



INTERREG IVB

Strategic Clusters in North West Europe

FUTURE CITIES Mid-term conference

Essen, 29 September 2010

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North West Europe INTERREG IV B Programme





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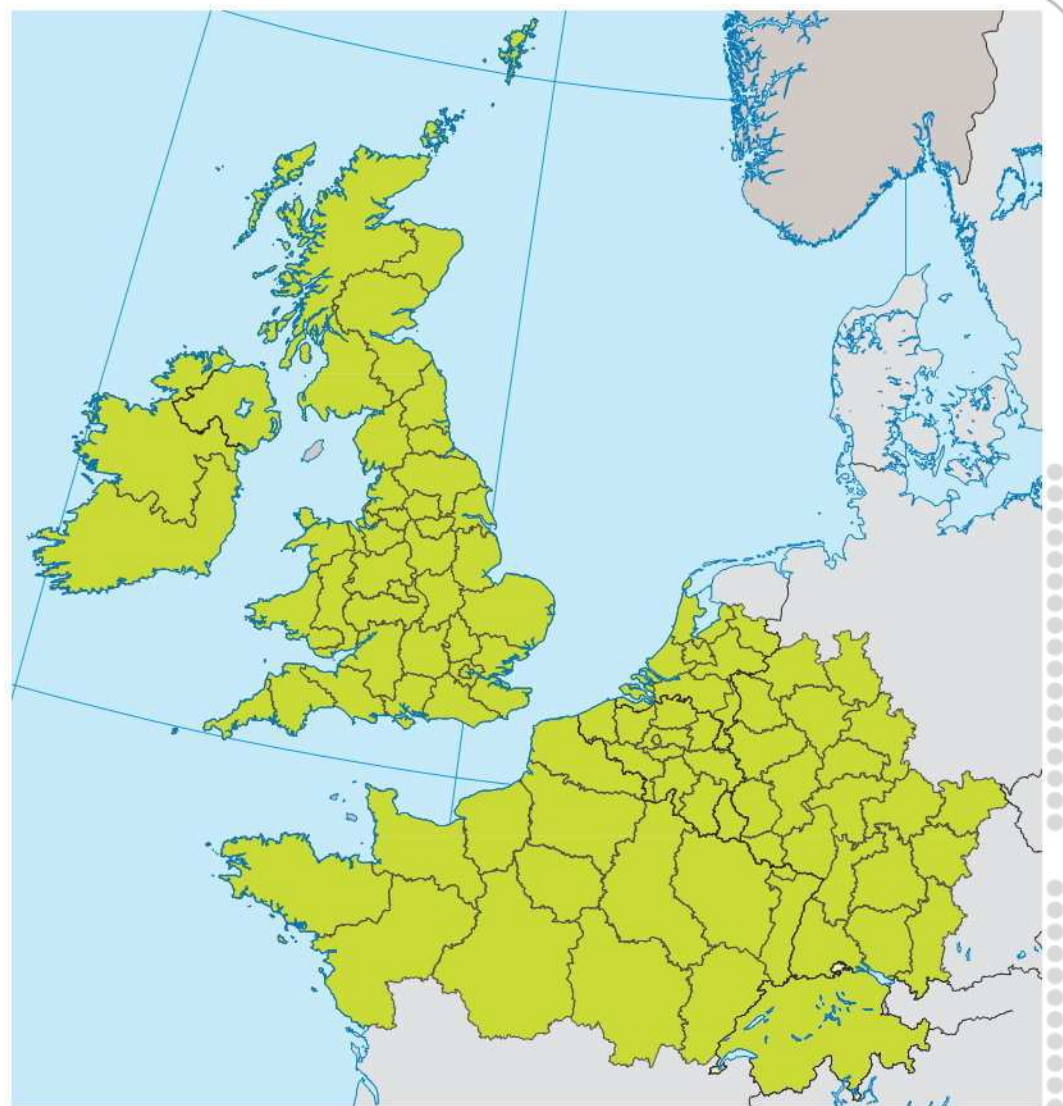
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NWE Eligible Area

8 Countries

1. Ireland
2. UK
3. Belgium
4. Luxembourg
5. Switzerland*

- Parts of*
6. France
 7. Germany
 8. Netherlands





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NWE INTERREG IV B: Background

- European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013
- EU Cohesion policy
- EU 2020, Lisbon Agenda, Gothenburg Agenda (competitiveness and sustainability)
- € 355m ERDF





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4 Programme Priorities

1. Developing the NWE knowledge-based economy by capitalising on our capacity for **INNOVATION**
 2. Sustainable management of **NATURAL RESOURCES** and of natural and technological risks
 3. Improving **CONNECTIVITY** in NWE by promoting intelligent and sustainable transport and ICT solutions
 4. Promoting strong and prosperous **COMMUNITIES** at transnational level
- ... and **Strategic Initiatives (e.g. strategic cluster SIC Adapt)**





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Strategic Clusters





The “birth” of Strategic Clusters in NWE

- NWE Operational Programme (O.P.) defined the concept of “Strategic Initiatives”
- SWOT analysis of NWE
- Workshops with External Experts to refine strategic topics for NWE: “Fields of Actions”





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3 thematic Clusters identified

1. Innovative approaches to urban, inter-urban and rural **public passenger transport**
2. Bringing forward innovative approaches to **sustainable energy promotion** and management
3. Adaptation to the expected **spatial impacts of climate change**





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Programme Perspective

Voices of Members of the Programme Steering Committee:

“the cluster experiment could (...) be used to monitor how clusters have a positive impact on project implementation.”

“There needs to be active cooperation, not just discussion, among the projects in order to have a strategic impact.”

“Clusters will allow the projects to (...) promote better communication plans. Consequently, a better understanding of transnational cooperation can be attained.”

“A strategic impact can be achieved by the coordination of actions of different regular projects.”

“Strategic Clusters are an initiative by the programme.”



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Attributes of strategic clusters

Relevance to the identified strategic topics:

“Fields of Action” identified by the Programme,

Transnationality: Strategy with relevance for whole NWE area

Strategic Impact: Important effects beyond the lifetime of funding

Integration : Good vertical representation of key actors and stakeholders

Originality and innovativeness: shape political and scientific discussion in the field of intervention

+ a strong communication strategy





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Cluster Development

- **Invitation** by the Programme to 3 identified clusters
- **Workshops** with potential clusters at Annual Event 2009 in Rotterdam
- **2 Cluster Calls** (March 2010 and September 2010)



2 clusters approved so far:

- **CALGREST**
- **SIC Adapt!**

1 cluster has applied in 2nd Call (currently being assessed)





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Strategic Initiatives

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ERDF funding

- Approved clusters receive up to 1% of total cluster budget
- Financed by ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) with a 100% grant rate
- Total budget of SIC Adapt!: 879.525€





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What is in it for the projects?



- Participation in **transnational exchange** networks
- **Using knowledge** from other project results; developing **innovative solutions** for common problems
- **Compare and/or validate approaches** (e.g. assessment tools, project management)
- Take advantage of the **additional budget!**
- As Strategic Cluster **high visibility within the programme**





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Long-term effects

- Increasing transnational **cooperation and knowledge** in NWE
- **Capitalisation** of project results
- **Higher visibility** of projects within NWE and beyond
- **Influence policies** and raise awareness → reaching a bigger group of stakeholders than by individual projects





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Thank you!

www.nweurope.eu

Register for the NWE Annual Event 2010
6-7 December in Manchester, UK