



#### The Project Partners:

- Intercommunal Leiedal, BE – lead partner
- atene KOM, DE
- Collective Municipality Hüttener Berge, DE
- Municipality of Vejle, DK
- Municipality of Middelfart, DK
- Aalborg University, DK
- University of Groningen, NL
- Oldambt Municipality, NL
- Groningen Internet Exchange Foundation, NL
- Municipality of North Djurs, DK
- Municipality of South Djurs, DK
- Municipality of Grue, NO
- Hedmark County Council, NO
- Municipality of Eidskog, NO
- Municipality of Kongsvinger, NO
- Värmland County Administrative Board, SE
- Torsby Municipality, SE
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## CONNECTING REMOTE AREAS WITH DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Interreg  
North Sea Region  
CORA  
European Regional Development Fund



## RURAL DIGITAL DIVIDE – A TERRITORIAL CHALLENGE IN THE NORTH SEA REGION

Digital divide across rural areas of the NSR is limiting their attractiveness for families and businesses. This phenomenon represents a market failure, as infrastructural investment is not adequately delivered due to high financial risks. Digital skills also fail to meet a certain level of progress. Local authorities are often not aware of their future-coming digital needs and end-users have limited skills to create an effective level of demand.

### CORA TARGET

CORA revolves around stimulating digital infrastructure and services in rural areas. It aims at enabling local authorities to identify their common challenges and empowers them to exchange experiences and test innovative solutions to create an advanced digital environment. To do so, it emphasizes the main components of digital divide, namely digital infrastructure, services and skills. 18 partners from seven European member states work together to achieve the CORA target.



## CORA TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH

CORA partners help local authorities in rural areas to develop digital infrastructure, services and skills. They develop a model, which provides a comprehensive set of guiding measures towards digitalization in rural areas. CORA employs fixed and mobile digital hub concepts for providing in-place advice, technology demonstration and incubator spaces. Built on the “train the trainer”-approach, face-to-face and online training concepts will be tested to enhance digital skills and competencies. The results will be utilized to formulate digital strategies for rural areas which will be streamlined to the regional, national and European authorities and influence EU digital inclusion policy.

The project budget is € 3.85 million, 50% of which is co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund and the North Sea Region Programme 2014–2020.

### CORA TOPICS

- Knowledge on digital inclusion in rural areas
- Enhancing digital skills and competences
- CORA test beds/pilots
- Mainstreaming the CORA approach, policy briefing and knowledge transfer

## CORA PILOTS

Until 2020, the participating regions will demonstrate one or more dimensions of digitalization depending on their local baselines and priorities. Example of pilots are:

- Cross-border fibre sharing
- Superfast wireless internet for rural communities and enterprises
- New digital public services for rural communities and businesses (e-health, car sharing, smart security, smart home, e-tourism)
- Fixed & mobile digital hubs
- Digital skills training in rural areas

