

Cohesion policy: a fundamental pillar of the Dutch regional economy



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This brochure contains a number of successful examples of projects established thanks to European grants for cohesion policy. This is just a selection of remarkable ERFD projects. They represent pearls of creative and innovative thinking in the form of projects realised by businesses and knowledge institutions thanks to the granting of European cohesion funding. The brochure contains four projects from each part of the Netherlands, but there are numerous other examples.

This brochure was prepared in advance of the expected presentation in mid-2018 of the European Commission's plans for a new EU budget (for the period beyond 2021), the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF). The Dutch focus for a new period of structural funding beyond 2021 will be on increased synergy with other elements of the European investment agenda (such as the EFSI/9th framework), innovation, greening and transnational cooperation as well as the simplification of the funds. This is a broadly supported position upheld by the Dutch central government, its provinces, municipalities and water boards. The financial consequences of the exit by the United Kingdom for the level of the MFF are currently unclear.

The example projects presented below illustrate the importance for the Netherlands of continuing the cohesion funds, in particular the ERFD funds for economic development, for all Dutch regions.

The provinces are responsible for implementing numerous tasks of European relevance, in the regions. The twelve provinces of the Netherlands are

responsible for regional, spatial and economic policy, which itself is in part determined and supported by Europe. Take for example the goals based on the Europa 2020 strategy (employment and economic growth), the common agricultural policy (CAP) that provides funds for example for rural development and of course cohesion policy, on the basis of which these innovative projects are financed and which promote economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The ERFD programmes are developed in collaboration with the provinces, thereby generating huge multipliers for innovative developments in the regions. The Dutch provinces would therefore call upon the European Commission to continue ERFD funding for the Netherlands, within the new MFF. We would also call upon the Dutch parliament to consider the fundamental importance of ERFD funding for the regional economy.

Now and beyond 2020, the Dutch provinces are keen to join all levels of government in contributing to the fulfilment of cohesion objectives, at national level.



REDstack – Blue Energy

Redstack has developed a method of extracting energy from the mixing of seawater and freshwater, known as Blue Energy. To extract energy from the mixing of freshwater and seawater, the mixing must be carried out under strictly controlled conditions. Redstack has developed a membrane that only allows charged salt particles to pass through it. As a result, the mixing process can be controlled, thereby allowing CO₂-free energy to be generated.

REDstack with its Blue Energy solution was voted National Icon 2016 by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, on 18 October 2016.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	549,980
Public co-financing	€	2,146,558
Private co-financing	€	433,024

Innofest

Innofest has elaborated a method of having large numbers of users test new products, during festivals. A festival is a sort of temporary mini-society, and as such can be used as a living laboratory. Start-ups, established businesses, entrepreneurs and students attend festivals to test their prototypes and to elaborate solutions for the challenges facing the festivals themselves and local/regional businesses. If an idea proves its value at the festival, it may well subsequently work in the real world.

In 2017, the Stichting Innofest won the European Enterprise Promotion Award (EEPA).

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	846,727
Public co-financing	€	1,145,779
Private co-financing	€	124,312

Interregional cooperation Smart Specialisation Strategy

(Pilot project Northern Netherlands and Northeastern Romania)

In this pilot project, knowledge institutions from the Northern Netherlands investigated how regions can implement interregional cooperation in Europe, using EU programme funding. The project generated a blueprint for EU regional cooperation based on the Smart Specialisation Strategy. In Romania, the project initiated a discussion which eventually resulted in a change to the implementation of the ERFD programme in that country. At present, a number of partners from the Northern Netherlands are working to establish projects alongside Romanian partners, that will impact both the Northern Netherlands and Northeastern Romania. As a result of these projects, the overall impact of the ERFD programming in both regions will be amplified.

The project is financed with funds from:

Taiox	€	60,000
Public co-financing	€	70,000

Starting in February 2018, a first instalment to the tune of € 25 million (ERFD) will be made available to joint projects between the Northern Netherlands and Northeastern Romania, from the Romanian programme.



Nijmegen Goffert station

The area around the Goffert station is an economic powerhouse for the Nijmegen region. The station is an important element of a larger infrastructure plan for the Arnhem Nijmegen city region, the aims of which include improving the links to knowledge institutions in Arnhem. The construction of the station will improve access to the area to commuters and in that way will make the establishment climate even more attractive. The station has also been built to improve the attractiveness of the Winkelsteeg district of Nijmegen as an establishment location.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	1,904,223
Public co-financing	€	3,074,789

Plasma activated water

Plasma Activated Water (PAW) renders pathogens harmless and offers a perspective as an environmentally friendly alternative for chemical crop protection. PAW can be simply produced from tap water using electrically charged gas. As part of the project, a plasma reactor has been developed that can produce a hundred litres of plasma in just a few hours. The aim of the project is to make PAW available for use in medical and agricultural applications.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	601,382
Private co-financing	€	664,023

DAISY

Within the DAISY project, a consortium of companies and knowledge institutions has further developed high-end radar technology for defence applications into a compact, modular and affordable system for a number of new applications. The project has been structured in such a way that businesses from the new markets for radar, such as the agricultural sector and water management, are contributors to the development process right from the start. The result is a ground-breaking technology supply chain in the knowledge cluster for high-tech systems and agro-food and life sciences. This in turn generates greater diversity in regional employment opportunities.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	3,500,000
Public co-financing	€	4,755,000
Private co-financing	€	7,705,000

Phage Processing

As part of this project, a consortium of companies has developed phage products. A phage is a virus that 'devours' bacteria. This makes a phage ideal for protecting human and animal health. The ever growing resistance to antibiotics has led to a growth in interest in phages. This project has taken phage technology one generation further.

Microos is winner of the Making Waves The Netherlands in 2017 and was voted best innovation in the Netherlands. The company is representing the Netherlands in the TedX 'Ideas from Europe Semi final' for the best European innovation.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	517,902
Public co-financing	€	517,902
Private co-financing	€	1,035,803



SurgINNOV

Thanks to the SurgINNOV project, online education is made more realistic using augmented reality on the INCISION platform. Within this project, a network is being developed for the exchange and improvement of academic surgical knowledge as well as establishing an innovation centre for the standardisation and improvement of surgical care, worldwide. The aim of the project is to make surgical training more cost efficient, safer and more harmonised at national, European and global level, while offering efficient opportunities for further (in-service) training.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	367,667
Public co-financing	€	367,667
Private co-financing	€	1,103,001

Health Tech Park

The Health Tech Park project aims to create an establishment location for medical technology companies in Amsterdam Zuidoost Zuid. This establishment location is a high-quality, attractive and easily accessible hotspot for Health Tech, that will tie in and cooperate alongside other initiatives in the area. The aim of this project is to improve the establishment climate in Amsterdam Zuidoost Zuid and to improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups in the area.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	1,781,111
Private co-financing door partners	€	1,781,111

Upscaling of Solar Photovoltaic Power for rental tenants

This project facilitates the large-scale placement of solar photovoltaic systems on rented accommodation. The consortium of market parties aims to remove existing bottlenecks while ensuring that the huge demand for solar panels among rental tenants can be met. The integrated cooperation between experienced and expert market parties supplemented by external specialists facilitates the large-scale rollout of solar photovoltaic power for rental tenants. To install the solar photovoltaic systems, initially in 8,500 homes, rising to 30,000 homes over the next few years, employment opportunities will be created, and the businesses responsible for the fitting and installation of the PV panels, converters and cable work will all grow.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	802,445
BNG (loan)	€	400,000
Private co-financing	€	803,668

Werkspoorkwartier: Creative Circular Manufacturing Zone

The aim of this project is to improve the establishment climate of the Werkspoorkwartier industrial estate as a ground-breaking establishment site in Utrecht, with space for creative, circular manufacturing companies, by increasing the area available to business locations by approx. 10,000m², resulting in employment growth to the tune of 239 fte among start-ups, participating companies and other businesses in the Werkspoorkwartier district. The partners in the project are also joining forces to place the Werkspoorkwartier on the map as a creative circular manufacturing zone, in consultation with the existing companies in the area, to serve as a development and demonstration project for accelerating the transition to the circular economy.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	1,247,107
Private co-financing	€	2,041,377



Smart Industry Fieldlab CAMPIONE

Fieldlab CAMPIONE is a practical environment and test installation where businesses and knowledge institutions can test new technologies. The goal of the CAMPIONE project is to make maintenance within the process industry 100% predictive according to condition-based maintenance. On this basis, maintenance is never carried out too late or too early, but right on time. As a consequence, productivity, availability and safety of production equipment are improved, and a contribution is made to more sustainable industrial practice and increased installation safety.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	2,089,128
Public co-financing	€	6,057,565
Private co-financing	€	3,791,218

Photon Delta

Photon Delta is a collaborative venture that brings together high-tech businesses, knowledge institutions and government authorities to achieve a leading position in the development and commercialisation of photonics: microchips capable of processing data on the basis of light. The aim of Photon Delta, following an initial start-up period, is to achieve independent operating status thereby bringing about the growth of the ecosystem, specifically by the players in the ecosystem themselves.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	870,603
Public co-financing	€	373,115
Private investment	€	1,243,718

Oryon Watermill

This project contributes to the development of generating sustainable energy. The Oryon Watermill is an innovative hydropower plant that permanently generates sustainable energy out of flowing water in which energy is generated from tidal power. In the sluice Spuisluis in Grevelingendam the Tidal Technology Center (TTC-GD) is being executed. In this international testing and knowledge institute hydropower plant suppliers are able to demonstrate, test and certify technologies that generate energy from tidal power. When the center is effectuated, TTC-GD aims to generate approximately 1,5 MW of sustainable energy.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	2,800,000
Public co-financing	€	–
Private co-financing	€	5,800,000

SCeLiO-4B

Scelio-4B offers a cross-regional open entrepreneurial innovation environment by setting up and connecting the BioBased testing ground Chemelot Campus in Geleen and the Green Chemistry Campus in Bergen op Zoom. In this setting entrepreneurs are provided with opportunities for long term development and business growth acceleration. The project focuses on the inventory, development, testing and scaling up of innovative processes and products in the field of green building blocks, the Bio Based Building Blocks (4B). The most important result of this project is a well-functioning testing ground, consisting of equipment and an exploitation where SMEs and large companies in the south of the Netherlands can benefit from available facilities and shared knowledge, and work together on innovations in the field of bio-materials.

The project is financed with funds from:

EU (ERFD)	€	1,982,696
Public co-financing	€	3,386,384
Private co-financing	€	5,960,610