

# HOW?

**Innovation support measures are traditionally applied within narrow geographies, where calls to actions are not visible transnationally. Cities and clusters often lack capacity to involve SMEs in transnational innovation activities.**

## Various ways to address these challenges

- Improving our knowledge base; RIS3 are often used as a regional development strategy without concrete focus on innovation support.
- Developing a Toolbox and cluster management training.
- Setting practices on involving SMEs in solving energy challenges of cities and regions through what we call Living Labs.
- Learning how to identify and express challenges as business opportunities pushing for innovation – a different mindset for cities, regions and clusters.
- Meeting up with local and regional decision makers for pushing the mindset change.
- Policy recommendations – calls to actions to easier innovation cooperation across borders for SMEs and clusters – growing the cluster intelligence to innovation collaboration.

[Read more about Northern Connections](#)

# Partnerships

We wish to

- Push for innovation connections between cities, regions, clusters and enterprises.
- Develop policy recommendations and a cluster toolbox for creating innovative connections.

# STATUS

- ✓ Cluster Toolbox 3.0. - innovation support measures
- ✓ Innovation tool of the month
- ✓ List of policy recommendation for cities and regions

# WHY?

We believe, we can stimulate growth and innovation in our SMEs in the North Sea Region, if

- We strengthen transnational cooperation between clusters, cities, regions and SMEs.
- Cities and regions become better at expressing innovation challenges.