

European Union



The European Regional Development Fund

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



Project Clustering - A Strategic Projects Approach



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*Investing in the future
by working together for a
sustainable and competitive region*



Operational Programme, strategic project characteristics:

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



- The geographical area or area of influence covered by the project **encompasses a large part of the region**
- Project activities refer not to a single standing local or regional case but **contribute to the prosperous development of a major part of the region**
- The projects have **political support and backing at the national level** of the member states involved, which take responsibility for the endorsement of the policy recommendations
- The project has the potential to act as the **preparation phase for a major cooperation project**
- The projects will have a **lasting impact**



Strategic Projects or Clustering?

- **Option 1**

Traditional strategic approach in which individual projects are nominated as strategic projects. The nominated projects are expected to deliver outstanding results in line with the characteristics listed above.

In comparison with “standard” projects, the strategic projects are first amongst equals.



Strategic projects or Clustering?

- **Option 2**

Project clustering was proposed as an alternative idea of delivering strategic inputs for the programme.

The underlying idea is that projects, which share a common theme or are addressing similar issues, form a cluster of excellence and deliver a shared strategic input for the programme.



Clustering in the North Sea Programme

- Initiated by a **group of projects** sharing a common theme but with different approaches for addressing the challenges associated with this theme.
- Projects would **jointly identify strategic elements** where there seems to be a real and interesting potential for the projects to work together in order to take advantage of each other's results.



Clustering in the North Sea Programme

- By supporting each other in delivery and drawing on the latest information available from a wide range of partners, individual projects will gain **access to a much greater range of resources and knowledge**, allowing them to take **work on the strategic elements much further** than would be possible in single projects.
- The clustering idea takes the value of **working together in project partnerships** and aims to apply the same methods and draw the same benefits from cooperation between projects.
- It might be worth bearing in mind that this may **not be found interesting by all projects** or to be in their own interest.

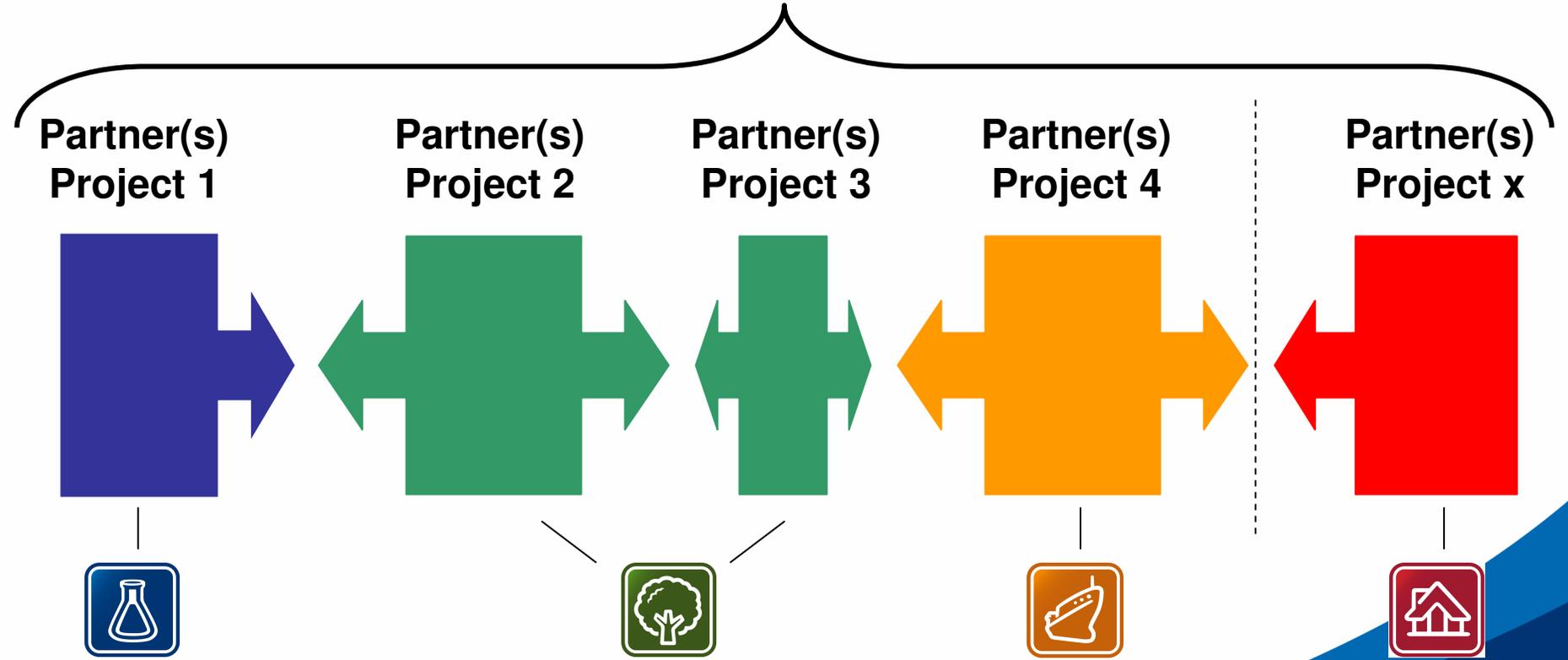


Cluster Facilitator

- To achieve project clustering in a coordinated manner.
- In line with the European Commission emphasising the need to support and facilitate the work of clusters by external cluster managers.
- To ensure that a strategic perspective on project clustering is maintained.
- To facilitate the dialogue between related projects and ensure and emphasise the strategic inputs from the process.
- The role does not include managing the clusters. This is up to the individual clusters. The facilitator will be a sparring partner for the clusters.



Cluster of excellence
Shared strategic output
Specific theme



46 Funded Projects

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