



REGIONAL ACTION PLAN CLUSTERFY

Part I – General information

Project:	ClusterFY	
Partner organization:	Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland (SNN) (PP2)	
Country:	The Netherlands	
NUTS2 region:	Groningen	
NUTS1 region:	The Northern Netherlands (provinces: Fryslan, Groningen, Drenthe)	
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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:	X	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
		European Territorial Cooperation programme
		Other regional development policy instrument
Name of the policy instrument addressed: The Operational Programme for the Northern Netherlands for the period 2014-2020. Priority axe 1: Innovation.		

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION: The creation of an 'Interactive Innovation Platform for the Northern Netherlands'
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1. The background

The Policy instrument addressed is the Operational Programme for the Northern Netherlands for the period 2014-2020. Priority axe 1: Innovation.

The main goal of participation in the ClusterFY project, as outlined in the original application, is to improve the policy instrument through removal of barriers and lowering of obstacles that prevent clusters and SME's from collaborating with other businesses and knowledge institutes: by facilitating clusters and SME's to make connections, especially cross sector and cross border, and by improving the design and working of support measures.

As reported, SNN decided that main improvements of the policy instrument (in our case the complete OP), will be found in the way clusters (and other 'organizing' entities like hubs, networks, fieldlabs and in fact the whole regional innovation ecosystem) make use of the program and especially how they cooperate to make use of the program.

SNN is examining how to create and maintain fertile ground on which partners can continuously meet, interact, collaborate, come up with ideas and actually start initiating explorative activities. During the exchange of experience activities between ClusterFY partner regions, SNN has seen a diversity of experience with cluster policies. Although many cluster initiatives are focusing on innovation and growth in firms, we also saw a lot of cluster policies aiming at influencing the system: bringing together triple helix actors to address broader regional and national aims for skills development, entrepreneurship, digitalization, industrial modernization, internationalization and sustainable development. In the case of SNN this where the most important experiences, leading to the conclusion that the establishment of an 'Interactive Platform for the Northern Netherlands', based on the good practice of 'Fiber Optic Valley' would be the right action to undertake in the second stage of the ClusterFY project. This conclusion is also in line with one of the main policy recommendations of the project: "**LEVERAGE INNOVATION PLATFORMS** (e.g. Clusters and KETs) across Europe **TO ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES and MISSIONS**".

Especially in the exchange of experience with **1)** PP3 (Gavle/Huddiksväl) and **2)** PP6 (Castilla La Mancha) important elements for this action plan where found. Also the presentation of **3)** the ClusteRO initiative in Bucharest during the exchange of experience with PP5 (South Muntenia Regional Development Agency (SM RDA)) was very inspiring.

- 1) During the meeting in Gavle/Huddiksväl the good practice: 'Fiber Optic Valley a regional innovation node for digital transition in the industry' was highlighted. This good practice has shown us a model in which a cluster functions as an innovation node.

Take up: This model will be the core of our Regional Action Plan, it will be scaled up by SNN to create an interactive regional node: an 'Interactive Innovation Platform for the Northern Netherlands'.

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- 2) The partner meeting in Castilla-La Mancha was focused on interregional cooperation, EU cluster policy instruments, tools to promote clusters at regional level and the study of regional networks and roles within the cluster ecosystem. During the seminar we've picked up the eDigiregion approach/instrument to map the innovation eco-system in a region.

Take up: We did use this instrument to map the gaps in the North-Netherlands region. The main outcomes of this gap analyses (which is already carried out) will be used as input for the creation of the 'Interactive Innovation Platform for the Northern Netherlands'.

- 3) During the partner meeting in Bucharest, we saw the very inspiring example of the ClusteRO initiative. This platform initiative brings together 42 clusters, aiming on collaboration, exchange of information, based on innovation and internationalization.

Take up: SNN will have a close look at functionalities that the ClusteRO platform has realized until now and discuss the applicability in the Dutch situation.

Preparation during first stage:

In the fifth reporting period based on the adopted methodology of PP6, a regional benchmark/gap analysis was set up. In the sixth semester this analyze was discussed with a large stakeholder meeting (as reported). After that a report is made that will be the starting point of the Regional Action Plan.

The main conclusions of the report are in line with the expectations of SNN. There is a huge need for a more systematic approach, including coordination, communication/information and orchestration between clusters (and other 'organizing' entities like hubs, networks, field labs etc.) SME's, knowledge institutions, and so on. There is also need for stimulation of cross-over collaboration and coherence between clusters/SME and other institutes. The integration of start ups in clusters and sectors and internationalization activities.

All these issues must be covered in the design of the 'Platform'. The end result will be that the usage and effectivity of the policy instrument will be approved through removal of barriers and lowering of obstacles and facilitation of clusters and SME's to collaborate with other businesses and knowledge institutes, especially cross sector and cross border.

2. Players involved

- Cluster organizations
- Hubs
- (Innovation) Networks
- (Innovation) environments
- Field Labs
- Business support & business development agencies
- Regional Development Agency
- University and University of Applied Sciences
- Regional/Provincial government

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3. Timeframe

- January 2020 – June 2020 Development of the Platform
- July 2020 – December 2020 Implementation and piloting of the Platform
- January 2021 – August 2021 Operating the Platform
- September 2021 – December 2021 Evaluation and decisions for future developments

4. Costs

The Regional action plan requires:

- Staff Costs: 80.000 (2 years)
- Development costs of the Platform: 25.000
- Organisational costs: 30.000 (2 years)

Total Costs: 135.000

5. Funding sources

The funding derives from SNN's own resources. This ClusterFY Regional Action Plan will be implemented under the full responsibility of the Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN). SNN is an alliance of the three most northern provinces of the Netherlands. SNN is responsible for RIS3 and is a managing authority for the 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Program for the Northern Netherlands.

Date: Groningen, October 25 2019

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation (if available):

