

### Northern Connections

European Regional Development Fund

## POLICY

#### We wish

to start the dialogue between policy makers and our clusters on how we in practice can overcome existing barriers and push towards more transnational cooperation between clusters and SME.

# HOW?

#### Dialogue 1:1 with policy- and decision-makers

• Ex: We meet up with local/regional policy and decision-makers for dialogue and lobbying.

### Regional and national workshops – opening the dialogue on transnational innovation cooperation

• Ex: In each country we arrange coordinated workshops and meetings. Two-way awareness dialogue with regional and national organizations.

#### Policy recommendations – calls to action to easier innovation cooperatio across borders for SMEs and clusters

• Ex: Growing the cluster intelligence to transnational innovation collaboration.

#### Toolbox with concrete measures for cities and regions to choose from

- Ex: Workshop concept where cities and regions learn how to identify and express challenges as business opportunities for pushing innovation.
- Ex. Fact sheet on where to go and who to talk to on innovation procurement the legal overview.
- Ex. Debate-kit with "10 questions" on pros and cons on opening our cities to innovation partnerships across national borders.

### STATUS

- Rough long-list of tools and recommendations.
- Conceptualizing national workshops and local decisionmakers meeting.

# WHY?

#### We believe

 that if we improve conditions for transnational cooperation between cluster networks, SMEs and cities/regions, and become better at expressing our innovation challenges we can stimulate growth and innovation in our SMEs in the North Sea Region.

Fact Sheet: Political Capacity Building, external purpose