



# NORTH SEA CONFERENCE 2017

# Sustainable Growth Corridors

28-30 June 2017 | Göttingen, Germany  
#NSRcorridors

The conference will explore how people, organisations, cities, and regions in the North Sea Region can interconnect to create smarter regions and sustainable growth. Connections can be physical, virtual, direct or indirect, formal or informal.



Niedersachsen



Hamburg



SH



Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung  
im Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung



Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur



Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie

## Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>

### Pre-Programme

*For members of the North Sea Commission only*

12:00 Lunch

13:30 North Sea Commission Annual Business Meeting

18:00 North Sea Commission Executive Committee Meeting

19:30 Dinner

## Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>

### Interwork event

*For those interested in submitting an expression of interest*

8:30 Registration

9:30 Welcome and introduction to the programme

*General Session: What can you expect from the VB programme?*

- How can the programme help you turn your project idea into a success story?
- What is the required input and how will your proposal be assessed? Important lessons learned from calls 1, 2 and 3.

*Technical Session: Overview of the financial and administrative framework*

- The secretariat will provide you with an overview and answer questions concerning e.g. eligibility, staff costs, state aid, investments, co-beneficiaries and beneficiaries outside the eligible area.

**Workshop Session: Discuss your project idea with peers**

- The participants will be divided along the four programme priorities. You will be matched with peers sharing your interest in a specific objective of one of the priority themes. Project ideas will be introduced in 2-minute intervals and reviewed by peers.
- Participants will have the chance to discuss their ideas with others and to find out about potential similarities and differences.

**Note:** To achieve good results from the discussion, you need to be open about your ideas and willing to participate in an honest discussion. An open dialogue usually leads to better results and reflects how cooperation works in the North Sea Region.

12:00 Lunch (with main conference participants)

↩ see Main programme on the backside



Main programme on the backside  
Workshop programme on the inside

### North Sea Commission excursions

*For members of the North Sea Commission only*

#### Short excursions to destinations in the region

*№ 1 Jühnde – the village of renewable biomass*

Jühnde (Lower Saxony) is Germany's first village to produce heat and electricity by means of renewable biomass (silage and wood chips), thus moving towards CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality. Realising the project took 5 years, and delegates will learn about the factors that are essential in keeping a village motivated for such a long time.

*№ 2 Hann. Münden - strong cities and viable villages*

The southern part of Lower Saxony faces great demographic changes that are mainly due to migration and aging. Also, the distance to large dynamic growth centres is an issue. Visitors will learn how Lower Saxony plans to strengthen the economic structure, preserve viable villages and increase the attractiveness of the region as a place of residence, business location and tourist destination.

*№ 3 Göttingen - a city connected to the North Sea?*

How is Göttingen connected to the North Sea as a part of the Interreg North Sea Region? Niedersachsen Ports is the largest operator of public seaports in Germany. An ever-increasing exchange of goods and a growing global network put increased demands on seaports and their connection to the hinterland. Can the concept of corridors help to interconnect the North Sea Region better?

11:30 Arrival back from excursions

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>**

## Main Programme

**11:00 Registration for additional participants**

**12:00 LUNCH & NETWORKING**

**13:00 CONFERENCE KICK-OFF**

*Moderator: Christian Byrith, Head of Secretariat, North Sea Region Programme*

### **Welcome to this year's North Sea Conference**

*Kerstin Brunnström - President of the North Sea Commission, Västra Götaland, Sweden*

### **Welcome to Lower Saxony - a region connected to its neighbors in the North Sea region**

*Stefan Wenzel - Minister of the Environment, Lower Saxony, Germany*

### **Keynote speech: Towards an integrated strategy for the North Sea - separated on the surface but connected in the deep**

*Geert Bourgeois - Minister-President of Flanders*

### **Twenty years of cooperation within the North Sea region**

*Jean-Pierre Halkin, European Commission, DG Regio*

### **Making enterprises fit for the future**

*Carl-Otto Künnecke, CEO and Management Director of Künnecke Enterprise, Holzminden, Germany*

### **Panel discussion: The North Sea - sustainable growth corridors in a changing world**

*Panelists:*

*Geert Bourgeois - Minister-President of Flanders*

*Stefan Wenzel - Minister of the Environment, Lower Saxony, Germany*

*Kerstin Brunnström - President of the North Sea Commission, Västra Götaland, Sweden*

*Katharina Erdmenger - Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany*

*Jean-Pierre Halkin, European Commission, DG Regio*

*Carl-Otto Künnecke, CEO and Management Director of Künnecke Enterprise, Holzminden, Germany*

**14:30 Coffee break & Networking**

**15:00 WORKSHOPS PART 1**  
(for details, see the inside)

**17:00 REFRESHMENTS & NETWORKING**

**19:00 Dinner & Networking**

**Friday, 30<sup>th</sup>**

## Main Programme

**09:00 WORKSHOPS PART 2**  
(for details, see the inside)

**10:30 Coffee break & Networking**

**11:00 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP**  
**Feedback from workshop sessions**  
**Discussion: Where is North Sea cooperation going?**

*Panelists:*

*Kerstin Brunnström - President of the North Sea Commission, Västra Götaland, Sweden*

*Katharina Erdmenger - Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany*

*Alexander Somoza - European Commission, DG Regio*

*Christian Byrith - North Sea Region Programme Secretariat*

**12:30 Lunch & Networking**

**14:00 END OF THE NORTH SEA CONFERENCE 2017**

<http://northsearegion.eu/north-sea-conference-2017>  
[www.cpmr-northsea.org](http://www.cpmr-northsea.org)  
#NSRcorridors

Find out more

Hotel FREIZEIT IN  
Dransfelder Straße 3  
D-37079 Göttingen

Venue

## STRAND 1

Managing space in the North Sea Region

## STRAND 2

Cooperating on tackling the impacts of climate change

## STRAND 3

Creating accessibility through clean transport

## STRAND 4

Building attractive and sustainable communities in the North Sea Region

## STRAND 5A

The future of cooperation projects

## STRAND 5B

North Sea cooperation in a changing Europe

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Room 39

Room 38

Room 37

Room 36

Room 15/16

Plenary 17-19

15:00 - 15:20

### Involving the regions in maritime spatial planning (part 0)

*Yolanda Schmal/Province of Noord-Holland; Co-chairs: Lodewijk Abspoel & Katharina Erdmenger (NorthSEE project)*

The NorthSEE project wants to involve YOU in Integrated Maritime Spatial Development. We aim to involve all stakeholders in developing the North Sea area, to encourage multi-level, cross-border governance. The project tackles sustainable development of the North Sea Region in the fields of shipping, energy and environmental protection.

### Climate change resilience projects in the North Sea Region

*R. Allewijn/Director of Safety and Water management, Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands*

Introduction to ongoing North Sea Region projects that are pioneering new approaches to improving climate change resiliency.

### Autonomous Bus shuttle to University Campus Garbsen

*Tanja Goebler/Region Hannover*

To improve access to the Campus of the University of Hannover, Region Hannover wants to introduce a driverless bus shuttle. However, fluctuations in passenger numbers during the day pose a major challenge.

### Renewable City development through renewable energy & electric vehicles

*Hugo Niesing/HvA (SEEV4-City project)*

Learn about new economically and environmentally sound services for CO2 neutral transport and energy. Presentation of replicable and scalable city innovation approaches.

### Exploiting INTERREG-specific effects more effectively

*Carla Harnischfeger/Ramboll Management Consulting and BMVI/BBSR*

What characterizes successful INTERREG-projects? How can INTERREG-specific impacts be further increased? We will discuss a practice-oriented concept on how to effectively exploit all facets of INTERREG and create long-term impacts.

### The Future of Europe

*Eleni Marianou, Secretary General/CPMR*

Introduction to the Future of Europe discussions. What are the ambitions of the regional level in the reflection process started by the European Commission's white paper and reflection documents?

15:30 - 15:50

### Maritime spatial planning

*Katharina Erdmenger/Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Germany; Co-chairs: Yolanda Schmal & Lodewijk Abspoel (NorthSEE project)*

Gone are the days when marine space planning merely consisted of the Mare Liberum and agreeing on shipping routes and marine protected areas. Today, we need to accommodate offshore wind energy, energy grids, aquaculture and data infrastructures as well. Allocating maritime space intelligently is becoming increasingly crucial.

### North Sea Region climate change resilience projects

*E.T.G. Kelder/Dordrecht City Council, the Netherlands (Begin project); Ing. R. Schrijver/Rijkswaterstaat, the Netherlands (FAIR project); R. Johnsen/Central Denmark Region, Denmark (TOPSOIL project); E.A. Baldal/Rijkswaterstaat, the Netherlands (BwN project); S.H.J. Krol/Province of South Holland, the Netherlands (FRAMES project)*

The five on-going North Sea Region climate resilience projects will share their experience and explore possibilities of creating mutual synergies. Attendees are invited to contribute their own perspective.

### On the way to autonomous road transport - opportunities and risks

*Michael Glotz-Richter/Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (SHARE-North project)*

Technology is accelerating the automation of road vehicles. But what do we know about the impacts of automation on the overall transport system, street design, and the interaction with spatial development? We will discuss and explore these intriguing issues.

### DRT-NSR : Demand-responsive transportation in the vast North Sea Region

*Henrik Toremark/Sweco*

DRT-NSR will develop sustainable transport solutions for the vast, sparsely populated areas in the North Sea Region. Public transport authorities will design services that combine cost-effectiveness, reliability and accessibility for citizens and goods.

### Get the dog barking and set the Thames on fire: How can NSR projects improve their benefits for stakeholders?

*Ilke Borowski-Maaser & Eva-Maria Cyrus/Interessen Im Fluss*

What makes stakeholder involvement both challenging and beneficial for the project partners and the involved stakeholders? Learn and discuss this with partners from WaterCoG and TOPSOIL.

### The UK and the North Sea Region in a post-Brexit world: A view from the East of England

*Michael Barnes/Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership & Jonathan Millins/Head of the East of England European Partnership in Brussels*

This is your chance to hear a view from the UK on what a post-Brexit world might look like, with a particular focus on the future of the North Sea Region cooperation.

16:00 - 16:20

Gain insight into the European policy framework on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and how the NorthSEE project contributes to implementing the MSP directive.

The project holds great strategic value and most North SEE partners are national MSP authorities, jointly exploring smart approaches.

**Please note that this is a two-slot workshop ending at 16:20, including a 10-minute break.**

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### Autonomous vehicles in rural settings

*Marius Wybrands/Oldenburg University & Dirk Harmsen/Terra Nordica*

Which innovative solutions are applicable in remote, rural areas? Learn what is needed in IT systems, remote control and access to autonomous transport.

### Informal care and Voluntary Assistance: Innovation in service delivery in the North Sea Region

*Santiago Martinez/University of Agder (In For Care project)*

Get a first-hand account of how this project works to futureproof the quality of life for ageing population, by integrating informal care and voluntary assistance into the health care sector.

### How active local stakeholder involvement can strengthen the NSR – experiences so far from the project Water CoG

*Josefin Levander/Skagerak and Kattegatt Water District Authority, Denmark*

How can projects successfully involve local stakeholders, strengthening democracy and citizen engagement? What are the do's and don'ts? The project Water CoGovernance shares lessons learned so far.

### The future of Interreg

*Yolanda Schmal/Province of Noord-Holland*

What is your take on the future of Interreg? How should we maintain and develop Interreg as a tool for North Sea cooperation? Have an impact on the future Interreg programme and let us know!

16:30 - 16:50

### Blockchain solutions for innovation in (local) government

*Renske Stumpel/Province of Drenthe & Tineke Smegen/Province of Groningen, the Netherlands*

Come up to speed on blockchain technology and its potential to transform government and business operations. It is very important for the North Sea Region to tap into this new technology, combining our strengths and setting standards for blockchain solutions. Learn about the project idea and team up with the project!

### Plenary discussion and wrap-up

*R. Allewijn/Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands*

Dr. R. Allewijn, Director of Safety and Water Management at the Dutch Ministry of Environment, steers and wraps up the discussion.

### Tackling mobility challenges in rural areas: What role do bottom-up initiatives play in Interreg projects?

*Britta Schmigotzki/atene KOM & Michael Frömming/Zweckverband Verkehrsverbund Süd-Niedersachsen*

We will focus on strategies for regional mobility in rural and remote areas, centering on effective methodologies for community-based projects on sustainable transport and rural mobility. How can bottom-up approaches underpin the results of transnational NSR projects?

### Chances and challenges of digitalisation in rural areas

*Darijus Valiucko / atene KOM (CORA project)*

Learn about new aspects of digitalisation, especially for rural areas and their decision makers & actors. Debate solutions to overcome the digital divide and enhance the use of digital services in rural areas.

### How to achieve real transnational cooperation

*Hugo Niesing/HvA*

How can we most effectively unlock the potential of transnational cooperation? In this session, participants will exchange experiences and brainstorm on new ways of cooperating.

### Takeaways for a post-2020 North Sea Region strategy

*North Sea Commission*

Join the discussion about the Future of Europe: What may trends and developments imply for the North Sea Region? What is the best response of our region to current and projected challenges?

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup>

Room 39

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Room 15/16

Plenary 17-19

9:00 - 9:20

### Maritime Spatial Planning Game

*Yolanda Schmal/Province of Noord-Holland, the Netherlands & Lodewijk Abspoel/ Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (NorthSEE project)*

Try this tabletop strategy game designed for those with an interest in ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning and sustainable Blue Growth. Experience first-hand how maritime spatial planning works in real life!

### Climate change requires (radical) behaviour change, how do we achieve that?

*Dirk Harmsen/Terra Nordica*

How do we change perspective on technological solutions to behavioural? What kind of economic growth is needed in our region?

### Innovative shared mobility solutions for small towns and rural areas

*Rebecca Karbaumer / Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Senate Dpt. for Environment, Construction and Transport & Jeffrey Matthijs/Autodelen.net (SHARE-North project)*

Car-sharing services are traditionally associated with big cities, however most cities in the North Sea Region are small to medium-sized. Learn about alternative models making car-sharing possible in small towns and rural areas.

### Exploring a common vision for priority 3

*Steven Krol (FRAMES project)*

Five projects in priority 3 relate to climate change. What are the common challenges and interests? Can we develop a joint vision? A forum for Lead Beneficiaries and Beneficiaries to cooperate and develop new ideas together.

### What determines the partnership of European transnational cooperation projects?

*Christoph Petry/Former intern at the Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (2016)*

Presentation of a 2016 Master Thesis: What are the benefits and challenges of transnational cooperation for the actors involved in the Interreg North Sea Region and Baltic Sea Region programmes?

### Dos and don'ts in all phases of a EU project

*Remco Schrijver/Rijkswaterstaat*

To manage the portfolio of about 75 EU projects, Rijkswaterstaat has set up the 'Bureau for European programmes', coordinating activities on proposals, process management and financial reporting. Based on its comprehensive experience, the bureau will share dos and don'ts for all phases of a EU project.

9:30 - 9:50

### The work of the national contact points

*The national contact points*

Understand the role of the five National Contact Points within the Interreg North Sea Region Programme, and how they can help you at each stage of developing and implementing your project.

### Regional cooperation for maximum energy system integration

*Ilja van der Veen/Province of Groningen, the Netherlands*

Creating flexibility in the energy systems of tomorrow requires bottom up support, jurisdictional and technological integration and new technologies such as smart grids and storage solutions.

Groningen is exploring how energy regions can cooperate to boost the energy transition in Europe.

### Culture power: inspire to develop rural areas

*Dirk Harmsen/Terra Nordica*

The intention is to establish cultural incubators as a bridge between creativity and economy, with a focus on job creation for the young generation in rural areas.

### Farmland biodiversity is declining in the North Sea Region. Who cares?

*Paul Stephens/Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (PARTRIDGE project)*

Learn how the PARTRIDGE project aims to reverse the decline in farmland biodiversity. We will discuss the practical and political solutions for delivering sustainable farmland biodiversity corridors, leaving a legacy of best practice and embedding the solutions into future agri-environmental schemes.

### eCall: Europe-wide solution for saving lives through rapid emergency response

*Michael Schäfer/Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Verkehr (I-HeERO project)*

Learn about the eCall, a 112 emergency call service using in-vehicle sensors that can detect the impact of a serious accident. The initiative is led by Lower Saxony, funded under the Connected Europe Fund Annual Programme.

### The EU Crowd: Transnational cooperation in the age of the web 2.0

*Pedro Rivera/DELCRETH*

Interreg + crowdfunding: We will explore a new way of making transnational cooperation real for European communities.

10:00 - 10:20

### Reducing microplastics in the NSR aquatic environment

*Geert Schaap/Sweco*

Learn about this opportunity to cooperate with peers on finding common solutions to reduce plastic pollution of the North Sea.

**Please note that this is a two-slot workshop ending at 10:20, including a 10-minute break.**

### SEABIZ: Efficient and sustainable ways to connect to large employment areas in the North Sea Region

*Sofie Aelterman/Traject*

Problems and solutions for sustainable commuting are transnational, and of particular importance in the densely populated North Sea Region. The SEABIZ project demonstrates the most effective measures.

### Tackling youth unemployment with the help of the triple helix

*Emma de Jong, Maarten Groeneveld, Maurits Foorthuis (NE(X)TWORK)*

Learn about a new approach for tackling youth unemployment

### Applicants' input to the North Sea Region Programme's two-step application process

*Joint Secretariat*

Join a focus group and tell us about your experience with the two-step application process, feeding into a comprehensive review of the two-step procedure. We welcome you if you have submitted an Expression of Interest, have submitted a Full Application, or are thinking of applying to the programme in a future call. **Please note that participation is limited to 10-15 people.**