Priority	Project name and summary	Total budget (to be confirmed)
	CC Create Converge The Hollywood movie "Interstellar" has seen calls from eminent science journals for this to be shown in schools. Why? Because top scientists say it accurately shows wormholes in space. The partners in Create Converge are celebrating this news because more importantly, it's a story of creative technology working in partnership with science - not just for entertainment. So the project is all about getting visualisation and games tech to work together and work with sectors from architecture to science. It brings together partners in four countries of the North Sea Region and taps into their wider networks to deliver on the promise of converging creative technologies (CCTs). Encompassing animation, visualisation, visual effects, virtual reality and games, these tools can be used to explore, interpret and present content and information. Beyond entertainment, they offer applications for all kinds of sectors and markets - medicine, industry, architecture - for training, service delivery and marketing. CC wants to strengthen and increase the existing capacity of North Sea Region companies and organisations, improve service and systems and contribute towards the North Sea Region as an internationally recognised hub for CCT services. Across the North Sea Region, the project will benefit production service companies operating in CCT, foster cooperation with different sectors, and benefit organisations working in those sectors with tools so they can better show, tell and sell.	1,622,415 €

Projects approved at Steering Committee #1, November 2015: Thinking growth

	Lean Landing For Micro SMEs Soft landing for SMEs in the North Sea Region	1,810,387 €

Supporting innovative and value-creating internationalisation efforts and partnerships among SMEs are essential for the future competitiveness, productivity and knowledge economy of the North Sea Region.

In the North Sea Region however, very few SMEs are successful in their export activities in the long run, very few launch other kinds of cross-border co-operations and internationalisation than export, and very few of the non-internationalised SMEs are planning on starting such activities.

In order to address these challenges, this project will develop and implement an innovative and lasting lean Soft Landing co-operation between 6 North Sea countries and micro SMEs, business incubators, knowledge institutions and public business development funders in each of these 6 countries.

Via joint efforts between an extensive network of participating incubators in the 6 countries, the concept will be developed, offered to and tested on 250 SMEs that reside in the incubators. The soft landing program will have as its purpose to create profit-enhancing knowledge partnerships between SMEs in the 6 countries, as well as between SMEs and knowledge and business development insitituitions. This will be done by exchanging SMEs between the incubators.

The program results will be made publicly accessible and disseminated by being translated into a lean soft landing blue print and a North Sea Region fair for future networking and knowledge sharing between incubators and policy makers in the entire EU.

REFRAME - Towards a Regional Food Frame

2,595,004 €

It is predicted that 5 million rural jobs will have disappeared before 2016. These changes do not only concern farmers. In their decline all food chain related SMEs will be affected severely. New business opportunities can be found in short food supply chains. However, they can only succeed if handled professionally and on a proper scale. This presents opportunities on 4 interconnected strands:

- Collect market relevant regional data
- Develop innovative specialisation strategies for SMEs
- Forge new forms of regional cooperation and partnership based on common benefits and shared values.
- Acquire specific skills

REFRAME takes up these challenges. In a living lab of 5 regional pilots, partners will demonstrate the Regional Food Frame (RFF) as an effective set of measures to scale up and accommodate urban food demands and regional supplies. New data will reveal the regions' own strengths and resources to match food demand and supply. REFRAME provides a support infrastructure for food related SMEs to develop and implement their smart specialization strategies in food chains on the urban-rural axis. On their way towards a RFF, all pilots will use a 5-step road map. A transnational learning lab will be set up in support of skill development and training of all stakeholders. REFRAME pools the know-how needed to set up these Regional Food Frames in a transnational network of experts, each closely linked and footed in its own pilot region.

SHINE Shared value creation in the Healthcare economy through INtegrated business modEls

1,228,283 €

The changing demography in the North Sea Region pose social and economic challenges within its communities. The challenges in healthcare require innovative and sustainable solutions. Driven by transnational and cross-sector co-operation in the health care economy, new economic activities can be developed that create international opportunities for SMEs and disseminates the most innovative healthcare solutions across the North Sea Region.

The project wants to implement integrated business models for the healthcare economy based on the regions' smart specialisation strategy. To support their setup, a methodology to build complex partnerships, inspired by the quadruple helix model, will be developed.

Through a network of smart specialists,best practices can be internationally adopted, resulting in regional economic valorisation. A detailed roadmap for transnational valorisation of best practices is part of the project scope and will be used to scale up best practices.

The project also aims to create spin-off in the regional healthcare institutions. A practical manual for spin-off based on shared value creation in the healthcare economy will be written. The regions will use this guidance to create spin-offs.

To sustain the exchange of knowhow, innovation and best practices, the project encompasses the setup of transnational partnerships in the healthcare economy. As a network of regions with a smart specialisation, these partnerships will lead to innovation and economic growth.