

# EUROPEAN FUNDS AFTER 2020



WE ARE THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

# THE NORTHERN APPROACH

## WE HAVE CLEVER IDEAS

The unique natural environment and sociocultural aspects are the determining factors that shape the economy of the Northern Netherlands. The Northern Netherlands has identified four assets that can make a difference and contribute to achieving the UN Global Goals and help facing the European challenges. In order to fully develop these assets we create optimally effective innovations. We conceive solutions for a better world and with its huge potential the Northern Netherlands might well be the best-kept secret in Europe. Our RIS 3 focuses on the following societal challenges:

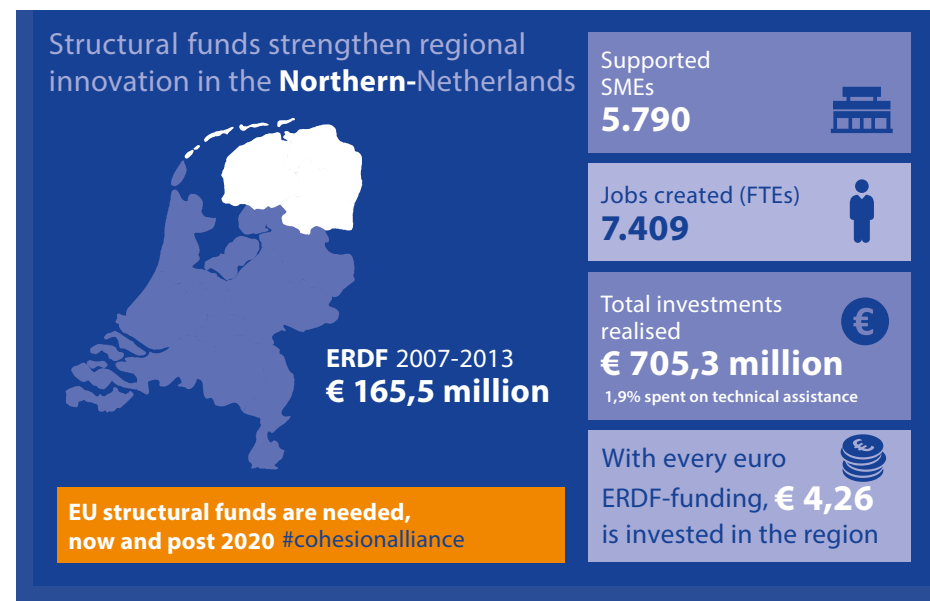
- health, demography and well-being;
- food security, sustainable agriculture and bioeconomics;
- clean and efficient energy;
- clean and secure water supply.

## WE BOOST THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

In the 2014-2020 period, €103.5 million of the ERDF fund was earmarked for the Northern Netherlands. We will provide significant co-financing of each euro of ERDF funding. The 2007-2013 programme is evidence that the Northern Netherlands is the European Union's proven champion. The ongoing ERDF 2014-2020 programme currently yields an investment of over 4 euros per euro invested. These funds are invested effectively and yield plenty of innovative activity and employment. In the Northern Netherlands, over 9,000 jobs were created in the 2014-2018 period with the help of European investments in regional economic structure enhancement, innovation and sustainability. This is shown by the publication by ERAC on European Funds in the Northern Netherlands (2018).

## WE HELP SMES

In the ongoing ERDF 2014-2020 programme, we have helped 489 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Northern Netherlands realise their innovative aspirations. Also worth noting is that SMEs contribute more funds than expected, allowing us to facilitate even more SMEs. European Structural

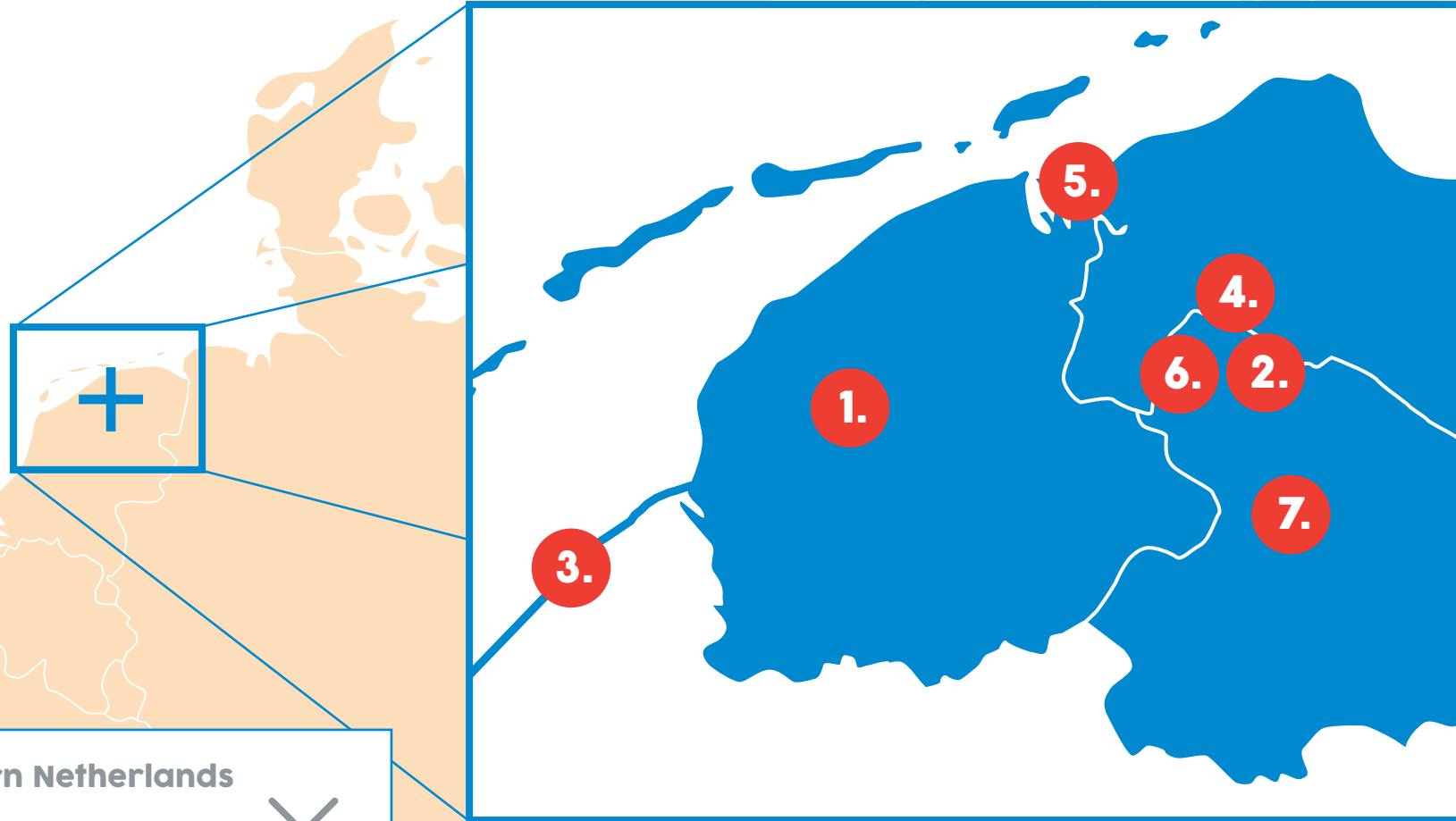


and Investment Funds demonstrably meet a need. Part of the success is the result of programming in the community and the ability to demonstrate active involvement in SME innovations.

## WE VISIT FARMERS

Since 2015, the provinces have opted for implementation of the POP (rural development programme) by region in the Northern Netherlands. Calls and Tenders are drafted under direction of the provinces, in close consultation with stakeholders. Farmers appreciate the implementation of the POP at a regional scale. The fund is easily accessible and customised to the region. This proves to be an effective approach; the farmers appreciate this service close to their farms, while comprehensive verification of all applications by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) is no longer mandatory but has been replaced by random checks. This will result in a lower inspection burden for applicants.

# SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS



## This is the Northern Netherlands



HEALTH,  
DEMOGRAPHY  
AND WELL-BEING



FOOD SECURITY,  
SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE AND  
BIOBASED ECONOMY



CLEAN AND  
SECURE WATER  
SUPPLY



CLEAN AND  
EFFICIENT  
ENERGY





## 1. MASTIVAX

€ 216.000 | EFRO

Mastivax intends to make a significant contribution towards finding a solution for antibiotics resistance. Its objective is to offer an alternative to antibiotics use in combating mastitis.



## 2. GROWIN 4.0

€ 224.034 | INTERREG

GrowIn 4.0 is aimed at smart technologies. The Northern Netherlands works with 14 partners in the North Sea region to help SMEs in the production industry and encourage them to do business in a smart way. The objective is to maintain a competitive edge on producers in low-wage countries.



## 3. REDSTACK - BLUE ENERGY

€ 549.980 | EFRO

Redstack has developed a method to produce energy by mixing freshwater and salt water, called Blue Energy. This form of energy production contributes significantly towards the transition to renewable energy.



## 4. ENERGYSENSE

€ 365.005 | EFRO

Energysense is an ongoing programme of the Energy Academy Europe (EAE) aimed at facilitating research and innovation in the energy transition. The Energysense Living Lab project seeks to considerably extend the Energysense facility to make it accessible to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and enable product development.



## 5. BIOPLASTICS FROM SHRIMP SHELLS

€ 251.390 | EFRO

A bright idea by R&D manager Rob Pikkert of shrimp dealer Telson has resulted in a surprising cooperative venture with the chemical industry in the Northern Netherlands. As residual waste costs money and does not belong in a circular economy, Telson and Kant looked for a way to use the shrimp shells for other products: paints and coatings, bioplastics, water purification and medical purposes.



## 6. HEALTH HUB RODEN

€ 187.000 | EFRO

How can a doctor direct a tiny surgical knife through the human body? What kind of instrument do you need to help an elderly lady put on elastic stockings? How can you dry off a patient after showering without using a towel? Health Hub Roden, a centre for medical enterprises in the Province of Drenthe, finds the answers to these questions and more. Here, dozens of businesses work on inventions, innovations and instruments.



## 7. INNOFEST

€ 846.727 | EFRO

Festival sites as living labs. Innofest unites start-ups, businesses, entrepreneurs and students at festivals to test prototypes and come up with solutions to global challenges.

# THE AMBITION OF THE NORTHERN NETHERLANDS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR A LIVEABLE REGION

The world is changing at breakneck speed. Regions are facing all kinds of challenges as a result of the need for enhanced sustainability and digitisation. We need to work smarter, use fewer resources and change into a low-carbon economy. This affects many different sectors: from agriculture to industry, from healthcare to transport and energy.

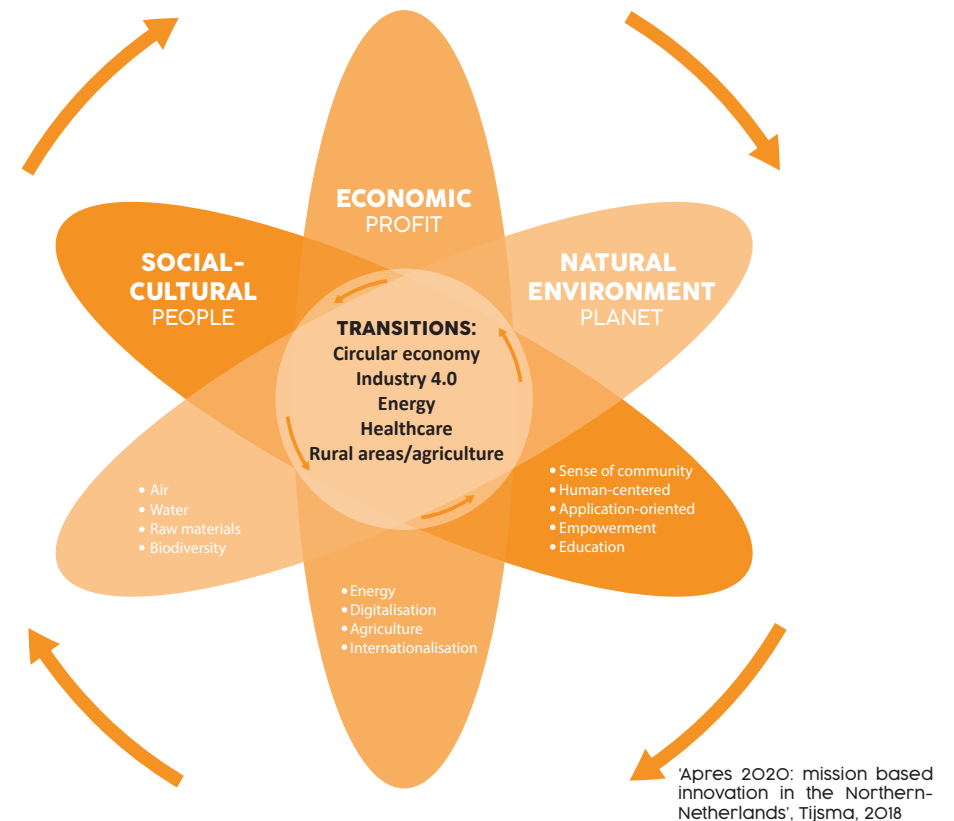
The Northern Netherlands recognises these trends as opportunities and wants to help shape the transition challenges resulting from enhanced sustainability and digitisation. We want to create a society that is future-proof in multiple ways:

- Sustainable: efficient use of resources, water and air. Limitation of green house gas emissions and more sustainable use of our natural assets.
- Smart: seizing the opportunities of the digital revolution. Transition in and crossovers between economic sectors. We are Europe's Living Lab.
- Socially inclusive: allow all citizens to participate and benefit. Optimal development and use of our human assets, both individually and collectively. Education, empowerment, community spirit.

## A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHERN NETHERLANDS

We want to solve society's challenges in terms of people, planet and profit in their mutual relationships, while at the same time boosting the social and economic structure. Government, the business community, knowledge institutions and social organisations are working on a regionally programmed agenda as basis for a cohesive deployment of available resources after 2020.

By linking this to private and public resources (regional, national and European), we will realise breakthroughs in societal challenges. We want to use European Structural and Investment Funds earmarked for regional programming: Interreg, HORIZON, ERDF, CAP (POP) and ESF. In short: we are changing the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS) into a Regional Development Strategy (ROS) by 2020. This will allow the Northern Netherlands to offer even better solutions to global challenges.



# THE ANSWER IS IN THE NORTH

Complex societal issues? The answer can often be found in the North. Our region is harmoniously working together on leading global themes. We are convinced that social and economic innovations are key. Strong clusters of innovative companies and leading knowledge institutions work closely together. The Northern Netherlands takes the lead in moving towards transition.

## WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS TRANSITION

- Future-proof employment;
- A vital rural community;
- Decrease in health discrepancies;
- Customised supply to our broad and innovative SME community;
- Increase in export from the north;
- Solving shortcomings in the statutory framework in border regions;
- Transformation towards nature-inclusive agriculture;
- Regional approach to the labour market in the North;
- Interregional collaboration with European regions based on our assets;
- A more sustainable Northern economy and society.

### ● DE ENERGETIC REGION

The North is developing as the green powerhouse of the Netherlands. We understand energy and have the best possible infrastructure for it. Here, we are building a new economy based on wind, green hydrogen, geothermics and green gas. The Northern Netherlands contributes significantly to the COP21 climate goals.

### ● DE CIRCULAR REGION

Our future is green. We have the knowledge, resources and space. The business community is rapidly transitioning to a circular economy with green products. The North is also making its agriculture and food production more sustainable. Nowhere in the world is agriculture more developed and more innovative as it is here.

### ● DE SMART REGION

The North opts for innovation. With our expertise in water, energy, agriculture, circular economy and health, we contribute to a smarter Europe. Moreover, small and medium-sized enterprises are a strong force in our region. We have plenty of ideas and plans. The European Structural Funds help us launch initiatives.

### ● DE BORDERLESS REGION

In the North, municipal and provincial borders, as well as the border with Germany, are blurring. We invest in Interreg projects. International and interregional collaboration is increasing, offering opportunities for the economy, education, science and the labour market. Our borderless region connects the Randstad urban conglomeration with Germany and Scandinavia, while at the same time lightening its load.