



North Sea STAR Spreading Transnational Results

Annex D: List of Interview Questions for Case Study Interviews

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Outline of a Semi-Structured Questionnaire

Project evaluation

- 1) The project partnership:
 - a. What were the main reasons to participate in a transnational project?
 - b. How was the project partnership assembled: what were main reasons (including practicalities)?
 - c. What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the partnership so far and how have you dealt with these?
 - d. Considering the different interests of involved partner organisations within the entire project: how do you evaluate the focus of the project? [question will probably touch upon learning potential and policy impact; see also below]
 - e. If you could start all over again: is there anything you would like to do differently?
- 2) Realization of impact: Territorial impact
 - a. What do you consider as prime territorial impacts of the project and its sub-projects? One can think of: changes in land-use [for instance in case of production of bio-fuels]; impacts on the landscape resulting from installations; the need for new networks etc.
 - b. How were the territorial impacts dealt with in the project? For instance: did you carry out specific research or did you liaise with people/organizations dealing with issues of spatial planning/territorial governance?
 - c. In case you have acquired a better understanding of territorial impact: did this change the conduct of the project?
- 3) Realization of impact: Technological impact of the project in terms of energy transition:
 - a. How would you assess the realized technological innovation potential of you project? What evidence do you have?
 - b. What have been or still are main barriers for technological innovation and how did or are you going to deal with these?
 - c. How would you assess the transferability of the project achievements? Do you think that what has been achieved in your project can be done elsewhere?
 - d. If so: what kind of conditions (transferability) need to be fulfilled?

- 4) Realization of impact: Policy impact of the project and learning:
- a. Was the project developed as a response to a specific policy or set of policies either at the local/regional, national or European level? In other words: to which policy strategies or objectives at what level of scale does the project refer?
 - b. Besides a having impact on spatial development and technical innovation did the project also reach policy innovation, for instance novel forms of cooperation?
 - c. Do you have clear indications that what you have reached in terms of innovation (either territorial, technical or at the level of policy) has moved beyond the group of actual participants in the projects?
 - d. Do you think that current policies or policy frameworks (including legislation at federal/national or European level) need to change?
 - e. Which changes need to occur in the new NSR INTERREG 2014-2020 programme looking at the results of your project? (priorities, areas of intervention, budgets)

Cluster experiences

- 5) In case of a project which is part of a cluster we are interested in the cluster formation and expectations:
- a. How was the cluster put together (for instance: role of the NSR secretariat) and why did the project became part of a cluster of projects: what were the main anticipated benefits?
 - b. How well did you know the projects of the other partners?
 - c. Considering the different projects within the cluster: how do you evaluate the focus of the cluster? [question will probably touch upon learning potential and policy impact; see also below]
 - d. Did certain people or certain projects play a leading role in the cluster and how and why? Did all projects play the same role or were there differences, for instance in content or level of participation?
 - e. When the cluster approach emerged what did you think would/could be it main benefits? What were your general expectations?
 - f. Having discussed the project in which you have been involved: Were there specific expectations about an added value of the cluster approach? Were there any barriers of which you thought they might be overcome by a cluster approach?

- 6) In case of a project which is part of a cluster: Perceived benefits and barriers.
- a. Do you think that the perceived benefits have materialized? Which evidence?
 - a. Can you mention any barriers for realizing the full benefits of the cluster?
 - b. In the case of Build With Care & North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning: why did these projects became part of two clusters? [idem: question particularly relevant for the lead beneficiary, but it would not harm to ask other project partners about this]
 - c. Do you think that the perceived benefits have materialised?
 - d. Can you mention any barriers for realizing the full benefits of this twin cluster approach?
 - e. If you could start all over again: is there anything you would like to do differently? For instance: not two clusters but just one on energy related issues.
- 7) In case of the three stand-alone projects (Biochar, enercoast, E-harbours):
- a. Why did the project not participate in one of the clusters?
 - b. With hindsight: do you consider this a missed opportunity, and if so: why?
 - c. In spite of not participating in a cluster: did you liaise with other NSR energy projects and if so: for what reasons and was there any added value?