



Interreg
 North Sea Region
 Northern Connections



European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION



INNOVATUM



Falkirk Council



gemeente ALKMAAR



Hamburg



Oslo kommune



Northern Connections

A Strategic Transnational Cluster Cooperation

- unlocking the potential for regional innovation

2016-2020



Northern Connections

i A partnership of 21 clusters, cities, regions and knowledge institutions working together to create innovation connections between enterprises and clusters in the energy sector.

Project Summary

The joint challenge is to test the use of domestic innovation support measures transnationally and address barriers to competition which exist between clusters and regions.

Our objective is to get more enterprises to participate in transnational innovation collaboration via strengthening transnational cluster and city/region cooperation.

Main output is building capacity and transnational relations of sustainable energy clusters to provide demand-led innovation support.

Our approach is to provide a bridge between private and public sector on transnational innovation support.

Activities

Expanding our knowledge base

We will support the knowledge transfer between the cities and regions, the clusters and academia. Regional innovation strategies focus on the strengths of a region. We will expand our knowledge on how RIS3 can support internationalisation and how clusters can use this.

Building cluster capacity for innovation

The participating clusters will jointly develop and test tools to improve SME's innovation skills and in doing so also build their own capacity for regional innovation support. It will allow the clusters to adapt their services to meet enterprise needs. Our work will lead us to an in-depth understanding of the exact working of Regional Innovation Systems for each region.

Building political and strategic capacity

By bringing together regions, cities and clusters, we can create the basis for discussing how smart specialisation strategies can be optimised to support SME innovation across borders. Our aim is to stimulate the international competitiveness of the of the region and extend the innovation collaboration between clusters, regions and cities.

Living Labs

Events involving SMEs in solving the energy challenges of organizations, cities and regions. A sustainable energy Living Lab is a real demonstration project with actual industry investments, technologies and experts.

Read more on our webpage:

<http://northsearegion.eu/northern-connections/>