

# FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

16th-18th June  
De Nieuwe Kolk  
Assen  
The Netherlands

## NORTH SEA CONFERENCE 2015



**Interreg**  
North Sea Region  
European Regional Development Fund



*provincie* Drenthe

provinsje fryslân  
provincie fryslân



# WELCOME TO ASSEN!



As the North Sea Region Programme 2014 – 2020 starts up, the focus of this year's conference for politicians and project developers will be on exploring ideas, building projects and forging new alliances.

Together we hope to inspire, motivate, innovate and co-create. In keeping with this spirit, the organizers of the North Sea Conference 2015 encourage more active participation than ever before. To set the stage for this we have:

- Keynote speeches on co-operation in the North Sea Region; how did we get here and where are we heading?
- Workshops on all the themes of the North Sea Region Programme, for project developers and politicians.
- Extended study tours with workshops, inspiring site visits and ample opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas.
- 'The North Sea Experience', where a selection of knowledge institutions and companies show and tell what they have to offer new projects in terms of innovative ideas.
- Cultural cross-overs; mix and match with other North Sea Region networks

**Please take your seats and join more than 550 participants in making the North Sea Conference 2015 a succes!**

## Keynote speakers



**Michael Pye**

We are honoured to welcome Michael Pye, renowned historian- and author of, amongst many others, the best-selling book 'The Edge of the World' which gives a historical perspective of the North Sea Region and our inter-relations. How did we all get here?



**Donné Slangen**

Our second guest speaker, Donné Slangen, is Director of the Regions for the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (@dslangen). What is the national perspective for the North Sea and the role of the regions? His personal vision on innovation, taking responsibility, thinking out of the box and cooperating to achieve creative solutions for the societal challenges we face, promises to inspire. Where are we heading and how can we get there?

Side events in the exhibition area

- The North Sea Experience
- The Interaction between land and sea



## Cultural Connection of Northern Europe – CCone

The North Sea Conference 2015 coincides with another event – the CCone Kick-off. CCone works as matchmaker and dialogue facilitator for the good of the cultural sector in Northern Europe. This congress will bring together cultural institutions, regional media, art schools, universities and regional governments from the North Sea Region. The Culture and Tourism Group from the North Sea Commission will also be present. The CCone congress begins on 15th June and the delegates will join the North Sea Conference on 16th June. For the complete CCone-programme see [www.ccone.eu](http://www.ccone.eu)

# PROGRAMME

## Day 1 Tuesday 16th June

Venue: De Nieuwe Kolk, Assen

- 11.00 **Registration**
- 11.45 **Lunch**
- 12.45 **Welcome & Plenary**  
• Chairman – Matt Nichols, North Sea Region Programme Secretariat
- 12.50 **Opening**  
• Marco Out, Mayor of Assen  
• Ard van der Tuuk, Executive Board Member, Province of Drenthe
- 13.00 **How the North Sea connects us**  
• Michael Pye
- 13.25 **A view to the future**  
• Donné Slangen
- 13.40 **Introducing the North Sea Commission**  
• Tom-Christer Nilsen
- 13.50 **The North Sea Region Programme at a glance**  
• Christian Byrith
- 14.00 **Workshops – various locations**  
14.00 Workshop round 1  
14.30 Workshop round 2  
15.00 **Coffee break**  
15.30 Workshop round 3  
16.00 Workshop round 4  
See workshop guide for details and schedule
- 16.30 **Coffee break**  
Networking and side events in the exhibition area  
• The North Sea Experience  
• The Interaction between land and sea (movies)
- 17.00 **Bus transfer to hotels in Assen**
- 18.15 **Bus transfer to Groningen**  
Busses from hotels and from the Venue
- 19.00 **Formal Networking Dinner**  
Martinikerk, Groningen
- 22.30 **Bus transfers to hotels in Assen**

## Day 2 Wednesday 17th June

Venue: De Nieuwe Kolk, Assen

- 8.00 **Bus transfer from hotels in Assen to De Nieuwe Kolk**
- 8.30 **North Sea Region on Tour**  
See Study Tour information
- 15.00 **Arrival at De Nieuwe Kolk**  
Coffee & Refreshments
- 15.30 **Meet and Think**  
Matchmaking event for partner search and project development. Book a table in advance or on the spot, join discussions and pitch projects. There are 4 short sessions of 15 minutes.
- 17.30 **A five-minute stroll to the Governor's Garden**  
(De Gouverneurstuin)
- 18.00 **Drinks and wrap-up**  
• Marco Out  
• Tom-Christer Nilsen  
• Christian Byrith  
• Preben Friis-Hauge
- 19.00 **Informal Networking Dinner**  
Drents Museum, Assen  
Informal dinner at various locations in the museum. A guided tour is possible.  
After dinner we will gather in the Museum Café and adjoining garden for some live music.
- 21.30-22.30 **Bus transfers to hotels in Assen**  
A shuttle service will be available til 22.30

### End of Programme



Martinikerk, Groningen

## Day 3 Thursday 18th June

Venue: The *Provinciehuis Drenthe*

General Assembly and Executive Committee meeting of the North Sea Commission.



# WORKSHOPS



## Project Development

Pitches, discussion wrap-up from a programme expert.

- 21st Century Policy
- Water Innovation
- Living Lab
- Innovative solutions for health transitions
- Healthy Ageing Cross-Border Platform



- Bio Economy Region Northern Netherlands
- Sustainable bio-plastics
- Sustainable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- More from Less - The transition to a circular economy



- Demographic Change
- Oceans Energy
- Climate Change Adaption



- Smart and Green Mobility
- Maritime Innovation
- Mobility and Logistics



### Round 1 - 14.00-14.30

- Smart and Green Mobility
- Maritime Innovation
- 21st Century Policy
- Sustainable Energy
- Climate Change Adaption
- Water Innovation
- More from Less - The transition to a circular economy
- North Sea Region Programme – Overview & how to apply
- North Sea Region Programme – Simplified and harmonized
- Failing as inspiration for eco-innovation
- Political Workshop (part 1 of 2) North Sea Commission
- Working together towards a Bio Economy

## 21st Century Policy

Renske Stumpel

Smart Government. All around the North Sea, cities are facing similar challenges. One such challenge is how to provide digital services that are simpler, clearer and faster to use. Moreover, as society is changing, so is the relationship between local government authorities and citizens. With less funds available we need to be smarter, work together and find clever solutions. Academics, experts and citizens will cooperate with local governments in the Smart Government project to tackle the challenges of the digital transformation. We are approaching these issues using the quadruple helix principle. Digital transformation means we have to change the way we work now, in order to:

- fulfill the expectations of our citizens
- adapt to new possibilities (e.g. technical/digital/behavioural)
- adapt a new view on governance
- organise our work more efficiently (learning from retail concepts).

In this workshop we would like to discuss these topics and all they entail with you.

**Location: Artiestenfoyer (Round 1 & 2).**

## Living Lab

Aline Otten, Ingrid Boers

Assen is a Living Lab combining facilities, knowledge and projects. The Lab focuses mainly on care, energy, safety, sound, mobility and sustainability. Governments, research institutions and companies work together to carry out projects that lead to solutions for issues connected to the above topics. During the Living Lab workshop, representatives of the Hanze Institute of Technology will inform you about their graduate course for Advanced Sensor Applications, explain some exciting possibilities for investigative research and share more about some of the activities they have already implemented. If you would like to hear more about shoes with sensors created especially for firemen, then this is one workshop you should follow!

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 4 (Round 2); Rabozaal (Round 3).**

### Round 2 - 14.30-15.00

- Smart and Green Mobility
- Living Lab
- Healthy Ageing Cross-Border Platform
- Energy Efficiency
- 21st Century Policy
- Water Innovation
- Demographic Change
- North Sea Region Programme – Overview & how to apply
- North Sea Region Programme – The strategy behind it
- EnTranCe: Energy pitches from Dutch Start Ups
- Political Workshop (part 2 of 2) North Sea Commission
- Working together towards a Bio Economy

## Water Innovation

Martijn Wagterveld

Breakthrough technological developments in the field of water treatment are mandatory if we are to solve the threats and challenges we face on a global scale. Such water issues need a combined approach and there are three aspects to be considered:

1) Societal needs:

- Environmental and health issues. The EU Water Framework Directive presents the EU with the most stringent water discharge regulations in the world.
- Water shortages as a result of pollution, population growth, wealth and climate change.
- Immense pressure worldwide (as described in the UN Millennium Development Goals) resulting from the lack of safe drinking water, irrigation water and sanitation in the developing and under-developed countries.

2) Business Market Combinations: The water business market is >€ 500 billion/year with a market growth >10%.

3) State of the art Science and Process technology:

Multidisciplinary approaches from nano-technology, bio-sciences, separation technologies and electro-chemistry are necessary to develop innovative solutions for the enormous water problems we are facing.

Visit this workshop to hear more about approaches that foster water innovation, lessons learned and opportunities to join one of the projects in water innovation.

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.8 (Round 1); Bioscoopzaal 5 (Round 2).**



## Round 3 - 15.30-16.00

- Mobility and Logistics
- Living Lab
- Healthy Ageing Cross-Border Platform
- More from Less - The transition to a circular economy
- Oceans Energy
- Innovative solutions for health transitions
- Sustainable Energy
- North Sea Region Programme – Overview & how to apply
- North Sea Region Programme – Simplified and harmonized
- North Sea Commission for beginners
- Failing as inspiration for eco-innovation

Cancelled: Kroonborg Match of Innovations

## Healthy Ageing Cross-Border Platform

Johannes Technau- Healthy Ageing Cross-Border Platform

The population in the western world is ageing rapidly, which not only poses challenges for society and science, but also offers opportunities for economic growth. In the Dutch / German cross-border region, several organizations decided to cooperate in the following fields:

- Health & Life Science
- Medical Technology & E-Health
- Health Tourism, Healthy Lifestyle & Cities

Visit the workshop to hear about opportunities to join one of the projects, lessons learned and our solutions for staying healthy longer.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 1 (Round 2); Artiëstenfoyer (Round 3).**

## Innovative solutions for health transitions around the North Sea

Roos Galjaard

As a consequence of an ageing population, the rising costs for (health)care services and recent budget cuts, many (national) governments in the countries around the North Sea have moved from a care system whereby the state regulates, cares and pays to one that facilitates a civil society that is based on solidarity and sense of community. An ageing population changes the pattern of demands on health and care services. The traditional ways in which the market, the public and the civil sector have provided answers to health care demands are no longer sufficient. We need to find new ways to embrace not only the challenges, but also the full range of opportunities. Join us for discussions, project pitches (yours too!) and more.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal (Round 3 & 4).**

## Round 4 - 16.00-16.30

- Mobility and Logistics
- Demographic Change
- Innovative solutions for health transitions
- Maritime Innovation
- Oceans Energy
- Climate Change Adaption
- Energy Efficiency
- VB North Sea Region Programme – Overview & how to apply
- VB North Sea Region Programme – The strategy behind it
- Revision of the North Sea Region 2020
- EnTranCe: Energy pitches from Dutch Start Ups

# WORKSHOPS



## Bio Economy Region Northern Netherlands (BERNN)

Gert-Jan Euverink, Katja Loos

How can knowledge institutes contribute to the economic growth of the region? Cooperation is the magic word! With this in mind, we have set up BERNN with the aim to optimize the transfer of knowledge from the University of Groningen and the Universities of Applied Sciences to companies working in the field of Bio Economy. Starting with these knowledge institutes, the network will be expanded to include businesses and local authorities - forming a triple helix organization. During this workshop we will first discuss the role of knowledge institutes and partnerships in a sustainable Bio Economy. Then we will deal with the more practical aspects.

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.7 (Round 1).**

## Sustainable bio-plastics

Jan Jager

Sustainable bio-plastics for future applications. Our society is rapidly changing from an oil-based economy to a circular economy. Within the circular economy bio-based and bio-degradable plastics play an important role in realizing a sustainable future society. New innovative bio-based plastics are being developed and valuable applications are being created using bio-degradable plastics. Would you like to hear more about these latest developments? Come and join us!

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.7 (Round 2).**

## Sustainable Energy

Dominiek Vandewiele

-Sustainable energy is fast becoming part of our environment; this is most evident with wind and solar energy. By 2030 the percentage of renewable sources in the EU needs to increase from 15% to 27%. In the North Sea Region, sustainable energy must be deployed as a lever for greening the economy. It should be beneficial for citizens and businesses - secure and affordable – resulting in a cleaner environment, a prosperous renewable-energy sector that creates jobs, green growth and a resource- efficient economy. But how can future North sea Region projects support and catalyse this transition? Do we need product innovation or process innovation? How do we provoke break throughs in the field of sustainable energy in all sectors and with all potential users?

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 5 (Round 1 & 3).**

## Energy Efficiency

Chris Ashe

Energy Transition "fuelled by investment"

The need for transition from fossil fuel, greenhouse gas intensive sources of energy to renewable sources of energy is nothing new. In fully grasping this sustainable potential, the North Sea Region will be able to realise other programme objectives in economic, ecologic and social terms.

In view of the fundamental transformation required to ensure a truly sustainable North Sea Region by the middle of the 21st century, a fundamental structural change is needed. As investments in the energy sector are of long-term nature, the decisions we take today will have an impact on the energy system of tomorrow. Future North Sea Region energy projects need to contribute to an improved innovation environment in a transnational setting, with a support programme that encourages SMEs to participate in innovation processes, and promotes a more outward-looking attitude, that will help interaction between SMEs and R&D actors across regional and national borders, as well as building access to markets across the region.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 3 (Round 2); Artiëstenfoyer (Round 4).**

## More from Less - The transition to a circular economy

Chris Ashe

Developing a circular economy will benefit the North Sea Region's economy and its environment.

The transition to a circular economy will contribute to the North Sea Regions Programme's aim of sustainable economic growth. It has the potential to increase productivity and create jobs, whilst reducing carbon emissions and preserving valuable raw materials.

Developing a circular economy will help to protect the North Sea Region's economy against exposure to resource supply risks and volatile commodity prices.

By maintaining products and materials within the North Sea Region for longer, regions will be more resilient to global resource pressures.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 1 (Round 1 & 3).**





## Demographic Change

Martijn Warmerdam

Demographic change is not just about a shift in population caused by birth, death and migration rates. It goes beyond estimates and the impacts on the political, social and economic structures of the North Sea Region. To remain economically viable, the North Sea Region needs new perspectives and solutions for our changing demographics and related themes, such as: mobility, social services, education and the labour market. In the coming decades, our ageing North Sea Region population will require new governance structures and social and technical innovations that make local communities more self-reliant (e.g. organising local healthcare). But who is going to pay for all this and how can we divide up these local tasks in order to realise these new forms of governance?

During this workshop, we offer some valuable contributions (through pitches) towards innovative demographic solutions that contribute to a sustainable North Sea Region. Join us and let's explore how to influence the future demographics of our North Sea Region!

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.8 (Round 2); Bioscoopzaal 5 (Round 4).**

## Oceans Energy

Paulien Kooistra

The focus here will be on the Oceans Energy projects in the North Sea Region (tidal, wave and blue energy) and how we can reduce costs and enlarge the knowledge base in the North Sea Region through cooperation. We want to discuss processes and procedures for Ocean Energy permits and improve these for small scale energy projects (both tidal current and range generators) in estuaries and in the proximity of the coast. Recent studies have been done by the Ocean Energy Forum of DG Mare & Research and the latest studies are being carried out on a national level in the UK, the Netherlands and Belgium.

We would also like to shed more light on experiences in the North Sea Region in terms of obtaining a permit for testing ocean energy devices. What are the pitfalls and how can they be avoided?

What are the experiences with the so called 'One stop shops' that have recently set up in the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands? Join us in finding some answers.

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.8 (Round 3 & 4).**

## Climate Change Adaptation

Rolf Johnsen

Climate adaptation is not only about the threats and dangers the North Sea Region is facing. It is also about how the challenges we are facing can be possibilities for new solutions. Climate change adaptation is cross cutting and affects multiple sectors. Therefore, the solutions should also be found by working together. In the North Sea Region we have countries with a broad experience in tackling climate change problems. It is important that we continue to work together on this demanding issue. In this session you have a chance to pitch your project, express ideas and find new colleagues in the field of climate change adaptation.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 3 (Round 1); Bioscoopzaal 1 (Round 4).**



## Smart and Green Mobility

Rebecca Karbaumer, Hendrik Koch

While the North Sea Region deals with the effects of climate change, the traditional understanding of transport is leading to a continued increase in CO2 emissions, undermining other climate protection efforts. The North Sea Region needs to prepare future perspectives for higher costs of energy – this also includes the transport sector. The combination of these two factors demands a re-thinking of the concept of "transport" to a broader notion of "accessibility" (citizens' ability to meet their daily social, health, personal and economic needs safely and conveniently). The presentations and pitches in the workshop will focus on specific objective 4.2 of the new North Sea Region Cooperation Programme. Join us as we discuss green mobility solutions for regional freight and personal transport!

**Location: Grote zaal (Round 1 & 2).**

## Maritime Innovation

Martijn de Vries

During the Maritime Innovation session we would like to share new ideas that deliver insights into upcoming technologies and sustainable solutions, as well as new and improved products – and jointly develop projects. We will introduce Building with Nature, as an example of a project that aims to make use of natural structures and processes thinking, acting and interacting differently - while developing hydrological infrastructures. Come and pitch your project, join discussions and let's inspire each other!

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 4 (Round 1 & 4).**

## Mobility and Logistics

Wim Stubbe

It is quite a task to develop innovative solutions for the reduction of emissions and the improvement of air quality, whilst also relieving the traffic congestion that threatens an efficient flow of goods and people around the North sea Region and beyond. The logistic sector plays an important role in the implementation of such innovations. Logistic hubs, such as ports, airports and dryports can be optimized in order to shift the transportation of large volumes of freight away from long-distance road haulage to short sea shipping, inland waterways and railway transport.

**Location: Grote zaal (Round 3 & 4).**





# WORKSHOPS

## Political Workshops

Three short pitches from strategical, tactical and operational perspectives, followed by an interactive 'interview' of the North Sea.

## North Sea Commission

- Political Workshop North Sea Commission I
- Political Workshop North Sea Commission II

### The North Sea under pressure - Is regional maritime co-operation the answer?

Moderator Eelco Koolhaas

- Donné Slangen (Ministry of Infrastructure) - The North Sea 2050
- Wout de Groot (Gasunie) - New Energy opportunities
- Haije Stigter, (NAM) - The Walk to Work Vessel
- Interview of the North Sea, an interactive panel debate

#### Donné Slangen – The North Sea 2050

Are the regions sufficiently qualified to be included in maritime decision-making? In some countries regional and municipal authorities are involved, but in others this is not the case. How can we create a good dialogue on this subject on a regional, national and European level? Should this dialogue be about legal matters? How do we approach this with a view to opportunities and a sense of urgency? To what degree can we do this through the North Sea Commission and what should the North Sea Commission strategy be? How can this be organized by regions, knowing that these do not always have the full power to act? Advice from the House of Lords: Maritime Spatial Planning hasn't got a chance if the regions are excluded.

#### Wout de Groot, Gasunie - New Energy opportunities

Gasunie New Energy is taking an open-minded, business-oriented approach to the major issues in the field of energy. With partners, Gasunie is examining the feasibility of sustainable technologies for larger-scale use. Gasunie New Energy is working with these partners on creating new business models that are needed to bring the concept to maturity. Currently Gasunie New Energy focuses on increasing the share of green gas in the energy mix and on system integration to come to an efficient, sustainable and reliable use of heat, electricity and gas.

#### Haije Stigter, NAM – The Walk to Work Vessel

The Kroonborg, a newly developed "Walk-to-work vessel", is being mobilised by the *Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij*

(NAM) for the maintenance of unmanned platforms and gas production wells in the southern part of the North Sea.

The Kroonborg's combination of functions and new innovations make it one of a kind vessel. The ship was developed to fulfil a specific requirement: a ship that can transport staff safely to platforms to perform offshore maintenance work and allow them to carry out their activities efficiently. Several Dutch companies have worked together on these innovations. This project is a great example of how NAM worked together with other parties on unique solutions.

**Location: Rabozaal (Round 1 & 2)**

- North Sea Commission for beginners
- Revision of the North Sea Region 2020

### North Sea Commission for beginners

This workshop is primarily intended for those delegates who would like to get a better understanding of the North Sea Commission, its work, priorities and the North Sea Region 2020 strategy paper. The relationship with the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) will also be touched upon.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 4 (Round 3).**

### Revision of the North Sea Region 2020

The North Sea Commission ExCom has decided to revise the strategy paper North Sea Region 2020 by the half way mark in 2016. This workshop is primarily intended for North Sea Commission members. The North Sea Commission Secretariat will give an overview of the process and milestones. It is an opportunity for member regions to feed in at an early stage of the process.

**Location: Rabozaal (Round 4).**

## Interreg North Sea Region Programme

- Overview & how to apply
- Simplified and harmonized
- The strategy behind

### Overview & how to apply

This workshop will provide an overview of the content orientation of the 2014-2020 programme. The logic behind the four new priorities and how this relates to targeted results and capacity building will be explained. In the second part of the workshop, we will inform you more about the new two-step application approach. The main focus will be on explaining the steps to be taken from project idea via an expression of interest towards a full application. The workshop will be run by the Secretariat of the North Sea Region Programme.

**Location: Bioscoopzaal 2 (Round 1,2,3 & 4).**



## Simplified and harmonized

The workshop aims to introduce the main new concepts for project implementation and administration. Most of the forms and lists to be used in projects have been harmonized with those of other programmes. Rules and procedures have been greatly revised and there are a lot of differences in comparison to the IVB programming period. The new online monitoring system aims to work without paper and will provide functionalities for day-to-day communication and digital signatures. All these measures are aimed to make life simpler for the project community and the Secretariat will be happy to discuss your views at the end of the session.

**Location: Studio 1C (Round 1 & 3).**

## The strategy behind it

The Secretariat, together with members of the Programme Preparation Group, will present the strategy behind the new 2014-2020 programme. They will highlight the links to various relevant policy topics (e.g. smart specialization and maritime spatial planning) and also discuss the influence and relevance of existing and upcoming regional strategies for the programme area. The aim of the workshop is to provide stakeholders with information about the policy context behind the programme.

**Location: Studio 1C (Round 2 & 4).**

## Special Workshops

On one exclusive subject

- Failing as inspiration for eco-innovation
- EnTranCe: Energy pitches from Dutch Start Ups

### Failing as inspiration for eco-innovation

Victorine de Graaf – Hanze University of Applied Sciences

"The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success." .....and what about best practices in Eco-innovation? In this workshop we will start by sharing some less successful stories from previous projects on Eco-innovation and consequently look into some new best practices. Then, in quick tempo and interacting with all participants, we will define a new best practice(s) and topic for Eco-innovation. We aim to work this idea towards an actual Interreg project proposal and make arrangements for the next steps.

**Location: Kleedkamer 1.7 (Round 1 & 3).**

## Energy pitches from Dutch Start Ups

Jeroen van den Berg - Energy Transition Centre

The heart of Energy Transition Applied Research is our Energy Transition Centre - EnTranCe. During this workshop you will meet the 'youngest and brightest' of the Northern Netherlands in the fields of sustainability and energy, who are developing ideas and products in this testing centre. We have several Start-ups and SMEs lined up to pitch their ground-breaking ideas and products for you to react to and we hope to spark off some lively interaction!

**Location: Bovenfoyer bioscoop (Round 2); Kleedkamer 1.7 (Round 4).**



# STUDY TOURS

## Transport and Energy

On this tour we will visit the Eemshaven. Groningen Seaports is the port authority and commercial operator of the port of Delfzijl, Eemshaven and the adjoining industrial sites. The company provides the complete package of port services to its industrial and SME clients, from logistics services to the issue and maintenance of the sites in both port regions. Groningen Seaports manages an area covering approximately 2,600 hectares.

Energy is one of the most promising sectors for Eemshaven. A large part of Eemshaven has been earmarked for the development of energy-related industry: Energy Park Eemshaven. Investments worth six billion euro are being realized in energy activities like the construction of power stations, oil storage terminal and onshore and offshore wind energy. In a few years, Eemshaven will account for the production of about 8,000 MW of energy, amply sufficient to supply half of the Netherlands with electricity! That makes it the Energy Port of the Netherlands, and perhaps even of Northwest Europe!

## Smart Regions

The Northern Netherlands has some unique testing and research facilities for innovation. During this tour you will visit a few highlighted examples for mobility, health and big data and there will be ample opportunity for discussions.

During a visit to the Living Lab Assen you can see more of our smart solutions and our unique testing facility which is being used for a multitude of projects in the field of care, safety, sustainability, mobility and noise abatement. Assen is known world wide for the annual TT motor races. We're going to visit the circuit and see what changes it has brought Assen as an innovative city.

In Groningen, innovation focusses on the end-user. Innovation should be of use in our daily lives. Government authorities, universities and businesses are cooperating in developing Groningen as a 'Smart Users' City'. We will concentrate on energy and health.



## Smart Logistics and Freight Transport

The North Sea Region faces a huge challenge regarding the optimization of logistics and freight transport to increase competitive performance, both in terms of sustainability and efficiency. Cooperation is necessary to overcome these challenges and find joint solutions. This study tour will provide you with some of the latest insights on issues like the development and planning of transport networks, horizontal collaboration, synchromodality and vehicle innovation.

We also hope that the structure of the workshop will provide a stimulating environment to exchange results and ideas as well as to promote the interaction between participants, namely by debating about statements together with logistics students from Stenden University. Moreover, we will show you some of the region's main logistics assets, like the rail cross-border intermodal freight terminal in Coevorden. Interested? We look forward to welcoming you!





## Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change adaptation should be based on a catchments area. During this study tour we will look at some measures for improved resilience against flooding. We will visit the largest water retention area in The Netherlands and present not only the technical aspects of the project, but also the way in which stakeholders were involved. This area combines solutions for nature restoration and water retention, but elsewhere in Drenthe other combinations are being researched.

Climate change has led to more flooding and some stream valleys have been changed into nature areas to combat this problem. However, most stream valleys are in use by farmers and flooding decreases their yield. Research is now being done on long term management solutions.

On the higher sandy grounds, drought is the main issue. Together with farmers we are looking for solutions and you will visit a farm to learn more about sustainable soil management, use of irrigation water and new techniques (e.g. drip irrigation).



## Green Economy

The Green Economy is flourishing in Drenthe. We will show you different innovative initiatives in the areas of sustainable energy, green chemistry and plant value. We will guide you to some of the most prominent locations in our region, where you can see the circular economy in practice. At the Energy Transition Park in Wijster, an industrial area has been developed around a high-tech waste treatment plant. Waste is no longer seen as worthless: it provides us with valuable resources and renewable energy.

At the Business Centre Klazienveen, we will visit innovative greenhouses with an exhibition including several projects on green chemistry, plant value and agribusiness. Prepare to be surprised and inspired by these innovative projects!



## Cultural Capital 2018

Leeuwarden-Fryslân is the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2018. That certainly doesn't mean that we are only organizing cultural events. We see culture as a driver to make changes on the economical, ecological and educational fronts.

Therefore, our tour through Fryslân will show you some examples of what we are up to. You will see and experience projects dealing with light pollution, 3d-printing and biodiversity.

## Oceans and Marine Energy

During this study visit you will visit the world famous Dutch water defence - the Afsluitdijk, a Dutch showcase for tests and demonstrations in the field of Marine Energy. At the Afsluitdijk you will see a typical Dutch approach. Significant contributions to sustainable energy production can be achieved by constructing tidal energy and blue energy plants in existing and new water defences.

We call this initiative Energising deltas: sustainable energy generation, water safety and water management are combined into an innovative export product.

The programme will include a visit to the Tidal Testing Centre and at the site you will have the opportunity to see the tidal turbines. There will also be a presentation of the Blue Energy pilot and attention for Marine plant biomass production. A project market and a workshop will showcase best practices and project ideas in the field of Oceans and Marine Energy in the North Sea Region.





## The North Sea Experience

In the exhibition area you can see, feel, and experience a selection of some of the projects and innovative ideas knowledge institutions and companies have or are currently developing.

This is exciting stuff, so take some time to join in, be inspired and maybe create new projects together!

## Movie Side Show! Interaction between land and sea

The 'Ministry of Stories', conducted by Eelco Koolhaas, made a series of very short films in 2015 on the theme of the interaction between land and sea. These 'mini movies' – a must see – are unique in that they have been produced by a large number of coastal Dutch municipalities and provinces themselves!

These movies can be viewed during the conference and your comments will be collected in a creative way, so  
....Roll up! Roll up!

[www.northsearegion.eu](http://www.northsearegion.eu)



NSR15assen



#NSR15Assen



In case of emergency please contact  
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