



Cluster Project Ideas

North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013
Cluster Project Development Workshop

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1. A Long Term Energy Vision for the North Sea Region

Theme: Climate

Interested Beneficiaries

Yellie Alkema, Syark - IFP

Hans van Meerendonk, Province of Fryslân – C2C Islands

Jeroen Westendorp, Municipality of Groningen – Build with CaRe

Ben van Os, Province of Drenthe – North Sea SEP

Province of Fryslân – Care North

Paulien Kooistra, Province of Groningen – var. projects

Ben van Os/Jelle v.d. Heide, Province of Drenthe – var. projects

Koos Lok, Energy Valley – new

Anna van Dijk, SNN – new

Cluster Proposal

The aim of this clustering initiative is to connect projects in the field of sustainability. This will enable these projects to exchange output and results on a broad field, and by doing so develop a 'long term energy vision for the North Sea Region'.

The transition to a sustainable, safe and competitive energy supply is an immense challenge for Europe and thus for the North Sea Region. At the moment huge changes are taking place in the field of energy supply. This will bring about extensive effects on the current energy market.

Momentarily the large scale production of energy tends to be concentrated in sea ports. Thus primary fuel like coal, oil, bio fuel and liquefied natural gas can be transported easily to these ports and waste materials can be removed.

Second, more and more electricity is produced from renewable resources. For the North Sea Region this means a vast enlargement of offshore wind power all over the region and a considerable production of electricity by wind and hydro power from Scandinavia. In both cases the electricity is brought ashore in Northern Western Europe. Third, more and more energy is produced decentrally (geothermics, solar energy, blue energy, biogas, local renewables).

These developments have many effects on the exchange and transport of electricity and hinder the balancing of the electricity market. Solutions could be found in combining electricity with gas power plants, flexibility in demand, and alternative use of electricity or production techniques. At the same time the changing energy situation forces the need of research on new energy transport systems, smart grids, legal matters, European energy issues and the like. Last, the new situation also requires new ICT solutions.

The above mentioned developments ask for a long term vision on future energy supply. This corresponds to the Europe 2020 Strategy which is under development by the European Commission. On a national level the Action Plans by the governments around the North Sea have to clarify how 2020 goals will be achieved.

In the current Interreg projects vast knowledge is being gained of new developments on various fields of sustainable energy:

- off shore wind energy (project Power Cluster)
- bringing off shorewind power businessess together (project Innovate Foresight Planning)
- decentralized production of energy and electric mobility (project C2C Islands)

- energy efficient building (project Build with CaRe)
- sustainable spatial energy planning (project North Sea SEP)

The above cluster initiative is at an initial stage; the next step would be to elaborate the ideas further and include the lead beneficiaries of the mentioned projects.

Expected Outcomes

The clustering initiative aims at the following outcomes:

- Development of transnational energy clusters
- Competence groups from government, science and economic life who are able to elaborate strategical concepts
- Transfer of knowledge to SME's
- Development of themes for future research projects on energy
- Input for energy vision North Sea Region and Europe 2020; a conference on this theme
- Input for future Interreg programme

Thematic Keywords

Energy vision, energy clusters, sustainable energy

Budget

250,000 € + (detailed budget plan to be delivered)

Comments

Any new party within the North Sea Region is welcome to join us. Please contact vandijk@snn.eu or +31652046549.

2. Business Innovation in Offshore Wind Power

Theme: Innovation

Interested Beneficiaries

John Best, EEGR – PowerCluster

Steven Stocks, Scottish Enterprise – IFP

Ulrik Thomasson, Central Denmark – IFP

Yellie Alkema, Northern Netherlands – IFP

Cluster Proposal

PowerCluster and IFP (Innovative Foresight Planning) have been active in the last year on bringing Offshore Wind Power businesses together. The main focus is improve business contacts across the North Sea. The first results of several seminars show that there is to be done a lot of business development in order to make companies ready for the big (government driven) demand regarding offshore wind power.

Therefore cluster networks need to grow in both ways. One, for strengthening North Sea cooperation. And second: elaborate on the various themes that have been identified as the major demands in the near and mid- and long term future.

1. There is a need for standardisation in every aspect of the market, from educational standards to monitoring standards and certification.
2. There is a need for product development regarding windfarms at sea. Nobody knows what (weather) conditions will do (eventually) to the turbine and foundation.
3. There is a lot of research to be done on what the environmental effects are of windfarms at sea.
4. There is a huge need in most of the North Sea regions for business development and transition from other professions, such as those in natural resources (offshore) and the maritime sector.
5. All efforts should be put in an offshore supergrid in the North Sea to make sure the delivered wind power can find it's way across the North Sea area.

Those challenges need an innovative approach. PowerCluster and IFP have been testing several approaches:

1. Organizing business to business events;
2. Organizing seminars and conferences to identify problems and challenges;
3. Building up (digital) networks and regional suppliers networks;
4. Elaborate on the identified challenges in research and development;
5. Doing open innovation with companies, universities and other relevant institutes, such as development agencies.

PowerCluster and IFP-energy want to work closely together to make a stronger network across the North Sea for Offshore Wind Power. Business innovation and building up networks are the key words. Standardisation, education, HSE, supergrid and transformation are the issues to be addressed. Every new party who is interested is invited to join us.

Other partners outside the NSR, such as Enterprise Europe Network are supporting us.

Results of innovation, research et cetera will be contributing to the North Sea Energy Vision.

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger (suppliers) networks within the regions and between the regions across the North Sea;
- More knowledge about the ecological and economical effects of offshore windpower;
- Business innovation and transformation in the regions across the North Sea;
- A contribution to the growing market (demand side) of offshore wind power by lifting barriers;
- An investment in the aims for 2020 to transform Europe's energy market to renewable energy.

Thematic Keywords

Offshore wind power, suppliers networks, business innovation

Budget

250,000 € + (detailed budget plan to be delivered)

Comments

Any new party within EU-NorthSea is welcome to join us. Please contact alkema@syark.nl or +31646266785.

3. Coastal Communities and Managing Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection (in the North Sea Region)

Themes: Managing Marine Resources, Sustainable Communities, Transport

Interested Beneficiaries

Olof Linden/Henrik Nilsson/Neil Bellefontaine, World Maritime University – Ballast Water Opportunity

Peter Erlov, Region Skåne – several different North Sea Interreg Projects

Cluster Proposal

The linkages between clean and safe shipping maritime transport and other marine environmental quality conservation and protection initiatives relative to the applicable International Conventions and regional localized initiatives and their impacts in the North Sea need to be much better understood.

It is critical that collaborative networking fora are established and functioning effectively in the context of sharing best practices and the transfer of knowledge between the maritime transport sectors, local municipal governments, and coastal communities.

A project focus on sustainability of coastal communities relating to maritime transportation and marine environmental protection would incorporate enhanced communication and collaboration fora and processes across common regional seas and national borders to the benefit of as many coastal communities as practically possible.

Expected Outcomes

1. Improved collaboration and information exchange amongst coastal communities across the North Sea;
2. Awareness building on shipping transport and marine environmental pollution and conservation;
3. Potential establishment of a formalized Coastal Community Network for Marine Environmental Awareness.

Thematic Keywords

Coastal community network, marine environmental awareness, shipping and marine environmental issues

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

World Maritime University works with coastal communities in several EU supported projects and encourages enhanced networks for awareness and collaboration relating to Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection, which will benefit the broader North Sea Region, should a project be established. WMU is also an International Organization with a direct link to the International maritime industry through its affiliation with IMO. This will facilitate the contacts with the international maritime community.

4. Coastal Management Education and Training in the Context of Climate and Ecosystem Change Scenarios

Themes: Climate, Managing Marine Resources, Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

Olof Linden/Henrik Nilsson/Neil Bellefontaine, World Maritime University – Ballast Water Opportunity

Peter Erlov, Region Skåne – a number of North Sea Interreg Projects

Cluster Proposal

The goal of the project is to develop innovative and dynamic education, training and outreach in support of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) at the local and regional levels. As a result of climate change, significant ecosystemic and socio-economic change can be expected in many local coastal areas over the next generations and beyond. Warmer temperatures and significantly different weather patterns will result in economic impacts as a result of lost resources and changing services of the ecosystem.

The project engages in pro-active research and management to better prepare the current and next generation of coastal managers, leaders and local decision makers to meet these serious challenges. The project provides assessments of local coastal management pilot sites in the context of climate change scenarios over 10, 25 and 50-year horizons. The assessments will enable strategic recommendations for local area governance, management, education and training scenarios for the situation in 10, 25 and 50 years, based on available forecasts of climate change and ecosystem change. Capacity building will be pursued through the design and delivery of new education, training and outreach curricula, the production of a number of coastal management tools and institution building where and as needed in the participant institutions and pilot sites. Particular attention is placed on local needs.

Expected Outcomes

1. Development of innovative local approaches to coastal management in the context of projected climate change;
2. Multidisciplinary research at selected pilot sites and the development of local Case Studies based on the research;
3. Development of innovative coastal management education, training and outreach curricula, learning materials and other capacity building tools;
4. Delivery of education, training and outreach capacity-building and awareness raising activities and related materials to target groups.

Thematic Keywords

Climate change, capacity building, case studies, education and training, outreach

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

World Maritime University works with coastal communities in climate change related projects in different parts of the world, such as in the Indian Ocean (ref: www.cordio.org) and in EU supported projects that encourages enhanced networks for awareness and collaboration relating to Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection. The experiences from this work will benefit the broader North Sea Region, should a project be established. WMU is also an International Organization with a

direct link to the International maritime industry through its affiliation with IMO. This will facilitate the contacts with the international maritime community.

5. Creativity, E-Government and Innovative Products and Services, CEIPS

Theme: Innovation

Interested Beneficiaries

Walter Leal, HAW – CCC

Angelica Kaus, University of Groningen – E-CLIC

Katarina Nordmark, County Admin. Board of Värmland – E-CLIC

Bart Noëls, Commune Leiedal – Smart Cities

Jan Cees Kleuver, Groningen Municipality – Smart Cities

Cluster Proposal

Joint dissemination of project results from E-CLIC, Smart Cities and CCC.

Developing a joint North Sea strategy/framework on Regional R&D Strategies, Bridge the Digital Divide, Transnational Technical Collaboration and Young Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Creative development, Government and Innovative Products and Services.

Expected Outcomes

Joint strategic input in the field of innovation from projects that separately have produced ICT, services, products and strategies in IRIVB NSR projects. Increased awareness of NSR results through the promotion of the joint strategy and project results and output. Centres for Creativity and Innovation powered by new Communication Technologies (broadband, wireless networks), Capacity building through transnational collaboration and exchange of knowledge.

Thematic Keywords

Innovation, creativity, digital networks, capacity building, social cohesion

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

The budget is really tight for a cluster project, we will have to define priorities. More beneficiaries/interested organisations are Karlstad University, Hogeschool Westvlaanderen, more will be identified during the cluster workshop in Bremen.

6. Energise the Port

Themes: Innovation, Sustainable Communities, Energy

Interested Beneficiaries

Mr. W. Slob, Gemeente Harlingen (City of Harlingen)

Mr. J. Vernooij, Omrin (waste collection and processing)

Mr. L. D. Drogendijk, BDHS (Foundation for Harlingen Seaport Business Development)

Mr. M. de Jong, Harlingen Seaport (Port Agency)

Mr. E. Spaansen, Spaansen BV (raw materials and construction)

Mr. D. van Tuinen, Frisia Zout (salt factory)

Cluster Proposal

The envisaged cluster will have two main goals: one is environmental, the other is economic. A new quay will be constructed in the Seaport of Harlingen (NL) in 2011. This new quay offers a great opportunity to form a cluster for various reasons. The possibilities of the new quay are numerous. It serves as a binding force for the many parties involved and it gives them the opportunities to take their cooperation to the next level that benefits both the environment and the economic perspective of the harbour and its companies.

The new quay enables the waste collection and processing organisation Omrin to transport domestic waste from the northern part of the country by inland ships (barges) to the Harlingen seaport and directly to the plant through the transport pipes going under the quay and leading straight to the waste incinerator in Harlingen. This new cluster aims to further this initiative by clustering other businesses that can gain from this new quay. Spaansen BV and Frisia Zout are examples here. These companies can directly use the energy that arises through the incineration of domestic waste by Omrin. The other way around, other companies can benefit from the warm water Frisia Zout has as waste product from their salt gaining process for other companies' energy use. This could eventually lead to a neutral energy use for the Harlingen Seaport and even lead to the supply of energy to the grid. These intense cooperation requires careful planning and clustering for every participant to get a positive result. The new quay is the starting point for increased cooperation in the port. BDHS will initiate this idea of clustering and will work on getting parties on board for this initiative, BDHS will establish and build contacts between people, maintain active communication between all members, identify joint actions and ensure the delivery of concrete results.

The consortium is interested to find other sea ports that face similar issues and developments. The goal is to develop an approach to this matter together that can then after be easily adopted by the involved ports or any other port.

Expected Outcomes

The new cluster will lead to Harlingen Seaport becoming energy neutral or energy positive. It will lead to knowledge transfer in many areas e.g. transport, sustainability, alternative energy (e.g. energy generation from waste materials). The Harlingen Seaport will attract new business because of this cluster and will have a great impact on the economic situation in the northern part of the country.

The Harlingen Seaport will serve as an example for other smaller ports in Europe. A study will be done identifying other small ports in Europe that could benefit from this same clustering method. This study will show how these other ports can benefit from using the same clustering idea in their region.

Thematic Keywords

Cooperation, innovation, sustainability, economic development

Budget

250,000 €

7. Global Observatory (GO)

Themes: Innovation, Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

Nick Lyth, IRRI – C2C Islands

Chris Ashe, Dundee College – North Sea SEP

Chris Jefferies, University of Abertay Dundee – SKINT

Yasa Ratnayake, Aberdeen City Council – Build with Care

Cluster Proposal

There are a large number of thematically linked projects within the North Sea Region, within other European funding programmes, in national funding programmes within European member states, and outside Europe. For example, the actions undertaken in the field of renewable energy by North Sea Region projects are reflected in comparable actions in the Northern Periphery Programme, in other Interreg IVB programmes, in Interreg IVA and C programmes, in national member state projects, and all over the world in different countries.

In order to maximise the benefit of the clustered projects to the North Sea Region, GO proposes to create a Global Observatory to examine developments throughout the world relating to the projects represented in the cluster, and introduce the knowledge and experience gained in other unrelated projects to ensure the benefits of these NSR projects are maximised. The function of GO will also be to explore opportunities for collaborative working between existing projects to the benefit of the NSR, and further to explore the opportunities for project development beyond the lifetime of the NSR projects into implementation and funding of the ideas developed within the NSR projects.

Expected Outcomes

The outcomes of GO will be to provide existing NSR project partners in GO with a practical staffed observatory:

1. Observatory team and office for 18 months
2. Partnership Network of all partners in the cluster of projects
3. Information flow on all comparable activities throughout Europe and beyond relating to the themes of the NSR projects
4. Working recommendations on maximising the benefits of existing projects
5. Recommendations on future development of the existing projects
6. Recommendations for new programme development starting 2013
7. Policy engagement and recommendations

Thematic Keywords

Observatory, information, global, maximise, benefits

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

This idea has been developed in the last few days, and the transnational partnership has not yet been invited to participate. Partners suitable to this idea from all the named projects will be invited, to cover every member state in the North Sea Region.

8. Green Infrastructure: The Future

Theme: Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

Glenn Millar, British Waterways – Waterways for Growth

Cluster Proposal

Green infrastructure is considered as a “strategically planned and delivered network of high quality open space and other environmental features... designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities” (Natural England). In an EU context it is sometimes thought of in terms of Natura 2000 and other ecological sites. In reality the above definition is much wider than that and encompasses parks, open spaces, gardens, playing fields, woodlands and inland waterways (rivers, canals and lakes, sometimes known as “blue infrastructure”).

It is recognised as a significant element within sustainable communities, contributing directly and indirectly to economic development and delivering real benefits to people’s quality of life. However, now the provision and management of green infrastructure is being put under increasing pressure due to the financial crisis. Traditionally the management and development of green infrastructure has been viewed as a public good, supported by the State, through central, regional and local Government and agencies. This is now being challenged by the increased pressure on public funds in many Member States.

Consequently there is a growing need to:

1. Increase the involvement of the private and voluntary sectors in developing and managing green infrastructure. This is already happening in some areas e.g. through an increased role for the voluntary sector and non-State funding mechanisms, such as the use of “planning gain” and the role of the National Lottery in the UK.
2. Coordinate EU and State funding across sectors in relation to the types of benefit that green infrastructure delivers. A problem with green infrastructure is that it is multi-functional in nature, whereas funding mechanisms tend to be sectoral e.g. to support economic development, transport, health & well-being, environment, social/community objectives etc.
3. Establish an improved evidence base for the benefits (and costs) of green infrastructure in terms of local economic impacts and ecosystems services delivered.

Although the provision of green infrastructure is under pressure from the financial crisis, it can also help with the solution - by promoting economic recovery through supporting green jobs and increasing the attractiveness of regions for inward investment. It can help deliver Europe 2020 through supporting sustainable and inclusive growth based on the North Sea Region’s environmental and cultural attributes.

Expected Outcomes

Green infrastructure: The future will draw upon the emerging outcomes of relevant Interreg IVB North Sea Region projects and of appropriate earlier Interreg actions to:

1. Propose mechanisms / measures to reduce the reliance of green infrastructure on funding from the public sector.
2. Investigate the potential for developing an integrated funding framework for green infrastructure, bringing together EU and Member State funding across the relevant sectors.
3. Bring together an evidence base for the role of green infrastructure in a North Sea Region context in terms of local economic impacts and the wider ecosystems services delivered.

4. Develop a framework for how green infrastructure can further the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Thematic Keywords

Green infrastructure; economic recovery; ecosystems services

Budget

Not known

Comments

No other partners have been identified as yet, but it may interest existing Interreg IVB NSR projects such as MP4, Coast Alive & SURF.

9. HighEnD – High Level Development Council for Alternative Energies

Themes: Innovation, Climate

Interested Beneficiaries

Jade Hochschule, academic organisation – North Sea SEP

Dundee College, academic organisation – Build With Care

Energikontor Sydost, public equivalent body – North Sea SEP

Provincie Drenthe, public body – North Sea SEP

Pure Energy Centre, private organisation – Cradle to Cradle Islands

International Resources and Recycling Institute, public similar organisation – SMALLEST

EIFI, private non-profit organization – new beneficiary

Cluster Proposal

The EU strongly commits to reduction in Green House Gas emissions, use of renewable energy and increase of energy efficiency and promotes approaches in this direction. Thus, by now there are several energy related projects that tackle specific problems and aim at solving questions related to energy use and energy production in respect to sustainability, alternative and innovative ideas and different geographical levels.

However, the NSR still lacks of combining single ideas and projects in order to promote their practices and experiences to support local and regional development and decision making processes. Mostly, separate important aspects are approached (energy management, production and consumption, bio energy, energy in new buildings, in the built environment, private or public facilities, etc.) where the challenge can rather be seen in large scale implementation. This appears in transnational projects (e.g. in the scope of INTERREG) as well as on national levels of intervention.

HighEnD is about facilitating the exchange of ideas and know-how of former energy related projects by their specialists in order to compile the relevant aspects into one “pool of knowledge”. This knowledge of sustainability, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the according implementation in new structures and regional development are to be promoted on a large scale in order to demonstrate approaches and solutions and to raise awareness.

The project's main objectives are:

- Bringing together relevant interest groups, specialists and stakeholders of different geographical and context related levels;
- Raising awareness on the different issues of sustainable energy in the NSR;
- Giving an overview about existing, energy related projects, knowledge, experiences and contacts;
- Creating a platform for exchange (virtual and physical);
- Giving recommendations for the next programme period on how to proceed in the context of alternative energies;
- Creating a High Level Development Council as basic institution of exchange and further development;
- Supporting and enforce a successively growing network of partnerships among projects and specialists;
- Showing how to link energy policies with the regional and/or local development;
- Creating tools and methods for implementing alternative energies in regional development;

- Supporting innovation transfer in the NSR;
- Improving knowledge capacity for sustainable solutions.

To achieve this, the HighEnD project is split in five work packages. Besides the first two work packages (Project Management & Publicity and Communications) the HighEnD work packages are: Development of common Strategies (WP3), Open Information Gateway (WP4) and Network development (WP5). These three work packages strongly depend on each other.

WP3 is in charge of gathering information, compiling and unifying definitions and standards, etc.

This kind of information is the foundation for the tasks in WP4 and WP5. In WP4 the main task is to build up a virtual platform. It will not only provide data provided by WP3, but shelter a powerful collection of tools to evaluate approaches, including web based planning forms and tools.

The Network Development (WP5) will bring together all project activities to be discussed and further developed on a strategic level. This will be achieved by building up a growth core consisting of a High Level Energy Network. The Network will function as a transnational energy council made up of specialists from different professional and administrative levels. It will continue working far beyond the project's lifetime to ensure a further development of common alternative energy approaches in the NSR and beyond.

Following actors will play a role in participating to the Communication Strategy of the HighEnD project.

Lead Partner

The Lead Partner will be responsible for all communication activities for the HighEnD project. This includes the strategic aspects of communication measures and will ensure compliance with rules and regulations. The responsibilities also include the submission of the annual update of the communication plan as well as the final report and the on-going evaluation studies.

Project Members

The project members are responsible for the local, regional national communication. They have close connections to the regions they are active in and can therefore better connect with media and other potential promoters. Project Members produce concrete and tangible results through their activities, which have direct impact on citizens and are in a good position to promote the project and the related municipality.

Network Members

Attracting relevant members of related energy projects or initiatives will be the first communication target at the beginning of the project. They will be invited to exchange their ideas and know-how in work groups with other network members. Together they are an integral part of the HighEnD network. During the project life-time they will increase the publicity and significance of the project.

High Level Development Council Members

Creating a High Level Development Council composed of energy experts and other high level administrators aims at advancement and combination of visions and ideas. It also guarantees awareness and political influence to change necessary surrounding conditions. The members also will operate as ambassadors towards media, policy makers and the general public.

Expected Outcomes

In short, with this small group of partners, which are successful networkers and come from the daily work in the environmental, energy and research sector, we expect a quicker kick off and

creation of synergies within this field of intervention across the whole NSR. This partnership is built on flexible, pragmatic approaches and possibilities of informal and formal communication and dissemination forces.

Main aim of the project is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and know-how of energy specialists and running or finalised energy projects throughout the North Sea Region in order to compile all relevant aspects into one “pool of knowledge”. This knowledge of sustainability, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the according implementation in new structures and regional development are to be promoted on a large scale in order to demonstrate approaches and solutions and to raise awareness.

This can be done much better by a superior project as HighEnD because project results, knowledge, experiences and contacts are pooled in one drop-in-centre.

Over the course of the project life cycle different issues will be in focus in relation to the communication strategy. In the early stages the main issue will be to raise awareness for the project, inform about planned activities and attract network members. When the project comes into its final stages it will be important to communicate the outputs of the pool of knowledge towards policy makers and decision makers.

After successfully creating it, the “living” pool of knowledge will be sustainable further on as a council. The international conferences will be established as ongoing yearly events.

Further, the networking days and workshops will be planned on long term work and carried by members of the new networks and cores. An energy development council will strengthen the transnational cooperation and the dialogue on all levels.

Apart from that, recommendations for spatial development, advices for regional and national level and also identification of the core elements of the transferability of good practices and strategies will create sustainability of the project outcomes.

Finally, the maintenance of the virtual platform will be ensured by the HighEnD partnership.

Thematic Keywords

Exchange, gather, demonstrate & communicate knowledge

Budget

250,000 €

10. ICZM Learning Centre

Theme: Innovation

Interested Beneficiaries

Gertjan Nederbragt, Province of Noord-Holland (NL) – SUSCOD

Per Sørensen, Danish Coastal Authority (DK) – BLAST

Ruben Akkerman, Province of Zeeland (NL) – CPA

Cluster Proposal

Many project deal or have dealt with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and/or climate change. These resulted in either specific or generic insights, varying from gained (scientific) knowledge to recommendations and tools. But how do we do in practice? Adaptation does not only apply to changes in (the approach of) spatial planning. It is also about people, the way we work together and how we should change to improve our performance. It's about communication, sharing expertise and experience and providing support.

This project cluster proposal aims at linking coastal practitioners from different INTERREG projects working on ICZM and climate change and creating a community across the NSR and possibly beyond. By doing so we develop a common 'language' and mentality/mind set on coastal management. With the right support, this leads to mutual understanding and opens the way to co creation in coastal areas.

Possible related INTERREG IVB NSR projects:

C-SCOPE

TIDE

Link to the EC project OurCoast.

Expected Outcomes

Create network/community

Organise meetings and workshops both for policy advisors and managers as well as for politicians

Thematic Keywords

ICZM, community, climate ada

Budget

tbc

11. Klub Dialog

Themes: Innovation, Sustainable Communities, Creative Industries

Interested Beneficiaries

Steffen Wiegmann, WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH – Creative City Challenge, Organza

Gerard Tolner, Gemeente Groningen – Creative City Challenge

Jeremy Hague, Nottingham Trent University – Creative City Challenge

Griet Noe, Intermunicipal Association Leiedal NPO Designregio Kortrijk – Creative City Challenge

Karen A. Brown, Newcastle City Council – Creative City Challenge

Anna Grzelec, Tilt – Creative City Challenge

Cluster Proposal

The cultural and creative industries today are already geared to future-oriented work and business models, such as hybrid forms of work. Moreover, the sector is extraordinarily innovative. It represents a major source of original innovation ideas. Production primarily involves prototypes, custom jobs, extremely small batches as well as immaterial products. Production and development are frequently project-specific. Nearly all companies in the cultural and creative industries utilize modern technologies, in particular information and communication technologies. They are not only passive technology users, but repeatedly generate major impetus for new technological variants among technology manufacturers and developers. 3.5% of the European population works in the cultural and creative industries. Employment in this sector shows 3.5% annual growth. Other industries in Europe have a growth rate of 1%.

As an economically significant industry, the creative sector is the subject of current debate about definitions and goals. The Green Book of the European Commission (COM 2010, 183/3) on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries, issued in summer 2010, points out the rising need for a targeted content-related strategy to boost this increasingly important sector. Furthermore, the European Commission also wants to create an appropriate environment supporting the cultural and creative industries in order to stimulate innovation. This environment should be provided at the regional level.

The KLUB DIALOG project is a cluster idea for the cultural and creative industries in the North Sea region. The idea is based on empirical data from a well mapped-out cluster process implemented in Bremen in recent years that resulted in successful installation of the network platform KLUB DIALOG in 2010. Today KLUB DIALOG offers the cultural and creative sector in Bremen a continuous platform for jointly exchanging ideas, networking and getting to know each other. The objective is to create access and make the creative sector visible to the public. KLUB DIALOG is aimed at building bridges between so-called traditional industries and creative thinkers as well as initiating innovative and creative processes through the resulting dialogue.

KLUB DIALOG consists of various events and is run by a team of creative players. A kind of open meeting of regulars is offered once a month in a bar at which the players from 11 sectors can get together get to know each other and exchange ideas on a fixed date. There is an opportunity of presenting projects, but it is not a must.

A general meeting of the creative sector takes place every six months. The items on the agenda include key topics that concern all participants and are examined in depth within the scope of workshops and lectures (topic of money, topic of identity).

Every six weeks a limited number of persons are invited on a targeted basis to an "Greet and Eat". This casual dinner, which is deliberately held in a simple and private manner, gives creative players and representatives of other sectors the opportunity to get to know each other, exchange ideas and and create business collaborations.

In the form of so-called home visits, the KLUB DIALOG players visit each other at their workplaces and lectures on topics regarding the creative sector are organized in cooperation with institutes and associations via the KLUB DIALOG satellite.

Special emphasis regarding the development of such a network instrument on a national and transnational level must be placed on the differences from cluster projects in other economic sectors. Creative and so-called traditional economic players speak a different "language" in many cases. Lowering mental barriers and at the same time enabling new forms of cooperation represent one of the major goals. Furthermore, KLUB DIALOG focuses on enhancing the self-image and self-confidence of the cultural and creative industries.

An evaluation and preparation phase at the local level is necessary prior to a national and transnational network start so as to ensure successful establishment of the KLUB DIALOG network platform. Since KLUB DIALOG depends on active participation by its members, all efforts are targeted at involvement on the part of the players and participants. Installation of heterogeneous structures in regional creative industries is a decisive factor for successful functioning of the network.

In the Interreg project Creative City Challenge, WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH, works together with 12 different cities and regions to develop a long-term support strategy for the creative industries in the North Sea region by means of pilot projects. The partners in this project provide the basis for a KLUB DIALOG in the North Sea region. On the local and regional level should be established the KLUB DIALOG by the partners, which activities and will be coordinated and guided together by the umbrella brand KLUB DIALOG.

Expected Outcomes

- Continuous network platform for the creative sector in the North Sea region aimed at providing input for a European strategy for the Creative Industries. Network for further activities and a coordinated strategy - KLUB DIALOG not only local, but transnational;
- Boosting self-confidence and identity of the cultural and creative industries in the North Sea region;
- Contribution to the planned initiative of the European Creative Industries Alliance.

Thematic Keywords

Innovation, creativity, network

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

The interested beneficiaries are institutions which are acting in the triangle area of science, society and policy. The common aim is to foster the sustainable development of a creative environment with the goal to stimulate innovation and creativity, to stop the so called brain drain of creative players and to boost employment. Furthermore the goal is to create competitive, innovation-based urban and regional economies in the North Sea Region, in line with the objectives of the EU Lisbon Agenda 2000.

12. Local and Regional Preparedness to Oil Spills

Themes: Managing Marine Resources, Sustainable Communities, Transport

Interested Beneficiaries

Olof Linden/Henrik Nilsson/Neil Bellefontaine, World Maritime University – Ballast Water Opportunity

Peter Erlov, Region Skåne – several different North Sea Interreg projects

Cluster Proposal

Maritime transportation in general and oil transportation in particular, is steadily increasing both in terms of number and size of the ships. As a consequence, the risk for an accident with vessels carrying oil is also growing.

In these circumstances it is of crucial importance to have an updated and well functioning response capacity to combat the oil at sea as well as on land. However, in case of an oil spill accident, local and regional stakeholders are the ones who will pay the dearest consequences in terms of cost for sanitation and socio economic loss. Therefore it's particularly important to have an updated and well functioning response capacity in these areas in order to minimize the effects of the oil spill.

Furthermore it is also important that the communication and cooperation between the actors involved in an oil spill combat is working well. Cross border cooperation is needed over administrative borders as well as over sector borders.

Expected Outcomes

1. Awareness Building in Risk Management for Oil Spills;
2. Development of locally adapted Oil Spill Contingency Plans;
3. Development of sensitivity maps for local use;
4. Increased cooperation across administrative borders.

Thematic Keywords

Local oil spill contingency plans, environmental sensitivity mapping, oil spill risk management, cooperation, capacity building

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

World Maritime University is already involved in the Baltic Master program and the outcomes and experiences from this program would be transferred to the North Sea Region. Furthermore, by being an affiliate organization of the International Maritime Organization, WMU has direct links to the international maritime community which will facilitate the success of a project should it be carried out.

13. Low Carbon Regions in the North Sea

Theme: Climate

Interested Beneficiaries

Yasa Ratnayeke, Aberdeen City Council – Build with CaRe

Hans Meerendonk, Fryslan Council – Cradel to Cradel

Michael Glotz-Richter, City of Bremen – CARE-North

Thrond Kjellevoid, Telemark – CCS

Dag Bjørnsen, Tel-Tek – CCS

Erik Lindbore, Rogaland Fylkeskommune – ANSWER

Cluster Proposal

The aim of the proposal is to develop a comprehensive, strategic and practical approach to carbon reduction and energy efficiency in the North Sea Region based on the outcomes of existing projects.

There are several related projects in the North Sea Programme that tackle the issues of carbon reduction in different ways. This project will develop common tools that will link Energy Management, Production and Consumption, Energy in Buildings, Transport and CCS. The cluster will gain added knowledge about the whole value chain for CO₂ and enable local Authorities to reduce their CO₂ emissions.

The cluster project will also bring together common themes, key learning points and areas for policy development identified within such projects as:

- Build with CaRe - carbon reduction in the built environment;
- Cradle to Cradle Islands - sustainable energy technologies and strategies on island communities;
- ANSWER - attitudes towards energy efficiency in businesses and communities;
- Care North - carbon efficient transport strategies;
- Carbon Capture and Storage.

The project will provide a strong voice for lobbying future European policy development as well as raising awareness of such issues.

Expected Outcomes

- Raising awareness of carbon reduction / energy efficiency best practice;
- Identifying the key issues associated with carbon reduction common across North Sea Regions;
- Identify possible ways to integrate the tools developed by each project;
- Influence future European Energy and Carbon Policies particularly the Energy Action Plan 2011-2020.

Thematic Keywords

Energy efficiency, CO₂ reduction, carbon neutrality, clustering

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

Telemark Technological R&D Centre in Telemark is co-ordinating the Interreg IV A Project "CCS in Skagerrak/Kattegat" www.ccs-skagerrakkattegat.eu and will strengthen the knowledge in the group on CCS.

14. maritime wikipilot

Themes: Innovation, Transport, Open Source

Interested Beneficiaries

DJ Hummel, Syntens – new

W. Amels, Datema Nautical information services – new

F.Willems, Hanze hogeschool Groningen – new

Cluster Proposal

Organize an open source cluster for all maritime interested parties as nautical suppliers, shipping companies, maritime cargo handling, maritime organisations and others in the European Union.

Expected Outcomes

The goal of the cluster shall be a quicker nautical data exchange in order to achieve a safer transit for shipping by avoiding unsafe navigation based on ancient nautical information. Second goal is to socialize the work onboard the merchant vessels by stimulating data exchange between all beneficiaries which shall improve the quality standards of ships personnel.

Thematic Keywords

Opensource nautical safety information exchange

Budget

225,000 €

Comments

Interested beneficiaries mentioned are the three parties which will start the project, and because of the content it is expected there will be a significant basis for the cluster.

15. Moving Images - Co-operative Working for Communication and Post-production

Themes: Innovation, Priority 3 – Improving the accessibility of places in the NSR

Interested Beneficiaries

Dundee City Council – NSSP

Bergen Mediaby – NSSP

University of Dundee – NSSP

Film Fynen

Tietgen Business College

Cluster Proposal

Pilot scheme to study, test feasibility of systems/technology, develop and report on, innovative working models for:

1. Remote and distributed access to data and audio-visual content for post-production operations;
2. Co-operative, trans-national working on post-production projects to inform companies on approaches to working together to enable competition and bidding for higher quality and higher value projects;
3. Remote communications and conferencing based on generic technology. (Systems would be studied and tested in the context of co-operative post-production with a view to developing more cost-effective approaches than current, very high cost, bespoke systems. Such systems would be of interest across the commercial and public sectors and contribute to significant reduction in travel thus also addressing Priority 3 with particular reference to "the issue of how ICT infrastructures could support the promotion of regional accessibility strategies". This is not just about technology - it's about using technology and developing approaches so that people feel more comfortable working with each other remotely and do so more effectively.

Expected Outcomes

- Tested models and report on best-practice for remote and distributed access to data and content;
- Tested models and report on innovative methods for co-operative post-production;
- Assembled pilot group for bidding on higher value post-production projects;
- Tested models and report on innovative models for remote communications and conferencing.

Thematic Keywords

Communications, accessibility, ICT, co-operation, trans-nationality

Budget

250,000 €

16. NORth Sea Incubator – NORSI

Theme: Innovation

Interested Beneficiaries

Nick Lyth, IRRl – C2C Islands

Chris Ashe, Dundee College – North Sea SEP

Chris Jefferies, University of Abertay Dundee – SKINT

Yasa Ratnayake, Aberdeen City Council – Build with Care

Cluster Proposal

There are a number of projects in the North Sea Region which are creating the opportunity for further development. But they require a commercial structure and plan to achieve sustainable long-term life. NORSI proposes to create a partnership between a cluster of NSR projects with the skills, experience, contacts and access to funding required to incubate that best ideas produced by NSR projects (within the cluster and beyond) to give them long-term, sustainable commercial life. This will include especially the issues of funding that challenge all new companies and ideas attempting to gain a foothold in the commercial markets. Thus NORSI will incubate the variety of actions indicated in the different project outcomes and convert them into viable long-term sustainable activities.

Expected Outcomes

NORSI will provide the NSR and all its projects as well as the cluster of partner projects with a machine to stimulate long-term life for the best of the ideas generated by these projects:

1. A service for incubating NSR project ideas into commercial life;
2. An office and staff with the expertise required for commercial incubation and funding;
3. A network of economic development and funding bodies;
4. A network of partners with a wide regional coverage;
5. Access to knowledge with a wide regional coverage;
6. Access to markets with a wide regional coverage;
7. Recommendations for new programme development starting 2013;
8. Policy engagement and recommendations.

Thematic Keywords

Incubation, commercialisation, long-term, sustainable, funding

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

This idea has been developed in the last few days, and the transnational partnership has not yet been invited to participate. Partners suitable to this idea from all the named projects will be invited, to cover every member state in the North Sea Region.

17. Screen and Experience Tourism in the North Sea Region

Themes: Innovation, Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

Julie Lindegaard, FilmFyn – North Sea Screen Partners

Regitze Kristensen, Tietgen Business College – North Sea Screen Partners

Julie Craik, Dundee City Council – North Sea Screen Partners

Tanja Langenickel, Nordmedia – North Sea Screen Partners

Torill Svege, Bergen Media By – North Sea Screen Partners

Jo Nolan, Screen South – North Sea Screen Partners

Ingrid Thornell, Region Vastra Gotalands – North Sea Screen Partners

ScreenAndy, MacKenzie – Creative cities

Marie Bjoerg Nordlund, South Danish Tourism – new (Structural funds: Oplevelsernes akademi)

Cluster Proposal

Film tourism is a growing phenomenon worldwide, due to both the growth of the entertainment/ experience industry and the increase in international travel.

The project idea is to identify, share best practice for exploiting film/ experience tourism marketing opportunities in NSR, measure the effect of different marketing tools and mix on cluster development on regional, national and NSR level. Identify competence gaps in the clusters and develop supporting measures in the field of joint training programmes on regional, national and NSR level.

Expected Outcomes

Workpackage 1: build network between the film clusters and tourism clusters on regional, national and NSR level

Workpackage 2: Marketing and film, identify used activities in different areas in NSR:

- > marketing factors that encourage film tourists to visit destinations that appear (or are depicted) in the movies
- > types of marketing activities in which destinations can engage to promote film tourism:
- > efforts to encourage producers and studios to film at the location,
- > efforts to generate media publicity around the film and its location,
- > marketing activities that promote the film location after production,
- > peripheral marketing activities that leverage film tourism potential
- > efforts of destinations that encourage producers and studios to film at their location.

Workpackage 3: Marketing Pilot: Pilot one or more tools identified in workpackage 1 in transnational pilots

Workpackage 4: Effect measuring: Evaluate the effects of the pilots on regional, national and NSR level

Workpackage 5: Training: Identify competence gaps in the field of tourism marketing, develop joint training programmes for the film and tourism clusters based on identified best practices, pilot and evaluate the training programmes and secure the sustainability of the activities

Dissemination: social medias publication, newsletter in printed and in virtual form, conference with seminars and workshops

Thematic Keywords

Knowledge sharing among clusters, sustainability, best practice, tourism marketing

Budget

240,000 €

Comments

The project is built on development areas identified in the 3 projects indicated above. Tourism partners from the other countires in the NSR area will be invited in.

18. The Effect of Sea Water Parameters and Climate Change on the Formation of Disinfection By-products in the North Sea

Themes: Climate, Marine Pollution

Interested Beneficiaries

Sangeeta Banerji, Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) – North Sea Ballast Water Opportunities

Kai Trümpler, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany (BSH) – North Sea Ballast Water Opportunities

Burkhard Stachel, Ministry of Urban Development and Environment of the City of Hamburg – DiPol

Susanne Heise, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences – DiPol

Bert van Hattum, University of Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies – DiPol

Marcel Veldhuis, NIOZ – North Sea Ballast Water Opportunities

Cluster Proposal

Cluster between NSBWO and DiPol

Background

NSBWO aims to improve the NSR environment and economy by facilitating ratification of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention through enabling implementation while stimulating the maritime industry to utilize the North Sea region's leading scientific position on aquatic invasions to capitalize this new market opportunity. DiPol aims to collect knowledge on the impact of climate change on water quality, to communicate and raise awareness towards this knowledge, to improve the ability of decision makers to counteract these impacts on local and international level, and to facilitate public participation herein.

Common Goal

Both projects aim to assess and improve the water quality of the North Sea, albeit from different angles. The NSBWO wants to reduce the spread of alien aquatic invaders through ship's ballast water as well as minimize release of harmful chemicals by ballast water management systems.

Disinfection by-product (DBP) release into the sea is considered to be one of the associated hazards of ballast water treatment. The DiPol project wants to assess the contaminant transport from urban areas into the North Sea and relate it to changing climate.

The Cluster Proposal

- a) sampling and testing of different European harbour waters (Hamburg, Oslo, Göteborg, Copenhagen, Rotterdam) with respect to a specified list of DBPs in order to identify, which DBPs are present as well as their quantities
- b) in vitro functional assays (e.g. AMES test) to assess the genotoxic/ carcinogenic properties of the harbour waters
- c) land-based testing of a BWMS in order to assess the dependence of by-product formation and genotoxic activity on certain water parameters, e.g. NOM, DOC
- d) integration of the ballast water treatment scenario into the Risk Ranking Model to be developed by DiPol

Added Value by Clustering

1. Added value for NSBWO

Improved health and environmental risk assessment of ballast water management systems (BWMS) based on the identification of key parameters influencing by-product formation in sea water. Additionally, the resulting data on the quality and characteristics of North Sea harbour water with respect to DBPs will serve as a starting point for the later assessment of the impacts of the

future implementation of the ballast water convention in this region. Moreover, the information on coastal transport of these contaminants obtained from the DiPol project will enable better assessment of the potential risk of distributing DBPs via BWMS. Health and environmental risk assessment is required for approval of BWMS using or generating active substances and has to be carried out by every submitting country who is a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Therefore, the results of the project will be submitted to IMO so that they can be made available to all member states. Integration of the BWM-scenario into the Risk Ranking Model (part of SIMACLIM), developed by DiPol will help communicating the outcome of the investigations.

2. Added value for DiPol

Identification of additional contaminants and their concentration in the North Sea since DBPs are currently not being measured within DiPol. DBPs are of interest since their formation and stability is known to be temperature-dependent and therefore potentially influenced by climate change. Moreover, the results of the in vitro functional assays will give additional insight into the characteristics of the North Sea harbour waters and will also be assessed with respect to climate change. If possible, the resulting data will be fed into a web-based simulation tool (SIMACLIM). The potential of using SIMACLIM in the ballast water management setting would help improving the tool and supporting its implementation.

Communication

The communication between the projects will be facilitated by their representatives in Hamburg. There will be regular personal meetings, especially for the sampling events, as well as monthly teleconferences.

Expected Outcomes

Improved health and environmental risk assessment of BWMS. Establishing a data basis to investigate future changes in the contaminant concentration due to release of treated ballast water and climate change.

As a conclusion, the North Sea region will benefit from the proposed cluster between NSBWO and DiPol by improved knowledge of the quality of the North Sea water and raised awareness as the two projects will make each other and the interests of the North Sea region known within their world wide network.

Thematic Keywords

Contaminants, disinfection by-product, water analysis, ballast water

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

Looking for interested cluster partners in the areas of land-based testing, sampling, water analysis, in vitro functional assays.

19. Watercap (WATER-Cluster-Adapt-Promotion)

Themes: Climate, Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

Rolf Johnsen; Central Denmark Region – CLIWAT

Irene Wiborg; Knowledge centre for agriculture – Aquarius

Marco Ritzkowski; Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg – DiPol

Jeff Marengwa; Ministry of Urban Development and Environment – SAWA

Rubens Akkermans; Provincie Zeeland – CPA

Silke Bücken; OOWV – C2CI

Cluster Proposal

Climate change models indicate that temperatures as well as precipitation will increase in northern Europe. However, there will also be significant seasonal and spatial variations. Furthermore, the sea level will rise and increase the risk of coastal flooding. The challenges call for integrated management in the private and public sector. Adaptation to climate change is about breaking down the barriers between sectors, departments and preventing a bunker mentality from developing. The adaptation process is about learning how solutions in one sector may affect others and to prevent any adverse effects and to aim for synergies instead.

This is a proposal for clustering the outcomes of six projects: five Interreg IVB projects in Priority 2, Area of Intervention 2.3, "Adapting to and reducing risks posed to society and nature by a changing climate", and parts of the outcomes of a single project within Area of Intervention 2.4, "Promoting environmentally-responsible energy production practices".

The aim of the clustering project is to raise awareness about the wealth of knowledge these single projects are generating about climate change impact on the hydrological cycle and to better communicate the results at the policy level. Tools and models from the projects will be discussed, making them more accessible to communities and policymakers and information about the tools and models will be presented to a broader audience.

Context of the Projects

The six projects have a total funding of around 25–30 million Euros and cover all seven countries in the North Sea Region. Furthermore, the projects include a great deal of knowledge from key institutions in the region. All of the projects focus on water and the environment and on adaptation strategies and measures in a future climate related context.

As the aim of the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme is to promote transnational cooperation and to make the North Sea Region a better place to live, work and invest in, it is our belief that clustering the outcomes of these six individual projects will result in synergy that will create added value and therefore contribute to the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies. Focusing on building upon and promoting the results of the six projects to a broader audience will raise awareness about the region and the projects' findings, tools and recommendations.

It should be noted that the knowledge available in the projects share similarities with projects from other regional programmes where close cooperation and exchange takes place. For example, in the Baltic Sea and KASK programmes, partners (GEUS, Knowledge Centre for Agriculture) are engaged in the project BalticDeal, Baltica and Baltic COMPASS. It should be considered how the cluster could be linked to these projects in order to further expand the ideas and solutions discussed.

Thematic focus of clustering projects

Project risk	Common issues (all projects)			Common issues (>50 %)		
	Impact analysis		Adaptation strategy	Water quantity aspects/flood		
	Policy regulations + guidelines			Agriculture	Urban water	Water quality
CPA	X	X	X	X	X	
Aquarius	X	X	X	X	X	X
CLIWAT	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAWA	X	X	X		X	
DiPol	X	X	X		X	X
C2CI (water)	X	X	X	X	X	X

Analysis of issues investigated in the cluster projects.

The overall theme in the cluster project will be climate change adaptation, i.e. climate change and its effects on the hydrological cycle and how we can deal with the challenges to our society and natural habitat. As the table above shows, the projects investigations have specific aspects. But all six projects share a common principal – the study of the hydrological cycle, from raindrop to ground, groundwater infiltration, surface water, run off and water extraction to the consumer or flow to the sea. SAWA and DiPol are all dealing with surface water quantity and quality. CLIWAT is focusing on groundwater quantity and quality and local community solutions, and Aquarius is focusing on how to include important stakeholders in the challenge to solve climate change impact, such as making the farmer a water manager in the future. CPA is dealing with the adaptation process and how to start and continue an integrated process. C2CI intends to adapt to climate change challenges by optimising the hydrological cycle on North Sea Islands with special focus on quantity and quality of ground and surface water.

The common issues that each project shares are listed in the first three columns of the table above. The three columns on the right side of the table show issues which are dealt with in some of the projects. This cluster project will concentrate on the common issues: Impact analysis, adaptation strategy and water quantity and relate this to current and future national and EU policy.

Cluster Approach

The main focus will be in extracting key information from the six projects, with respect to tools, methods and recommendations that are of central relevance to national and EU climate policy.

To this purpose, a clustering process has been developed (see box below), which includes a document analysis, interviews, three workshops and a conference.

Each workshop will focus on one of the common issues: impact analysis, adaptation strategy and water quantity aspects/flood risk. Guiding questions for the workshop will be: What are the lessons learned? How can the findings be integrated? Where are the win-win situations and how can Europe benefit from these outcomes?

The results of each workshop will be summarised in a working paper which will include both the projects' recommendations and the main results.

Participants in each workshop will be representatives from the individual projects who have specifically focused on the particular issue being examined in the workshop. This means that each project sends the most qualified person to each workshop.

To ensure that the recommendations developed are closely linked to the policy requirements, the workshop will be prepared through an analysis in which specific guidelines, regulations and

directives must be included in the discussion. In addition, a series of interviews with key persons in the relevant Directorate General (DG's) and on national level will be held to identify the (current) focus and requirements of climate change policy. The results of the interviews and the analysis will set the framework for the workshop discussions.

Workshop participants will be asked and encouraged to give recommendations related to policies and guidelines and this will create synthesis that will develop.

Finally, the three working papers will be presented and evaluated in a cluster conference for the national and EU level, inviting representatives from national levels and DG representatives to actively participate. At the conference, recommendations will be illustrated with project results to make them more tangible, e.g. from case studies.

The results of the discussion will lead to a conference report.

At the end of the clustering activity a questionnaire will be sent to the conference participants and policymaker target groups, to assess the impact of the clustering activity. Focus will be on the potential for improving clustering activities, so that future projects can benefit from it.

Communicating findings will be an essential activity throughout the cluster project. So an immediate dissemination and communication strategy must be developed which identifies how to post information about the process in an optimum manner that reaches policy level.

Steps towards a cluster conference targeting national and EU policymakers:

- 1) Setting up dissemination strategy which communicates process to target group.
- 2) Preparational analysis of current and upcoming EU policies, guidelines, directives etc.
- 3) Interviews with the final target group, officials from national and EU offices.
- 4) Three workshops, one in each of the common issues. Focus on added value, synergy and win-win situations, all related to relevant EU and national policies.
- 5) The results from the workshops will be integrated and presented in a clustering conference in Brussels. The purpose is to bring the results to the politicians, bureaucrats and other interested parties in the EU system.
- 6) Evaluation of the impact

Expected Outcomes

The clustering activity will lead to three working papers, detailing the projects results on impact analysis, adaptation strategy and water quantity aspects/ flood risk. The papers will provide recommendations at the EU and national policy.

In addition, in the final conference report, these papers will have been evaluated and suggestions for their implementation will be presented. With this we hope to contribute to ongoing and upcoming policy processes, such as the coming revision of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive.

The cluster will improve the exchange of knowledge between researchers and water managers and support a common understanding on how to map impacts and deal with different challenges.

Thematic Keywords

Water cycle, climate change, EU directives, tools and recommendations, adaptation

Budget

250,000 €

Comments

An additional list of beneficiaries is added to the idea form:

Rolf Johnsen; Central Denmark Region (CLIWAT)

Sophie Rotter; Seeconsult (CLIWAT)

Hans Jørgen Hneriksen; GEUS (CLIWAT)

Irene Wiborg; Knowledge Centre for Agriculture (Aquarius)

Susy Lauesen; Danish Ministry of the Environment (Aquarius)

Marco Ritzkowski; Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg (DiPol)

Jeff Marengwa; Ministry of Urban Development and Environment (SAWA)

Rubens Akkermanns and Ingrid De Kubber; Provincie Zeeland (CPA)

Silke Bücken; OOWV (C2CI)

20. Water Gate

Theme: Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

John Blanksby, University of Sheffield – SKINT, MARE and NWE FloodResilienCity

Scott Arthur, Heriot Watt University – SAWA

Hans de Beer, NGU – SKINT

Chris Jefferies, University of Abertay, Dundee – SKINT

Erik Pasche, TU Hamburg Harburg – MARE

Cluster Proposal

This proposal is to deliver a user orientated portal that can be used to disseminate the outputs of projects associated with various aspects of water management. The partners in the North Sea Regions projects SKINT, MARE and SAWA and the NWE project FloodResilienCity have developed a common framework for land and water management that will be used to align the project activities and order the project outputs. They are now working on the development of a user focused portal that will be developed around the framework. As with all projects there is concern about how the outputs will be maintained into the future. Straw polls have indicated that traditional project web sites are seldom visited. Therefore it is intended that the framework and portal will be living entities that will be relevant to their users and that can be enhanced and expanded with subsequent projects. The purpose of the cluster will be to develop the portal and its data management system so that it will be easy to manage in the future and also to raise its profile so that people will want to use and contribute to it. In the short term this will be started by inviting other relevant projects to contribute content and help in the development of the framework.

Expected Outcomes

- A robust, yet flexible framework for sharing knowledge;
- A user focused portal to provide easy access to the outputs of projects associated with land and water management;
- The development and marketing of a community to maintain and enhance to framework and portal contents;
- The creation of an approach that can be adopted for the management of project outputs in other sectors.

Thematic Keywords

Land and water management, framework, portal

Budget

230,000 €

Comments

Although the proposed cluster has been placed within the sustainable communities theme, it is also relevant to elements of the innovation and climate themes. The partners in the four current projects met in Paris in November 2009 to discuss the benefits of pursuing common approaches which would align their activities and since then there has been significant progress in the formation of an informal cluster, but this will benefit from the formation of a more formal structure that can be expanded to include other projects. The partners involved in the formation of the cluster are those responsible for the structuring and presenting the project outputs. There will be a clear benefit in supporting a dedicated team that will produce a first class user focused portal and liaise with all relevant project partners to solicit their collaboration. Thus the major areas of

expenditure will be in the development of a state of the art user portal and in the establishment of a communities representative of users and providers of content. A side benefit of this cluster proposal will be the potential to form a transnational community of practice of users and contributors to the portal.

21. Water Knowledge Cluster

Theme: Sustainable Communities

Interested Beneficiaries

John Blanksby, University of Sheffield – SKINT, MARE and NWE FloodResilienCity

Scott Arthur, Heriot Watt University – SAWA

Chris Jefferies, University of Abertay, Dundee – SKINT

Erik Pasche, TU Hamburg Harborg – MARE

Damien Serre, Paris Engineering School – FloodResilienCity

Cluster Proposal

This proposal is to bring together the Interreg partners whose responsibility it is to develop teaching, training and capacity building material within their respective projects to align their activities to avoid duplication of effort and missing opportunities to develop synergies. The partners in the North Sea Regions projects SKINT, MARE and SAWA and the NWE project FloodResilienCity have developed a common framework for land and water management that will be used to align flood risk and water management practitioner needs for teaching and training material with those of providers of that material. Although they are now working on the alignment process it is recognised that there are potentially more providers of material in other projects. Furthermore, as with all projects there is concern about how the outputs will be maintained and updated in the future.

The purpose of the cluster will be to identify the transnational need for teaching and training material and to identify and co-ordinate the effort required to fulfil that need. The material will be delivered through the common portal being developed by the partners of the four projects and which is the subject of a parallel cluster proposal, and the long term intention is to create a user focused network that will identify and satisfy ongoing needs. Part of the proposal will be to extend the urban water planning "computer game" called Water Town which is being developed as a tool in the SKINT project. This is very innovative and aimed at improving communication with all stakeholders including school children and young adults.

Expected Outcomes

- A user focused register of teaching and training needs within a framework for sharing knowledge;
- A transnational network of teaching and training providers to address ongoing needs through material shared on a user focused portal for land and water management;
- Innovative methods of developing better understanding of land and water management by using techniques from the computer games industry;
- Longevity of the dissemination because demand for use and that aspects will have a commercial value.

Thematic Keywords

Land and water management, teaching, training

Budget

220,000 €

Comments

Although the proposed cluster has been placed within the sustainable communities theme, it is also relevant to elements of the innovation and climate themes. The partners in the four current

projects have already progressed a long way in the formation of an informal cluster, but this will benefit considerably from the being established and resourced as a formal grouping. The partners involved in the formation of the cluster are those responsible for developing teaching and training material to be placed in the public domain as part of their projects. There will be a clear benefit in supporting a dedicated team that identify the needs and production of material through liaison with all relevant project partners to solicit their collaboration. Thus the major areas of expenditure will be in the development and co-ordination of the network, in the development of a common approach to the delivery of material and in the enhancement of the "game" Water Town.