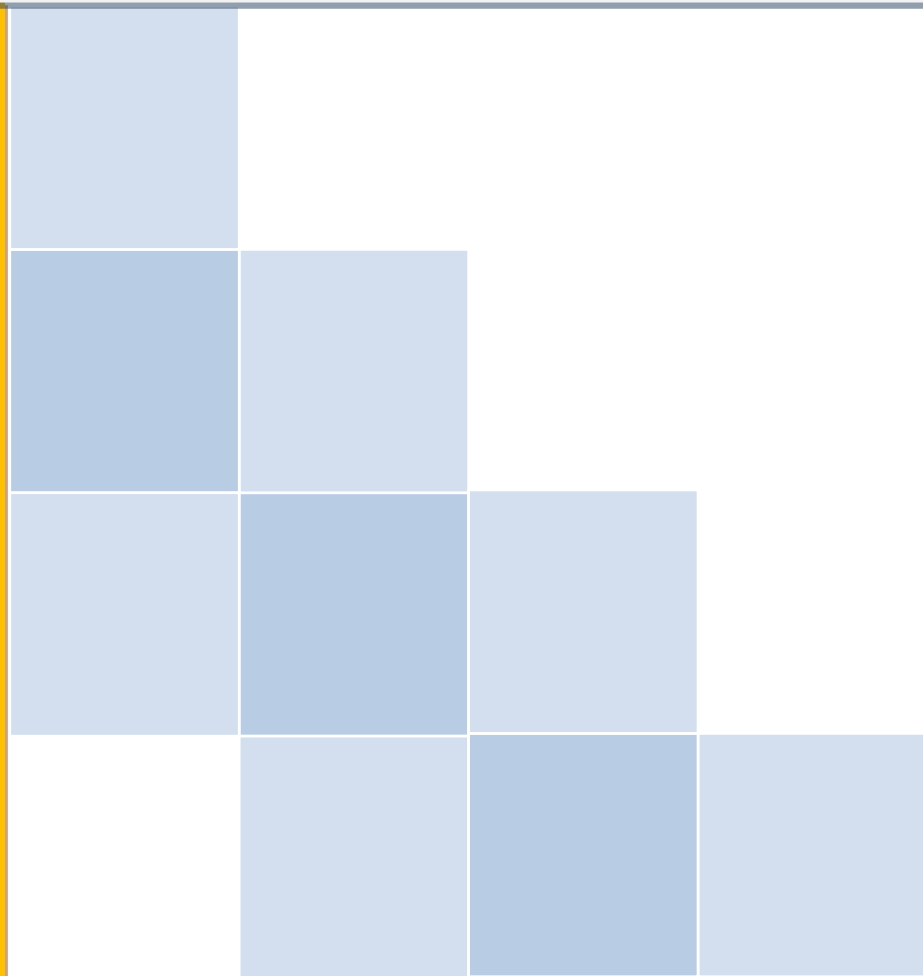




# TWENTE REGION

Green Knowledge Portal Twente



## **Profile** Green Knowledge Portal Twente

### **Functions and territorial coverage**

Green Knowledge Portal is a Triple Helix Cooperation in Region Twente, which supports the realisation of projects in the field of innovative rural development. It connects the newest knowledge and ideas of students and researches with the real demands and needs of the Region. In so doing, it creates conditions for building clusters and real life networks focusing on innovation and experiments.

### **Policy instrument**

Green Metropolis Twente: Programme Powerful Twente 2014-2020

## **Territorial Context and Major Challenges for Twente Region**

Region Twente is part of the Province Overijssel in the Eastern Netherlands. It consists of three major cities Almelo, Hengelo and Enschede, which are located in the centre of the region, and large rural areas. In total, Twente includes 14 municipalities and has approximately 600,000 inhabitants, half of which live in the rural parts of the Region. It is exactly the combination of rural and urban areas that makes Twente a special place in the Netherlands - a Green Metropolis - and that comes with context specific social and economic challenges.

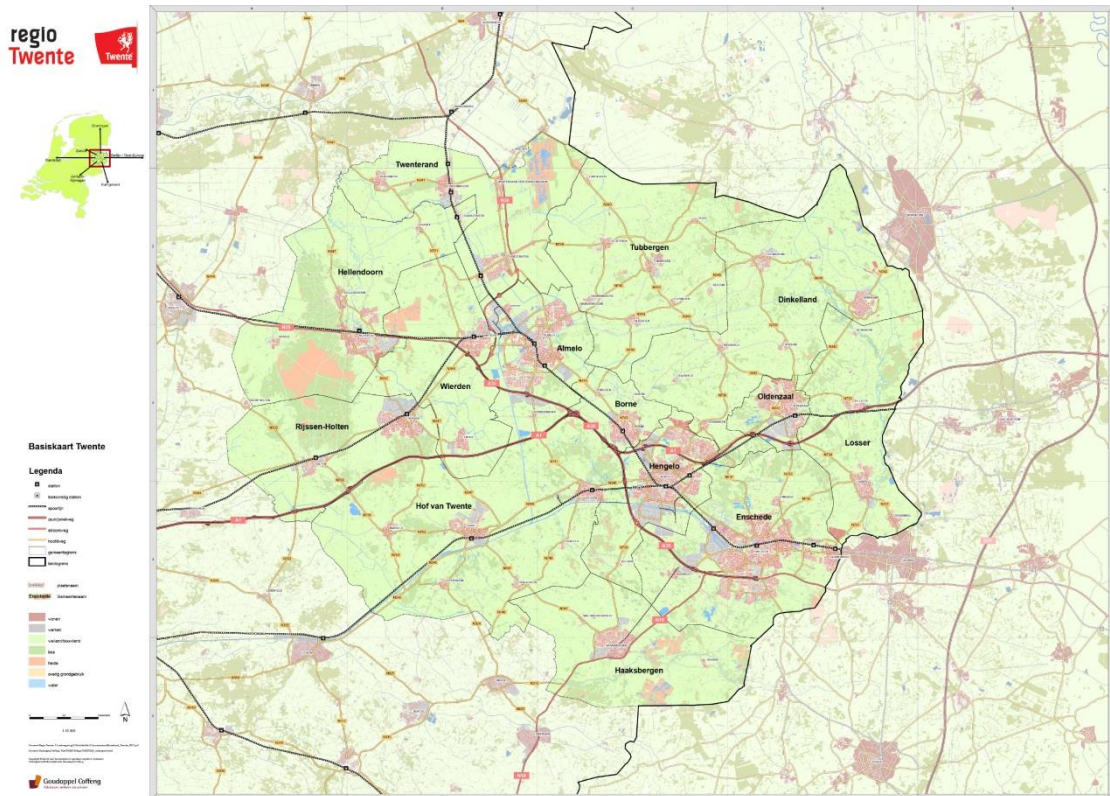
In the last decades, the Region Twente, and especially its rural areas, has been significantly affected by demographic changes, characterised by aging population and outer migration of young people moving to

cities or even outside of the region in search for education and job opportunities. Presently, the digital infrastructure in rural areas is lagging behind compared to cities and the social liveability is decreasing due to loss of facilities such as supermarkets or sports facilities. There is a clear need for new economic activities and employment opportunities in the rural areas of Twente.

Given the large rural areas, it is no surprise that the Agro & Food sector is among the most important economic sectors in Twente. Currently, the sector is changing rapidly due to the increasing awareness and responsibility of consumers about their food and the stricter requirements for environmental regulations. The main future

challenge for the Agro & Food sector is to grow towards a sustainable regional and circular production system that respects the natural resources and responds to the demands of regional consumers for healthy and traceable food, sustainable energy, and space for

recreation in a healthy environment. Strengthening urban-rural relations in the Region is vital for this development, because the greatest demand for food products, energy and recreational opportunities comes from the cities.



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## Policy Landscape in the Field of Regional Innovation

Regional innovation in Twente is facilitated through various programs of regional government bodies, among which:

- RIS3 Strategy OP Oost (covering the provinces Gelderland and

Overijssel): smart specialisation in the fields of Agro & Food, Health, High-Tech Systems and Materials and Energy, Environment and Technology, including bio-based technologies.

- Innovation programmes of the province Overijssel in the field of Agro & Food, Tourism, Energy and Economic Development.
- Rural Development Programme of the province Overijssel.

In recent years, different programs have been initiated to enhance the sustainability and liveability of the Region Twente in terms of working and living conditions as well as with

regard to tourism development. These include:

- Green Metropolis Twente: Programme Powerful Twente: a policy instrument that gives direction to the economic and social development of the Region Twente in the period of 2014-2020
- Agenda for Twente: program to support investments in regional innovation.



## Green Metropolis Twente: Programme Powerful Twente

Green Metropolis Twente: Programme Powerful Twente is a policy instrument in line with the ERDF Operational Programme of Eastern Netherlands. Different stakeholders from Region Twente are represented in the Programme, among which the municipalities of Twente, the water boards, educational institutions, the provincial organisation for landscape and nature conservation and the farmers' organisation LTO. Together, they define the future paths for economic and social development of the Region for the period 2014-2020.

Green Metropolis Twente: Programme Powerful Twente focuses on

the connection between cities and their surrounding rural environment. The Programme aims at closing regional economic and ecological chains, improving sustainability, and fostering innovation through support of new forms of cooperation. Altogether seven themes have been identified in the Programme, among which Agro & Food and Biodiversity. Within these themes, the Programme supports the building of clusters and the creation of networks that lead to more innovation orientated cooperation between educational institutions, public authorities and entrepreneurs.



# Green Knowledge Portal Twente

Green Knowledge Portal Twente is part of the Green Metropolis Twente network. The Knowledge Portal is a regional network for realisation of projects in the field of innovative rural development. It was set up by educational institutions and governments with the aim to promote cooperation between educational institutions, public authorities, businesses and the inhabitants of Twente. Green Knowledge Portal Twente facilitates and supports triple helix cooperation and works on innovations in the region especially by connecting practical questions from regional stakeholders to researchers and students from different levels and educational backgrounds.

The activities and projects of Green Knowledge Portal Twente support the building of clusters and the creation of networks with focus on innovations and experiments. They bridge the gap between cities and their surrounding rural parts by linking enterprises, research institutes and consumers from both urban and rural areas. Moreover, they fill the gap between practice and study and offer opportunities to

incorporate the scientific knowledge in real-time innovation processes. The crossovers stimulate creativity and create innovation hubs.

The main aim of Green Knowledge Portal Twente in the project RUMORE is to speed up innovation in the Agro & Food sector through support of living labs, in which stakeholders from the urban and rural areas work together towards a sustainable regional circular economy.

Previously, the Agro & Food sector in Twente was predominantly focused on the international market. With the activities in RUMORE, Green Knowledge Portal Twente aims at supporting the local market in Twente and at closing the local food chain. It will stimulate the Green Metropolis Programme to organise local knowledge meetings and bring local parties together, which can jointly identify existing gaps and develop innovative ways to fill in these gaps. It is important to take a step forward, broaden the perspective and put the results in practice through meaningful innovations in the field of Agro & Food.