ANNEX TO THE ANNUAL REPORT 2017:

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Key information on the implementation of the operational programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

The Programme's capitalization and communication efforts focused on:

- Drafting a capitalisation strategy for 2017 and 2018
- Launching the North Sea Blog
- Producing news articles on the outcomes and impacts of projects in previous programmes
- Adopting an extended progress report review procedure to capture outcomes and achievements of on-going projects
- Participating in two informal meetings between Heads of Secretariats and communication managers of Interreg transnational programmes. These meetings focused on the development of common messages as a basis for joint visibility actions.

Key information on indicator data

The programme performance indicators can be found in the annual report; section **Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework**. In 2017, expenditures incurred by beneficiaries (indicators P1.1, 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 were registered until the end of the year. For all other priorities project reports have been received by the secretariat and as reporting just started in 2018 a steep increase in reported expenditures incurred is to be expected. Taking the total eligible expenditures by all approved projects in a priority into account (project targets in the annex [**Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework**] table) the 2018 milestones are well within reach.

When taking the number of full applications into account for the applications received and assessed the 2018 milestone has already been reached for all priorities.

Status of indicator information provided

With first reports of call 1 projects first information on indicators has been reported as well. As the number of reports received so far is limited so is the number of specific objectives indicator information (see section **3.2. Common and programme specific indicators**). However, as the number of reports will increase, the more detailed and more progress will be made.

There is one output indicator for each specific objective and they are automatically selected for the projects. In addition, all projects have to provide information on the compulsory indicators as most of these data are aggregated by the European Commission to measure progress throughout the European Union. Projects report on all 5 indicators – even if the target is zero.

What is striking is that 9 compulsory output indicators have already been overachieved by far.

For priority 1 (innovation), three compulsory output indicators are already overachieving.

For priority 2 (eco-innovation), two of the compulsory output indicators are already overachieving.

For priority 3 (environment), two of the compulsory output indicators are overachieving.

For priority 4 (transport), two of the compulsory output indicators are overachieving.

The Secretariat is in touch with the European Commission about the annual reporting of indicators and will bring this issue up as part of the dialogue.

The output indicators for each specific objective are all on track.

In terms of the result indicators, no progress has been made as the projects will report on their results further down within their project lifecycle.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1. Overview of the implementation

1. Thinking Growth: Supporting growth in North Sea Region economies

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

Expected Results:
All projects are up and running and some initial reports have been received, which indicate good progress. It is expected that the projects will contribute towards the programme reaching its goals. There is a strong focus on strengthening capacity of both knowledge partnerships and authorities/practitioners in relation to innovation in enterprises and innovation in public service delivery. Here are some examples of expected project results from approved projects, which we hope will contribute to this increased capacity:

- Increased turnover and/or export and/or employment in participating SMEs via internationalisation activities by 20% (Lean Landings)

- Delivered concrete marketable new products, services or processes - target of 160 (Lean Landings)
- Transnational networking in healthcare innovation - The number of follow-up contacts between businesses (SMEs) and/or research partners and/or innovation centres resulting from the mini trade missions and embedded in the strategic network established by the project partners. Target of 15 (SHINE)
-NSR Competitiveness - Increase on marginal turnover of SMEs involved in project by 20% (Create Converge)
- Converging Creative Technologies Competitiveness - Increase in NSR CCT jobs for SMEs involved in the project by 20% (Create Converge)
-Enterprises in partner regions collaborating with innovation partners outside their own country – target of a 10% increase. (Northern Connections)
-Deliver the next generation of smart services (with the use of data, digitization, co-design) to support increased customer value across the NSR: target – 10% increase in customer satisfaction of end users per new, redesigned or digitized service (Like!)
- Improved level of digital inclusion and public digital skills (local communities and enterprises) in rural areas – target 25% increase in share of citizens and enterprises using digital technologies and services in selected pilots (CORA)
- 80 SMEs that have implemented or started to implement I4.0 business models, techniques or new competences by project end (GrowIn 4.0).
-Increased regional market up take of innovations – target 30 products, services that have been realised via the integral public service of the Inno-Quarter approach (Inno-quarter)
-New transnational SME collaborations pursuing novel Blue Growth market opportunities – target 10. (PERISCOPE)
-Reduction in service provision costs using data-driven and open source solutions – target – 10% Average cost reduction per city for services related to test cases. The cost savings equal a total of €50M for partner cities in 2020 (SCORE)

The following provides an overview of the projects, their stages of implementation and expected results:

REFRAME: 15 beneficiaries (public and private) from 5 NSR countries (NL, BE, DE, DK, SE) looking to establish a Regional Food Frame (RFF) as an effective set of measures to scale up and accommodate urban food demands and regional supplies. The project was officially launched in 2016 with their kick off meeting was in April 2016 and since then they have been busy with partner meetings and initial project activities. The project submitted their first basic periodic report and a full periodic report (report #2) in 2017. Working towards a durable transnational training and learning network Reframe has built regional networks, identified and described best practices, developed new smart specialization strategies, shared these in their networks and took steps to make them available online in the Reframe Online Reference Center. The project works towards cooperation and other arrangements between regional suppliers and large scale consumers to provide a sizable regional B2B food market. Reframe works on cooperation in logistics in the Swedish Food Hub network and a Food

Hub network in the Groningen region, inspired by the Swedish example. Reframe in Flanders and Sweden stimulates large scale distributors to include more regional suppliers.

The Reframe project stimulates large scale urban consumers (public & corporate) to utilize regional sourcing, to cooperate with regional suppliers and thus foster a regional innovative food frame. Reframe helps food related SMEs to find and develop smart specialisation options, and to fulfil a role in a regional supply proposition. Thus, Reframe has developed 14 smart specialisations and support measures. Especially inspiring is the Swedish example where 300 registered SMEs can be seen as a form of "Regional Supply Proposition" also their concept "Taste of West Sweden". Through beneficiary LPIV the regional supply of the 300 SMEs is marketed via their website, at mini fairs, inspirational activities, in sales binders etc. LPIVs knowledge about the regional demand is shared with the SMEs via activities such as counseling and seminars.

Examples include; in Groningen where the municipality adjusted its procurement strategy in such a way that it enabled the participation of more local and regional food related SMEs. Similarly, in Flanders talks with a large catering organization, an auction house and food processing company should lead to the inclusion of more food related regional /local SMEs in the procurement process. In Germany the beneficiary Diakonisches Werk is taking steps to procure more food-related products from regional SMEs. In Sweden Reframe stimulated a supermarket chain to include more products from regional SMEs in their product assortment.

Create Converge: 9 beneficiaries (public and private) from 5 NSR countries (UK, DE, NL, SE, DK) are focuses on getting visualisation and gaming technology sector to work together with a wide range of other sectors from architecture to science to deliver converging creative technologies (CCTs). The project was launched in 2016 with a delayed start in the contracting process that took them to almost the end of the year. Main activities were up and running in 2017, and the project submitted their first periodic report. Create Converge has made excellent progress producing insights in the collaboration between creative technologies and non-creative SMEs/organisations, events, and a transnational lab to make the most of Createch. Createch combines creativity with technology and is an emerging path to innovation. Beyond entertainment, they offer applications for training, service delivery and marketing for any interested organisations. The overall Createch focus is on animation, live action, visual effects, virtual reality, augmented reality and games and using these for sectors such as fashion, energy, architecture, the 'blue economy', healthcare and screen tourism. There has been a total of 15 hosted events up to May 2017 and partners have attended 22 events to fly the flag for Create Converge. Hosted events have included VR Ready Are You and See What I Mean, a workshop with Dave Burgess, Head of Character Animation at DreamWorks. Partners have been promoting Create Converge at a huge range of events from SXSW to the Cannes Film Festival, from the Berlin Fashion Film Festival to the Copenhagen Future TV Conference, Hamburg Games Conference 2017 and FMX.

Lean Landings: 16 beneficiaries (public and private) from 6 NSR countries (DK, NL, SE, DE, NO, UK) are working together to support innovative and value-creating internationalisation efforts and partnerships among SMEs in the North Sea Region. Launched in 2016 with a delayed start in the

contracting process - initial activities have started however, the project was waiting for the possibility to make a major partnership change request since middle of 2016.This was finalized in November 2017 by the Steering Committee. The project lost several beneficiaries (11 out of the initial 27)- although it has indicated that the actual changes to the approved application form were minimal, as other beneficiaries in the partnership were willing to take over the activities and deliverables. This can be seen in the uptake of available funding from the withdrawing beneficiaries. The only expected changes are to the number of SMEs involved in soft landings and related activities such as the number of steering committee meetings and soft landings workshops.

SHINE: 8 beneficiaries (public) from 3 NSR countries (BE, UK, NL) are working with integrated business models for the healthcare economy based on the regions' smart specialisation strategy. The project had their kick off meeting in 2016 and now is more than halfway through implementation. The Programme has received their first 2 reports where progress on the output level is evident. 3 reports have been completed including: 1) Retrospective Case Study; 2) The manual on propelling innovations in regional healthcare systems in the North Sea Region and; 3) Mapping, Analysing and Reporting Barriers to Transnational Trade in Healthcare. The project indicated that good progress is being made with the development of the 3 integrated business models in WP3 and it was estimated that all 3 of them could be finalized by the end of 2017. Pilot cases in WP 4 (Spin-off activities based on shared value creation) are in different stages of development in West Flanders, The Netherlands and Scotland**.** The Flemish and Scottish partners held their first Transnational Trade Preparation Programme (TTPP) for the Mini Trade Show (MTS) in The Hague. Beneficiary Innovation Quarter realised an interactive program and a lot of interesting contacts were made between companies and healthcare organisations from the 3 regions. The Mini Trade show in The Hague received many positive reactions from the participants and the accompanying Mid Term Event at the World of Healthcare was ideal for a first presentation of the first findings resulting from the SHINE project.

In For Care: 16 beneficiaries (public and private) from 6 NSR countries (NL, NO, SE, BE, DK, UK) are focusing on developing innovation in service delivery by optimizing informal and formal health care networks. Approved in September 2016 – the project kick-off meeting took place in February 2017 in Grinstead, Norway. The Programme has received the first report and some of the highlights include: identification of stakeholders for increased cooperation & first good practices discussed; cooperation potential of quadruple helix has been extended outside the partnership to 2 other projects; collection of transnational inventory and existing tools/technologies is underway; first steps to increase cooperation between formal and informal networks started with a focus on co-creation and change of mindset; start-up of regional activities i.e. Kristiansand Region developed new survey and application form for case workers in the home care services and CMO STAMM has worked on raising awareness through film making in order to work towards creating and improving processes of voluntary work and informal care in service delivery.

Inn2Power: 11 beneficiaries (public and private) from 5 NSR countries (NL, BE, UK, DK, DE) NSR regional clusters and other supporting organisations in the Offshore Wind Industry are working closely together on the shared goal of bringing their SMEs across the borders to engage them in

innovative business collaboration. Approved in September 2016 the project kick-off meeting took place in December 2016 in Oostende, BE. Since then the Programme has received the project's first report which indicated two main achievements at the end of their first year of implementation: the networking tool and the Company Directory – 2 innovation support measures. Progress on communication objectives is coming along, with contacts made to SMEs and development of the activities linked to dissemination well underway. Work package 3 (Realisation of transnational collaboration in the offshore wind industry) appears to be well on its way while WP 4 (Supporting Infrastructure) and WP 5 (Improving the Work Force) are still in preparation phase.

Like!: 10 beneficiaries (public) from 5 NSR countries (NL, DE, BE, UK, DK) are collaborating to develop a Local Digital Innovation Culture across the NSR, giving authorities & practitioners new skills and knowledge to deliver innovative services, to develop new ways to engage with communities, and to build more inclusive services. Approved in September 2016 and kick off meeting took place in December 2016 in Groningen, NL. The project has started its implementation and submitted their first periodic report in 2017. The Like! project addresses the themes local government are coping with in order to improve customer service delivery. In this first period, the project saw results on working with disengaged groups, engaging with citizens and a lot of initiatives within local government organisations to improve and stimulate the innovation culture (for instance senior citizens, summer classes, digicoaches). The work on data (turning data into information) looks very promising: several Beneficiaries are preparing digital dashboards and combine expertise to do so. The project is working on the internal awareness on innovation and digitization as well as on reaching out to special needs groups. Groningen held 10 summer classes with internal/external experts- with over 200 civil servants, Drenthe and Groningen (NL) both worked on a Newsroom (a communication initiative). Rotterdam zoomed in on communication with vulnerable groups (using more visual material / "Visuals in letters") and thus initiated a national repository on visual elements in communication. Roeselare (BE) and Vechta (GER) worked with digicoaches. Vechta University developed a Like! survey for citizens engagement. Aalborg (DEN) is developing a smart senior approach, together with Rotterdam. Angus (UK) has a training programme for care home staff. Five themes have been chosen to display on dashboards: energy, nature & tourism, elderly and accessibility of care in rural areas, regional sustainable development and city data. Angus will develop a interactive dashboard for social care services.

Northern Connections: 21 beneficiaries (public and private) from all 7 NSR countries (DK, UK, NO, NL, BE, SE, DE) are involved in the project. The project focuses on testing the use of domestic innovation support measures transnationally and addressing barriers to competition which exist between clusters and regions. Approved in September 2016 the project kick-off meeting took place in December 2016 in Aarhus, DK. In 2017, the project carried out its activities and submitted their first periodic report. One of the key elements in the first period was an analysis of the Regional Innovation Strategies among the partners. The results from the report give input to the other key elements in the project, which are the clusters and regions/cities. This report shows that the way clusters are working together with local/regional authorities is very different among the countries. Some partners are used to having a very close relationship with public authorities while others, especially private clusters, do

not have that. With this in mind it is important to focus on good practices and to establish the right conditions for dialogue in order to create the most suitable framework for the clusters, so they can better help the companies with internationalization with specific focus on the North Sea Region. The project has also identified specific Living Labs, which are areas, where companies, researchers and investors can test and develop new business opportunities. A total of more than 150 names and areas came up and they are to be narrowed down to only eight, which are going to be a key element in the project in the coming months. Finally, the clusters in the project have had a closer dialogue with their local/regional authorities as they are jointly engaged in the Northern Connections project. This has given them a forum where they can discuss different local/regional challenges and issues – which is also a key element in the project.

PERISCOPE: 12 beneficiaries (public and private) from 6 NSR countries (DK, UK, NO, NL, SE, DE) are involved in the project. To understand and open up emerging technological and market opportunities, which lead to sustainable innovations, PERISCOPE will establish an entrepreneurial discovery process to reinforce the knowledge base, identify and valorise innovation ideas, and open up a Blue Growth ecosystem to stimulate industry-driven action on the concrete opportunities ahead. Concretely, PERISCOPE will enhance the capacity of 300+ NSR actors within the blue economy, kick start 10+ Blue Growth innovation partnerships within the NSR, accelerate at least two major cross-border innovation projects, and increase understanding of innovation support and conditions for blue business development in the NSR. The project was approved in June 2017 and held their kick off at the end of October 2017. The project is expected to submit their first report in 2018.

SCORE: 13 beneficiaries (mainly public) from all 7 NSR countries are involved in the project. SCORE aims to increase the efficiency and quality of public service delivery in cities to reduce costs by 10%, ie €50M savings for partner cities by 2020. In SCORE's demand-driven approach, Transnational Teams of 9 Smart Cities in 7 NSR countries co-define shared challenges for improved municipal services. Cities pool resources and expertise to co-develop 12 innovative solutions (on e.g. environment, water, parking, sustainable mobility) to be tested and replicated 3 times transnationally in existing urban living labs. Urban data is unlocked and made inter-operable between departments and organisations. SCORE uses an agile software development approach for open source solutions that re(uses) data to improve Public Service Delivery These innovations can then be re-used for free by other NSR cities and regions. The project was approved in June 2017 and held their kick off meeting at the start of 2018. The project is expected to submit their first report in 2018.

CORA: 18 beneficiaries from 7 NSR countries are involved in the project. CORA targets main components of the digital divide namely digital infrastructure, services and skills. It enables 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, CORA partners develop a model called SSE "Systematic Synergy Enhancement model", which provides a comprehensive set of guiding measures towards digitalization in rural areas. It employs fixed and mobile digital hub concept for providing in-place advice, technology demonstration and incubator spaces. Built on Training the Trainer, face-to-face and online training concept will be tested to enhance digital skills. 10 regions will

demonstrate one or more dimensions of digitalization depending on their baselines and local priorities. The results will be utilized to formulate digital strategies for rural areas to be streamlined to the regional, national and European authorities and influence EU digital inclusion policy. The project was approved in June 2017 and had their kick off meeting in November 2017. The project is expected to submit their first report in 2018.

INNO-QUARTER: 12 beneficiaries (public and private) from 5 NSR countries are involved in the project. Inno-Quarter (IQ) provides a new way to short track innovation processes and improve the cost-effectiveness of startup support mechanisms and redirect funds towards sustainable commercialisation of more innovations. IQ will facilitate entrepreneurs with an integral public service (innovation quarter) that is organised at existing events. The innovation quarters should reduce the costs of conventional start-up programmes, by reducing the time needed to validate a product/service with 2 years. IQ will provide entrepreneurs with: (1) possibility to develop new products/services (2) end-user feedback for products/business models/services ready for market uptake (3) business support platform (4) enabler of product/service development. Quadruple helix partnerships of public authorities/development agencies, knowledge institutes, private partners and the community, represented by the IQ beneficiaries, will jointly develop, test and evaluate this service in several regions to come to a validated method available for adoption throughout the NSR. The project was approved in June 20 17 and had their kick off meeting in October 2017. The project is expected to submit their first report in 2018.

Growin 4.0: 15 beneficiaries (public and private) from 5 NSR countries are involved in the project. The focus of the GrowIn 4.0 project is the common challenges manufacturing SMEs throughout the NSR face today. If the manufacturing industry in the NSR is to remain competitive, it needs to capture the potential for productivity and growth that Industry 4.0 has to offer. There is a profound need for an experience based and smart gathering of efficient methods, tools and knowledge to guide SMEs in their transformation towards Industry 4.0. GrowIn 4.0 aims to build strong competences and tools in the participating regions for the benefit of manufacturing SMEs. The overall objective is to raise the level of innovation and to create more growth within manufacturing SMEs who are heading for Industry 4.0. The approach is to establish a strong partnership which pool knowledge on the manufacturing industry and Industry 4.0. Main challenges and solutions in regards of implementing Industry 4.0 will be investigated. The results of collections of new or improved methods and tools - developed in interaction with SMEs - will be universal within different areas of the NSR. The project was approved in June 2017 and had their kick off meeting in October 2017. The project is expected to submit their first periodic report in 2018.

2. Eco-innovation: Stimulating the green economy

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

The results these 7 projects are aiming to achieve during their lifetime are:

- Cost reduction by concretely implementing low-carbon solutions by 20% (Dual Ports);
- Carbon reduction by piloting and / or adopting tangible low carbon products and green technologies that improve utilities in ports by 10% (Dual Ports);
- Take-up of 25 green products to be adopted by the market with reduction of low-carbon by 10% (SCALE-UP);
- 20% civic energy uptake - % of the North Sea Region area served by civic energy due to the adoption of the civic energy business models (COBEN) by 2030;
- Community CO2 reductions up against the 2016 values due to adoption of COBEN's climate-energy models by the year 2030;
- Through the implementation of big data analysis, greenhouse production of fresh fruit, vegetables and ornamentals will use 15% less energy use and 10% higher energy efficiency (% reduction in kWh and gas (m3) (SmartGreen);
- 18 regional initiatives around technologies, processes and businesses for the conversion of biomass streams will be implemented (BIOCAS);
- Reach 30% energy savings in 141 schools across the North Sea Region (2IMPRESZ)
- Better resource efficiency by re-using degraded farmland and reducing fresh water consumption will be obtained.

The following provides an overview of the projects, their stages of implementation and expected results:

Dual Ports aims to decarbonise regional entrepreneurial ports resources through a shared eco-innovation port programme that minimises their environmental footprint. It is a project whose partnership consists of 10 public authorities and companies from five North Sea Region countries – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the UK. Together they are exploring how to enhance ports' energy efficiency and performance, facilitating low carbonisation at reduced cost, with added value in terms of knowledge and investment. During 2017 successful pilots for decarbonising regional ports by renewing use of soil in port development and refuelling a bunkering system using hydrogen have been generated. This is a great example of the development and use of new and smart technologies.

SCALE-UP (Supporting Clean-tech innovators in Accessing Large Enterprises through Unlocking Procurement) has been developing, implementing and promoting clean tech innovators to establish 5 clusters across the North Sea Region. Paving the way for new transnational business development services and take up of 25 green products to be adopted by the market. The SCALE-UP partnership consists of 8 public and private partners from the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, and the UK. Among other

activities, they ran workshops and seminars promoting 50 tailored "Meet the Buyer" events in which 50 large technology buyers meets up to 250 relevant clean tech innovators with high potential of commercial use, providing specialized technical skills training to innovators and setting up a voucher scheme that reduce barriers for international business development.

COBEN, which stands for 'Delivering Community Benefits of Civic Energy', is a project whose partnership consists of 9 public authorities and institutions of higher learning from 6 North Sea Region countries – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and the UK. Together they are exploring how to improve climate and civic energy uptake. This is mainly being done by facilitating transnational cooperation on local energy promotion within a collaborative civic energy network.

SmartGreen use novel Big Data analysis combined with practical demonstrations in SMEs securing a leap towards a greener, sustainable, and more energy efficient (by 10%) production system. Delivery requires a transnational collaboration to synthesize leading competences and to build new ways of linking SMEs to the greening action. 12 beneficiaries from 6 countries are involved.

2IMPREZS aims to foster both behavioural and energy saving measures in schools in the North Sea Region, reducing the schools' energy consumption and lowering their CO2 emissions. This project's innovative angle is that it will tackle the whole spectrum of energy efficiency measures in schools: the behavioural, the technical, and the financial, rather than just one of them. Their aim is to reach 30% energy savings in 141 schools throughout the region. 10 beneficiaries from 5 countries are involved.

SalFar aims to promote resource efficiency by (re)using degraded farmland and reducing fresh water consumption. The partnership consists of 15 beneficiaries from all countries around the North Sea Region. Ten open field labs will be set up in each participating region to demonstrate innovative methods of farming on saline soil with natural adaptation processes in plants and crops. As an example, the project is dealing with three different kinds of pilots to test the salt tolerance of crops and the cultivating of plants that grow naturally in the Wadden Sea area. One of the project beneficiaries, the Ökowerk Emden, has already started their pilots as "demonstrations," i.e. trials without a strict scientific protocol. They set up two test fields with Salicornia and Cochlearia on flooded areas. Salicornia europaea plants were first raised in pots in the greenhouse and planted in open fields in August 2017. In October the area was covered with a five-centimeter layer of salty mud. This test will show whether the natural regrowth of Salicornia by seed is feasible under these conditions and if the test field can be used as production unit in 2018.

The main aim of **BIOCAS** is to realize concrete Biomass Cascading Alliances (BCA's) for a more sustainable conversion of biomass. 18 beneficiaries from 4 countries are involved. The project connects 18 regional initiatives around technologies, processes, and businesses for the conversion of biomass streams. One of the pilots, led by the province of Fryslân, will replace the bicycle bridge over

the Van Harinxma canal at Ritsumasyl in the Netherlands with one constructed using bio-based material – the first of its kind in the country.'

3. Sustainable North Sea Region: Protecting against climate change and preserving the environment

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

There is a strong focus on strengthening capacity of both knowledge partnerships and authorities /practitioners, develop and adapt solutions for strengthening the resilience to climate change and provide strategies as well as solutions for long-term sustainable management of the environment and shared natural resources.

In 2017, BWN, FAIR, NorthSEE, BEGIN, FRAMES and NuReDrain have reported for their first time, whereas the Topsoil and WaterCoG projects have already submitted their second reports. The projects Sullied Sediments, PARTRIDGE, CATCH, Jomopans and CANAPE will forward their first reports in 2018.
Some of the results these 13 projects are aiming to achieve during their lifetime are:

- Avoidance of stranded investments for application of wind farms in designated shipping routes, and of sunk costs for development of unsuitable environmental areas: 60.000.000 Euro (NorthSEE)

- New coastline plans using shared insights, designs and demonstrations of the effectiveness of the methods of Sand Nourishments, based on Building with Nature principles: 700 Km of coastline (BwN)

- Increase in the lifespan of targeted flood protection infrastructure: 5 % increase (FAIR)

- Water quantity: Improvement of buffer capacity by 20% (Topsoil)

- Increased return on public investment by adopting participatory/co-governance approaches to management of NSR ecosystems: 20 Percentage increase (Water Co-Goverance)

- Reduced probability of floods in cities from extreme rainfall: 30 % (Begin)

- Achieve an improved level of community resilience against the impact of flooding in at-risk communities: 432 stakeholders and 2.800 inhabitants have an increased level of self-efficacy and resilience in case of flooding through empowerment of inhabitants and sustainable coalitions. (FRAMES)

- 70% Phosphorus and 50% Nitrogen removal in demonstration sites (NuReDrain)

- Farmland ecosystems improved: 30% increase among measured bio-indicators and ecosystem service indicators at 10 demonstration sites in comparison to reference sites (Partridge)

- Reduced level of selected watch list chemicals in outflow from waste-water sites piloting spore technology: 25% reduction of selected toxic watch list chemicals from treated waste-water entering the target watercourses in 2019 compared to baseline levels determined at the project start (Sullied Sediments)

- 4900 m3of water per year in potential reduction in flood risk to improve climate resilience; 133 tons of CO2-eq captured per hectare per year (Canape)

- Potential to reduce with 10%, the area adversely affected by underwater noise; cost reduction of 50% resulting from a single standardized, joint monitoring approach (JOMOPANS).

- 20% reduced costs from flood events due to extreme rainfall - based on the decision support tool and developed climate adaptation strategies guiding the way to water sensitive cities (CATCH)

The following provides an overview of the projects, there stages of implementation and expected results:

NorthSEE – A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environment Aspects in MSP
At the upstart of the project partners had to achieve better understanding of national Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) cultures and systems. The partnership consists of 13 partners from 7 countries (NO, SE, UK, DK, BE, DE, NL). The partners learned for example that where Germany is developing detailed spatial plans with specific designations for maritime uses, Scotland is planning with a more strategic approach and makes room for bottom-up developments. Understanding each other's system was a first step towards the project goal of actually increasing coherence between Maritime Spatial Plans.

The most transnational relevant sectors for MSP in the North Sea are Energy (connecting grid and offshore wind energy farms), Environment (e.g nature parks at the Wadden Sea and Doggersbank) and Shipping (shipping routes and harbor development). International cooperation in these sectors will therefore generate most impact. The partners have shared national information on the current status of offshore energy, environmental protected areas and shipping routes. Together they worked on clarifying their national MSP processes, for example which offshore wind farms, are in use and planned, what policy is behind them, where most ships are sailing, where the designated shipping routes are, and how they have been decided.

Besides analyzing the current status, the partners have worked on defining future industry and policy trends. Examples are new wind farms to be planned, floating wind turbines or autonomous shipping vessels and their spatial impact. For energy and shipping this has lead to first draft reports, which has formed a base for discussions at meetings. Unfortunately, the work on environmental protected areas and policy has run into delays, because of budget problems of the Norwegian partners in the project. Other partners are taking over some of the tasks to make sure that also environment will be covered sufficiently the coming years.

The project has focused on strengthening cooperation with other projects and initiatives. The Political Initiative for Energy Cooperation in the North Sea, signed in June 2016, is an example. This initiative, as well as other initiatives, has an influence on the project and its promised deliverables and may require revisions to the approved project. With Baltic LINes - the Interreg BSRP sister project - exchange of information is made regularly. The two projects are also cooperating on development of the MSP Challenge computer game.

BWN – Building with Nature

The Building with Nature project takes place in a crowded region with high economic stakes, vulnerable to flooding. The idea of Building with Nature is to allow nature to help you achieve your flood prevention goals, irrespective whether that involves waves, currents, sedimentation and erosion patterns or vegetative growth. The 15 partners from 6 countries (SE, NL, DE, DK, BE, UK) started their cooperation to learn from one another and develop means together to prevent such events in a way that is adaptable, sustainable and multi beneficial (natural value, biodiversity, recreation etc. as side effects of this approach).

The project focus on both coastal and catchment systems and use a cross-sectorial transnational approach to knowledge exchange and development. The project studies 13 living laboratories on the technical aspects (geomorphology, biology etc.), followed by endeavoring socio-economic aspects such as business case guidance and governance barrier analysis. These products will lead to a framework that can be used for opportunity mapping in order to indicate chances to apply this way of thinking, designing and building. The Policy Learning Group then will focus on governance acceptance and uptake of relevant techniques and paradigms.

The Build with Nature project has presented its approach to Ms Rosanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform of Scotland in its Eddleston laboratory. The project has also prepared the Climate change workshop of the Danish-German-Dutch Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, November 2017 with 60 participants. The Dutch Wadden Sea Island, Ameland tidal inlet laboratory achieved mass attention, including Dutch national television, during it's monitoring campaign. At the NSRP Conference, June 2017 Göttingen, Germany the projects Building with Nature and FAIR organized a workshop for projects related to climate change within the Interreg North Sea Region. Roeland Allewijn, Director of Safety and Water at Rijkswaterstaat (NL), gave a keynote speech and he facilitated a workshop in which the projects presented and discussed with each other their common interests.

FAIR: Flood defense infrastructure: Asset management and Investment in Resilience, adaptation and maintenance

FAIR focuses on sharing approaches to better enable the development of more resilient, multi-functional and adaptive approaches to flood defense infrastructure. Within FAIR asset owners and experts (the Science team) work closely together to support the development of the next generation of asset management and investment planning methods. The partnership consists of 12 partners from 6 countries (SE, UK, DK, BE, DE, NL).

A transnational network of flood defense asset owners and experts have collated information on their own approaches and funding mechanisms. The experts inventoried the responses and compared the approaches and proposed a common framework for flood defense infrastructure asset management.

The asset owners, with help of the Science team, have established the baseline of flood defense infrastructure asset management against which optimized investment planning methods will be compared. Basic descriptions of all 7 pilot sites have been produced covering asset mapping, multi-functionality, management and planning and have identified some challenges. Through cooperation, the asset owners have learned about the Source-Pathway-Receptor method for describing a flood system and are in different stages of developing their descriptions using this method. Progress on specific activities in 2017 includes:

- An inventory of tools for flood defense infrastructure asset management
- Comparing of asset management and investment planning methods in NSR countries
- Developing a common Asset Management Framework (with baseline data for North Sea Region countries)
- Establishing an alliance of flood defense infrastructure operational asset managers under the auspices of a Policy Learning Group that will reflect upon and advocate for the project results.
- Visualizing the different national networks and connections within and outside of the FAIR network and mapping the national flood defense asset management networks.

TOPSOIL – Top soil and water – The climate challenge in the near subsurface

The Topsoil project deals with five shared climate adaptation challenges related to the top soil and groundwater such as groundwater flooding in towns and agricultural areas, saltwater intrusion into freshwater reserves and use of groundwater buffer to store excess rain water for later use. The project will also improve groundwater storage for irrigation and drinking water at inland and in coastal areas and reduce leaching of nutrients and pollutants along with improved yields.

These challenges are addressed in 16 pilot areas, developing and testing solutions for managing the uppermost 20-30 m of the subsurface. This will lead to a strong improvement of climate resilience in and across pilot areas. New investigation techniques and management methods are developed through transnational joint approaches and will be transferred between the countries. The partnership consists of 24 partners from 5 countries (UK, DK, BE, DE, NL).

In 2017, the TopSoil project focused on data collection in the pilots and established the right transnational co-operation and project support. A large amount of field work in the pilots was carried out. The field work covers e.g. geophysical measurements, drillings, water sampling, soil sampling and flow measurements.

The project carried out a transnational stakeholder workshop with a large number of participants – more than 85 from five countries. The workshop focused on finding solutions on climate and sub-surface related issues. The cooperation has initiated a lot of bilateral networking across the partnership and with stakeholders outside the project.

TopSoil was represented at various international conferences, like Aqua Consoil in Lyon in June 2017 with two presentations and one poster. The project hosted a workshop on the NSRP annual conference in Gottingen (Germany), June 2017 and presented project findings at North Sea Commission meeting, March 2017. TopSoil has also influenced additional national events.

WaterCoG – Water Co-Governance for sustainable ecosystems
The WaterCoG project aims to improve the integration between top-down approaches to the implementation of European and national directives and bottom-up, participatory developed solutions for improving the quality and sustainable management of ecosystems in the North Sea region.

The project is halfway through its implementation and has reached some milestones. First meetings have enabled a significant level of knowledge exchange and enhanced the collective understanding of the common need for "co-governance" based solutions to water management. The 14 pilots are up and running and enable new co-governance approaches to be implemented to solve water management.
Since external communication is critical to the success of the project WaterCoG, partners have actively promoted the aims of the project and the new solutions being developed through numerous channels. More widely, the project activities help to shape policy developments in several partner countries.

The partnership consists of 9 partners from 5 countries (UK, DK, SE, DE, NL).

BEGIN – Blue Green Infrastructure through Social Innovation
The project will use their pilots in order to demonstrate how cities can improve climate resilience with Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) involving stakeholders in a value-based decision-making process. The BEGIN project helps cities to overcome implementation barriers for BGI´s through Social Innovation (SI) that empowers multiple stakeholders to contribute to the design, construction and maintenance of BGIs.
After one year of project implementation the first final designs of the pilots have been created and will be studied and approved. Additionally, a transnational city-to-city (C2C) learning programme has

been developed based on the inventory of each city´s strength and weaknesses which will lead to more effective knowledge exchange.
Dissemination activities have been broadly executed during the first reporting period, which included not only sharing BEGIN outputs but also involving different stakeholders.
All activities support the objectives and contribute positively to the results of the project.
The partners are mainly 16 cities and research institutions from 6 countries in the programme area (UK, SE, DE, NL, BE, NO).

FRAMES – Flood Resilient Areas by Multi-layEred Safety
More frequent and severe flooding due to climate change is one of the most significant risks for the North Sea region. FRAMES aim to reduce the effects and impacts of flooding and reduce recovery time through enhanced resilience of flood prone areas and communities, which include spatial planning, community resilience and recovery actions over several selected target sites. The project wants to combine resilience measures in the Multi-Layer Safety (MLS) concept. The MLS concept is a strategy that integrates measures for: prevention, mitigation via spatial planning and emergency response. Through MLS, institutional and sectorial barriers are lifted, and the stakeholders jointly apply the most effective combination of solutions to realize sustainable strategies and improve the capacity of authorities and society to cope with flooding.

During the first year FRAMES partners have started exchanging information with stakeholders to set up the MLS activities in the 13 pilot areas. A survey was done in all pilot areas to determine an aggregated improved baseline for resilience.

For dissemination/communication the Frames webspace is operational and FRAMES has been promoted/presented during the North Sea Region Annual Conference 2017. Since the conference, FRAMES has been participating in the LB cooperation between the NSR climate related projects.
In the FRAMES project there is 16 partners from 5 countries in the programme area (UK, DK, DE, BE, NL) participating in the FRAMES project.

NuReDrain – Nutrients Removal and Recovery from Drainage Water
The North Sea region is recognized as an intensive farming area and nutrient inputs from land have resulted in eutrophication in rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal zones. The NuReDrain project aims at developing a technology for trapping phosphorus and nitrogen in agricultural waste streams such as drainage discharges and greenhouse effluents. The project wants to stimulate joint development of cost-effective filter technologies, targeting nutrients removal for different situations and regions, reuse the recovered P for agricultural purposes and eventually work out implementation guidelines for the North Sea Region.

Within the first year of project implementation the NuReDrain project consortium generated a database summarizing techno-economic characteristic of 15 phosfor absorbing and 2 nitrate removing materials. Meanwhile, all project partners started with the preparatory work for the first round of field tests.

The results of the NUREDRAIN project will offer guidance to policy makers about implementation strategies. To support this decision making, the impact of P and N removal technologies on the surface water quality will be modeled on a catchment in Belgium and Germany. Data is currently gathered to calibrate and validate the SWAT model (Soil & Water Assessment Tool).
The partnership consists of 11 partners from 3 countries (BE, DE, DK) in the programme area.

PARTRIDGE – Protecting the Areas Resources through Researched Innovative Demonstration of Good Examples
The transnational partnership of the Partridge project (researchers, farm advisors, conservationists, hunters, civil servants and farmers) will at 10 farmland demonstration sites in 4 NSR countries (UK, NL, BE, DE) show-case how new best practice management solutions can improve biodiversity and ecosystem services by up 30% in four years, and how these can be transferred across all regions of the NSR and the EU.

The overall objective is to bring about a change in behaviors and working practices, in particular in regard to the uptake of agri-environment schemes, for the long-term sustainable management of farmland ecosystems. To achieve this goal the project will work with a wide range of rural key stakeholders, build capacity among all regional and national environment agencies of the NSR, and promote information exchange between them. Over 7% of each demonstration site will be enhanced with existing and new high-quality wildlife habitats using tailored local management plans complemented by winter feeding and predation management.

The project will develop and field test new transnational monitoring protocols to provide evidence that the new solutions work, and to promote efficient tools for long-term cross-border comparison of conservation measures. The project will complement its multidisciplinary approach by collecting and disseminating new socio-economic information on rural stakeholder behavior which is necessary to improve the uptake and efficiency of agri-environment schemes across the EU member states.

The project partners are very active in their communication activities. More than 30 demonstration site farm walks were held to show-case best practice management measures, exchanging knowledge and engaging with the whole range of targeted stakeholders from citizen to Environment Ministers. More than 300,000 readers have been reached through the projects media campaign, ranging from printed partner in-house articles, press releases in regional and national media, blogs and twitter. The official NSR PARTRIDGE webpage is fully functional and updated almost weekly and has had more than 10’000-page views by over 2000 users during the first 9 months of the project.

Sullied Sediments – Sediment Assessment and Clean Up Pilots in Inland Waterways in the North Sea Region
This project delivers better assessment, better treatment and better prevention of contamination in pilot NSR waterways by the new EU 'Watch List' (WL) chemicals, emerging drugs, and nutrients, which

are not subject to EU monitoring laws until 2020 but are building up in sediments in these waterways. Regulatory authorities do not know their levels, locations or impacts. Nor do they have the tools to assess sediments and make management decisions about such chemicals.

Through sediment assessment, the project will provide the tools for sediment assessment to enable better risk assessment and reduce economic costs. Working with Clean-Up methods, this project will pilot innovative spore technology to remove selected WL chemicals at waste-water treatment plants (WWTPs) in order to bring about a reduction in their levels. Including an end-of-waste assessment approach, using data delivered by its activities, the project will also promote future sediment re-use.

One way that WL chemicals enter our waterways is through consumer use of everyday products. By changing behavior, this project will target citizen to reduce the levels of specific WL chemicals arriving at WWTPs in pilot catchments.

In January 2017, the project was launched at a Kick-off Meeting in Amsterdam with representation from the 3 river catchments (Elbe, Humber and Scheldt) and 13 partners in 4 member states (BE, DE, NL, UK). Since the launch, the project partnership has made steady progress on each of the three objectives that it had committed to for the North Sea Region's (NSR) inland waterways: better assessment of sediments, better treatment using novel technology and better prevention of Watch List (WL) chemicals reaching the environment.

CANAPE – Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems

Healthy peatlands help regulate global climate by actively removing CO_2 from the atmosphere, but damaged peatlands increase emissions. CANAPE combines North Sea Region (NSR) local authorities, NGOs & academic bodies to address challenges & manage sustainable, integrated peat landscapes that are resilient to climate change & contribute to the reduction in global CO_2 emissions. CANAPE will

- bring economic *and* environmental benefits in the NSR: reducing CO_2 emissions, increasing flood resilience, developing new wetland products & restoring unique ecosystems
- improve management of peatlands to reduce their contribution to climate change & improve resilience to its effects. CANAPE develops ecosystems governance and generates scientifically proven results
- involve key stakeholders in a transnational approach to avoid duplication, multiply the number of methods tested in similar landscapes with differing conditions, pool expertise & evaluate on a significant scale, establishing best practice which can be replicated elsewhere
- transfer the innovative new methods & approaches to a wider range of NSR peatlands, increasing the environmental and economic benefits across NSR

CANAPE is innovative in the holistic approach of the project to driving future environmental, economic & social sustainability (tested science, new products, community engagement) and in its scale. It will result in resilient & integrated systems and a sustainable, marketable future for peatland ecosystems.

The CANAPE consortium consists of 14 partners from 5 member states (UK, NL, DK, BE, DE). The project kick-off meeting took place in Norwich in October 2017.

Jomopans – Joint Monitoring Programme for Ambient Noise North Sea

The Jomopans partnership consists of 11 partners from all 7 member states.

The aim of this project is to develop a framework for a fully operational joint monitoring programme for ambient noise in the North Sea. Output will be the tools necessary for managers, planners and other stakeholders to incorporate the effects of ambient noise in their assessment of the environmental status of the North Sea, and to evaluate measures to improve the environment.

International concern increasingly focusses on the potential negative effects of anthropogenic underwater noise on sensitive marine fauna. Sound sources, sound transmission, and the distributions of vulnerable species in the North Sea are all transnational questions which must be tackled transnationally, as specifically required by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

The project will deliver an innovative combination of modeling and high-quality measurements at sea for an operational joint monitoring programme for ambient noise in the North Sea. The use of consistent measurement standards and interpretation tools will enable marine managers, planners and other stakeholders internationally to identify, for the first time, where noise may adversely affect the North Sea. Next, the project will explore the effectiveness of various options for reducing these environmental impacts through coordinated management measures across the North Sea basin.

The project kick-off meeting and formal opening event took place in Amsterdam in January 2018.

CATCH – water sensitive Cities: The Answer to Challenges of extreme weather events

CATCH is a project whose partnership consists of 12 beneficiaries from six North Sea region countries - The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark and UK. Regional and local public authorities as well as an institution of higher education and research and an infrastructure and (public) service provider will focus on the redesign of urban water management of midsize cities to become climate resilient cities.

The project runs seven pilots that will test out the joint developed decision support tool and roadmap that will help to formulate long term climate adaptation strategies.

The kick-off meeting as well as a formal opening event of the CATCH project took place in November in Enschede.

4. Promoting green transport and mobility

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

Priority 4 results expected and achieved:

- New or improved shared mobility services – 25 (SHARE-North); *22 of these have been achieved as of the end of 2017*
- Reduction of local and global transport-related emissions – 13,458 tonnes of CO2 saved during project lifecycle (SHARE-North); *the project has already overachieved on this result – 20,595 tonnes as of the end of 2017*
- Cars removed from public streets through car-sharing – 4000 cars replaced by shared vehicles (SHARE-North); *1094 have been replaced as of end of 2017*
- Increase of real zero emission kilometres in the SEEV4-City Operational Pilots - 150 tons CO2 emissions avoided annually (SEEV4-City)
- Increase in energy autonomy in SEEV4-City sites - 25% (SEEV4-City)
- Potentially avoided grid related investments - 100,000,000 EUR in 10 years (SEEV4-City)
- Reduction in the cost of hydrogen vans, large trucks and other tested vehicles – 25% (HyTrEc2)
- Number of public sector organisations and transport operators investing in hydrogen vans and other tested vehicles – 18 (HyTrEc2)
- CO2 reductions from tested vehicles – 18 kilograms per vehicle per month (HyTrEc2)
- Number of companies and institutions adopting new concepts – 40 (#IWTS2.0)
- Long distance modal shifts from road to IWT in t/km in 2020 – 20 million t/km per year (#IWTS2.0)
- Additional passenger transport km using green transport solutions – 100,000 passenger kilometers (G-PaTRA)
- Increase capacity of organisations to reduce CO2 emissions from remote, rural and island transport – 100 (G-PaTRA)
- Demonstrate reductions in CO2 emissions from remote, rural and island transport using lighthouse projects and business cases – 10% (G-PaTRA)
- Authorities/practitioners using smart urban distribution solutions to reduce CO2 emissions – 15 (SURFLOGH)
- Increase in the use of zero emission urban vehicles in last mile distribution – 25% (SURFLOGH)
- Reduce freight traffic in last mile by using combining tools aiming at bundling of goods flows – 10% (SURFLOGH)

Below is an overview of the projects, their stages of implementation and expected results.

Please note that only three of the projects – SHARE-North, SEEV4-City, and HyTrEc2 – had reported on their activities and finances by the end of 2017.

SURFLOGH (Smart Urban Freight Logistics Hubs) is a project whose partnership consists of six beneficiaries from four North Sea region countries - The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and UK. Regional and local public authorities as well as an institution of higher education and research will focus on the improvement of the role of logistic hubs in the structure of urban logistics. They will investigate, evaluate and implement actions, techniques, organizational forms and logistic tools that increase the efficiency of last mile logistics between hubs and stimulate green transport solutions. They will apply a political-strategic as well as tactical and operational approach. The partners will hold a meeting in February 2018, inviting the Secretariat to participate. Their first report is expected in June 2018.

#IWTS 2.0 (#Inland Waterway Transport Solutions) is a project made up of ten partners in five of the member states – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK. The project partners propose to promote the use of inland waterways for freight transport. It identifies some of the barriers to the use of IWT and describes the areas it will focus on to help remove these. The expectation is that the partnership will improve mechanisms to move freight to under-utilized waterways by:

- realising a quick modal shift by introducing new and proven logistic technologies and support logistic managers that decide about modal shifts;
- making better use of existing waterways by allowing the movement on them of sufficient standard size vessels;
- making better use of existing waterways by developing innovative sustainable small barge concepts; and
- modernizing IWT education and training with a focus on navigating smaller waterways.

The project kick-off was held in October, and a first report by the partnership is expected by end of May 2018.

G-PaTRA (Green Passenger Transport in Rural Areas) has 13 beneficiaries and one co-beneficiary from all seven member states in the North Sea region. The project aims to promote green transport and mobility by enhancing the capacity of authorities to reduce CO2 from personal transport in remote, rural and island areas by embedding more zero emission vehicles in rural transport systems and by improving, optimising and better integrating available passenger transport resources. The project held their kick-off in October and will submit their first report to the Secretariat in May 2018.

HyTrEc2, which stands for 'Hydrogen Transport Economy in the North Sea Region 2', is a project whose partnership consists of 8 public authorities and institutions of higher learning from four North Sea Region countries – the U.K, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands. Together they are exploring how to improve conditions for hydrogen transport across the North Sea Region. It is expected that hydrogen transport will become an alternative to oil-based fuels through increased testing of prototype fuel cell, range extended and dual fuel vehicles, the production and storage of cheaper green hydrogen, and the development of a more efficient supply chain linked to training. The partners held their kick-off meeting in February, but implementation at the beginning stage was hindered by a

change of personnel at the Lead Beneficiary organisation. According to their first report, which covered January to June 2017, the project partners are busy purchasing or leasing the vehicles necessary for testing hydrogen fuel, meeting in different locations to investigate different options of hydrogen production, storage and distribution for their regions, including wind, wave, solar for off grid in remote regions, and on-site generation where possible. In terms of supply chain development and trainings, all partners are also exploring avenues for collaboration and have instigated business briefings and expanding the supply chain to related industries at a local level.

SEEV4-City, which stands for '**S**mart, clean **E**nergy and **E**lectric **V**ehicles **4** the **City**', is a project whose partnership consists of 11 public authorities, institutions of higher learning, and companies from five North Sea Region countries – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the UK. Together they are exploring how to exploit the use of ICT to structure the energy system in such a way that electric vehicles can be charged by locally produced renewable energy. The project held their launch event in May in Amsterdam as part of the Second International V2G Conference (Electric Vehicles for the Renewable City). Another activity the partnership was focusing on in 2017 was the Sustainable Urban Mobility and Energy Plan (SUMEP), through which SEEV4-City aims to develop the concept of 'Vehicle4EnergySevices' (V4ES) into sustainable business models to integrate Electric Vehicles and renewable energy. Academic project partners have been busy working on papers based on the pilots and presenting findings at conferences. Transnational cooperation is evident not only in the frequent communication among partners, but also the work on the State of the Art document and design of pilots. Although the project was hindered by the bankruptcy of one of the partners, the partners are actively exploring options for other beneficiaries to take over the inactive partner's activities and budget to deliver the expected targets.

SHARE-North (Shared Mobility Solutions for a Liveable and Low-Carbon North Sea Region) The SHARE-North partnership consists of nine public and private partners from Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, and the UK. Highlights for the year include the launching of the Green Deal for Shared Mobility in Flanders, which was inspired by the Dutch Green Deal on Car-Sharing launched in late 2016, the influence the project has had on national legislation and transport strategies in various NSR countries and the expansion of the mobil.punkt concept.

The purpose of the Green Deal is to accelerate the growth of shared mobility (car-sharing, carpooling and bike-sharing) in Flanders and car-sharing in the Netherlands by inviting organisations, municipalities and governments to join and define concrete goals for the implementation of shared mobility. An impact has also been made on national and regional legislation during this reporting period due to active participation of several SHARE-North project partners in consultation rounds. Finally, the cities of Bergen and Bremen worked on planning and implementing a number of new mobility hubs/car-sharing stations on public street space (mobil.punkte) and managing the logistics that go with this task. The experiences of Bremen and Bergen with the mobil.punkte inspired the project partners from Belgium to develop and launch their own "Mobipunt" (mobility hub) concept for the region of Flanders.

Progress was also made in various living labs at business parks, where initiatives were taken to promote green transport solutions (carpoolplatform, preparation of the set-up of a bike sharing scheme, preparation of the introduction of mobipunt in the region, further development of an app for green mobility) in Belgium and the Netherlands. WYCA's excellent examples of how to create shared travel plans at workplaces (the subject of an internal project workshop as well) has expanded to ten sites in the West Yorkshire area.

5. Technical Assistance

(This is a continuation of the text provided in the SFC under this heading):

Significant steps were made in 2017 in terms of delivering the programme publicity strategy. One of the most important new steps was the development of a joint paper on the achievements of the transnational programmes and Interreg Europe. The North Sea Programme volunteered to coordinate this work and the final paper: "10 things to know about Transnational Cooperation" was distributed to all relevant stakeholders and to the general public via the InfoRegio website.