

## NWE Knowledge Transfer Network: Strategic Initiative project idea

### Project name:

Transnational Knowledge Transfer

### Which of the S.I. Fields of Action best describe your project:

3. Developing Capacity for innovation and knowledge based economy. Section B: Facilitating technology and knowledge transfer and developing and/or strengthening economic clusters

### General aims of the project:

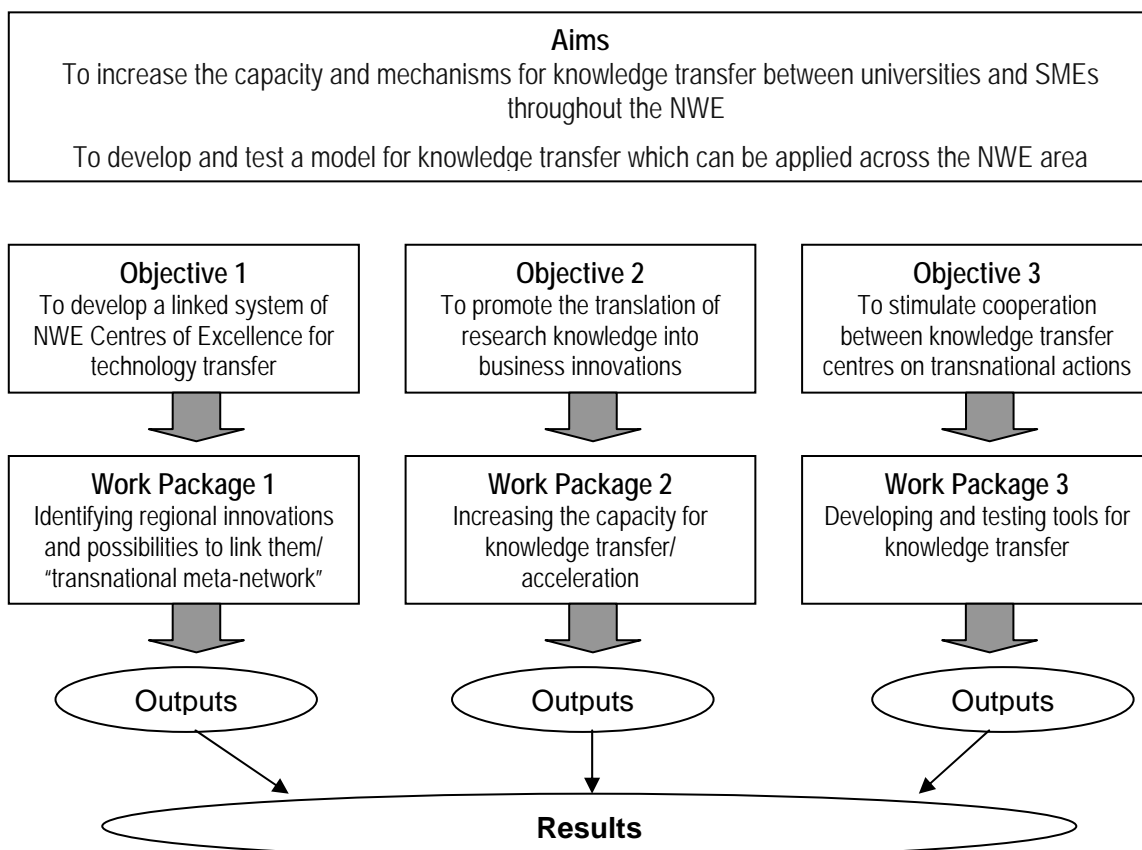
To increase the capacity and mechanisms for knowledge transfer between universities and SMEs throughout the NWE

To develop and test a model for knowledge transfer which can be applied across the NWE area

### Specific objectives:

- To develop a linked system of NWE Centres of Excellence for technology transfer
- To promote the translation of research knowledge into business innovations
- To stimulate cooperation between knowledge transfer centres on activities of a transnational nature

### Link between objectives and activities



## **Some target actions**

### ***Identifying regional innovations/ establishing a “transnational meta-network”***

- Baseline analysis of innovation activity in participating regions – “mapping”
- Measurement of innovation, regional variation survey, innovation scoring
- Facilitation of a cross-sector cooperation and collaboration between institutions through e.g. staff exchanges, mentoring, shared specialism and training
- Creation of shared databases and knowledge resources
- Evaluation of the project transnational actions for knowledge transfer

### ***Increasing the capacity for knowledge transfer/ acceleration***

- Development of transnational business-to-business activities
- Tools to increase entrepreneurship and SME capacity
- Establishment of regional knowledge transfer models
- Internationalisation

### ***Developing and testing tools for knowledge transfer***

- Pilots to test developed schemes and apply best practices, e.g. vouchers, innovative knowledge/technology transfer programmes – to demonstrate the tangibility and concrete implementation of project deliverables
- Transfer of different innovation models and schemes – to demonstrate the transferability of project deliverables
- Transfer of good practices to less developed regions/rural areas

## **Expected results:**

Results will include the creation of a “transnational meta-network” for knowledge transfer, development of a number of innovative tools and demonstration pilots to facilitate international knowledge transfer between universities and the SMEs across the NWE

## **Possible total budget and ERDF sought:**

Still to be defined according to the number of partners and the concrete action plan

## **Partners involved at this stage:**

Interest so far from partners in BE, CH, DE, FR, IE and UK. Currently 10-15 partners are interested.

There has been some interest expressed in an approach of “super clusters” – this is supported by the Programme but under the Economic Cluster S.I. project idea. Similarly, an interest in a proposal on “Eco-innovation” should be dealt separately, possibly as a regular project.

- The cross-sector approach is strongly supported by the Programme and could prove good value for all different stakeholders.

**Further partners sought:**

Interest sought particularly from other countries in the NWE area (NL, LUX) and from other organisations which have experience in knowledge transfer.

**How are the partners going to jointly benefit from this transnational cooperation project?**

By setting up a NWE-project, partners will benefit from financial and political support. They will further be able to exchange their know-how/experiences and jointly elaborate best-practice models (by implementing pilot actions) which may then influence their respective national policy. In addition, the partners are often confronted with the same (EU-) requirements and therefore are most likely to welcome a European approach to these challenges.

**How is your project relevant to the identified S.I. Fields of Action?**

This project specifically addresses item B of field 3 of the SIs. It will create knowledge transfer networks at a transnational level.

**How does your project display a high degree of transnationality?**

The project will gather relevant partners across North West Europe who will jointly elaborate actions which have to be relevant for a large part if not the entire NWE area.

**What is innovative and original about your project?**

This project identifies the added value which can come from international cooperation, by linking researchers and regional development agencies across international boundaries. In doing this, it will identify the gaps in knowledge transfer activity which cannot be financed from other programmes (e.g. CIP, mainstream structural funds, FP7)

**What strategic impact is your project likely to have?**

It will increase knowledge transfer across the NWE, and in turn generate innovation, enterprise, wealth creation, and employment.

**Is your project a follow-up to a previous project? If yes, how does it build on previous results?**

Not directly. It should build on finished and ongoing projects which are funded under other EU programmes, but also taking into account projects funded under other Interreg programmes. The NWE IVB project FASILIS has some synergies.

**If applicable, which other funding Programmes or EU Policies might be relevant for your project?**

As mentioned above, there are some previous or ongoing projects in the INTERREG IIIB and IVB programmes in North Sea Region, Alpine Space and Atlantic Area, as well as the INTERREG IVC and INTERREG IVA programmes. Moreover, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and the Research Framework Programme (including Regions of Knowledge) address similar themes, but do not directly finance pilot or demonstration projects. Also, the European Enterprise Network should be taken into account.

**Project idea source**

- NWE Strategic Initiatives step1 workshops report, August 2008
- Strategic Initiatives Working Group (SIWG) PI proposal March 2009
- SIWG report, 21<sup>st</sup> May 09
- Strategic Initiative Workshop, Brussels, 17 November 2009