



SNN

NORTHERN NETHERLANDS
ALLIANCE

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ERDF impact evaluation 2014-2020

a case from the Netherlands





European Regional Development Fund

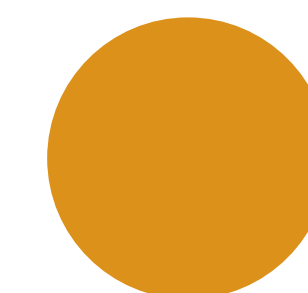
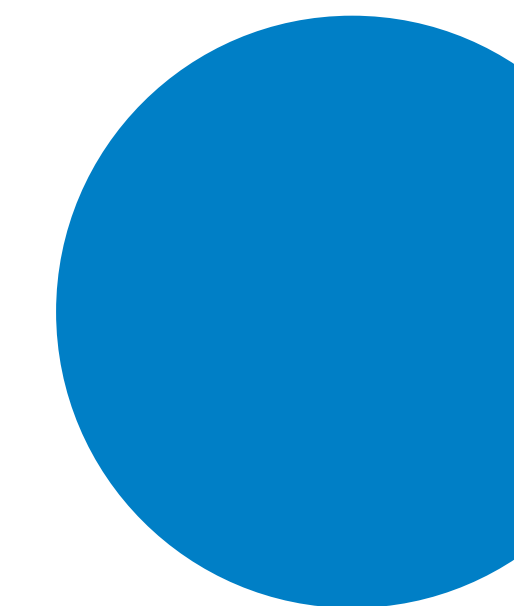
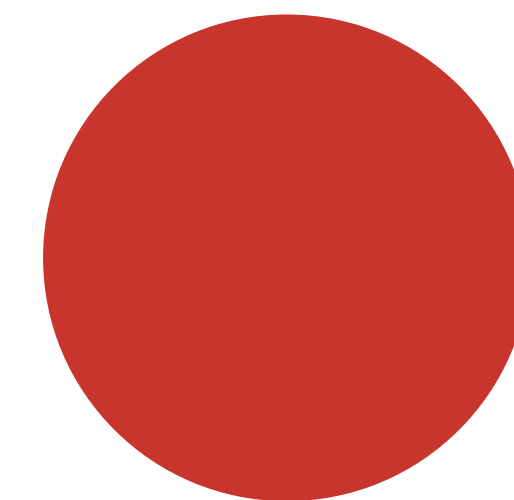


The Netherlands



twelve provinces

We stimulate, facilitate and connect





ERDF in the Netherlands



four regions

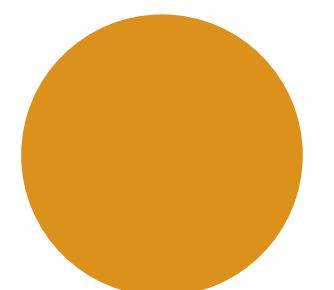
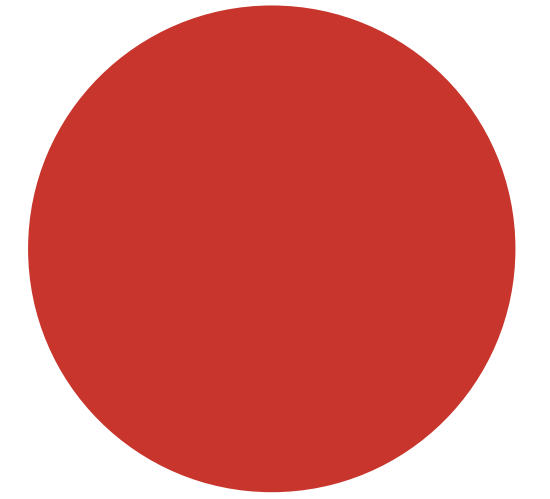


ERDF in the Netherlands



Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN) – since 1992

We stimulate, facilitate and connect





ERDF in the Netherlands



✓ 4 regions – 4 OP's – 4 MA's

✓ Coordinating body: Ministry of Economic Affairs

✓ Operational Programmes:

✓ Similarities in content & implementing system

✓ Collaboration:

- ✓ Management & control
- ✓ ICT
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Legal matters / State Aid
- ✓ Evaluation





ERDF in the Netherlands



European Regional Development Fund



Investment priorities OP's ERDF 2014-2020 NLs

	North	East	South	West
1.B	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.A				✓
4.C				✓
4.F	✓	✓	✓	
8.B				✓
9.B				✓
9.D				✓





Governance OP's ERDF NLS



European Regional Development Fund



✓ Joint set of selection criteria:

- ✓ Contribution to objectives
- ✓ Innovativeness
- ✓ Quality business case
- ✓ Quality application
- ✓ Sustainability

✓ Minimum score: 70 out of 100 points

✓ Project assessment by external experts

- ✓ Committees independent from government





Monitoring & Evaluation



✓ Investment priorities



specific objectives → result indicators

- ✓ Issue of responsiveness
- ✓ Indicators regionalized by National Bureau of Statistics
- ✓ Custom built indicators



✓ Evaluation Plans

- ✓ Coordinated plans
- ✓ Agreement to collaborate where effective & efficient





2018 joint Impact Evaluation



Investment priorities OP's ERDF 2014-2020 NLs

	North	East	South	West
1.B	✓	✓	✓	✓



✓ Specific objectives:

- ✓ Knowledge development
- ✓ Innovation & valorisation SME's

✓ Approach

- ✓ "inherent wish to improve"
→ Information we need ourselves
- ✓ Scientific approach
- ✓ Projects ongoing → 'Theory based approach' ("How & why?")





Research questions



1. Do MA's select "the right projects" ?

→ projects that contribute to the specific objectives

- 'strength link project & programme objectives'

2. Does the intervention logic work ?

- 'intended vs actual results'





Methodology



Quantitative:

✓ Evaluation scores

- ✓ 600 projects (330 approved; 270 rejected)
- ✓ complex projects, majority by consortia, min € 100.000 ERDF

Qualitative:

✓ Questionnaire research

- ✓ Lead beneficiaries

✓ Comparative case study research

- ✓ 20 cases, large variety in project success
- ✓ In depth interviews
 - ✓ Lead beneficiaries selected cases
 - ✓ Members expert committee
 - ✓ Representatives Managing Authorities





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Main Findings



1. Do MA's select "the right projects" ? ✓

"ERDF unique position in Dutch funding landscape"

→ ' Knowledge and innovation consortia' :

Collaborative initiatives with high degree of complexity
- only few alternative funding possibilities available

Risky projects – ERDF as catalyst
(raises enthusiasm and commitment)





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Main Findings



1. Do MA's select "the right projects" ? ✓

Challenge: "more projects that make a difference"



Recommendations:

- Encourage awareness about need for ambition
- Generic frameworks
- More financially ambitious calls: ↑% ERDF





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Main Findings



1. Do MA's select "the right projects" ? ✓

Governance system works

→ 'expert committee as crucial gatekeeper'



Recommendations:

- Guarantee independent role expert committees → potential conflict of interests remains focal point
- More intensive use pitches → 'ability to look initiators in the eyes'





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Main Findings



2. Does the intervention logic work ? ✓

Key factors

project development phase

- ↑ intensity collaboration partners* → ↑ project success
- ↑ intensity involvement intermediaries → ↓ project success

project implementation phase

- ↑ involvement end users → ↑ project success
- ↑ agile project management → ↑ project success
- ↑ informality collaboration → ↓ project success

* Collaboration from outset, within formal frameworks → ↑ relational quality (transparency within consortium, degree of involvement, mutual trust)





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Main Findings



2. Does the intervention logic work? ✓

Challenge: administrative overload ↔ context SME's
during application & implementation
(‘cascade system of auditing’)

↔ context SME's

Recommendations:

- Reduce turnaround time
- Long term effort to control structure based on mutual trust





To conclude



Overall content with evaluation project & outcome

- Impact
- Joint exercise
- Scientific approach

- Identify with main conclusions & recommendations



Follow up process (via Monitoring Committees)





G4P4 **Kansen voor West II**

Thank you!

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