

Maritime Intergroup 21st of April 18, 2016

About: The second part of the workshop focusses on the use of EU funding opportunities and exploitation of possible synergies between the funds for maritime actors. The Region will speak just after Damien's presentation on our mapping of Smart Specialisation strategies' marine and maritime dimension. The speaker is expected to give an example of how EU funds are used in his/her region to develop marine and maritime activities

I will mention a few examples of how European funding has contributed to concrete initiatives in my home region of Västra Götaland.

Funding in Västra Götaland

If we start of by looking at the European funding we can see that

- The ERDF fund (Regional Development Fund) is small in Västra Götaland, about 33 million euros. Even though, it is popular and we have many applicants in this programme.
- The INTERREG programmes are not as popular in our region. **I do believe that the reason is two folded:**
 - 1. The **diversity** in the maritime sector in our region means our stakeholders easily finds local partners to collaborate with.
 - 2. Region Västra Götaland allocates about 2,7 million euros yearly to maritime projects within our cluster. Between 2007-2012 over 11 million euros were invested in over 100 projects, **which means our maritime clusters have other sources of funding than European programmes.**
- **The challenge for us in relation to EU funding is to convince our stakeholders to find partners outside Västra Götaland**, but why search for partners overseas when you can find equally or better partners at home?
- Our maritime clusters needs international partners of the same caliber to develop. Therefore **we believe that a fruitful European cooperation must be based on strong regional clusters**, and that future maritime investments should focus on building these clusters

Example

- A good example of how EU-funding has spurred blue growth in our region is the project **Power Cluster**, which was a joint initiative in the North Sea Programme with 17 different stakeholders aiming support **development of off-shore wind power.**
- This INTERREG-project made us realize that we **needed a better coordination for supporting the development of wind power at home.** Together with stakeholders

from national level, universities, businesses and regional authorities we created **Power Väst**.

- **Power Väst is a triple- helix collaboration platform** aimed at increasing electricity from wind power and creating more job opportunities in the sector.
- The two projects Power Cluster and Power Väst **collaborated**, which in turn lead to the establishment of Wind Lab – a test arena for sustainable energy production.
- Wind Lab has built **Sweden’s biggest wind power plant** right outside Gothenburg, named Big Glenn.
- It stands **145 metres** high and during the first year it produced 7887 megawatt of power, **enough warm up nearly 4000 apartments**.
- It is a good example of how European cooperation can foster blue growth at regional level.

A final point to note is the current work of the North Sea Commission in connection with the Blue Growth calls under EMFF. A project under the Blue Tech call could build further on the work we have done with our maritime cluster and contribute to new products in a global setting. We are convinced that this kind of project can add great value and boost our innovative SMEs within the existing cluster.

Thank you for your time.