

INNOVATION AND SMART SPECIALIZATION FORUM

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New ways to foster open discovery processes

experiences from the Northern-Netherlands

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Essence NNLs RIS3

• about economic & societal objectives (already since 2014):

societal challenges ('Transitions') at core \rightarrow specialization opportunities

- specializations outcome of continuous process of entrepreneurial discovery (c-EDP)
- Government: creating favorable conditions → innovation ecosystem

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Policy experimentation

- EDP taken quite literally → projects, initiatives, experiments
- Capturing bottom up & collaborative attitude ↔
- Can do better in terms of direction
- Experimentation \rightarrow includes

policy experimentation : examples





Monitor as matching tool

- since 2016
- joint initiative University of Groningen & Northern Netherlands Alliance (regional public authority)
- fueled by a yearly survey among SME's
- key word: **reciprocity** → 'get something in return'
 - SME's receive individual benchmark report
- strategic partners (e.g. employers federation)
 - Give SME data

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• Receive influence on topics



The Northern Netherlands Innovation Monitor

Stimulates - Facilitates - Connect

university of groningen



Monitor as matching tool

- NNLs Innovation Monitor popular
 - media attention
 - events \rightarrow 30% participants SME's
 - shows monitoring can be interesting for SME's
 - to present themselves
 - to compare to others
 - find ways to do better
 - connect to others

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platform idea





The Northern Netherlands Innovation Monitor

· Stimulates · Facilitates · Connects

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Monitor as matching tool

Platform idea

- platform 'not that special'
- but:

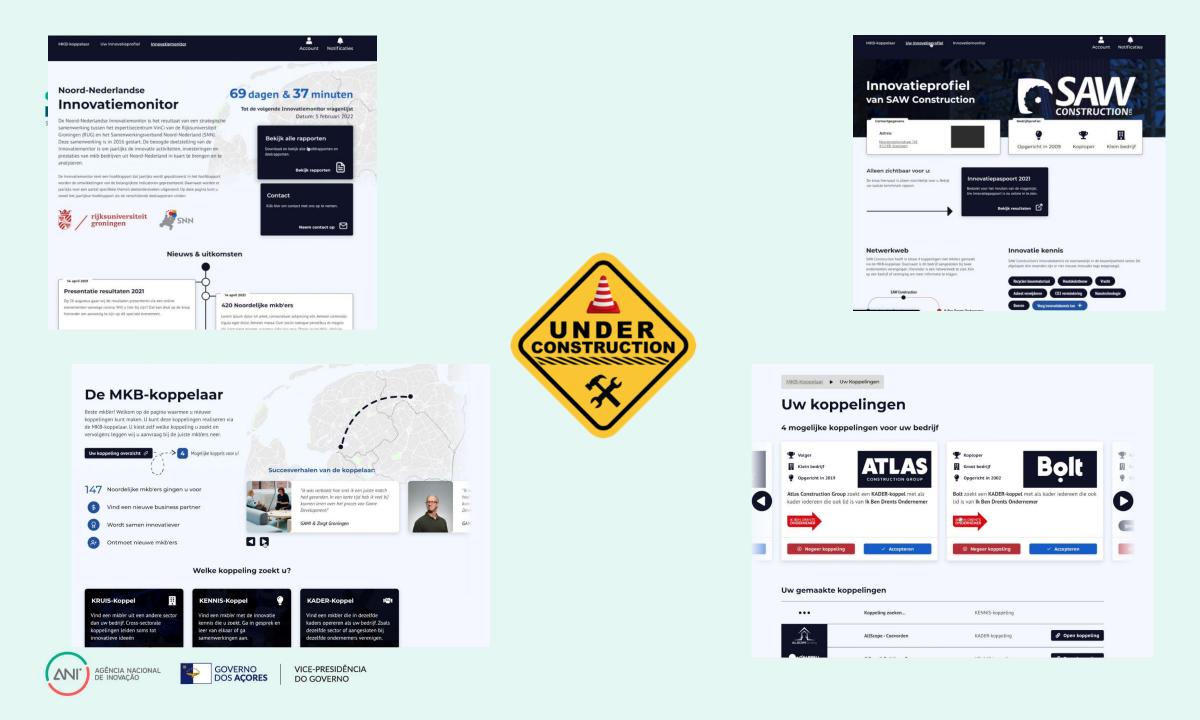
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- most start with the platform (designing and building)
- content at least as important & keeping it up to date
- NNLs Innovation Monitor data \rightarrow content
 - to be enriched by other data & methods \leftarrow collaboration



The Northern Netherlands Innovation Monitor







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Experimenting with ERDF

• regional ERDF programme \rightarrow innovation

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- relatively small budget (± € 100 mln)
- looking for ways in which ERDF not only has impact on projects it supports, but as well way actors work, interact with others and MA
- usual with ERDF: "you get subsidy if you do this, but don't if you do that.." → sub-optimal outcomes, in particular with innovation
 - innovation is about doing new things, or doing same things in different way
 - often innovator doesn't know in advance what exactly to do, how to get from a to b
 - but often innovator does have idea of issue he/she want to solve and he/she knows when it's solved → so, objective is pretty clear

Open Innovation Call



Call to businesses and knowledge centres to collaborate in building a strong innovation climate!





Implementing Regulation is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affair



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Open Innovation Call

Focus on objectives rather than activities

- "If project-objectives match with the objectives of programme then basically you have something good in hand"
 → more freedom & flexibility
- call = challenge/ appeal to come forward with solutions for issue raised
- stakeholder involvement in design & implementation of call

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Open Innovation Call



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REACT EU experimenting

"Open Innovation Call 2.0"

- didn't start with challenge, but with 'feet on table meeting'
- invited (ao): Health ecosystem actors, representative group
- no papers, no frameworks
- offered a challenge:
 - Asked for confirmation of what we saw as main challenge to be addressed
 - Agree among each other on path to solution: structural improvement
 - Necessary condition: all relevant actors on board and agree
 - Able to translate path to solution into ERDF-project

 in return: possibility ERDF-funding
 → within 6 months € 5 mln application positively assessed by independent
 committee of experts





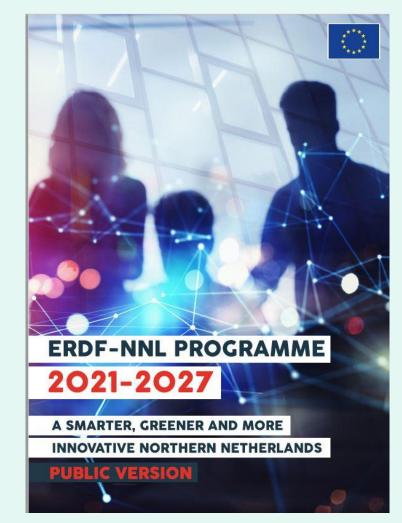
ERDF NNLs 2021-2027

- ERDF usually:

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- Concentration on projects, relatively short term funding
- Calls for Tender: Managing Authority decides 'about what and when' → initiator/applicant 'bends the initiative towards the money'
- 2023 experiment to 'bend the money towards the initiative vision

Way to address directionality issue $\rightarrow\,$ foster actors priority themes to systematically search for 'goose with golden egg'





EDRF experimenting 2023

Experiment:

- open call (competition) for actors collaborating on RIS3-related themes to come up with ± 7 years vision
- key elements

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- aimed at harvesting specialization opportunities
- ability to translate into 'investment agenda's'

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ability to identify public funding needs along the way



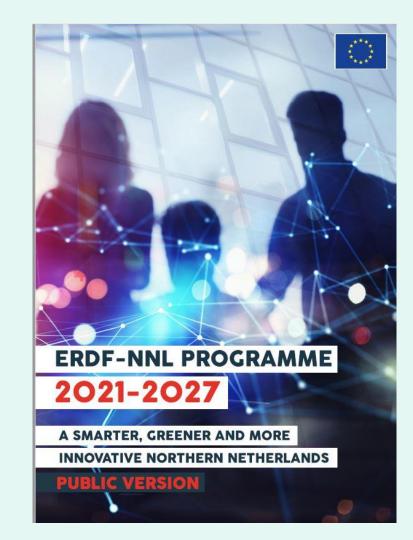


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EDRF experimenting 2023

Best applications offered:

- constant interaction with MA (ERDF, JTF, ...) during implementation \rightarrow collaboration path
- timely identification of funding needs along the way → 'special track' to integrated funding possibilities ('tailor made')
- but, no guarantees, using regular ERDFgovernance (independent committee of experts)
- projects not only 'stand alone good quality', but in line with overall vision





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Thank you !

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