**Action Plan for the Province of Fryslân**



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# Introduction

From January 2017 to December 2019, seven island regions from across the European Union cooperated in the project Islands of Innovation. The focus of this project was to improve public policy measures to turn island regions across Europe into innovation "test-beds". The project was part-funded by the European Union programme Interreg Europe.

During their 3 years of cooperation the project partners investigated and exchanged practices and approaches that enable them to position islands as innovation-promoting, experimental "probing and learning" environment which can keep and attract young, innovative and entrepreneurial people and activities to the islands.

The partners of the project are the following representatives of European island regions:

1. Province of Fryslân, The Netherlands (Lead Partner)
2. Samsoe Energy Academy, Denmark
3. Regional Agency for the Development of Research Technology and Innovation – ARDITI, Portugal
4. Saaremaa, Estonia
5. Undersecretary of the Presidency for External Relations – Regional Government of Azores, Portugal
6. Urban Community of North Basse-Terre (CANBT), France
7. North Aegean Region, Greece

This Action Plan presents the main actions that the Province of Fryslân will take to implement the lessons and experiences from their participation in the project Islands of Innovation. These actions aim to improve the implementation of our regional policy instrument Operational Programme North-Netherlands (OP Noord) / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014-2020.

In the period January 2020 – December 2021, during the *monitoring phase* of the Islands of Innovation project, Fryslân will work closely with various regional stakeholders on the implementation of these actions. In parallel, the international partners of the project will regularly update each other on the progress of their own action plans.

In the following chapters we first present the innovation policy context related to the islands in Fryslân and the most valuable insights we learned during the project, followed by an overview of concrete practices that inspired our action plan and the actual actions themselves.

# Part I – General information

Project: Islands of Innovation

Partner organisation concerned: Province of Fryslân

Country: The Netherlands

NUTS2 region: Friesland (NL)

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# Part II – Policy context

### Policy Instrument

This action plan aims to improve the implementation of the **Operational Programme North-Netherlands (OP Noord) / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014-2020.** The OP Noord is funded by the European Union Regional development Fund (EDRF) under the objective of Investment for Growth & Jobs[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Managing Authority of the OP Noord is SNN - Samenwerkingsverband Noord Nederland (Cooperation Agency Northern Netherlands), which implements the programme on behalf of the three northern provinces, including Fryslân. The province is also a member of the Monitoring Committee of OP Noord. As such, the province has a direct responsibility for the implementation of the OP Noord policy instrument.

One of the thematic objectives of the OP Noord / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014 – 2020 is Strengthening Research and Innovation, which includes a specific priority measure for promoting business investment in research and innovation. OP Noord specifically promotes innovation and entrepreneurship in the context of societal challenges like climate change, health, food security, water, energy. It aims to stimulate participative innovation and living labs to establish the region as a test bed for innovation.

### Need for policy improvement

We started the Islands of Innovation project to deal with the specific needs and opportunities for innovation to drive socio-economic development on the Wadden Sea islands in the province of Fryslân. The OP Noord could potentially play an important role in this, provided certain adaptations are made in the implementation of the programme.

The Frisian Wadden Sea islands are located on the northern coast of The Netherlands. The Wadden Sea is a vulnerable intertidal zone listed as UNESCO World Heritage – it stretches along the coast of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The area is rich in natural beauty and presents a unique ecosystem. On the other hand, the small island communities on the 4 Frisian islands are facing challenges related to population decline and brain drain, accessibility, limited health and education services and strong dependency on tourism.

One of the main opportunities for socio-economic development of the islands lies in fact that they have evolved, due to their remote location, isolation and small scale, as self-supporting, independent and creative communities with unique craftmanship and skills in a very special natural environment. These distinct characteristics of the island communities make them especially well-suited as living labs for sustainable innovations.

We propose a cross-sectoral, creative approach to utilise these strengths in a structural way to boost economic development for the islands. Through the Islands of Innovation project, we aim to position the Frisian Wadden islands as living labs for sustainable innovation, bringing together entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in innovation projects, building on the islands’ specific characteristics as isolated, self-supporting natural communities.

The OP Noord could be an important instrument for achieving this aim. However, this would require a number of improvements in this policy, that we described the start of the Islands of Innovation project:

1. The OP Noord / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014 – 2020 describes the notion of living labs for innovation in a rather general way. Further development of this concept and how to achieve it is needed, before it can be successfully implemented on the islands.
2. The Frisian Islands are not mentioned in the strategy of the OP Noord / Noordelijke Innovatie Agenda 2014-2020, although they are part of the programme territory. The OP Noord has not yet supported any projects from or on the islands, in the current programme period or in previous periods. This shows the need for improvements in the implementation of the OP Noord, to better reach out to actors on the islands and enable them to come forward with relevant projects, that build on the islands specific potential for innovation.

### Interregional learning in Islands of Innovation

The interregional learning process in Islands of Innovation consisted of the following building blocks:

**Good practices** from the participating islands regions have been documented and are available on the project’s website:<https://www.interregeurope.eu/islandsofinnovation/good-practices/>

**Comparative study.** This study describes and compares the partner islands and their innovation policies to understand their regional context and develop options for innovation policy developments with a particular focus on creating an innovation-promoting, experimental “probing and learning” environment.

**Interregional learning sessions**, combining thematic exchanges about innovation policy challenges and solutions with site visits to inspiring practices and organisations in each partner region.

**Islands of Innovation / TIPPING model**. We developed this model to help islands to fully utilise their innovation potential and to create options in the policy making process by combining todays leading strategies for innovation policy with good practice examples from the project partner regions. It can be used to support innovation policy design (including action plan design), support benchmarking between islands/regions or sectors and compare status quo and desired policy options.

The model is described in detail in the Islands of Innovation TIPPING Guide [found [here](https://innovationislands.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Islands-of-Innovation-EU-INTERREG-TIPPING-Guide-11_2019.pdf)]. The main elements are (see figure 1):

1. An analysis of the Existing Innovation Ecosystem is the starting point. In Islands of Innovation we captured this in the comparative study.
2. The TIPPING wheel[[2]](#footnote-2) is at the heart of the model. It is a guidance tool for (island) regions to implement innovative policy strategy mixes. It is a creative, easy-to-use tool that helps to generate innovation strategies and ideas at various levels of governance. It combines innovation policy strategies with good practices form the partner islands to define concrete new innovation projects that fit the regional innovation potential.
3. The final result is the improved innovation ecosystem or the Dance floor, where improved elements of innovation policy bring together actors and stakeholders to create new projects, products, business ideas, models and services.



Figure . Islands of Innovation Model.

### Inspiration for improvement of OP Noord / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014-2020

Our participation in the Islands of Innovation project has been an ongoing, intense learning process that allows us to shape several clear improvements in the delivery of the OP Noord policy instrument.

This learning process has not been a simple linear process, where we could just copy-and-paste a good practice from another partner region. Rather, is has been a continuous, organic and interactive process of understanding and learning from and with the project partners. New insights evolved in the interaction with partners during the interregional learning sessions, as well as from studying various innovation strategies as part of the development of the Islands of Innovation model. The interaction at regional level, in the Regional Stakeholder Group and within the provincial organisation, also contributed to this action plan.

The following are the most important concepts and practices from the Island of Innovation project that have inspired this Action Plan:

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| * 1. Samsø's green transition – how an island with a vision can become a global leader
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| Origin | Samsø (DK) |
| Brief summary | In 1997 the island of Samsø adopted a bold long-term vision to become the first island to be 100% self-sufficient in the use of renewable energy. Over the course of 10 years, this vision was the guiding principle for collective actions of the island community, local authorities, academia and businesses. By 2007, Samsø had realised their dream, becoming the first island to produce a surplus of renewable energy. This formidable transition to a community based on renewable energy attracted a lot of attention world-wide. It proved that a small, remote island community (with only 3700 residents), can lead the way based on a strong long-term vision paired with the commitment and entrepreneurship of a local community.Samsø has since adopted a new, daring vision: to make the island entirely independent of fossil fuels and move to a circular bio-economy by 2030. Working on this dream, the island will continue to be a leader in the sustainable transition.  |
| More info | <https://energiakademiet.dk/en/transition/>. |
| Link to action plan | The inspiration we take from Samsø is that a small island can be a global leader on a specific challenge or sector if it dares to dream big. Moving beyond the familiar island challenges (population decline, brain drain, accessibility, limited resources), Samsø has set out a vision that builds on the specific strengths of the island: sense of community, territorial scale, potential for renewable energy production.This visionary “dream big” approach influences and inspires all actions in this plan. With our actions we want to stimulate and challenge island actors to come forward with daring and innovative projects that build on their local potentials in the OP Noord 2014-2020 programme. And most specifically, we aim to introduce the visionary approach in the new programme for 2021-2027 (action 3).  |

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| * 1. Mission-oriented approach to regional innovation policy
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| Origin | Islands of Innovation TIPPING Model, based on the work of prof. M. Mazzucato |
| Brief summary | The Islands of Innovation partnership explored various strategies and concepts from leading innovation experts to define a systematic approach to improve the implementation of our island innovation policies.One approach to innovation is particularly relevant for the island context of our partnership: mission-oriented innovation. The concept has been developed by prof. Mariana Mazzucato, a leading expert in innovation economics and author of the report ‘*Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the EU’* (2018).The mission-oriented innovation policy is a concept that replaces the sectoral approach of traditional innovation strategies (e.g. focus on high-tech, energy or agro-food sector). It proposes an innovation strategy for islands and regions based on an integral response to major societal challenges, such as climate change, public health or demographic trends.Mission oriented innovation policy also changes the role of the government, implying that: * Innovation requires investments and risk taking by both private and public actors,
* The state/government has a role in not only fixing markets but also in co- creating and shaping them,
* Successful innovation policy combines the need to set directions from above with the ability to enable bottom up experimentation and learning.

We have put the mission-oriented approach at the heart of our Islands of Innovation TIPPING Model as a method to serve the project objective of positioning islands as experimental spaces and testbeds for innovation to attract young people and entrepreneurial activity on islands. |
| More info | Islands of Innovation TIPPING Guide: <https://innovationislands.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Islands-of-Innovation-EU-INTERREG-TIPPING-Guide-11_2019.pdf> Mazzucato report: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/mazzucato_report_2018.pdf>  |
| Link to action plan | The mission-oriented innovation approach is complementary to the example from Samsø. It shows how effective innovation strategies can be created by defining a clear long-term mission, not just for a specific sector (e.g. energy in Samsø), but focussing on societal challenges and the related opportunities. It also further elaborates our role as a regional authority in the innovation ecosystem.Our aim is to introduce the mission-oriented approach in the strategy of the new OP Noord ERDF programme and the regional innovation strategy (RIS) for 2021-2027 (action 3). |

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| * 1. Walk Me – using digital technology to drive innovation on islands
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| Origin | Madeira (PT) |
| Brief summary | Walk Me is a good practice introduced by our partner ARDITI Madeira. It is a smart phone app created in 2012 by students in Software engineering at the University of Madeira. The app offers GPS guidance for 50 walking trails along the famous *levadas* (water channels) of Madeira island. It also offers information about the trails, the natural environment and history of the *levadas*.Today, the app is a reference for hikers on the island, both visitors and locals. It has been downloaded around 100.000 times. The example of the app was already followed by other regions in Portugal (Azores and Lisbon), where a similar app was introduced. |
| More info | Interreg Europe good Practice: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/1324/walkme-levadas-madeira/> WalkMe online: <http://walkmeguide.com/>  |
| Link to action plan | The inspiration we take from WalkMe is not necessarily the concept of a hiking app itself. Rather, we see it as a very good example of the power and potential of digital technologies to bring innovation and entrepreneurship to island communities.Innovation based on digital technologies does not depend on large R&D infrastructures and can basically be developed anywhere. Instead it requires creativity, entrepreneurial and digital skills and only modest resources and. Digital innovations can conquer the world from a small island. On top of this, they offer the potential to overcome some of the typical island challenges related to accessibility, remoteness and limited service levels. Digital technologies make innovation footloose.This notion has inspired us and our stakeholders in the development of the Vliehouse project (see Action 2), which also strongly builds on the application of footloose digital technology, notably 3D printing. The potential of digital technologies can also be a valuable element in a mission-oriented innovation strategy for the North of The Netherlands in Action 3. |

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| * 1. The Circle – Community involvement and bottom-up initiatives
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| Origin | Samsø (DK) |
| Brief summary | The Circle is a good practice introduced by our partner Samsø Energy Academy. The Circle is a method to structure and facilitate group meetings to create attentive, open dialogues between people from various backgrounds around a certain theme or purpose. It enables informal dialogue and is designed to ensure that each participants voice is heard.The Samso Energy Academy has held more than 5,000 meetings, workshops and conferences for islanders and visitors since 1997. The focus has moved from structured meetings to more informal participatory meetings and processes. The Circle helps to make collective decisions. The Circle is part of the Pioneer Guide, a toolbox for communities facilitating bottom-up processes developed by Samsø Energy Academy to engage with the local community in the process of defining their vision for a sustainable island and implementing actions to achieve this transition. The bottom-up nature of the implementation of their vision has been a crucial factor in its success. Change does not come from the institutions, it comes from the people in the local community. |
| More info | Interreg Europe Good Practice: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/903/the-circle-informal-meetings-with-groups-of-citizens/> Pioneer Guide: <http://www.pioneerguide.com>  |
| Link to action plan | Samsø’s circle approach and their broader emphasis on bottom-up initiatives to design and achieve their vision, inspires us to do the same in our region and on our islands. Our aim is to move away from a mainly top-down implementation of innovation policy, to a participative, bottom-up approach. We want to empower community actors and entrepreneurs on the islands and across the region to take a prominent role in the definition and implementation of our regional innovation ambitions.The approach also fits perfectly with the more facilitating and enabling role of the government in a *mission-oriented* innovation ecosystem. In Action 3 we will apply this approach to the development of our new regional innovation strategy (RIS) and Operational Programme for North Netherlands 2021-2027.  |

# Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### Introduction of the actions

Based on the interregional learning during the Islands of Innovation project we have defined three complementary actions to improve the implementation of the Operational Programme North-Netherlands (OP Noord) / Northern Innovation Agenda 2014-2020.

The actions each address a different level of the implementation of the policy instrument, as follows:

At **macro-level** we will work on an improved strategic approach of the policy instrument by contributing to the definition of a mission-oriented innovation strategy for the OP Noord, for the new programming period. At **meso-level** we will contribute to a stronger organisational capacity of the OP Noord by putting in place a seed-money facility for new innovation initiatives. And at **micro-level** we will contribute to the portfolio of innovation projects in the region, by initiating an innovation project of a consortium of actors from the Frisian Wadden Sea islands. These actions are presented below.

### ACTION 1: A seed money facility to accelerate new projects for OP Noord

1. **Relevance to the project**

An important reason for the Province of Fryslân to initiate this project is the fact that the Wadden sea islands were not adequately represented in the OP Noord. There was no reference to this part of the Province in the OP and there were no ERDF funded projects from the islands. More generally, we observed that project development in the innovation priority of OP Noord was generally dominated by a few well-established actors from the academic and business arena.

In Islands of Innovation we learned from the exchange with our partners that this situation is not caused by lack of innovation power of island communities. Examples from our partners Samsø and Madeira (see Part II, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4), but also other partners show that there is plenty innovation capacity to be found even on small islands. However, some additional support or guidance from the regional authorities is often needed to help smaller organisations and businesses, typical for our islands, across the first hurdle of project development. This is why we decided to work with the Managing Authority of OP Noord to initiate a seed-money facility for the programme.

1. **Nature of the action**

We will create a smart seed money facility to facilitate the preparation of new (innovation) projects in OP Noord. Rather than creating a bureaucratic process, where organisations submit applications for seed funding, it will be implemented using an interactive and participative platform. Prospective beneficiaries can pitch their project to an audience of programme stakeholders from programme bodies, regional/local authorities, business and academia: the Matrix table. This group provides feedback to the proposers and can decide to award seed funding on a case-by-case basis.

This Matrix table is a rather recent innovative element that was introduced in the governance structure of OP Noord in parallel to phase 1 of Islands of Innovation, with the aim to intensify the interaction between actors in the innovation ecosystem in the region and generate more projects and initiatives. By introducing this seed money facility, we provide this group with an effective tool to achieve this aim. The seed money facility will lead to the initiation of multiple new (innovation) projects that will eventually be funded by the OP Noord 2014-2020 programme.

Beneficiaries of the funding facility can be any organisation who makes part of the ‘quadruple helix’ in the whole Northern Netherlands region. They can receive an amount of maximum €25.000 to be used to further develop their project idea and consortium.

This action will lead to an improvement of the policy instrument OP Noord of the type: “Improved governance”.

1. **Stakeholders involved**

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| Samenwerkingsverband Noord Nederland - SNN | Managing Authority of OP Noord, responsible for the seed funding facility coordination of the Matrix table |
| Province of Fryslân | Member of the board of SNN (decision making),  |
| Knowledge Institutes | advisory role, members of the Matrix table |
| Entrepreneurs | advisory role, members of the Matrix table |
| Local authorities | advisory role, members of the Matrix table |

1. **Timeframe**

The implementation of this action already started in parallel to Phase 1 of the Islands of Innovation project, and continues into the monitoring phase. The timeline of the actions is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| January - June 2018 | Managing Authority SNN organised 2 meetings with members of the quadruple helix in Northern Netherlands to initiate the matrix table. The project leader from Islands of Innovation played an active part in these sessions and introduced the concept of the seed money facility.  |
| July 2018 | The board of SNN decides on the installation of the matrix table. At this occasion, the board also approves the allocation of an amount of €300.000 to be used for a seed funding facility.  |
| September 2018 – September 2019 | In this period 10 meetings of the matrix table take place. Approximately 40 initiators pitched their project proposals.This resulted in x seed money grants |
| September – December 2019 | MA assesses the first year of experiences with the seed money facility. This will feed into a decision about the future set-up of the facility for the remaining time of the OP Noord 2014-2020 period. |
| Early 2020 | MA updates the approach of the seed-funding facility based on the experiences on the first year. |
| 2020 - 2021 | Implementation of the facility and follow-up of funded initiatives. Did it lead to more and better projects? |

1. **Costs and Funding sources**

The MA has reserved an amount of 300.000 euro to be allocated as seed money for promising project proposals under the OP EFRO. The maximum amount per project is 25.000€, so this budget could support at least 12 projects.

The funding comes from the own budget of Managing Authority.

### ACTION 2: Vliehouse – biobased temporary housing units

1. **Relevance to the project**

The idea for Vliehouse was created in a workshop session of the Fryslân regional stakeholder group together with other local actors on the island of Vlieland, as part of the interregional Islands of Innovation meeting in June 2018. This workshop was dedicated to generating innovative solutions for common challenges of the partner islands. One of those challenges is the need of island regions with a strong tourism profile for sustainable, temporary solutions to accommodate seasonal peaks in visitors. Vliehouse answers to this need.

Our RSG member LabVlieland teamed up with local entrepreneurs in tourism and the Ministry of Defence - who has a base on the island of Vlieland and are interested in flexible housing units for their missions - during this Islands of Innovation meeting. They agreed to initiate a project aimed at developing flexible housing solutions by combining the use of digital manufacturing & 3D printing, circular design and sustainable energy and water systems.

Inspiration for supporting the development of this type of innovation project on our islands comes from the insight we gained from our partner Madeira. From them we learned to appreciate the specific potential of digital technologies to bring innovation and entrepreneurship to island communities (see Part II, 4.3). In the case of Vliehouse, digital manufacturing & 3D printing are the enabling technologies that allow innovation to flourish on the island, which is lacking in regular construction materials.

The members of the Vliehouse consortium had never worked together before this RSG meeting, and as such the project is a concrete product of the Islands of Innovation project.

1. **Nature of the action**

The Vliehouse project aims at developing future flexible home solutions by combining the use of digital manufacturing, circular design and sustainable energy and water systems. It will be a pilot project to demonstrate the technical feasibility of making temporary, movable housing units using bio-based materials and local resources from the islands (seaweed, sand, grass). The Vliehouse project is a cooperation of our RSG members LabVlieland with local entrepreneurs in recreation and the Ministry of Defence.

The action includes both the development of the project proposal and the actual implementation of the project. The Vliehouse project will include the following activities:

* Needs analysis – what specifications are required by the different ‘customers’ for the 3 pilot housing units (Ministry of Defence, Campsite/recreational and Societal needs such as temporary elderly homes)
* Developing circular construction materials and techniques
* Developing circular construction skills
* Creating the 3 pilot units
* Market opportunities
* Dissemination

This action will lead to an improvement of the policy instrument OP Noord of the type: “New projects”.

1. **Stakeholders involved**

The following stakeholders are partners of the Vliehouse consortium that will implement the project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lab Vlieland, House of Design | Expertise in design and circular economy – project management |
| Ministry of Defence | Commissioning party of a mobile housing unit for defence personnel |
| Stortemelk – campsite and recreational housing | Commissioning party of a mobile housing unit for recreational purposes |
| NRJ Architecture | Expert |
| Van Wijnen Construction | Expert |
| NOM, New Energy Coalition, Water Alliance | Intermediary organisations for regional development  |
| NHL Stenden, Friesland College | University; Knowledge centre |

1. **Timeframe**

The implementation of this action already started in parallel to Phase 1 of the Islands of Innovation project, and continues into the monitoring phase. The timeline of the actions is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| June 2018 | The initial idea for Vliehouse was developed during the Islands of Innovation learning session at Vlieland. |
| June - October 2018 | The Vliehouse consortium developed the initial project plan and made a pitch for seed funding from the OP Noord programme (see action 1) to enable them to develop the full application for ERDF funding.  |
| 13 December 2018 | The Vliehouse consortium was granted an amount of 25.000 € seed money from the OP Noord/Noordelijke Innovatie Agenda 2014-2020 ERDF programme to further develop their project plan. |
| 8 June 2019 | Consortium submits full application for project funding to OP Noord |
| December 2019 | Approval of the application (expected) |
| January 2020 | Start of the project |
| December 2022 | Vliehouse project completed |

1. **Costs and Funding sources**

The preparation of the project was funded by the consortium partners, with a seed money grant of €25.000 from the OP Noord seed money facility.

The total costs of the Vliehouse project will be 1.505.000 euro. The project - when approved - will be funded from OP Noord - Open Innovation call.

* Own Financing of the consortium is 45%
* ERDF funding 40%
* Match funding by the province of Fryslan (15% subsidy and 12% guarantee). In the budget it is calculated an amount of 12% will reimbursed by selling goods. This is guaranteed by the province of Fryslân.

### ACTION 3: Mission-oriented strategy for the OP Noord 2021-2027 programme

1. **Relevance to the project**

The Islands of Innovation project was aimed at identifying mechanisms and concepts to accelerate innovation in island regions. The interaction with our partners offered us valuable insights and tools for the introduction of a new approach to our regional innovation strategy in the North of The Netherland.

We were particularly inspired by our partner from Samsø. As a small island community, they have become a global leader and example in the transition to sustainable energy based on an ambitious long-term vision, which was successfully implemented through participative, bottom-up collaboration (see Part II, 4.1 and 4.4).

The whole Islands of Innovation partnership has also embraced the concept of mission-oriented innovation. This new concept, defined by professor Mariana Mazzucato, proposes an innovation strategy based on an integrated response to major societal challenges, like climate change, public health, demographic trends etc. We have put this concept at the heart of our Islands of Innovation TIPPING Model (see Part II, 4.2).

It is our aim to introduce these concepts of visionary regional development and mission-oriented innovation in our policy instrument, by using them as building blocks for the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS) and the OP Noord 2021-2027.

1. **Nature of the action**

We will work with the Management Authority and all other stakeholders involved in the preparation of the OP Noord 2021-2027 to introduce the principles of mission-oriented innovation in the design of this regional programme.

We will do this through our contributions to the preparatory working groups of the new programme documents, and through bilateral contacts with the Managing Authority of the OP. The province of Fryslân is excellently positioned to make tis impact on the new programme strategy. The project leader of Islands of Innovation is a member of the preparation group of the RIS and OP Noord 2021-2027. And the province of Fryslân is one of the three regions in the north of the Netherlands who are formally responsible for the new OP Noord and a founding member of the Managing Authority : The Cooperation Agency Northern Netherlands SNN.

This action will lead to an improvement of the policy instrument OP Noord of the type: “structural change of the policy instrument”. The result will be a programme strategy of the OP Noord 2021-2027 that is guided by the principles of mission-oriented innovation. It will offer new opportunities for regional stakeholders on our islands and across the whole region to engage in collaborative innovation initiatives.

1. **Stakeholders involved**

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| --- | --- |
| Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland (SNN) | Managing Authority OP Noord Nederland 2021-2027. Coordinates the development of the RIS strategy and of the OP. |
| Province of Fryslân | One of the 3 provinces who form Noord-Nederland region and govern the OP. Fryslân makes the mission-oriented innovation concepts from Island of Innovation a key pillar of its input in RIS and OP |
| Provinces of Groningen and Drenthe | Partner provinces in Noord-Nederland region. |
| Cities of Groningen, Assen, Emmen, Leeuwarden | Local authority partners in the development and implementation of OP Noord. |
| Economic Board Noord-Nederland | Cooperation platform of businesses, knowledge institutes, intermediaries and government who play an important role in OP and RIS development and implementation.  |
| NGO’s and civil society representatives | Partners in OP development and implementation. |

1. **Timeframe**

The implementation of this action already started in parallel to Phase 1 of the Islands of Innovation project, and continues into the monitoring phase. The timeline of the actions is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Mid 2018 - 2019 | Start of the first discussions about the orientation of the new Regional Innovation Strategy Noord-Nederland 2021-2027. The Islands of Innovation project manager is represented in the preparation committee of the RIS.Several concepts presented in the Islands of Innovation TIPPING manual have already been taken on board in the preparatory papers of the RIS and in the external communication by the Managing Authority SNN.For instance, the importance of societal challenges to define a mission-oriented innovation strategy, and the "dancefloor" concept for innovation stakeholder cooperation. For an illustration, see following publication about SNN by the S3 platform: <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/-/smart-specialisation-comes-from-the-grassroots>  |
| January 2020 | Adoption of the Regional Innovation Strategy Noord-Nederland 2021-2027 |
| January - December 2020  | Developing the new OP Noord-Nederland based on the RIS. The province of Fryslân is member of the preparation committee of the OP. Their input will focus on securing a mission-oriented strategy in the new OP, which is open to the innovation potential of the Wadden Sea islands. |
| April 2020 | Symposium *Islands of Innovation & Mission Oriented Innovation in North Netherlands*. Organised by the Province of Fryslân, this symposium will bring together all actors involved in RIS and OP Noord development around the common themes of Islands of Innovation: mission-oriented innovation, multi-level governance and good practice from around Europe. |
| December 2020 | Adoption of the new OP |
| First half of 2021 | Start of the implementation of the new OP |

1. **Costs** and **Funding sources**

This action mainly involves personnel efforts by all actors involved in the preparation of the new OP Noord 2021-2027 ERDF programme and does not have a dedicated budget. All stakeholders will cover their personnel expenditure in this process from their own means.

The costs for the symposium in April 2021 are to be determined. The province of Fryslân will be responsible for the costs of this symposium (funding sources to be identified).

1. See <https://www.snn.nl/OP-EFRO> for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. TIPPING is short for *The Innovation Program’s Perspective for Islands’ New Governance.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)