



Frisian delegation's visit to Brussels on 14 and 15 October 2025

# **Cross-border Cooperation between the Netherlands and Germany**

**Melanie Walter**, Minister of Europe and Regional Development

**Xenia Behnke**, Head of Unit Interreg

## Common themes and challenges – based on the Frisian Europe agenda '*Meer kans op balans*'

- ***Ecology***

- Water, Water management, Wadden Sea

- Drought

- Peatlands

- ***Economy***

- Biologization

- Agricultural and Food industry

- ***Society***

- Education and Labor market

- Language

General information on cooperation  
with the Dutch provinces  
within the framework of:  
European Territorial Cooperation  
**(Interreg A, B, Europe)**

**Funding period 2021-2027**  
Implementation status, best practice projects

## Programme area Interreg A Germany-Nederland



The 15 programme partners were able to convince the EU Commission that the programme area must continue to be extended to the entire Weser-Ems region in the 2021-2027 funding period.

## Interreg Partners

The **Interreg A DE-NL** programme involves **15 partners**:

- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy North Rhine-Westphalia (MWIKE)
- Lower Saxony State Chancellery
- Dutch Ministry of Economic Zaken (EZ)
- 8 Dutch provinces (Fryslân, Drenthe, Groningen, Overijssel, Flevoland, Gelderland, North Brabant, Limburg)
- 4 Euregios (Ems Dollart Region, EUREGIO, Euregio Rhein-Waal, Euregio Rhein-Maas-Nord)

 Ministerie van Economische Zaken	 Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Industrie, Klimaschutz und Energie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen	 Niedersächsische Staatskanzlei	 provincie groningen
 PROVINCIE FLEVOLAND	 Provincie Noord-Brabant	 provincie Overijssel	 provincie Gelderland
 provincie Drenthe	 provincie limburg	 Provinsje Fryslân	 EDR
 EUREGIO	 EUREGIO	 euregio rhein-maas-nord rijn-maas-noord	

## Content and priorities of the programme



**A more competitive and  
smarter Europe**



**A greener, low-carbon transition to a  
zero-carbon economy and resilient  
Europe**



**A more social and inclusive Europe**



**A Europe closer to citizens  
in the border area**

## Project examples

**Nano Detect–** NanoDetect aims to revolutionise cancer diagnostics through innovative optical technology based on nanodiamonds. This technology enables early and precise detection of cancer cells through special biochemical signals.

Priority 1:  
 A more  
 innovative  
 programme  
 area

Priority 2:  
 A greener  
 programme  
 area

**Citylogistic 2.0** - Development of an innovative, intelligent and sustainable distribution system (energy self-sufficient, mobile mini-hub and electric vehicle designed for this purpose - LEFV (Light Electric Freight Vehicle), powered by renewable energies generated in the mini-hub.

**Health4DE-NL** – sustainable promotion of cross-border health cooperation in the northern DE-NL region by developing an overall concept for cooperation. The Crossborder Institute of Healthcare Systems and Prevention (CBI-joint initiative of the Universities of OL and Groningen) serves as a bridge between new projects.

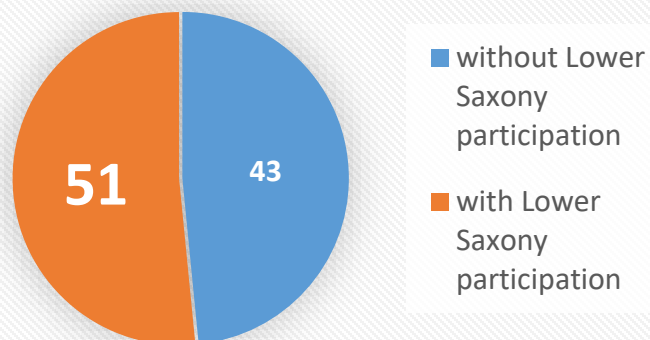
Priority 3:  
 Working  
 together in a  
 connected  
 border area

Priority 4:  
 A European  
 city in  
 the border  
 area

**WattenVison:** Creation of a cross-border model region for sustainable development and natural experience in Europe (UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Site)

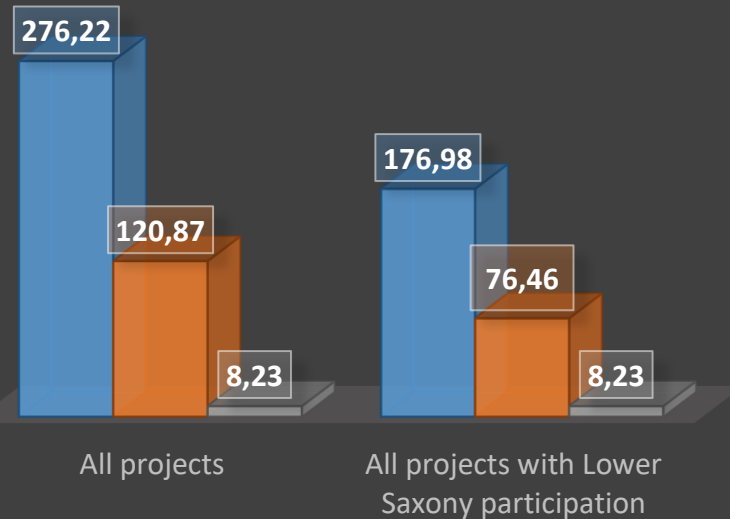
**Available EU funds      € 224.8 million**

### APPROVED PROJECTS



### APPROVED PROJECTS – NDS. PARTICIPATION FP 2021-2027 IN € MILLION (ROUNDED)

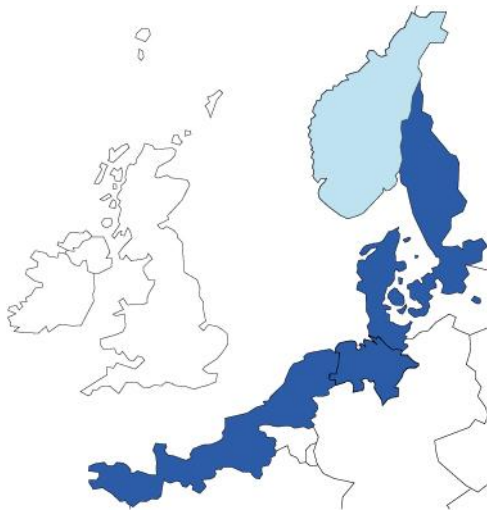
■ Total expenditure ■ EFRE ■ Kofi of Lower Saxony





## Programme rooms and programme budgets

**Interreg**  Co-funded by  
the European Union  
**North Sea**

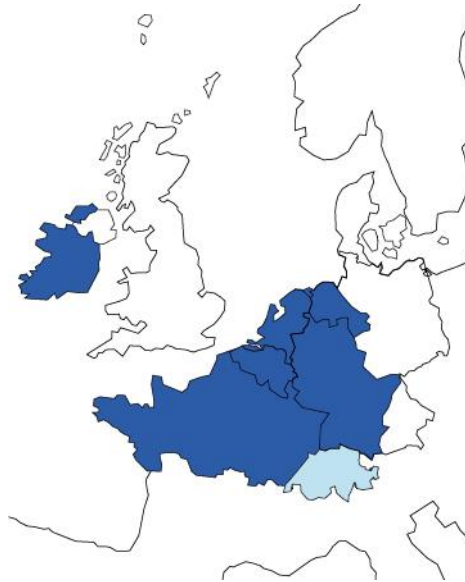


### **Interreg B North Sea**

EU funds (ERDF): € 171.2 million

Co-financing rate: 60%

**Interreg**  Co-funded by  
the European Union  
**North-West Europe**

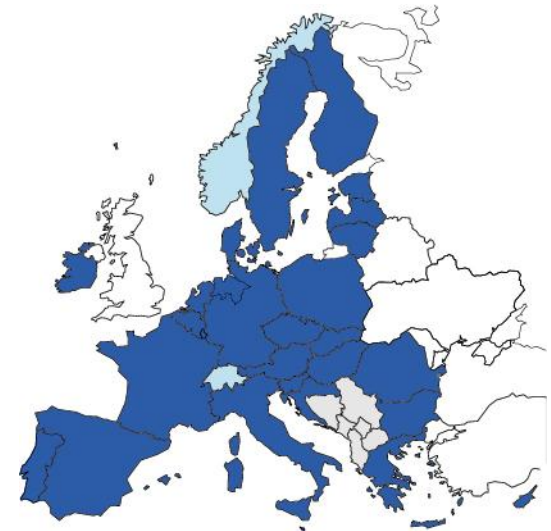


### **Interreg B North-West Europe**

EU funds (ERDF): € 310.5 million

Co-financing rate: 60%

**Interreg  
Europe**  Co-funded by  
the European Union









### **Interreg Europe\***

EU funds (ERDF): € 379.3 million

Co-financing rate: 80%

\*In contrast to the Interreg A and B programmes, Interreg Europe supports cooperation projects of public institutions.

## Thematic priorities of the programmes

Political objective (PZ)	Interreg B North	Interreg B North-West Europe	Interreg Europe
 <b>smarter, more competitive Europe (PZ 1)</b>			
 <b>greener, CO2- Poorer Europe (PZ 2)</b>			
 <b>Stronger networked Europe (PZ 3)</b>	(not shown in the program)	(not shown in the program)	
 <b>more social, more inclusive Europe (PZ 4)</b>	(not shown in the program)		
 <b>Closer to citizens Europe (PZ 5)</b>	(not shown in the program)	(not shown in the program)	
 <b>better governance (Interreg specific objective)</b>		(not shown in the program)	

## **Interreg B North Sea**

- **32 projects** with Lower Saxony and Dutch participation (a total of 60 partners from Lower Saxony and 93 partners from the Netherlands)
  - The total budget of these projects is around €141.81 million, of which around €84.26 million is co-financed by ERDF funds.
  - The projects cover topics such as the hydrogen economy, climate change adaptation (heat stress in cities, digital solutions for floods and heavy rain events), protection of the environment and biodiversity, improvement of planning processes and citizen participation.

## **Interreg B North-West Europe**

- **13 projects** with Lower Saxony and Dutch participation (a total of 34 partners from Lower Saxony and 34 partners from the Netherlands)
  - The total budget of these projects is around €79.29 million, of which around €44.53 million is co-financed with ERDF funds.
  - The projects cover, among other topics, the circular economy (electrical/electronic equipment, biomass, nutrients), sustainable agriculture,
  - Currently, 9 project applications with a total of 11 Lower Saxony, 22 Dutch and other actors from different regions of North-Western Europe are still in the evaluation phase.

# Interreg A – DIWA (Droogtestrategieën in het waterbeheer)



### Interreg A – DIWA (Droogtestrategieën in het waterbeheer)

#### What?

Development of a cross-border drought mitigation approach with increased sponge effect and better forecasts

#### How und Where?

Expansion of the groundwater monitoring network to the Vechte, Dinkel, Berkel, and Oude/Ijssel rivers

#### Who?

including Waterschap Vechtstromen, Grafschaft Bentheim District, Gelderland Regional Province, University of Twente, Vechtverband Kreis Borken

Total budget: €6.53 million

ERDF funding (EU): €2.6 million





### Interreg A – Grenzenlos Moor



## Interreg A – Grenzenlos Moor

### What?

A unified strategy for the protection of nature and the development of living and economic areas

### How and Where?

13 projects, including the development of recreational trails, the creation of buffer zones for paludiculture or drainage, sheep grazing and the construction of a new bee center  
in the Bourtanger Moor (Emsland-Drenthe border region)

### Who?

**Naturpark Bourtanger Moor-Bargerveen e.V.**, Provinz Drenthe,  
Landkreis Emsland and others

Total budget: €6.54 million

ERDF funding (EU): €3.28 million

# Thank you!

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