



Transforming the North Sea Region

Annual Report 2017
SUMMARY

North Sea Region Programme VB



318

partners in 39 projects

700+

participants in events

What we do



The Interreg North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 helps make the North Sea Region a better and more liveable place for its 60 million inhabitants. Spanning 49 regions in seven countries around the

North Sea, our programme accelerates sustainable socio-economic development, tackling the key challenges that the region is facing and tapping into the opportunities offered by our regional strengths.

What we support

We select and support innovation projects that fall within one of our four priority themes. The projects are executed in strong transnational partnerships often involving a mixture of regional public agencies, private sector organisations and academic institutions.

Climate change adaptation, green energy, circular economy, blue growth, ecosystem management, innovation, and sustainable mobility are key words describing our project portfolio. Most projects involve many partner organisations based in 5-6 countries.



Priority 1: Thinking growth

Fosters public-private innovation partnerships and builds innovation capacity.



Priority 2: Eco-innovation

Promotes the greening of products, services, and processes.



Priority 3: Sustainable North Sea Region

Builds the region's climate resilience and sustainable ecosystem management.



Priority 4: Green transport and mobility

Explores and bolsters green solutions for freight and passenger transport.



How we operate

The Joint Secretariat in Viborg, Denmark, runs the daily activities of the North Sea Region Programme. We are governed by our Monitoring and Steering Committees involving representatives of each of the seven EU Member States. The Monitoring Committee oversees our

operational efficiency whilst the Steering Committee takes key decisions, for example on project approvals. The Programme is also supported by our National Contact Points who advise and inform project developers in specific North Sea Region countries.

Programme highlights

Events

During 2017, more than 700 people participated in key events. In conjunction with the 20th North Sea Conference in Göttingen, Germany, the Secretariat hosted an Interwork Event for project developers. The Conference was attended by the Minister-President of

Flanders, Geert Bourgeois, who called for an integrated strategy for the North Sea. In addition, we organised 7 training events supporting our project community to implement projects. Programme staff also participated in numerous events organised by projects.



The Secretariat organised 7 reporting training and First Level Control seminars.



Head of Secretariat Christian Byrith at the North Sea Conference 2017.



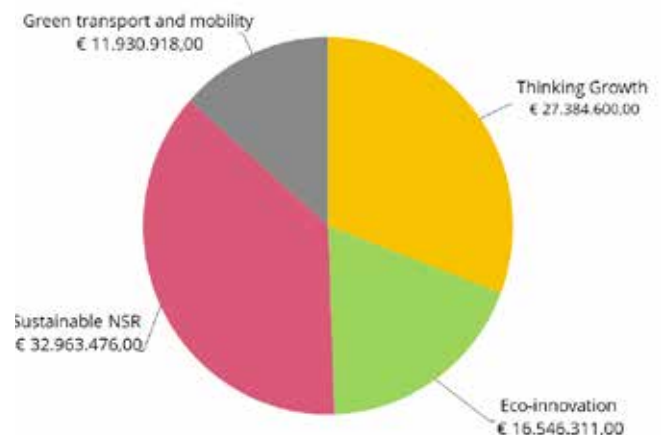
SHINE's mid-term conference was attended by the Queen Maxima of the Netherlands.

Project grants

In 2017, the Programme allocated over € 30 million to develop and demonstrate innovative concepts that advance sustainability and green economy in the North Sea Region. 15 new projects were approved in our Call 3, covering a wide variety of topics from digitalisation of rural areas to energy-savvy primary schools.

At the end of 2017, 39 projects in total had been approved for funding, involving 318 partner organisations across the North Sea Region. The distribution of funds on the four priorities is shown in the figure to the right.

The North Sea Region Programme offers a co-financing rate of 50 %. The success rate of submitted final applications was 71 % in 2017.



Progress on performance indicators

We measure our performance against 5 indicators set up at Programme and project level, with one indicator specifically designed for each priority. At Programme level, the 2018 milestones were already reached by end-2017 for all priorities, and the Programme is also on track in terms of expected expenditures.

At project level, the projects reporting on their progress already exceeded the project lifetime output indicators for 9 out of 20 indicators. However, this is based on only 11 submitted reports since many projects had not reached the reporting stage yet.

Project highlights

Though still young, many of our projects showed significant progress during 2017. Here is a small sample of achievements and successes in each of our four priority areas.



Create Converge

Create Converge brings creative technology (e.g. animation, virtual reality, augmented reality) into sectors such as fashion, energy, architecture, healthcare and tourism. In 2017, the project was visible at 37 major events, including the Berlin Fashion and Cannes Film Festivals and conferences such as Copenhagen Future TV and Hamburg Games. A virtual reality workshop with Dave Burgess, Head of Character Animation at DreamWorks, was amongst its self-hosted events.



PARTRIDGE

At its 10 demonstration sites, PARTRIDGE showcases how the alarming decline of European farmland biodiversity can be reversed by 30%. The bottom-up project involves farmers, hunters, conservation NGOs, farm advisors, government agencies, and the general public. More than 70 farmers are providing high-quality wildlife habitat on 7% of their farmed area.



SCALE-UP

SCALE-UP helps cleantech SMEs bring twenty-five green services and products onto the market. Through targeted 'Meet the Buyer' events, SMEs can pitch their innovative concepts to procurement officers of large buyers. Until end of 2017, the project had organised 15 such events, establishing links between 186 SMEs and large buyer companies.



Like!

The Like! project helps local governments improve their public service delivery by building a digital innovation culture and using citizen co-creation. In 2017, Like! introduced concepts such as a hackathon for the elderly, a chatbot for customer services, an app based on blockchain technology for elections and digi-coaches in public administrations.



Thinking growth



Eco-innovation



Sustainable NSR



Green transport

Project highlights

A strong focus on climate change

Climate change takes priority in the North Sea Region with its many low-lying areas. Nearly half of the projects approved by end-2017 address climate change: 7 projects tackle climate change adaptation whilst 10 projects help reduce the region's carbon footprint. Below are four examples.



SHARE-North

SHARE-North celebrated the launch of the Green Deal for Shared Mobility in Flanders, inspired by the Dutch Green Deal on Car-Sharing launched in late 2016. In addition, the experiences of Bremen and Bergen with shared mobility hub concepts inspired the project partners from Belgium to develop and launch their own mobility hub concept for Flanders.



DUAL Ports

DUAL Ports aims to decarbonise regional entrepreneurial ports through a shared eco-innovation port programme and 8 pilots that develop and trial new concepts around the North Sea. During 2017, successful pilots provided proof of concept for recycling of soil in port development and refuelling bunkering systems using hydrogen.



SEEV4-City

SEEV4-City promotes smart, Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) solutions for electric mobility combined with local, renewable energy. The project launch in Amsterdam was part of the second international V2G Conference and attracted major players in the car industry. The project initiated the development of sustainable business models based on V2G and renewable energy.



Building with Nature

Building with Nature uses natural structures such as sand dunes to build climate resilience and prevent flooding episodes. In 2017, sandy shores were established as part of the restoration of the Dutch Houtrub dike. The project co-hosted several climate change adaptation workshops and its monitoring campaign attracted mass media attention. The project also presented its approach to Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

Approved projects

By the end of 2017, the following projects were approved for co-funding:



Priority 1: CC, CORA, GrowIn 4.0, In For Care, Inn2Power, Inno-Quarter, Lean Landing, Like!, Northern Connections, PERISCOPE, REFRAME, SCORE, SHINE.



Priority 2: 2imprezs, BIOCAS, COBEN, DUAL Ports, SalFar, SCALE-UP, SMART-GREEN.



Priority 3: NORTH-SEE, BwN, FAIR, TOPSOIL, WateCoG, BEGIN, FRAMES, NuReDrain, PARTRIDGE, Sullied Sediments, CANAPE, Jomopans, CATCH.



Priority 4: SHARE-North, SEEV4-City, HyTrEc2, #IWTS 2.0, G-PaTRA, SURFLOGH.

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