as well as increment of their resources. The North Sea society has the possibility to profit from demographical change, create acceptance and adaptation for changing social structures, activation/ use of potentials of older people and involvement of the “Best Ager” in social life.

Possible outcomes for other sectors may include the following: Public sector:
- long-term relationship of companies on the region -> tax revenue, working places, growth and active involvement residential companies in regional/ communal topics/ concerns
- improved image of the region -> consequence: added immigration, bigger identification with region, added incidence for collective concerns
- involving and financial advantageous concepts of care for children and teenagers -> friendliness for families as a location factor (convenient social infrastructure)
- save locations from a destiny to be just „sleeping castles“ without social life

Economic sector:
- company culture will be developed, room for experiences of company values will be created
- Increase of employee motivation and binding through lived company culture
- recruitment and binding of highly qualified employee/ trainee on the company through increasing activity as an employer
- improved image/ reputation -> consequence: location attractiveness for the company
- improved risk management through close intermeshing with political and third sector -> early anticipation of possible critical application
- differentiation in competition
- eased crossover of employment relationship in retirement time (crossover management)
- better compatibility of career and family

Third sector:
- personal support for charitable offers and additional services
- advantages from the godfathers programs: Best Ager pass their know-how to cultural and social institution -> economic mentoring specially for social and cultural institutions
- cultural life/ engagement indirectly stimulated by economic growth -> advanced numbers of visitors, added

cultural sponsoring
- the build up of new alliances for the solution of location questions -> companies as partners

Thematic Keywords:	elderly people, network, experienced generations, social opportunities, demographic change
Partners Found Already:	First contacts to different German cities established
Partners Requested:	NSR cities and regions and their different stakeholders working on the best ager topic and demografic change
Estimated Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Date:	28-02-2007

4.33 4C4D Competence, Connectivity, Culture and Creative Industries for regional and local Development

Organisation:	**The City of Molndal**	
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Project Description

The Vitalizing City Centres through Integrated Spatial Planning (VISP) project carried out 2004-2007 with the support of the Interreg IIIB NSP has laid the grounds for the networking of small and medium sized cities in the North Sea Region desiring to promote integrated spatial planning practices and become more attractive, competitive, successful, vibrant and vital.In the 4C4D project VISP partners joined by new partners desire to proceed based on the VISP model and through the realization of key investments (resulting from the leverege effect of the VISP project and some new flagship NSR investments) demonstrate how transnational co-operation can result in
- promoting of atttractive cities by increasing accessibility and mobility, offering multifunctional services and by promoting vibrant cultural activities
- supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge economy
- improving employability and enhancing social inclusion and diversity for the benefit of the North Sea Region

Central Aim

Promoting sustainable growth solutions to expanding areas in the NSR based on the experiences of the VISP project (2004-2007) and the VISP model, through the implementation of urban pilot actions. Expanding the present VISP network and bringing about real sustainable development in the NSR based on key concepts for development.

Envisaged Output

- Competitiveness and employment creation through innovation and creativity
-Viability and creation and exchange of added value
- Vitality and the promotion of cohesion, inclusion and equal opportunities
- Integrated spatial development in the NSR
- Demonstrated synergies and complementarities with regional and national growth programmes and policies, the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) an
- in line with the former VISP project continue to contribute to delivering the aims of the Lisbon strategy and the Gothenburg agenda.

Thematic Keywords:	Innovation, Employment, Growth
Partners Found Already:	Mölndal - West Sweden/Västra Götaland, Kortrijk - West Vlaanderen - Belgium, Hamburg-Harburg - Germany, Buskerud - Norway, Enschede - Twente -Overijssel - Holland, Matlock - Derbyshire Dales District and Canterbury - Kent - United Kingdom
Partners Requested:	Some new partners from Denmark, The Baltic Sea Region and North West Europe. The requirement on the new partners is that they should be small and medium size cities with approved investment projects
Estimated Total Budget:	15000000,00
Date:	30-05-2007

4.34 Mobility Management

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Project Description

For many different reasons public transport and other means of sustainable transport are not used as often as they should: Lack of information, unawareness about the possibilities of public transport, image problems, missing links, unfavourable connections, poor infrastructure etc. On the other hand, for the future an increasing use of sustainable transport is important to achieve environmental friendly healthy cities with a good quality of life. This can be reached by providing attractive alternatives to car traffic and by sustainable improvements in public transport, busses and bikes. A strategic approach is required to achieve advancements in direction of a better mobile society. Mobility marketing covers a big variety of activities with the focus on inner city- and regional mobility. The measures concern every day mobility and tourism. This project will encompass innovation in the development of new marketing tools and the visibility of transport and travel information. Furthermore it will focus on the milieu specific, target group and lifestyle oriented approach of bicycle use and public transport, on mobility chains, campaigns and pilots.

Central Aim

The main objective is the increase the use of alternative means of transport and to reduce the low carbon impact.

Envisaged Output

Support of sustainable mobility, image improvement , increased percentage of bicycle and public transport users, strategic actions

Thematic Keywords:	target group orientation, marketing, public transport, bicycles, tourism
Partners Found Already:	Provinces of Fryslan and Zeeland (NL), Svalöv and Malmö/S, Colchester/UK, ??Uthlande/G
Partners Requested:	UK/ D/B
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	15-04-2007

4.36 SURF: Sustainable URban Fringes

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Project Description

The urban fringes are the areas where the outposts of urban and rural areas meet: the built up areas of cities and towns lie side by side with rural areas. The pattern of land use in urban fringes is in most cases very complex, a patchwork of housing, industry, infrastructure, agricultural land, leisure areas and areas with an unclear function seemingly lying dormant, awaiting (new) urban development. Sometimes urban functions creep into the countryside with negative effects on the scenic quality of the rural landscape and on the possibilities for sustainable transport. The urban fringes are also an important asset for cities to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs. A high quality environment has proven to be a significant factor in business' investment decisions and may be of particular importance for innovative and creative industries. SURF is about strengthening this economic quality of the urban fringe and optimise its value as "breeding place" for new enterprises. Moreover, in urban fringes high quality living conditions can be created that combine rural, green characteristics with urban facilities. This combination can be key to attracting a high level workforce that is necessary for innovative enterprises. Thus, urban fringes can play a central role in the economic development of a city or region.To the economic dimension, SURF adds the social and ecological dimension. On the social level urban fringes give a "sense of place" to the citizens and therefore citizens become more attached to working and living in their environment.On the ecologic level there are many possibilities for mixed use, smart transport, energy efficiency in buildings and a watersystem approach. Taking into account all three dimensions may enable cities and regions to achieve their full economic and social potential in a sustainable way and enlarge the competitiveness of the region.

Central Aim

The potential partners share an ambition to strenghten the innovative potential of the city or region and see the quality and potential of the urban fringe as an important element in this ambition. Against this background, SURF has two main goals:
1. maintain and enlarge the quality of the urban fringes to improve the entrepreneurial and living environment in these dynamic areas, through actions tackling opportunities for economic restructuring, spatial quality and sustainability in business, housing and transport.
2. building links between urban and rural areas through strengthening the cooperation between governments on the one hand and between governmental and non-governmental organisations (also public-private co-operation) on the other hand and through developing strong local networks.SURF is about "connecting people, linking landscapes, fostering innovation".

Envisaged Output

Transnational cooperation is expected to result into:
- a common assessment of the urban fringe as driver for innovation and a shared strategy for sustainable development,
- instruments to improve the quality and connectivity of urban and rural areas
- concepts to integrate high quality business, living and ecological environments in the urban fringes
- concrete implementation of demonstration projects that contribute to the goals mentioned above.The project may distinguish between a mental map, a spatial map and visible interventions and transformations.

Thematic Keywords:	urban fringes; innovation; urban-rural cooperation; investment climate; new working, housing and nature concepts; economic diversification; cultural landscape
Partners Found Already:	Potential partners: Netwerkstad Twente (Enschede is envisaged leadpartner, NL), Overijssel (NL), Hamburg (G), Oost-Vlaanderen (Aalst, B), West-Vlaanderen (Roeselare, B), Bradford (UK), Gateshead (UK), Kristiansand (N), Härryda/Gothenburg (SW), knowledge institutions such as University of Delft and Saxion Universities of Applied Sciences (NL)
Partners Requested:	partners from regions dealing with pressure issues in urban fringes and wishing to explore innovative solutions in a transnational setting ; especially Danemark
Estimated Total Budget:	7,000,000

Date: 21-05-2007

4.37 P+R

Organisation:	**Västtrafik**	
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Project Description

Many cities in the North Sea region is experiencing population growth and new residential areas as well as large shopping centres are emerging, especially in sub-urban and regional areas around the cities. This of course leads to increased traffic and pressure on the transportation system. It is important to deal with the increased pressure and increased urban sprawl early in the traffic planning phases and in an integrated regional perspective to obtain sustainable growth. An important objective is to transfer travellers from private cars to Public Transport and cycle/foot. It is therefore necessary to provide attractive alternatives to the use of car in the sub-urban and regional areas. Park & Ride solutions with good information about availability and good PT connections to central areas combined with safe and easy parking and payment, might give a potential of growth within this group of travellerers. The project will for example focus on the following tasks:

• Pilot projects in new residential areas with low PT market share and connecting hinterland -gateway areas.
• Questionnaires before and after to measure needs and behaviour (Stated Preference Surveys for ex focus groups) among the residents of the areas.
• Information to users: General information through Internet and media advertisements, Direct mail to residents about P&R service, Static signs to inform about P+R parking facilities, Dynamic information through Variable Message Signs (VMS) informing about current travel time to centre, next departure by bus, available spaces at parking lot, SMS messages about next departure.
• Improved services at parking facilities, car and bicycle parking lots, Toilets and nursing rooms, Lighting and surveillance camera, Ticket vending machines.
• Extended PT services (possibly new lines with high frequency)
• Development of integrated payment system
• Studying of the effects of usage of the Park and Ride facilities.

Central Aim

The overall objective is to increase the modal shift from private cars to public transport where the Park& Ride concept shall become a natural choice of travelling. The analysis and results as well as services developed among the project partners shall be used to extend the P&R services to other areas in the partner cities and in other European cities.

Envisaged Output

Establishment of new Park&Ride services including parking facilities with a high service level and frequent PT connections to the city centres. Integrated payment services systems developed. Dynamic information signs (VMS) for real time information of estimated travel time and next departure of PT. Evaluations and analysis of the needs and the possible potential of P&R service in sub-urban areas, which will be used to extend the P&R services to other parts of the cities.

Thematic Keywords:	Information, communication, Integrated payment system, smart card and customer service
Partners Found Already:	Västtrafik, City of Göteborg
Partners Requested:	Municipalities and PT operators in England, the Netherlands/Belgium, Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	7,00
Date:	30-05-2007

4.38 Water World International

Organisation:	**Province of Fryslân**	
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Project Description

The project “Water World International” is purposed to explore the diversity of localized qualities, such as local natural and cultural attractions, heritage, history, etc. Experiencing and sensing water via different means or tools is the main focus of the project. The idea is to create a digital water world in terms of building an advanced technological platform for the promotion of the city or region’s tourism and cultural products and for the provision of services to the tourism sector. The platform will assist in exchanging information from boat (or other vehicles or info points) to the shore and vise versa, by using information and communication technologies in terms of sensor points spread over a specific area; these points are able to perform processing as well as sensing and are capable of communicating with each other by means of a wireless network The direction of the project is to provide effective updated information to tourists, assist tourism entrepreneurs in the promotion of their offerings and provide useful and updated information to entrepreneurs. The project will contribute to the promotion of sustainable and competitive communities by developing attractive viable places to live and work. Transnationality will be stressed which contributes strongly to the aims of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies the emphasis of which is the promotion of innovation and the “competitive and dynamic knowledge – driven economy by 2010". The project can support and encourage local and regional entrepreneurs to use information and communication applications in providing tourism services. The project can give opportunities to develop services to SMEs.The enhancement of water pathways through the sensing of localized qualities can provide several benefits: first, local people can use skills to create new activities, which bring innovations; second, the activities along the pathways can generate income for rural communities and local entrepreneurship can flourish; third, tourists experience value of localized natural and cultural sites undiscovered in the past; and finally, the urban communities can encounter diversity and richness of rural areas and life.
The project idea is developed as an outcome of the Waterline Economy project.

Central Aim

To develop and illustrate the possibilities of sensing the localized qualities along water pathways by a variety of means, to gain economic benefit from those qualities and to demonstrate opportunities for beneficial actions for rural and urban communities.

Envisaged Output

- Transnational exchange of knowledge and experiences- Stimulating practical and technological developments- Pilot projects from partners- Stimulating development of advanced high quality innovative services for experiencing and sensing local qualities along water pathways- Benefiting communities by creating better places to live and work- Project proposals for the 7th Framework Programme

Thematic Keywords:	sensing localised qualities, experiencing water, innovations, ICT
Partners Found Already:	Contacts with partners from all the 7 North Sea Countries
Partners Requested:	Depending of above
Estimated Total Budget:	5.000.000
Date:	21-05-2007

4.39 Improving Districts - Together (IDT!)

Organisation:	**Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg / REM • Consult Hamburg**	
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Project Description

Business Improvement Districts (BID) are successfully installed particularly in North America for thirty years to improve derelict and unattractive centres. A BID is a business-led model that gives businesses the power to manage their own operating environment so that it directly benefits their business, their employees as well as their clients and customers. Together, businesses identified projects and services needed to add value to existing services, initiate new ones and agree, through a formal ballot process, to a level of investment to ensure the delivery of those. In contrast to other instruments of urban development and renewal land-owners in a well-defined district are involved obligatory in the planning process and they have to co-finance the actions. The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, as the first German Federal State, has enacted a new law fostering urban centre retail and services in 2005 after intensive public consultations. The project focuses the question: How to apply basic extracts of the successful approach of BID and its lessons learnt to different land uses, e.g. residential use and/or industrial use etc. First steps towards implementing a Housing Improvement District (HID) are being conducted by the City of Hamburg, in order to examine the transferability to different land uses in an exemplary environment. HIDs are aiming at the revitalisation and stabilisation of the residential environment of defined areas. The "Improvement District"-Idea shall be trasferred also to other land use forms like Industrial Areas, Health Care Areas etc.. Generally spoken: The theme is the transfer of responsibilities for public space from public services ti the private sector

Central Aim

The central aim of "Improving Districts - together (IDT!) is to involve private actors in financing and planning processes of the proposed actions in a stronger and more public-private -partnership oriented way than before. The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is seeking partners to evaluate the existing BID sites and models of respective partners and intends to create a platform to exchange experiences and discuss further developments, especially the adaptation of the BID model to other land uses. The project will establish a network that enables exchange of experiences and know-how within a transnational context. Moreover the network is expected to provide the inquiry of qualitative data and the development of common transnational projects and strategies. Furthermore the encouragement of private initiatives and citizen empowerment in urban development are planned. One result of this strategy will be a stronger integration of private actors in planning processes and in the financing of actions improving the districts and the public infrastructure. The results of these processes will be realised in examples, added by the new experimental structures as the result of the BID-evaluations before.

Envisaged Output

1) Evaluation of existing BID sites and models (BID characterised by private financed and private accomplished improvement strategies); evaluation of new (financial) instruments for sustainable urban development
2) Implementation of transnational platform for discussion, knowledge exchange, and development of coordinated and exemplary strategies
3) Encouragement of private initiatives and citizen empowerment in urban (re-)development
4) Implementation of public-private-partnership models that are based on and regulated by public law (evaluation of skills, duties and responsibilities of the urban development)
5) Expansion of the spectrum of instruments for urban and business development

Thematic Keywords:	Public-Private-Partnership; Business Improvement Districts; BID; urban development; business development;
Partners Found Already:	Interested Partners:City of Brugge, BE. City of Edinburgh, UK
Partners Requested:	Urban/metropolitan Area with similar targets and efforts; Scientific Institutions; Non Governmental Organisations (NGO)Potential Partners:City of Kopenhagen, DKCity of Amsterdam, NLCity of Rotterdam, NLCity of Kaliningrad, RU
Estimated Total Budget:	3,500,000.00

Date: 29-05-2007

4.41Regional Transition Strategies

Organisation:	**Dienst Landelijk Gebied (Governement Service for Land and Water Management)**	
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Project Description

The European policy on CO2 reduction and renewable energy leads to new economic activities. The dynamic developments call for regional policies in which economic and sustainable goals are combined with the specific demands and possibilities of the region. The transition to a sustainable society calls for a long process of transition from the fossil fuel based society to a bio based society. In this process biomass and the direct relation with agriculture and the landscape plays an important role.

Central Aim

The process of developing fitting regional long term transition strategies is the central aim of this project.

Envisaged Output

Cooperation between local governments tot set up best practices Learning communities to develop new policies and methods

Thematic Keywords: Regional policies, Sustainable society, Bio based economy

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 31-05-2007

4.47 Canal Link Plus

Organisation:	**British Waterways**	
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Project Description

Under Interreg IIIB, the Canal Link project investigated a number of issues concerning the development of the recreational and tourism waterway network of the North Sea Region. From this two additional themes been identified for follow-up action, addressing issues concerned with sustainable and competitive communities. These relate to:
- business development & entrepreneurship (particularly related to tourism, but other sectors may also be involved, such as sustainable transport & renewables); and
- economic regeneration associated with the re-opening of derelict waterways or the creation of new waterway links. (Over 20 schemes of this type are at various stages of development within the North Sea Region.) Inland waterways link areas of decline with expanding areas, thus creating the opportunity for more balanced development. They also link with the sea - hence synergies need to be developed with the EU Maritime Policy. Canal Link Plus aims to do this through the development of a common approach for the economic exploitation of the smaller recreational waterways in particular.

Central Aim

Development of a common strategy for the economic development and exploitation of recreational inland waterways, demonstrating how recreational waterways can contribute to balanced economic growth, linked to the emerging EU Maritime Policy.

Envisaged Output

The common strategy might:
- Outline key issues / opportunities / pressures in managing and developing inland waterways;
- Highlight any cross-border issues e.g. differing requirements in terms of legislation etc.;
- Highlight any inland waterway / maritime interface issues;
- Suggest actions for taking the development of recreational inland waterways forward;
- Suggest priorities for future EU funding in the sector;
- Consider the development of a model framework for spatial planning for inland waterways, paralleling the Maritime Policy GP idea of coastal and marine spatial development plans. In parallel with this two other strategic actions would be undertaken to address the 2 themes outlined in the project description
:-1 Transnational business networking. This might cover
:-- Attracting entrepreneurs from outside the region to develop new businesses;
- Improving business to business opportunities
– business clusters, activity packages etc.;
- Investigating how can funding be secured ex. businesses to maintain & improve the quality of the resource upon which their business is based?

2 Delivery of economic regeneration through the expansion of the trans-national network of inland waterways:-- How new / restored waterways can tackle areas in decline / facilitate sustainable growth in expanding areas;
- What has been delivered through existing schemes - including approaches to impact evaluation?
- How can future schemes be funded - including participation of the private sector?
- How can schemes secure financial and environmental sustainability?
- Key lessons in scheme delivery. These actions would be informed by means of a series of pilot actions across the partnership.

Thematic Keywords:	Economic development; water management; tourism; business development; entrepreneurship
Partners Found Already:	British Waterways (UK); Telemark County (Norway); Varmland County (Swe): BIS Bremerhaven Touristik (Ger); Gemeente Langedijk (Neth); SRN (Neth); Province of West Flanders (Bel)
Partners Requested:	Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	6,00

Date: 31-05-2007

4.49 Towards a Healthy Outdoor Economy (THOE)

Organisation:	**Province of Fryslan**	
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Project Description

Nowadays costs associated with health are high and are getting higher, since stress and mental ill-health are becoming more common (for example in Sweden stress related illness costs €4 bln annually). According to WHO (2001) depression and depression related illnesses will become the greatest source of ill-health by 2020. To address this issue it is very important to find ways of promoting a healthy lifestyle and create a healthy environment which encourages people to become healthier. Health recreation is considered to be the way of promoting and enhancing a healthy lifestyle and contributing to economic development. As stated by the WHO “health is fundamental human right and prerequisite for economic development”.The promotion of human-nature relationship, healthy lifestyle and (outdoor) activities benefiting communities socially, environmentally and economically are at the core of the project idea. The project represents an opportunity for businesses, particularly for SMEs, to make contribution to the re-gional development by means of creating new businesses and activities in the area of health and outdoor activities. Health in relation to outdoor recreation has several distinctive advantages including a lack of sea-sonality, independence from weather conditions, an average length of stay that is longer compared with other tourism sectors and regional diversity. Also, another important factor of health recreation is that it pro-vides an opportunity for the reassessment and modernization of existing facilities, which in turn can stimulate investments in healthcare facilities and create a significant impact on local economies and lead to regional development. The primary economic benefit of health recreation to communities is expected to be through improved human health, resulting from increased physical outdoor activity, increased opportunity for time spent in a natural environment, and an increased level of social connection and trust through interacting with others in their local community. Improved human health leads to less cost in health care. The project is de-veloped as an outcome of the IIIB project Facilitating Sustainable Innovations.

Central Aim

The aim is related on the one hand to the improvement of humans’ well-being in term of reducing stress, negative feelings, improving quality of life, etc., and on the other hand enhancing economy of the communities by providing health and outdoor recreation products and services.

Envisaged Output

Establishment of sustainable and high quality health and outdoor recreation in the chosen destinations Development of innovative health and outdoor recreation products Improvement of health of the visitors and communities Raised awareness of the relationship between Nature and Health (government, employers, SME that can produce products based on this relation, tourists, health insurance companies) Pilot projects that demonstrate the positive relationship, sharing experiences between different kind of areas, social /ethnic groups. This will lead to less costs in health care, more effective human production means (in the cities), healthier and happier people and a new form of sustainable employment and economy in nature/ rural areas.

Thematic Keywords:	health, nature, economy, urban-rural relationship
Partners Found Already:	Province of Fryslan (NL), Insel- und Halligkonferenz e.V. Region Uthlande (DK) Svalov municipality (S), Tinn and Vinje municipality (N), British Waterways (UK)
Partners Requested:	Belgium, Denmark
Estimated Total Budget:	5000000,00
Date:	23-05-2007

4.51 BACARDI - Balanced City and Airport Development Initiative

Organisation:	**UNICONSULT Universal Transport Consulting GmbH (in cooperation with the Ministry f**	
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Project Description

Many of the North Sea Region airports have enjoyed dynamic growth rates in passenger and air cargo handling throughout the previous years with different economic and social changes for the communities the airports are located in. For regional authorities there is a continuous demand to balance the pros and cons of growing airports as a motor for regional-economic growth against the sustainable quality of living spaces in towns and larger urban centres in the neighbourhood of airports. Airports are located in populated areas, which means they are surrounded by residential and business communities, which have a similar appetite for quality space. They share mostly limited available spatial resources which lead to competition in land use. Oftentimes the result is a collision course of airport and community development: Neighbours feel disturbed by noise, the airport management fears the delaying effects of lawsuits that put airport extension and its economic development at risk while the relevant regional authorities need to work on a more balanced approach to airport and community development.

Central Aim

The BACARDI project sets out to integrate the development of airports and their surrounding communities in order to improve quality of life, reduce negative impact on the population, minimize airport-vs.-neighbourhood-conflicts in expanding and/or already congested areas, retain the population in centrally located districts, and encourage balanced and sustainable community and airport development. The assessment of different airport/neighbourhood communication strategies plays an important role in this regard. The main focuses of the project will be the optimal allocation of spatial resources and increased involvement of the relevant regional actors to tap the full potential of airports in their permanent change. Participating regions and their airports will exchange their experiences and jointly develop upgraded concepts on the subject.

Envisaged Output

Showcase outcomes will comprise spatial development plans for airports of the participating regions, land utilization road maps, and an advanced communication and neighbourhood involvement strategy for airports.

Thematic Keywords:	urban communities; airport development; competing land use; integration of airport neighbours
Partners Found Already:	Ministry for Economic Affairs Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
Partners Requested:	Spatial or economic authorities of communities and towns of the NSR with a close neighbourhood to airports
Estimated Total Budget:	3.000.000,00
Date:	31-05-2007

4.52 Inspiring New Schemes and Projects in Rural Environments (INSPIRE)

Organisation:	**Peak District National Park Authority**	
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Project Description

INSPIRE will operate in rural areas that are experiencing social and economic changes (an ageing population and decline in traditional employment). The project will be based on the concept of the 'Virtuous Spiral' - the opposite of a vicious circle. It will be a positive approach to rural renewal, actively involving local communities and aiming at success building on success. INSPIRE will develop and apply practical, linked initiatives simultaneously in the partner areas, sharing ideas and results as the project develops. The project will utilise the landscape, wildlife, culture and traditions found in the partner areas - to reinforce or create a distinctive local identity - 'What is Special'. Actively involving local people will create increased 'Pride in Our Place' which will become a unifying theme. This will be a source of inspiration to local people to develop new products and services. It will also be a marketing tool for local businesses and an attraction to encourage entrepreneurs to settle in the partner areas. Local people will be proactive in devising the project's activities and be a key force in their implementation. Many activities will be 'Interreg inspired but not Interreg funded' - using other funding sources and private investments to implement the projects stimulated by INSPIRE. The Project will focus on creating new economic opportunities through the rising global interest in sustainable tourism and ethical trading, thereby responding to declining employment in traditional industries. This will help to retain young people and also attract new businesses to settle in the partner areas. It will generate new customers for local businesses, encourage greater integration across business sectors and create new social and business relationships. By working in a co-operative spirit, learning from each other and applying our unifying theme 'Pride in Our Place' we will create the atmosphere in which newcomers will be more easily integrated into rural society. The project will:

* build on the techniques successfully pioneered in the current Interreg III project - BESST (Business and the Environment linked through Small-Scale Tourism) - but penetrating into the local communities across a much wider range of activity than before.
* involve regional and local administrations and businesses from the partner areas. Existing BESST experience shows many benefits from a collaborative, transnational approach.
* include applying the 'seeing ourselves as others see us' technique, by which people from the different areas meet in each partner area in turn to inspire new activity.
* create new public sector/private sector partnerships and support small-scale public sector investments designed to create new business opportunities.
* explore the uses of ICT and other new technologies - working with businesses to enable them to embrace new approaches and become more competitive.
* develop new links between rural areas and the towns and cities nearby to create new working relationships and new business opportunities to the benefit of all.

Central Aim

INSPIRE aims to

* stimulate the creative use of environmental assets in business initiatives, new community activities and small scale public investments.
* invigorate local communities with a new dynamism inspired by transnational activity.
* generate social and economic investment opportunities to reverse the current trend towards an ageing population and decline in economic activity.
* create places which are 'Good to Visit and Good to Live in too'.

Envisaged Output

New economic activity. New partnership structures to create a new dynamic in rural communities. New pride in, and protection of, the local environment and local identity. New public sector investments (including investments stimulated by Interreg but not funded by it). A more balanced population structure reversing the tendency to an ageing population. New transnational collaborations and a shared positive outlook. A legacy of business and public sector associations. INSPIRE best practice guides to disseminate project results in the North Sea Region and beyond.

Thematic Keywords: Rural Development. Sustainable Tourism. Linking Town and Country. Economic Innovation. Community Participation. Social Cohesion. Demographic Change.

	Transnational Knowledge Sharing.
Partners Found Already:	Peak District National Park Authority (England), Hylte Kommun (Sweden), Fyresdal Kommune (Norway), Angus Council (Scotland), Gemeente Sluis (Netherlands), East Riding Council (England)
Partners Requested:	A University or similar institution able to provide an independent analysis and evaluation of the impact of the project.
Estimated Total Budget:	8million over 5 years
Date:	24-05-2007

4.57 Attractive Sustainable Communities

Organisation:	**Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**		
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Project Description

A shared challenge facing many urban cores around the North Sea is how to make the most of the historic fabric, which is of significant value in terms of heritage and identity, whilst maintaining city centres as attractive places to live and work in and creating sustainable, competitive communities that are well connected to areas of economic activity. Working transnationally, this project will explore innovative solutions to housing stock renewal and ways of attracting highly skilled and entrepreneurial people to ensure a competitive advantage within sustainable communities. The shared local priorities of the partners involved will enable best practice and innovative ideas to be implemented and evaluated for the effective delivery of spatial priorities. Working with local, regional and national stakeholders, partners will build on existing assets of their cities to increase the potential to deliver quality housing and public spaces, inward investment, small business growth, infrastructure and linkages to surrounding residential and commercial areas through high quality urban design. Project activities are expected to include a range of pilot actions, which will be implemented and evaluated within the project partnership to facilitate best practice recommendations that can inform future policies on urban design. Proposed pilot actions include: Testing adaptation of historic buildings to accommodate creative industries and what effect this may have on the economic prosperity of the Town Centre; Developing ways of working more closely with the private sector, planners and building control; Test how buildings with historical value can be adapted to reduce their carbon footprint, be more eco friendly and the costs associated with such work be made more affordable for local authorities and home owners; Explore how existing strategies and policies can be enhanced to encourage and attract new businesses to operate from void buildings within the Town Centre.

Central Aim

The central aim of the project is to devise common solutions to attract residents and businesses to declining city centres thereby addressing demographic change, increasing competitiveness and improving energy efficiency.

Envisaged Output

Best practice recommendations to influence long-term policies; Innovative solutions to sustainable use and energy efficiency in historic buildings and homes; Firm transnational partnership formed for future co-operation; Pilot actions adopted within the North Sea Region;

Thematic Keywords: Sustainability; eco-friendly, attractive environments; improved competitiveness

Partners Found Already:

Partners Requested:

Estimated Total Budget:

Date: 31-05-2007

4.58 New “Glocal” Food – local origin and global market

Organisation:	**Øresund Food Network**	
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Project Description

As stated in the strategy for the North Sea programme, the ‘development and introduction of new and improved products and services is crucial for the long-term competitiveness of an economy’. The project ‘New Glocal Food – local origin and global market’ targets this need in the field of food and tourism, by developing a new innovative concept built on the introduction of regional/local products on a global market. New opportunities for regional/local food suppliers to access premium food service (catering) markets, is an important outcome of the project. In line with the revised Lisbon agenda, the project aims to contribute to improved conditions for regional/local business development and economic growth through innovation. Current consumer trends point to a demand for more regional and tailored food. There is a strengthened demand for e.g. organic raw materials and other high quality foods. However, the segment of traditional and local food products is also facing challenges linked to distribution and large-scale marketing and the trend of convenience food. Around the North Sea many regions have a strong regional food profile linked to traditional food and local producers. Historically this is based on differences in living conditions including climate and geographical prerequisites. The specific taste profiles, the adaptation to seasonal variation in the availability of fresh local raw materials, the methods for preservation and preparation, as well as the features linked to the meal occasion and meal design on the plate, all add to this uniqueness. In conclusion, local products have unique traits with potential for a larger market. To develop this potential, within the North Sea Region and internationally, regional actors need to join into a common conceptual approach (in contrast to a fragmented approach). This implies strategic alliances in the whole value chain from producer to consumer concerning, e.g., marketing and logistics/distribution. This project will develop a model for how this can be done by joining forces between food- and travelling actors. Initial conversations with very large, multinational organisations such as flight operators (SAS), ferry companies (P&O) and leisure operators (e.g. Disney) indicate that these large global organisations see an opportunity to promote more regional/local foods in their outlets to meet growing consumer demands for more regional and tailored foods. The overall logic is to create a dynamic and flexible partnership across borders in the North Sea Region, comprising business (SME’s and multinationals), research and public actors. An important element is the synergies derived from the combination of regional/local (small) producers and larger catering actors in the travelling sector. The partners already identified represent strategically important and innovative actors with respect to producers, distribution/logistics, sales and marketing in the North Sea Region. Starting with an analysis of the customer requirements, a holistic user-driven innovation approach is pursued which encompasses the entire catering supply chain and involves researchers, catering professionals, producers and end-consumers.ACTIVITIES(1) The concept is developed through a concrete business case related to flight/ferry/leisure catering: • By developing and introducing regional/local food to flight/ferry/leisure food service, we hope to create a national as well as international focus on local food traditions and products.• The large volumes will open new ways for new smaller suppliers as well as for larger suppliers and give a boost to the commercialization of their niche production. • The approach on flight/ferry/leisure catering will be applicable on other sectors as well and can in this perspective function as a conceptual framework. (2) Establish network in specific areas of expertise of importance to develop the concept in terms of recipes, suppliers, logistics and marketing: • Gastronomy & health. • Design • Suppliers/Regional Producers & Logistics and distribution in combination with regional tourism bodies. (3) Develop a web portal to market the New Glocal Food concept Preliminary work packages:• Identify and map a representative number of North Sea regions with a strong regional food profile.• Analysis of customer requirements (end-consumers)• Identify and map competencies of prime importance to develop distribute and market New Nordic food• Establish a portfolio of unique local products and meal components based on the concept • Elaborate a logistics solution including packaging technologies, to get the portfolio distributed and sold via large customers.
• Develop stories behind the different regional New Nordic food products that attracts attention beyond the food itself
• Fully develop the model in terms of producers, distribution, sales & marketing
• Substantiation of the model over the whole value chain in a practical test with project partners.
• Final report and open seminar describing the model Target groups & dissemination:
• Regional food producers and suppliers

• Catering industry
• Travelling industry /leisure operators
• Chefs and Chef schools
• Hotel & restaurant sector
• Tourism sector
• Scientific community

Central Aim

The central aim is to develop new opportunities for regional/local food producers across the North Sea Region to access premium markets. The project will develop a concept where strategic partnerships between food actors and global travelling/tourism actors demonstrates how local suppliers of raw and processed goods can cooperate with the catering- and travelling industries.

Envisaged Output

The project will develop a concept where strategic partnerships between food actors and global travelling/tourism actors open the way for new small-scale as well as larger suppliers of local food products, to boost the commercialization of their production connected with regionally anchored products. Contribution to improved conditions for regional/local business development and economic growth through innovation in the field of food and tourism. Generic results of interest to other stakeholders and regions around the North Sea Region will be disseminated. This project sits well with regional and national food/tourist strategies to link local food producers more closely with foodservice (catering) outlets to ensure that the best quality, local foods are available at as many tourist outlets across the North Sea as possible. The aim is to improve the regional tourist experience, and the economic opportunities linked to that. This Interreg project could be used to extend this concept across the North Sea, linking operators from different countries and exploring how travellers across this region can gain access to high quality local products from the participating regions.

Thematic Keywords:	innovation, regional/local food, food service, tourism, travel industry
Partners Found Already:	The partners identified represent strategically important and innovative actors with respect to producers, distribution/logistics, sales and marketing in the North Sea Region.Sweden / Denmark:Øresund Food NetworkDenmark:SAS Scandinavian Airlines LSG Sky Chefs Meyer ConsultingSweden:LantmännenKristianstad University GastronomyUmami Innovativ GastronomiRikard Nilsson Gastric Food consulting & Event MDI Marknadsdriven InnovationLRF- Federation of Swedish FarmersLitchi Food Service AB (company involved in new innovative logistics solutions for smaller regional food producers)Norway:Fylkesmannen i RogalandGastronomisk Institutt ASFagforum for Mat og Drikke, RogalandScotland /UK:Scottish Enterprise Food & DrinkP&O FerriesDisney
Partners Requested:	open
Estimated Total Budget:	4.000.000
Date:	01-06-2007

4.59 STEAM

Organisation:	**Waterboard Regge & Dinkel**		
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Project Description

Regarding the European Water Framework Directive and the social and economic vitality of the North Sea Region there is a need for closing the urban water cycle and developing adaptive strategies concerning the use of energy sources in urban areas. Closing the urban watercycle was already studied in the former UWC Interreg IIIb North Sea project. Therefore, the STEAM project focuses on improving the sustainability and reducing the costs of the urban water cycle by developing and implementing knowledge about optimising the energy-efficiency of this water cycle. The question we want to answer in the uwc STEAM project is: How can we make the energetic arrangement of the urban water cycle sustainable if sustainability is defined as the utilization of its full potential in order to meet the need for the present without compromising the ability of future citizens to meet their own needs?In the STEAM project we combine the development and implementation of transnational knowledge about energy efficiency with the closing of the urban water cycle. This combination is valuable from a public perspective because intensive cooperation between organisations that manage the urban watercycle is a condition for more sustainable and energy efficient concepts in the urban watercycle that strengthen the social and economic vitality of the North Sea Region.

Central Aim

The aim of this project is the development and implementation of innovative concepts to use the energetic potential of the urban water cycle to improve the sustainability and the vitality of the urban areas in the North Sea Region.

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	energetic potential, urban water cycle, cooperation, sustainability, vital urban areas
Partners Found Already:	the province of Friesland (NL), Hamburg Wasser (D) (both under reserve)
Partners Requested:	a Swedish, a Norwegian and an English, Danish or Belgium partner
Estimated Total Budget:	5.000.000
Date:	29-05-2007

4.60 Prevention of light pollution

Organisation:	**West-Vlaamse Intercommunale**	
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Project Description

When developing housing projects, industrial estates or when redeveloping town centres, not much attention is paid to adapted lighting and prevention of light pollution. Only for large scale projects, a light plan is made up. Making a light plan should become a standard procedure for all future developments. We would like to study the requirements for efficient lighting, study new techniques (LED-technology, shading etc), set up light expertise, make a standard for new developments, communication and raising awareness with public authorities, citizens, businesses. We would like to test our lighting standards to the European standards and those of our potential partners. Another aim is to reach a standard procedure for lighting on new developments, some kind of scenario that can be of use for all partners. Furthermore, a more efficient lighting system contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and has an impact on the natural environment. Preventing light pollution keeps our housing and industrial developments and our towns attractive for working and living.

Central Aim

Developing a lighting standard for future developments Investigating which recent innovative technologies can be used in the developments Comparison of lighting standards between partners

Envisaged Output

Developing a lighting scenario for future developments useful for all partners Pilot project in order to study a concept for lighting Training through international workshops/seminars

Thematic Keywords:	preventing light pollution, environment, carbon reduction, training
Partners Found Already:	Province of West Flanders
Partners Requested:	The Netherlands, UK, regions that can give an added-value to the project
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	31-05-2007

New Project Ideas

You can use this page for any project ideas you may put together during the event. You can put them on the display wall.

Project Title:

Organisation:	
Contact Person:	
Address:	

Project Description

Central Aim

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	

New Project Ideas

You can use this page for any project ideas you may put together during the event. You can put them on the display wall.

Project Title:

Organisation:	
Contact Person:	
Address:	

Project Description

Central Aim

Envisaged Output

Thematic Keywords:	
Partners Found Already:	
Partners Requested:	
Estimated Total Budget:	
Date:	