

Report to Partnership Meeting 3 February 2012

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Food Port

Purpose of Report

To propose the preparation of a bid into the Food Port project.



European Union



The European Regional Development Fund



About Food Port

Food Port aims to develop the North Sea Region (NSR) as the best food cluster and hub in Europe for food products delivered via efficient and sustainable transport systems e.g. 'green transport corridors'.

Food Port brings together partners from six North Sea countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) to find practical solutions to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the food supply chains.

The Food Port project operates under the umbrella of the INTERREG IV B - North Sea Region Programme, part of the European Regional Development Fund. The project started on September 1st, 2010 and runs until August 31st 2013. The total project budget is 4.9M€, of which the ERDF co-finances 50%. The West Flanders Development Agency (POM West-Vlaanderen) is the lead partner.

In total 18 partners (including regional authorities, knowledge institutions, food industries and ports) from 6 countries are involved: Sweden (Region Västra Götaland, Port of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology), Denmark (University of Southern Denmark, Development Council of South Jutland, Port of Esbjerg and Port of Odense), Norway (Port of Kristiansund and Nordmøre), UK (University of Hull, South East Scotland Transport Partnership – SEStran and Forth Ports), Germany (City of Bremerhaven, "Deutsche See" and University of Bremerhaven) and Belgium (VOKA – Chamber of Commerce West Flanders, Port of Zeebrugge, Port of Oostende, POM West Flanders).

The project will investigate and develop green transport corridors for food products between

regions around the North Sea. This will lead to concrete modal shift pilots along the identified green transport corridors and to the development of (new) food platforms or hubs. In order to improve the food-logistics chain, new technological solutions will be incorporated, such as a technical support platform.

Central Aim

- Optimization and coordination of food logistic chains in the North Sea Region: improve the accessibility and transport logistic system of different food clusters in the North Sea Region;
- Strengthen the food industry within the NSR: strategic position as FOOD HUB.

Food Port Priorities

- Promote the development of multi-modal and transnational transport corridors;
- Promote the development of efficient and effective logistic solutions.

HITRANS involvement?

HITRANS has an opportunity to bid for funds from this Project between 6 February-5 March 2012, as a partner has withdrawn. We could follow up our Whisky Logistics Study with a trial of moving whisky product by rail. 50% intervention is available, with match funding coming from the private sector and ourselves.

Expenditure would be incurred on hiring containers and rolling stock, with partners from the whisky and logistics industries contributing.

The Centre for Understanding Sustainable Practice at RGU Aberdeen may also be a partner.

Subject to appropriate levels of partner funding being confirmed, the HITRANS element of the funding could be provided from within the 'Partner Funding for ERDF Projects' line in the Research, Development and Delivery Programme for 2012/13 and similarly in 2013/14.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.
2. Members are asked to agree to Officers taking forward a bid for HITRANS to participate in Food Port in 2012-13 and 2013-14, subject to confirmation of partner funding.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This project fits well with RTS Horizontal themes on mode shift and freight
Policy	√	This project has positive environmental benefits.
Financial	√	Funding for the project can be provided from within the Research Development and Delivery Programme for 2012/13 and 2013/14
Equality	-	No impact on equalities issues.

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager
Date: 25 January 2012