Provinsje Fryslân

Better chance of balance

The power of reciprocity

2024-2030

Frisian policy letter: Europe, with a special focus on Germany, 2024–2030





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Adopted by the Provincial Council of Friesland on 23 October 2024



Photo: Harrie Dijkstra

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Foreword

The Power of Reciprocity: The New Frisian Measure

At the end of the 19th century, the sea lock in Stavoren, with its length of 31.50 metres, was regarded as the Frisian standard measure. A vessel of that length was referred to as a 'maatkast' (standard-sized ship). Only ships up to that length, with a maximum draught of 2.20 metres, became the norm for navigating the Frisian inland waterways towards Groningen. The advantage for the province was that it only needed to maintain a limited number of navigable routes. Larger vessels could pass through the lock at Lemmer, but they were not permitted to enter the Frisian inland waterways. By 1930, it was becoming clear that Friesland had to move with the times in response to modern developments and the scaling-up of inland shipping and the region in general. For this reason, it was finally decided to construct the Prinses Margriet Lock at Lemmer and the Prinses Margriet Canal to Groningen. 'The New Frisian Measure'.[1][2][3]

Friesland has been literally navigating through its connections with the wider world for centuries. Zoom out: as a region and as a public authority, we position ourselves in relation to other regions and government authorities within the Netherlands and Europe. The era of the limiting Frisian measure a century ago has given way to the opening of lock gates. It symbolises the enduring connection and cooperation with the world around us. I regard this cooperation as a prerequisite for the innovation required to continue learning, doing business, and living well in this vibrant region.

The new Frisian measure represents Frisian identity: open to cooperation in warm relationships characterised by respect, equality, and a human-centred approach. It is only in this way that we, in line with the Frisian brand positioning, and drawing on the strength of reciprocity, can do it ourselves - together! That's how we preserve our Frisian way of doing things.[4]

Frisian identity also provides the necessary focus on what matters. We sail closer to the wind to achieve a dynamic balance between nature and water, sustainable innovations, and a liveable, vibrant environment. As a water-rich region, we relate to our natural and living environment through cooperation, within a continuous learning trajectory that will make us the most circular region of Europe by 2030. We keep the second official language of the Netherlands alive and maintain close, direct cooperation with our partners and other regions. Across borders, we seek each other out, collaborate, and engage in trade. We value our existing partnerships in interregional cooperation and consultation bodies, such as the Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN), the Wadden Sea Area Environmental Council (Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied), and the Regional Consultation Body for the IJsselmeer Coast (ROIJ)- within the framework of the Association of Provinces of the Netherlands (IPO). We maintain close relationships with the Dutch national government and with other countries. Our door is also open to new connections.

Europe is an ever-present reality in Friesland through legislation and regulations. From the Frisian region, we extend our hand towards a joint strategic approach in Europe with other regions: across different scales, within numerous networks and projects, and through European funding programmes.

Our contribution to creating even more opportunities together in mutual balance, through a decisive and dynamic course in Europe (with a special focus on Germany) is presented in this policy letter and implementation agenda.

I'm looking forward to working with you, each with our own role, on the basis of the outlined dynamics and the necessary focus, to take this forward together!

Friso Douwstra
Executive Member for Europe
Province of Friesland



Chapter 1:
Background and our way forward

Context

The Provincial Coalition Agreement 2023–2027, 'Oparbeidzje foar Fryslân' [Working Together for Friesland], includes the ambition for a new policy plan on Europe, with a special focus on Germany. This continues the regional cooperation focused on Europe, with new emphases introduced. The reason for this is the enormous importance of cooperation across various sectors within Europe, with a special focus on Germany. In the current era, this has become almost self-evident. We will be paying specific attention to Germany at various points throughout this document. Elsewhere, the text refers to Europe as a whole (including Germany). For those seeking further information on the significance of Europe - with a special focus on Germany - we refer you to Annex 1: Further explanations.

Results of the previous policy letter

Working at European scale is not new. Friesland has been engaged in this for many years, especially the cooperation with German partners. The first policy letter, 'Fryslân en Europa' [Friesland and Europe] 2019–2023, set an important direction by adopting a way of working that positioned Friesland as a region rather than a provincial authority. We set a target of €130 million in European subsidies up to 2027, visibly demonstrating the return on Frisian co-financing. Friesland as a region focused on its specialisations and innovative systems, enabling Frisian stakeholders to participate at European level, namely: Agri & food, agriculture in general, water technology, circular economy, nature-inclusive agriculture, maritime sector, Leeuwarden-Friesland 2028 (LF 2028), mobility, digitalisation, and the transition from healthcare to positive health.[5][6] In addition, other topics of interest to Europe and contributions to general prosperity in Friesland were included on the agenda as part of the Friesland Blue Delta regional development concept, such as sustainable tourism, intergovernmental cooperation, civic activities (exchanges), sporting events, etc.

1. What We Bring to the Table, Not What We Take From It
Since the previous policy letter, a focus on what Friesland contributes to European cooperation, rather than what it receives, has become an essential guiding principle. The natural consequence of Friesland's distinctiveness, strengths and added value for partners and regions is a strong substantive position.

2. Establishment of EuropaPact Fryslân [Friesland Europe Pact] and Increased European Awareness
In 2022, Frisian municipalities, and actors from the knowledge sector, business organisations and the province set up EuropaPact Fryslân (EPF). We regard this as an important first step in sharing knowledge and jointly creating enabling conditions for initiators of Frisian applications for European funding, even though not all Frisian stakeholders have yet joined the EPF. The objective that the Province of Friesland and Friesland as a region collectively support working at European scale is now widely embraced and practised. European awareness within Friesland has visibly increased.

3. Integrated Europe Portfolio
Within the Province of Friesland organisation, the Europe Portfolio is regarded as an indispensable link for integrated advisory services, knowledge sharing, monitoring, and connecting to key European networks.

4. Successful Participation in European Funds
Although financial volume is not an objective in itself, the level of subsidies received by Friesland from European funds (approximately €129 million between mid-2019 and early 2024) can only be described as highly successful. This is particularly evident in the areas of Agri & Food (CAP), the circular economy, digitalisation & high-tech systems and materials (HTSM), water technology, energy and climate, and healthcare.

5. Expansion of the Innovative Ecosystems
Frisian participation in innovative ecosystems operating at European level expanded between 2020 and 2024, particularly in the fields of the circular economy, water, and water technology. Participation and the Frisian position within European networks increased compared to the previous administrative period, especially German and Lower Saxon networks under Interreg A Deutschland–Nederland (the EU cross-border cooperation programme between Germany and the Netherlands) and the Netherlands–Lower Saxony cross-border cooperation agenda (GROS). New relationships and networks have also emerged in SME internationalisation and the Lely Line (a proposed railway line).

Lessons learned and the way forward

In addition to successes, we have also incorporated policy lessons from the previous period, which we now translate directly into new policy objectives.

1. Greater integration and coordination
From planning to reporting: the role of the integrated Europe Portfolio

Objectives for European cooperation are derived from substantive policy ambitions. The choice of European or German scale must serve policy objectives. The Europe Portfolio advises on this choice at the outset and subsequently supports implementation in an integrated manner, from planning through reporting to possible adjustments. With this, we are also responding to point 5 of the Europe Motion, which is of great importance.[7]
What this means:

a. European objectives and planning in policy letters
Previously, work remained largely sectoral despite the integrated Europe Portfolio. We are changing this. Policy themes are the priority, and European ambitions are incorporated into new thematic policy letters, thereby fulfilling point 5 of Motion 09.01 (29 May 2024). The portfolio holder for Europe acts here broadly as a proactive adviser, broker, navigator, and central hub for knowledge, data, and networks. Within this interplay, and based on an assessment framework, we consciously determine the most appropriate actions; for example, accessing funds, maintaining relationships, and operating within legal and regulatory frameworks.

b. The portfolio holder for Europe monitors and reports
annually to the Provincial Council via the Executive, based on measurable performance indicators derived from substantive policy objectives, rather than a target amount for European funding. Indicators may include roles such as project leader, participant, co-financier or adviser, effective use of funds, and public affairs efforts. European subsidies obtained are reported as a secondary outcome, in relation to their intended purpose. The portfolio holder also increases European awareness within Friesland and demonstrates how Europe can serve as a platform for the region.

c. Improved risk identification
European cooperation involves not only significant opportunities but also unforeseen circumstances, constraints, and risks affecting the achievement of objectives. We are therefore including a section in the Europe implementation agenda to identify critical success factors and risks (see implementation agenda). The risk management within our control is expressed by the actions listed above under 1, a, and b.

2. Greater Focus

The previously broad thematic approach led in some cases to sectoral implementation within the provincial organisation, and lacked alignment with the shared ‘home base’ of the Europe Portfolio. We will improve this by strengthening substantive and integrated coherence through three missions; Clean Nature, Healthy Economy and Happy People, along with eight strategic priorities, with the overarching goal being General Prosperity.

3. Role Awareness of Frisian Actors in Innovative Ecosystems

Working within innovative systems in a European context requires not only internal organisation but also regional structures in Friesland that support this approach. We can do more in this respect.

Greater insight into the different roles of Frisian partners within innovative ecosystems is required. On the one hand, there are those capable or potentially capable of developing innovative projects, and on the other, those able to create the conditions for successful implementation.
It has become evident that Friesland currently lacks sufficient organisational capacity and development strength, particularly in project development and leadership. Based on role awareness, we will hold each other accountable for assuming appropriate roles within the region and determine what is required to support this.

Chapter 2:
Overview of a Dynamic Balance

From a regional perspective, cooperation in Europe has many facets. It is a complex whole, not only due to the wide range of topics, but also due to the different arenas, timing, actors within and between regions, within the Netherlands, between Member States, and the distribution of responsibilities, roles, and interests in this cooperation.

We therefore prefer a systematic structure based on content, enabling proactive navigation through three elements of this cooperation: 1. Focus, 2. Operational Dimensions and 3. Distribution of Roles. This structure underpins this Europe policy letter. The interconnection between these elements and changing frameworks over time creates a permanent dynamic. As a region, we are directly connected to Europe (see Explanation 2: Europe, in Annex 1).

We manage, plan, monitor, and report in an integrated manner based on data. In the dynamic context of working at European scale, we will, in accordance with the request of the Provincial Council, report annually on the state of play as a basis for an annual progress debate.

Point 1 of Motion 09.01 of the Provincial Council (See Explanation 1: Motions and commitments of the Provincial Council) by the adoption of the initial memorandum on 29 May 2024 concerns substantive focus. In previous periods, we learned where Friesland distinguishes itself positively from other regions. We will build on this in our approach to successful cooperation. By recognising ongoing dynamics, we remain alert to unforeseen opportunities and the conditions required to respond flexibly. In this way, alongside the focus, we can continue to respond to unexpected developments, as also stated under point 5 of Motion 09.01 of 29 May 2024.

Accordingly, this policy letter presents an ambition for European cooperation within and beyond Friesland, based on Friesland's substantive strengths and guided by the principle of focus. This is elaborated in Chapter 2.2 - Three focus themes and eight strategic priorities, Chapter 2.3 - Three operational dimensions, and Chapter 2.4 - Two roles in European cooperation.

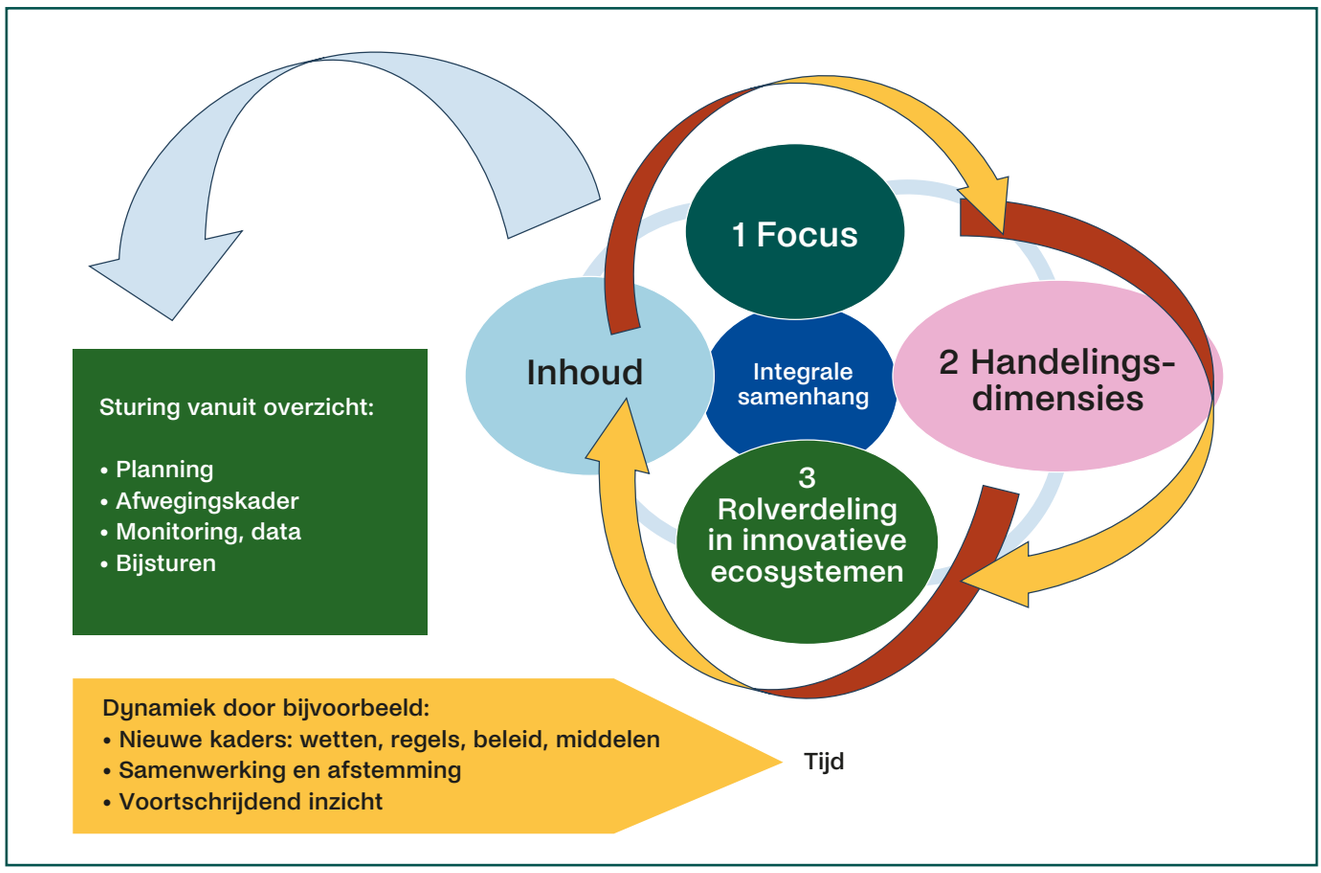


Fig. 2: Balance through overview

2.1 Content as the starting point

The Friesland Blue Delta symbol forms the basis of this integrated Europe policy letter. It represents the substantive DNA of the Frisian region and demonstrates the coherence between three missions that have to be kept in balance. From this, a profile of Friesland has emerged that reflects who we are and how we can succeed in cooperation with others.

All the activities undertaken by Friesland in the European context are assessed against this objective of balance. For the Europe policy letter, we are elaborating the full spectrum of the three missions, ensuring that economic priorities in the Blue Delta for the European context are presented in balance with environmental and socio-cultural aspects.

With this substantive profile, cooperation at European scale and the use of European instruments offer the greatest opportunities for Friesland.

We are also reviewing the strategic agenda of the European Council adopted on 27 June 2024 for even better opportunities for alignment between Frisian and European objectives (Motion 09.01 point 4).

Three Frisian missions for General Prosperity

By 2030, we aim to be the most circular region in Europe. We are pursuing this goal by working towards a balance between nature, people, and the economy, ensuring general prosperity in a clean, healthy, and happy Friesland. To achieve this balance, we are committed to one focus theme

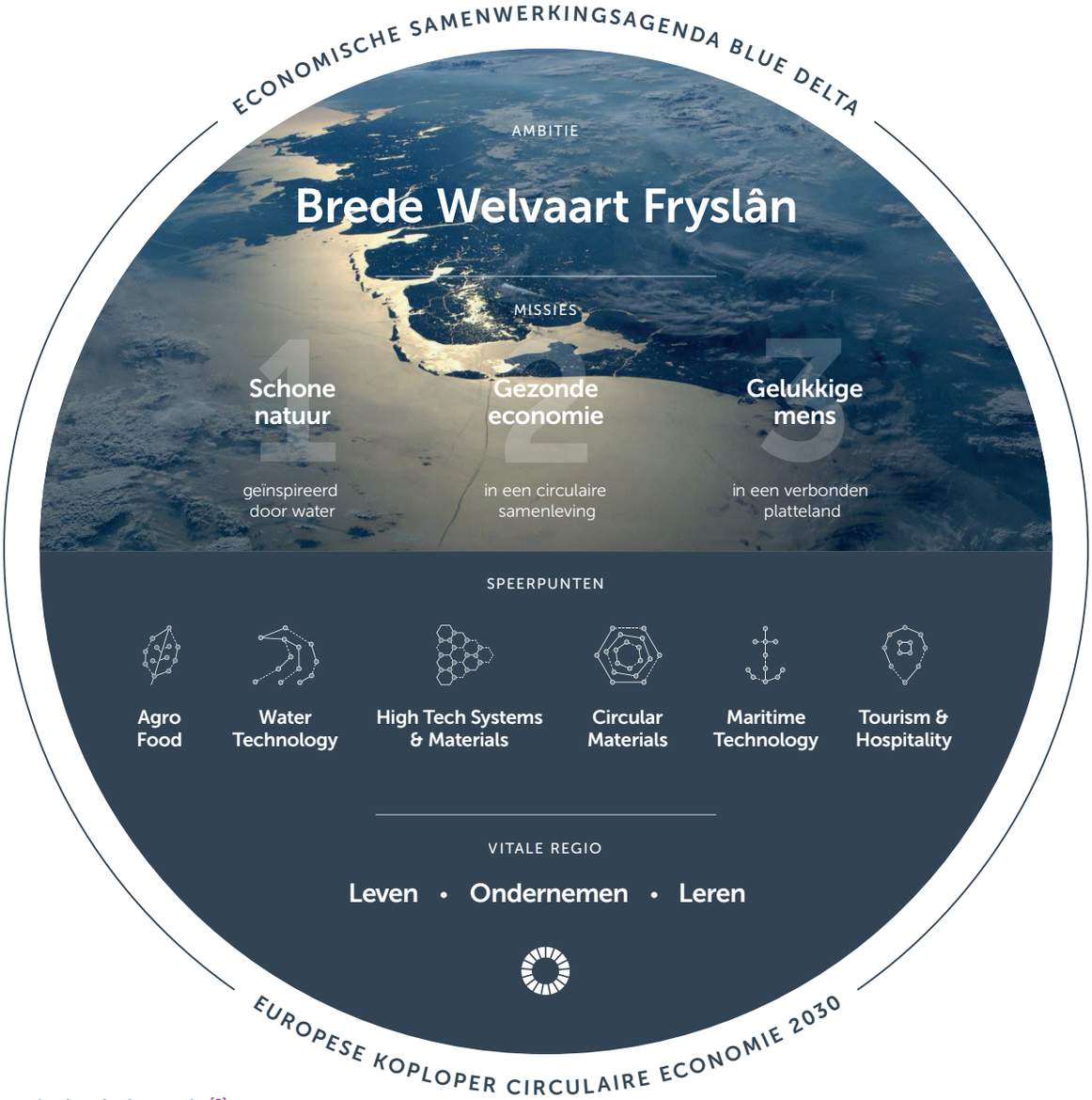


Figure 1: Friesland Blue Delta[8]

per mission, placing the concept of balance at the forefront not only within but also between the focus themes, where we welcome synergies.

1. Clean Nature - Focus: Nature and water
Natural values are embedded in one of the three missions. Alongside statutory European responsibilities, we therefore give nature a prominent status in this policy letter. Water, together with soil, plays a crucial role in this balance. The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site therefore holds a special status in this, as does, for example, the peat meadow area. Friesland, as a delta water region, has longstanding expertise in water and soil.

2. Healthy Economy - Focus: Circular technological innovation
We view this as the engine of a circular and therefore healthy Frisian economy in balance. All strategic priorities within this mission and focus contribute to Friesland's competitive position and thus to cooperation. Water and soil again play a central role. In European policy, Friesland can make an international impact as an initiator and active partner in projects and other activities. European funds are crucial in this regard.

3. Happy People - Focus: Quality of life
Friesland is a rural region. The mission of a connected community is also strengthened in the European context through a broad commitment to the quality of life in a connected rural area. Relevant themes in this context include the Frisian language, culture, the hospitality economy, mobility via the Lely Line, and digital innovations that strengthen connections within the region and beyond.

The foundation of the Blue Delta is a vibrant region with everything that supports all three missions. Friesland can only succeed with high-quality living, working, and recreational conditions. The business world, educational institutions, and public authorities collaborate on this. Together, they make the Frisian commitment to Europe complete, especially if it reflects the range of European Funds available to the region.

2.2 Focus as a principle

Focus is expressed through:
- 3 focus themes
- 8 strategic priorities
- 3 operational dimensions
- 2 roles in innovative ecosystems
- And the choice for the broadest possible coalition at all times.

Focus is a key principle in this policy letter, implementing point 1. from Motion 01, CDA, PvdA, VVD, D66, FNP, and Jonker (member of the provincial council), adopted, 29 May 2024. Within each mission and focus, themes have been elaborated that guide Friesland's efforts in developing and implementing European projects (including the use of co-financing), public affairs activities, and regulatory implementation. Within these themes, various strategic priorities are identified. Strategic priorities guide Frisian initiatives for the development and implementation of European innovation projects (including the use of co-financing) and public affairs activities. The actual role of Frisian participants and the added value for Friesland as a region in projects will largely determine the level of engagement, including Frisian co-financing. In this respect, we are adopting a long-term strategy aligned with European programme periods, focusing on main lines rather than detail. The strategic priorities are closely linked to SME activities in the areas of internationalisation and digitalisation in general.

Using the resources and labour available, we also contribute to projects and activities which support the essential infrastructure of the Blue Delta (Chapter 2), including: sustainable energy, the Frisian language, culture, the labour market, positive health, education, the business climate, mobility in general, and smart mobility. Special dossiers such as the Wadden Sea Area and Peat Meadow Areas have a distinct status. For Germany, this also specifically includes the Frisian language and the Lely Line. These dossiers are not separate themes but are addressed in connection with the focus themes and strategic priorities in this policy letter. The overarching approach is integrated alignment and cross-sectoral cooperation wherever possible. Young people receive particular attention: where possible, we respond to their initiatives or involve them in European cooperation.

Three Frisian focus themes and eight strategic priorities



The columns indicate which of the three dimensions from chapter 1 apply per key priority and theme.
F = Funds (subsidy programs and projects),
P = Position (influence and lobby),
K = Frameworks (policy, legislation and regulations)

With the height of the columns, we indicate the relative ratio of the expected effort per dimension. This is not based on any calculation.

Focus Theme 1: Strengthening nature and water



Explanations on the focus theme Nature and Water, the strategic priority, and additional themes in relation to Europe, with a special focus on Germany:



Strategic Priority 1: Strengthening nature and water & European legislation and regulation

Strengthening nature for a healthy living environment and biodiversity is one of the overarching missions within the Friesland Blue Delta. The recently adopted Natuurherstelverordening [Nature Restoration Regulation] focuses on restoring biodiversity and our living environment in such a way that it reduces the impact of climate change. Due to the direct effect of this regulation on provincial responsibilities, the national government is tasked with drawing up, within two years, a nature restoration plan to fully repair damage to Dutch nature. The province is working together with relevant sectors to identify the scope for implementation within the rules. In addition, together with the national government and other provinces within the framework of the IPO, we will continue to work on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our efforts within other frameworks. The approach here is to act at the largest possible scale in cooperation with Frisian, Dutch, German, and other European authorities.

In implementing the biodiversity restoration programme, we are increasingly seeking opportunities at European level in the field of knowledge exchange, for example regarding meadow bird management, the International Flyway, agri-environmental policy, and green-blue infrastructure. We value the Frisian approach of favouring encouragement over enforcement. We will therefore continue to explore and utilise opportunities within European programmes that are substantively linked to this policy area, such as clean, safe, and sufficient water, soil, peat meadow areas, and the Wadden Sea, within the policy frameworks and available possibilities in Friesland. All in all, recent legal developments in Europe are leading the Province of Friesland to place greater emphasis on Legislation, Regulatory Frameworks, and Positioning, enabling it to identify emerging opportunities at an early stage and actively influence their development.

Friesland lies in a delta and is therefore a water-rich province. We seek cooperation with Wetterskip Fryslân (the Water Board in Friesland), while also operating independently to deliver our contribution in line with what the Netherlands and Europe may expect of us in the context of climate adaptation and transition (Green Deal).

We exchange information with other deltas and water-rich regions comparable to Friesland where this contributes to jointly addressing issues concerning sufficient, clean, and safe water. Utilising funding remains essential, and linking funding streams is also strongly preferred here.

Additional Theme: Strengthening Nature and Water with Germany.

In addition to European nature objectives, we are particularly interested in the German approach within our cooperation with Germany. What makes the working methods used in various German federal states successful? In implementing the European biodiversity restoration programme, we are increasingly seeking opportunities with Germany for knowledge exchange, for example on meadow bird management, the International Flyway, agri-environmental policy, and green-blue infrastructure. Here too, we value the Frisian approach of favouring encouragement over enforcement. We will therefore continue to explore and utilise opportunities within European programmes that are substantively linked to this policy area, such as clean, safe, and sufficient water, soil, peat meadow areas, and the Wadden, within the policy frameworks and available possibilities in Friesland. All in all, recent legal developments in Europe are leading the Province of Friesland to place greater emphasis on Legislation, Regulatory Frameworks, and Positioning, enabling it to identify emerging opportunities at an early stage and actively influence their development. Here, we are exploring the possibility of pooling forces with German regions.

Additional Theme: Sustainable Energy Across Europe

In its substantive contribution to the objectives of the Green Deal, the transition towards sustainable energy fits within the mission of Clean Nature.

We see opportunities in the areas of aqua-thermal energy and green gas (the Frisian 'Drieslag'), where knowledge development should focus on balancing the energy network (energy hubs) and on local ownership, including the realisation of collective heat systems. With this 'Drieslag' approach, Friesland also makes a concrete contribution to reducing nitrogen emissions. The Frisian contribution to the target of 55% CO_2 reduction by 2030 (as set out in the European Green Deal) will, according to the Friesland Energy Programme, be achieved by utilising the quality and resources available in our region. We will also promote Frisian sustainable energy innovations in Europe to help boost the global sustainability of energy generation. Within the sustainable energy portfolio, the opportunities for hydrogen are viewed as a secondary priority for Friesland. Innovations in this field originating from Wetsus are regarded by the province of Friesland as economic activities. This additional theme applies across Europe.

Focus Theme 2: Circular technological innovation



Explanations on the focus theme Circular technical innovation, the strategic priorities, and additional theme in relation to Europe

Technical circular innovation is the driving force behind Friesland's key economic sectors. The priorities within this focus theme apply across Europe. In addition, the topic of SME internationalisation is specifically focused on cooperation with Germany.

Strategic Priority 2: Agri-food

Friesland is an overwhelmingly agricultural province, with approximately 20% of the Netherlands' dairy cattle and an agro-cluster with a growing added value of around €3.4 billion per year.[9] There are some major challenges in the areas of climate and nature, as well as legislation and directives forming part of the European Green Deal. Alongside this, there is a need for food security, a vital rural area, and prospects for the agricultural sector. Agriculture is therefore a major dossier on the European, national and regional political agenda, and it requires full commitment across all three operational dimensions in which Friesland as a region can act (see chapter 2.3). Changes in policy at all these levels mean that the disclaimer in the introduction is particularly applicable to this strategic priority . We will continue to pursue as broadly as possible all opportunities that Europe offers for Frisian agriculture. This means we will be active in all three European operational dimensions in Chapter 2.3, albeit with varying intensity and in appropriate coalitions of Frisian and international stakeholders.

We want Friesland to remain at the forefront, both in Europe and globally, with a strong, sustainable, and innovative agri-food cluster. We distinguish ourselves through the sustainability and small footprint of our agricultural and dairy products, and our pursuit of a good balance between agriculture and nature. We achieve this by continuously driving innovation in the broadest sense (not only technical or technological), and by investing in a strong knowledge ecosystem in Friesland in relation to the agri-food sector. Our knowledge and innovations are valuable export products and opportunities for cooperation. They strengthen the economy in Friesland, and help future-proof agriculture at every scale, from local to global. Examples include innovations in seed potato production, meadow bird protection, and closing nutrient cycles. At the same time, we consider maintaining a critical mass within the primary agricultural sector in Friesland to be equally important.

We support a viable business model and future perspective for our farmers, and the implementation of our policy, in which European subsidies, and not least the National Strategic Plan (NSP),[10] are of great importance. A rural area with a good quality of life forms part of this. As a fertile delta region, we advocate sufficient regulatory space, for example through goal-orientated governance, for our food production within European legislation. This includes manure policy, nature policy, and water quality policy. A European or regional food strategy can help here, whereby regions specialise in types of agriculture suited to their climate and culture and subsequently exchange products. Finally, through European lobbying for our innovation and food strategy, we seek connections with similar regions in North-West Europe, particularly regarding the relationship between water, soil and agriculture, and peat meadow areas in relation to climate, for example in Germany.

We seek cooperation with German agricultural regions for sustainable innovations and small-footprint agricultural and dairy production to support our goal of achieving a good balance between agriculture and nature. Weser-Ems is known for its high standard in agricultural-technical innovation. In the field of dairy processing, this also applies to, among others, Kiel and Schleswig-Holstein. We see particular opportunities in cooperation between comparable agricultural regions in these areas and Friesland (in terms of climate and soil), especially regarding knowledge exchange on dairy and regional products. We are continuing the dialogue through existing networks, and we are also seeking to expand the circle of stakeholders and German regions involved. We find common ground in shared plans to jointly position ourselves towards Europe.

We promote trade missions within the sector, jointly attend trade fairs where possible (such as the Grüne Woche), and explore opportunities for alignment with the Fryslân Paviljoen initiative. Within this sector, we work in an integrated manner in connection with water, nature & climate, digitalisation & high-tech systems and materials, etc. Following the adoption of the new Frisian Agricultural Policy, we will, where necessary, update the relevant sections in the Europe policy letter.

Strategic Priority 3: Water and water technology



Water forms the basis of all aspects of our daily lives: from food production, health and nature to economic development. For a healthy natural environment, society, and economy, it is crucial that sufficient water of the right quality is available. Due to climate change, pollution, waste, population growth, and a sharp increase in use and depletion of finite resources, many parts of the world are already facing an acute shortage of clean water. In addition, there are major challenges, such as food security, the energy transition, housing demand, biodiversity and circularity, in which the sustainable availability and quality of water play a key role. Water and water technology are areas in which Friesland has particular expertise and with which we can distinguish ourselves in Europe. Over the past 20 years, WaterCampus has developed into one of Europe's leading innovation ecosystems in the field of water. Wetsus is a European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology and provides the link to academic research. Partner organisations such as Water Alliance, the Centre of Expertise Water Technology (CEW), and the Centre for Innovative Craftsmanship (Centrum voor Innovatief Vakmanschap, CIV) for water ensure strong connections with industry and higher and vocational education institutions. Knowledge and understanding of how our water and soil systems function are continuously evolving. To ensure our province is climate-resilient and future-proof, we increasingly use our water and soil systems as the basis and guiding principle in spatial planning.

Regional and European cooperation in water and water technology has, over recent decades, led to positive developments in both water safety in Friesland and its economic position. These collaborations will become even more important in the coming years due to stricter European legislation and guidelines relating to soil, and the ever-increasing pressure on available water (including drinking water). The challenges around water transcend provincial and national borders, and in this context we must, together with Wetterskip Fryslân, seek cooperation with partner organisations across Europe.

Leeuwarden, with the WaterCampus and Wetsus at its core, is the water technology capital of the Netherlands. We are making strong progress towards becoming the water technology capital of Europe. The WaterCampus plays an important role in attracting companies from outside the Netherlands to Friesland, strengthening its position and enhancing the attractiveness of the business climate in Friesland.

We aim to further reinforce this position, for which continued strong cooperation between the WaterCampus, Frisian authorities and Europe is essential. We will continue to stimulate international project development, with attention to synergies with other focus themes such as the circular economy and agri-food. Communication is important here, as we need to effectively convey the story of the Frisian WaterCampus nationally and internationally.

At present, cooperation with German regions in the field of water and water technology is less developed than with other European regions (such as Scandinavia and Southern Europe). Nevertheless, it is clear that our German counterparts are showing increasing interest in water-related innovation and a stronger focus on pooling forces both regionally and interregionally. We will further explore opportunities for cooperation and make use of both existing and new partnerships and joint subsidy programmes with German regions.

Strategic Priority 4: Circular materials



Friesland has been working on the circular economy for quite some time. Significant progress has been made, positioning Friesland among Europe's leading regions. The Circular Friesland Association (Vereniging Circulair Friesland), established from the business community, now has more than 170 members, representing a broad coalition of companies, public authorities, and educational institutions. At the outset, considerable effort was required to mobilise stakeholders. We have now entered a new phase, focusing more on initiating programmes and projects and adopting a more action-orientated approach. Friesland distinguishes itself through high-level expertise and a practical, action-driven

approach, particularly in circular plastics and biobased construction.

To support regional ambitions in the circular economy, we have also been working for some time on a European agenda to strengthen our positioning at EU level. Several European projects have therefore been developed, implemented, and are ongoing, such as BBoBB, Plastix and FRONTSH1P. This has not only generated European funding, but also extensive knowledge exchange and recognition from other regions that Friesland is among the frontrunners. In addition, we have developed a strong European network, and Friesland is a prominent member of the Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+). We also invest in lobbying and public affairs, including organising events and actively participating in the Committee of the Regions on circular economy topics. All these efforts have resulted in Friesland being internationally recognised as a leading region. Friesland has for some time been cited in international publications, including in Germany, as a model region for the circular economy.[11]

In 2025, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our efforts. We have made progress, but we intend to go much further. This also applies to our European activities in the circular economy. We are currently working with the Circular Friesland Association (Vereniging Circulair Friesland), Frisian municipalities, Friesland Innovation Pact (Innovatiepact Fryslân) and EuropaPact Fryslân on revising our European strategy. To this end, we aim to expand European project development toward leading funds such as the Horizon Programme, benefiting the Frisian business sector, while strengthening and growing our network, and, where possible, pursuing targeted lobbying to keep European ambitions in the circular economy moving forward unabated. Once this strategy is finalised, it will be incorporated into the Europe/Germany policy letter.

The 10-year anniversary coincides with Germany Year in Friesland and calls for mutual reinforcement between both initiatives. We aim to further invest in cooperation with German partners, such as those in Hamburg, Bremen, Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Lower Saxony, within both existing and new developments and networks

ACR+

"No green ambitions will be achieved without circular economy and cities and regions are at the heart of sustainability action. It is time for cities and regions to lead the game."

Within and beyond the Interreg A programme area, we are working towards a shared and consistent understanding of what is meant by the circular economy in Europe and the Netherlands, including the associated responsibilities of governments and stakeholders.

Building on Friesland's specialisation in circular plastics and construction materials, we are particularly interested in cross-fertilisation of innovative knowledge and technology with German partners where similar specialisations exist. In this context, we are also seeking examples of enabling legislation. Where this aligns with our approach to innovation ecosystems and project consortia, we will take a leading role in projects more frequently, and encourage Frisian stakeholders to do the same.

In connection with the Fryslân Paviljoen initiative, the region supports these ambitions through organising and participating in trade missions and trade fairs. All of this contributes to our ambition to become the most circular region in Europe by 2030.

Strategic Priority 5: HTSM (high-tech systems and materials)



The Innovation Cluster Drachten (ICD) is the driving force behind the HTSM sector in Friesland and the Northern Netherlands. We encourage the ICD to play a leading role in European cooperation, contributing to smart, circular and connected solutions. The HTSM sector plays a crucial role in enabling innovation in other sectors. We consider the relationship between HTSM, the circular economy, agri-food and the maritime sector to be of great importance. HTSM innovations offer clear opportunities, particularly in water and water technology, for collaboration with Lower Saxony.

Strategic Priority 6: Maritime sector

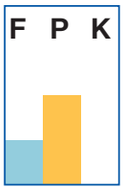


As in the previous administrative period, the maritime sector remains a key focus in cooperation with German partners. In the previous period, Friesland contributed through the Interreg A programme to supporting innovative education, which not only gave a major boost to the sector as a profession, but also created a strong network across the North-East Netherlands and North-West Lower Saxony. Building on these results, we now also highlight other promising aspects of the maritime sector in Friesland. These include technological innovations in smart shipping, circular shipping, and green shipping, with the Provincial Port Vision (Provinciale Havenvisie) guiding objectives for water infrastructure in Friesland. For the development of the freight corridor, we obviously work together with the provinces of Groningen, Drenthe, Overijssel, Flevoland, and Utrecht. We promote trade missions to support these developments. We consider potential synergies with regional deals (national government), the

Wadden Sea Fund (Waddenfonds) and the Wadden Sea Area Investment Framework (Investeringskader Waddengebied).

In addition, Friesland actively explores cooperation opportunities with other European regions in the fields of green shipping, smart shipping, and circular shipping. Alongside Interreg A, we make use of opportunities offered by Interreg North Sea Region, Interreg North-West Europe, and the Horizon programme. We also seek alignment with the Wadden Sea Area Investment Framework for port development projects (see also Chapter 2.3).

Additional Theme Germany Internationalisation of SMEs



As in the previous administrative period, we support the internationalisation of SMEs in Friesland. In this context, trade relations with Germany and related ambitions are most prominent. We stimulate activities through the Fryslân Paviljoen initiative (footnote) in various ways, such as organising trade missions, working visits, opening up previously untapped ecosystems within key Frisian SME sectors, and establishing new contacts in Germany to support this ambition. Particular attention is given to promoting trade in circular goods to and from the region. A strong business climate for circular enterprises is an important precondition, which we have secured in the Frisian Economic Policy letter. We are also focusing on expanding networks in the field of education within key Frisian sectors, and we support increased participation of Frisian vocational education institutions in the Rijnland Institute. The European objective of security, including reduced dependence on other regions of the world, offers significant opportunities
for SMEs.

Focus Theme 3: Quality of Life

Residents of Friesland, local businesses and civil society organisations are highly engaged with their living environment. Frisians, whether born and raised locally, newly settled, or increasingly with a migration background, feel a shared responsibility for their living environment and for maintaining the quality of life, as demonstrated by research conducted by Planbureau Friesland [Friesland Planning Office] in 2019.[12] When an idea emerges in Friesland, stakeholders proverbially come together around the table. Developing plans jointly between government and residents, and implementing them at regional level, is considered a key asset. As the Province of Friesland, we therefore explicitly look to European funding instruments such as LEADER. We consider the Rural Pact a valuable initiative, and welcome the participation of local authorities, vocational colleges (ROCs), and Friesland Werkt! (the employers' service point). Around 20 schools in practical, secondary, and special education make use of the European Social Fund (ESF).

We are also positive about participation in the P10 network in relation to European-oriented activities. This enables community-based projects while also facilitating knowledge exchange at European level and direct involvement of residents as partners in European cooperation. Themes such as positive health and sport contribute to the quality of life. We will continue to position an international-scale sports complex such as Thialf as a venue for international events. We see the Lower Saxon programme Zukunftsräume as an opportunity for cross-border knowledge exchange. We are also exploring opportunities for cooperation between the LEADER programmes of Friesland and Lower Saxony.

Frisian Knowledge Sector: Education and Labour Market

Frisian knowledge institutions form an essential and enabling part of Frisian-European cooperation aimed at enhancing regional quality of life, where good education, research, and eventually employment are aligned with a sustainable labour market, both now and in the future. Bachelor's and Master's programmes at the University of Groningen Campus Friesland, NHL Stenden, Wetsus and Van Hall Larenstein, as well as the aforementioned vocational education institutions, are key actors in relation to programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon. These institutions attract international students, provide international exchange and other international opportunities for Frisian students, and facilitate the inflow and retention of international knowledge through connections with global professionals.



Explanations on the focus theme Quality of Life, the strategic priorities, and additional themes in relation to Europe

Strategic Priority 7 Europe: Hospitality Economy

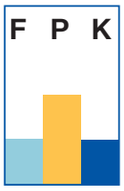


Friesland is a popular destination for visitors.[13] Between October 2021 and December 2022, Friesland recorded 942,000 overnight stays, while 3.5 million people visited the region for day trips from just across the Dutch borders with Germany and Belgium.[14] However, the share of international visitors in Friesland (20%) remains significantly below the national average. Friesland aims to become the most sustainable destination in Europe, with the Frisian hospitality sector contributing, among other things, to advancing circularity within the region through European

cooperation. The hospitality sector makes a significant contribution to the Frisian economy. Both inbound tourism and recreational opportunities for residents are important in this regard. Achieving the ambition of becoming the most sustainable destination in Europe requires smart growth, where impacts on a pleasant and healthy living environment are always taken into account.

We make use of opportunities within European funding programmes and link the hospitality economy with other key Frisian sectors such as water, heritage systems, and unique natural systems and landscapes, including the Wadden Sea area (and its islands) and peat meadow areas.

Strategic Priority 8 Europe: Frisian Language



The Frisian language symbolises, in a broad sense, an essential contribution to the expression of the European way of life, one of the six priorities of the European Commission (2019–2024). In implementing the new language policy 'Fansels Frysk', our international cooperation is largely directed at continuing existing policy through participation in networks in which we are already active. In relation to Germany, this includes cooperation between the Frisian regions and with embassies. At European level, we remain active within the Council of Europe and make use of the UNESCO Cities network. Based on shared goals, we are promoting cooperation with Germany and Denmark, while also seeking to establish new connections for knowledge exchange. We consider innovation in Frisian-language AI to be important. We also seek synergies with cultural and other policy areas, thereby continuing the legacy of LF2018. In this respect, we are helping protect and promote the Frisian language as required under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (subject to triennial monitoring by the Council of Europe). We remain active within the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

In the new Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture (Bestjoersôfspraak Fryske Taal en Kultuer, BFTK), we link language to regional identity. We recognise the 'right to stay' as part of cohesion policy and will make use of the relevant European funding instruments. (The Frisian Language dossier is specific to Germany. See below.)

Additional Themes Europe: Quality of Life - Culture



Friesland benefits from a strong professional cultural sector. We value the progress made since LF2018, whereby cultural institutions have become increasingly capable of engaging independently and successfully with Europe. We see our role as a proactive advisor and, where necessary, a facilitator in development and implementation processes. We also welcome cultural initiatives that support the Friesland Blue Delta, and co-support these within European subsidy programmes. Our goal is for the Frisian cultural sector to maintain and further strengthen its strong position in Europe, building on the success of LF2018. In European terms, culture also includes both tangible cultural heritage (such as landscapes and monuments) and intangible cultural heritage (such as traditions and customs), which not only makes a significant contribution to the well-being of citizens within European cooperation, but also contributes to preserving what is distinctly European in all its diversity.



- Digitalisation

Digitalisation is a key priority of the EU. In Germany, particularly in Lower Saxony and Weser-Ems, digitalisation is also seen as a key enabling condition for broader innovation processes. It acts as a catalyst for innovation across multiple themes. It transverses various other themes, supporting digital transformation in sectors such as agri-food, circular construction materials and plastics, maritime technology, mobility, and water technology. From our position with the Innovation Cluster Drachten, we promote cooperation with German partners in the field of Digitalisation and HTSM. We engage with each other through existing partnerships and subsidy programmes, while remaining open to new forms of cooperation. We support stronger alignment of Friesland as a region with the European Digital decade 2030. (With regard to Germany, digitalisation is considered an additional theme.)

Dossiers with a specific status:



- Dossier 1 - Europe-wide: The Wadden Sea Area

Since 2009, the Netherlands, and in particular the provinces of North Holland, Friesland, and Groningen, have shared responsibility for the Wadden Sea Natural UNESCO World Heritage Site with Germany and Denmark. This management is organised within the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, including various thematic working groups and bodies in which the Netherlands, and Friesland specifically, collaborate with German and Danish partners.

On the Dutch side, there is also the national Wadden Sea Area Environmental Council (Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied), chaired by Government Commissioner Brok, in which key sectors, such as seaports, nature and environmental organisations, fisheries, agriculture, recreation and tourism, science, Wadden management bodies and public authorities, pool their efforts. Opportunities for alignment between the Agenda for the Wadden Sea Area 2050 (Agenda 2050 Waddengebied) and Frisian European policy are evident. We support linking initiatives that contribute both to the objectives of European policy and to Wadden Sea policy. The Wadden Islands are unique and, within the Netherlands, are found only in North Holland and Friesland. Together with the Frisian Wadden municipalities, we aim to strengthen cooperation between the Wadden Islands within a European context, and in particular with Germany, not least in relation to European innovative projects.

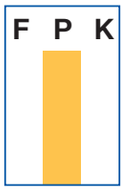


- Dossier 2 (Whole of Europe): the Peat Meadow Areas

Friesland is working to ensure its peat meadow areas have a sustainable future. Our ambition is that by 2050 these areas will have reached a new and lasting equilibrium: peat degradation, land subsidence, and CO_2 emissions will have largely ceased.[15] In some areas, peat formation is even expected to resume. The peat meadow landscapes and their historical development remain clearly recognisable and have retained their quality. To make this long-term perspective a reality, it is necessary to slow land subsidence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring the area remains attractive for living, working and recreation.

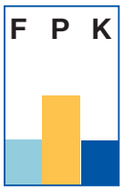
This requires a balance between the interests of agriculture, nature, water, housing, landscape, cultural heritage and archaeology, as well as a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders in the area.

Peat meadow challenges are also present in several other European countries, including Ireland, Finland, Sweden, the Baltic States, Poland and Germany, particularly in Lower Saxony[16]. We intend to explore, in consultation with Lower Saxony, whether cooperation on this dossier is feasible and beneficial, and whether mutual learning between approaches is possible.



- Dossier 3 (Germany and Europe): The Lely Line

With regard to the development of the Lely Line, we cooperate at interregional level within the Netherlands with the national government and the provinces of Groningen and Flevoland. In line with our mission for a well-connected region and a circular and sustainable economy, we are committed to strengthening the connection between Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Scandinavia. In cooperation with Germany, we welcome the positive position expressed by the Northern German federal states regarding the Lely Line, as stated during the 4+1 Treffen political-administrative coordination meeting by Lower Saxony (GROS, see below and Annex 2). Following the completion of the ongoing study into the added value of the Lely Line along the aforementioned route through Northern Germany, we will consider next steps together with the other Dutch partners and our German counterparts. The national government remains our primary interlocutor and is essential in enabling the intensive cooperation and European-level opportunities required to realise this ambition.



- Dossier 4 (Specifically for Germany): Frisian Language

We are aware that the status of the Frisian language in Germany differs from that in the Netherlands. We align with shared objectives within the cooperation between the Frisian regions. In implementing the new language policy 'Fansels Frysk', our international cooperation is largely directed at continuing existing policy through participation in networks in which we are already active. At European level, we remain involved in the Council of Europe and make use of the UNESCO Cities network. Based on shared goals, we are promoting cooperation with Germany and Denmark, while also seeking to establish new connections for knowledge exchange. We consider innovations in AI in the Frisian language as a function for minority languages to be important. We are also seeking links with cultural and other policy areas to enable cross-sectoral synergies. In this respect, we are helping protect and promote the Frisian language as required under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (subject to triennial monitoring by the Council of Europe). In addition, Low Saxon, a language distinct from Frisian and spoken in Weststellingwerf, Ooststellingwerf and large parts of the cross-border region on both sides side, can serve as a connecting factor in the border region.

2.3 Three Operational Dimensions: The Region & Europe

The region of Friesland acts in relation to Europe across three distinct operational dimensions.
1. European Frameworks
2. Funds
3. Positioning

All three operational dimensions are interconnected from the regional perspective and can influence one another (see Fig. 1), although the scope, timing and modes of action differ. The operational dimensions differ in terms of implementation (ranging from mandatory to voluntary) and in their respective timeframes. Awareness of these operational dimensions, as they apply across various areas of European policy, underpins Friesland's operational strategies and the governance mechanisms required to steer its engagement.

1 Frameworks: Policy, Legislation and Regulation, MFF

European policy is determined by the European Council (see Fig. 2). European rules and laws, established by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union are in place to support European policy. These rules directly or indirectly affect the lives of citizens and businesses; at the same time, they constitute the framework for public policy (e.g. the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive, the Nitrates Directive, and the Nature Restoration Law, as well as the directives on the free movement of goods and persons within Europe, etc.). These frameworks are a given, and for as long as the rules are in force, we implement and comply with them.

The region of Friesland implements the measures at its discretion. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is likewise a European given, determining the EU funds available for the implementation of the European frameworks outlined here.

2 European Funds and subsidy programmes

In addition, Europe offers a broad menu of funds and programmes for Member States and regions to implement their own policy alongside European policy. All actors in the region of Friesland may choose whether or not to make use of these. Subsidy programmes can also play an important role in the implementation of laws and regulations. Through cooperation within Friesland and/or with national/international partners from other parts of Europe, European subsidies may be accessed for the implementation of our substantive policy and the acquisition of additional resources. For an overview of the subsidy funds with which Friesland works, we refer to Explanation 2: Europe.



3 Positioning

For the policy, legislation, and regulation dimension and the subsidy programme dimension, the region has very limited opportunities to exert influence. These limited opportunities arise during processes of change in policy, regulation, and programmes, for example following elections or during Midterm Reviews (MRTs)sionen[17]. With regard to legislation and regulation, the route usually runs via the Dutch Cabinet, but we are not entirely dependent on it. Through the Committee of the Regions, it is also possible to maintain contacts and even to place matters of importance to Friesland on the agenda. EU Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament and other Brussels-based bodies are also accessible for advocacy purposes. Where opportunities arise, we seize them.

How can Friesland achieve a successful and proactive position?

We use the appropriate bodies and processes in policy reforms, as well as for advising on new European funding programmes and conditions. In this context, we adopt a proactive and strategic approach via the following entry points:

1 **Providing regional input to central government for negotiations in the Council of the European Union.**
2. **Regional participation in European bodies and the Council of Europe**[18]
   a) The Committee of the Regions: providing input to advice addressed to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament (currently via Deputy Douwstra and Alderman Jonkman of Opsterland);
   b) Public consultation processes within the European context, such as the preparation of new European subsidy programmes and the Northern Netherlands Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS3);

c) European subsidy programmes for the implementation of Frisian policy;
d) The Council of Europe (currently via Deputy Folkerts).

An overview of European bodies and committees is available in Explanation 2: Europe.

3. **Positioning: Friesland is visible and up to date**
   Opportunities for influence in Europe increase with the visibility of the region of Friesland. To this end, cooperation with other actors in the Northern Netherlands and wider interregional contexts, at national level and in cross-border contexts, is an important factor. Greater impact is achieved together with like-minded partners, and the larger the coalition, the greater the likelihood of success. We ensure that we are as well informed as possible about relevant planned and unforeseen processes, decision-making moments, and the associated tables, institutions, bodies, and other committees relating to the European Union.

   Accordingly, we make use of existing and new networks between public authorities, knowledge institutions, and business networks. European subsidy programmes and projects in which Friesland participates as a region are regarded as breeding grounds for such coalitions. We organise events, trade missions, and exchanges, and we accept invitations to take part in them.

   Furthermore, we participate in consultations within the framework of the Association of Frisian Municipalities (Vereniging Friese Gemeenten) (VFG), the Association of Provinces of the Netherlands (Interprovinciaal Overleg) (IPO), the House of the Dutch Provinces (HNP), the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU (PVNL) and the Northern Netherlands lobby.

4. **Friesland is familiar with the European Union's planning:**
   Successful and efficient engagement with Europe depends on having a clear understanding of the European Union's planning, and of when and through which channels specific actions must be completed. It is equally important to coordinate in a timely manner with the necessary coalition partners on a given issue. The greater the scale of joint action, the greater the chance of successfully placing items on the European agenda.

   The timing for any engagement differs in each case across the operational dimensions of fund implementation, implementation of legislation and regulation, and influence on decision-making. We pool integrated information and knowledge on this for efficient deployment from the region of Friesland within the Europe portfolio, together with Public Affairs, supported by EuropaPact Fryslân. An example timeline of various European and regional periods is available in Explanation 2: Europe.

2.4 Roles in innovative ecosystems

Innovative ecosystems consist of collaborating actors seeking to realise innovations around a substantive theme. It always begins with an idea; everything else requires organisational capacity. In Friesland, such organisational capacity is not readily available, and we cannot afford the luxury of operating entirely independently. By participating in innovative ecosystems (networks), we increase the likelihood of achieving successes through the pooling of strengths that we could not realise alone. We remain active in the networks in which we participate and seek new, suitable networks wherever possible. We greatly value the contribution of partners in these networks, as Friesland benefits from the successes that arise from them. For further information and overviews, we refer to Annex 1: Further explanations.

Initiators in Friesland require additional support to realise innovation. This support must also be organised collectively. It is important to distinguish between two types of actors in innovative ecosystems:

1) Initiators (those with ideas)
2) Stakeholders (those creating conditions and setting frameworks)

} Organisational capacity

Initiators are the frontrunners in innovative ecosystems. Through their ideas and willingness to act, they can make a difference. However, without organisational capacity and facilities such as financing, nothing will materialise. The other actors are stakeholders: government bodies, knowledge institutions, and intermediary organisations. They can improve the conditions for the development of innovation and thereby strengthen organisational capacity in Friesland. Only through such cooperation do ecosystems function. We call this a symbiotic relationship. Conditions can be set for aspects such as financing, the deployment of personnel for knowledge sharing and advice, advocacy, and the establishment of frameworks and rules.

The role of Frisian participants and the added value for Friesland as a region within projects will largely determine the deployment of provincial co-financing within focus themes, strategic priorities, and other themes. In this regard, we maintain a long-term strategy covering the duration of the European subsidy period. When building innovative ecosystems, consensus on cooperation leads to a clear allocation of roles among the actors. The goal here is to promote interregional cooperation at all levels of society between Friesland and European regions.

What roles does the Province of Friesland fulfil in this interplay?

1. The Province as a stakeholder within the region through effective internal coordination

Within the provincial organisation, the interaction between European ambitions in substantive portfolios and the expertise of the Europe team is crucial to fulfilling the role of stakeholder in the region of Friesland.

For strategic steering of European policy within the provincial organisation, the portfolio holder within the Provincial Executive (GS), together with Team Europe, forms the indispensable link in translating policy objectives at European level from the substantive portfolios into the effective utilisation of European opportunities. Here, we safeguard strategic oversight to enable direction and implementation from the coherence of Frisian European policy. For each policy portfolio, we explicitly incorporate European objectives into the relevant budget programmes and policy letters, thereby also acting as a condition-setting stakeholder for implementation by the provincial organisation. The Europe portfolio connects all conditions created across different policy areas and disciplines into a coherent strategic course.

2. The Province of Friesland within the region Cooperation within a 'club' of Frisian parties: EuropaPact Fryslân (EPF)

Most stakeholders involved in Friesland's European engagement have organised themselves within the EPF. At this scale, the Province of Friesland is therefore a participant alongside other stakeholders. On the basis of the evaluation carried out between April and June 2024, we will continue participation in the EPF, retaining our current tasks. We are helping ensure the cooperation agreement is renewed in good time. We are also pursuing revision of the subsidy scheme 'Ondersteuning Europese projectontwikkeling Fryslân' [Support for European project development in Friesland] in order to prevent potential double funding of preparatory costs where various European programmes already provide for this. As a result, part of the scheme could become revolving. Any expansion of EPF tasks following the extension will be explored jointly with EPF partners.

We encourage the expansion of the EPF through the accession of new paying partners.

The Province will facilitate dialogue among EPF partners regarding an appropriate division of roles between initiators and supporting stakeholders, with a view to strengthening Friesland's organisational capacity. At the same time, we will

also ask EPF partners to take into account differences in scale between large and small organisations and to propose solutions for agreements that contribute to a better balance between EPF partners in terms of interests and efforts in relation to Europe. We regard knowledge institutions as key actors in securing European funding for innovative research and other projects, including those in cooperation with Frisian SMEs in relation to innovation funds.

The existing Europe-related networks of the various EPF partners are also made visible within the platform and can be deployed mutually. Examples of knowledge institutions include RUN-EU or the Rijnland Institute; for local authorities, examples include the Association of Frisian Municipalities (VFG) and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG).

In all water-related matters, Wetterskip Fryslân is also an important cooperation partner, not only in water technology but also, for example, in agri-food and dossiers such as peat meadow areas and the Wadden Sea Area.

3. National and international cooperation within the Northern Netherlands

Friesland consistently seeks the greatest possible scale of joint advocacy and cooperation, in order to maximise the conditions for European success together with other stakeholders. We participate in networks and bodies, as these form an indispensable link in cooperation with our European partners for substantive engagement between Friesland, Germany in particular, and Europe as a whole. In this context, we attach particular importance to existing interregional cooperation and the pooling of strengths within the northern Netherlands, the Netherlands, and other interregional, national, and international bodies, partnerships, and networks, and we are committed to advocacy that benefits the regions collectively and therefore also Friesland (Motion 09.01 point 2, 29 May 2024). Existing networks and those which will emerge in relation to European funds and projects play an important role in this regard. Together with the EPF, we will enhance and stimulate the knowledge and actual participation of Frisian partners in relevant networks around the focus themes, strategic priorities, and other themes. For an overview of relevant European funds and relevant bodies (non-exhaustive list), we refer to the implementation agenda Annex 3 and Annex 1 for further explanations.

We avoid competition between funds and instead seek opportunities for links between different networks pursuing the same objectives, for example in cooperation within the Wadden Sea Area and/or national Regional Deals.[19]

We encourage and co-finance optimal participation in existing subsidy programmes within the applicable subsidy rules and financial frameworks.[20]

Chapter 3:
Integrated Coherence

Everything at a glance
The elements for substantive focus and the operational dimensions are visualised in this chapter in two matrices.

The level of concrete objectives is not visible in these matrices. This policy letter aligns integrally with the substantive objectives set out in the various Frisian policy letters.

Europe-wide matrix
Frisian strategic priorities and other themes within the focus themes and operational dimensions

General Prosperity			
3 Missions	**Operational Dimension 1: Funds**	**Operational Dimension 2: Positioning***	**Operational Dimension 3: Legislation & Frameworks***
	Focus Theme - Nature and Water in Balance		
1 Clean Nature inspired by water	• Strengthening nature and water (incl. Green Deal) • Sustainable energy	• Scope for implementation within frameworks • Status of specific nature and water areas • etc.	• Water Framework Directive • Birds and Habitats Directives • Nature Restoration Law • Soil Directive etc. • etc.
	Focus Theme: Circular Technical Innovation		
2 Healthy Economy Circular society	• Agri-food • Water and water technology • Circular materials • HTSM (high-tech systems and materials) • Maritime technology	• Most circular region in the EU • Water technology - capital of the EU • Legislation, for example on circular substances etc.	• Legislation and regulatory scope for circular materials • etc.
	Focus Theme: Quality of Life		
3 Happy People In a connected rural area	• Hospitality economy • Frisian Language • Digitalisation • Culture	• Most hospitable region in the EU • Public Transport, the Lely Line, and cycling policy • Frisian language • etc.	• EU Charter for Regional or Minority Languages • etc.

Specific dossiers: Wadden Sea Area, Peat meadow areas

*: The examples mentioned under the operational dimensions 'Positioning' and 'Legislation & Frameworks' are illustrative and do not constitute exhaustive policy choices.

Germany-specific matrix

Frisian strategic priorities and other themes within the focus themes and operational dimensions.

Brede Welvaart			
3 missies	**Handelingsdimensie 1 Fondsen**	**Handelingsdimensie 2 Positie***	**Handelingsdimensie 3 wetten & kaders***
	Focusthema Natuur en Water in balans		
1 Schone Natuur geïnspireerd door water	• Versterking Natuur en Water (incl. Green deal) • Duurzame Energie	• Uitvoeringsruimte kaders • Status specifieke natuur- en watergebieden • Etc.	• Kaderrichtlijn Water • Vogel- en habitatrichtlijn • Natuurherstelwet • Bodemrichtlijn • Etc.
	Focusthema Circulaire Technische Innovatie		
2 Gezonde Economie Circulaire samenleving	• Agro Food • Water(technologie) • Circulaire materialen • HTSM • Maritieme Technologie • Internationalisering MKB	• Meest circulaire regio EU • Watertechnologie-hoofdstad EU • Etc.	• Wetgeving en handelings-ruimte circulaire materialen • Etc.
	Focusthema Leefbaarheid		
3 Gelukkige Mens In een verbonden platteland	• Digitalisering • Gastvrijheidseconomie	• Meest gastvrije regio EU • Arbeidsmarkt en opleiding • OV en fietsbeleid • Etc.	

Specific dossiers: Wadden Sea Area, Peat meadow areas, Frisian language, Lelylijn

*: Genoemde voorbeelden in de handelingsdimensies Positie en Wetten & Kaders en zijn bedoeld als voorbeeld zijn geen uitputtende beleidskeuzes.

Chapter 4:
Financial Balance

European policy entails financial consequences. This concerns the resources required for the deployment of provincial co-financing and the financing of the continuation of the EPF. In summary, the costs for co-financing OP ERDF/EZ Europe (Operational Programme for the European Regional Development Fund/Dutch ministry of economic Affairs) and the EPF amount to approximately €6.8 million, and for the CAP/NSP approximately €22 million, for the period from September 2024 up to and including 2027.

4.1 Continuation of EuropaPact Fryslân 2025–2027 following the 2024 evaluation

In the EuropaPact Fryslân Cooperation Agreement of 4 March 2022, the participating parties agreed that an evaluation of the EPF would take place in 2024. On the basis of the outcome of that evaluation, the participants would decide whether to continue the EPF in the period 2025–2027 or to discontinue it.

The evaluation was carried out in the period April–June 2024. We endorse the recommendations arising from the evaluation and will cooperate in drafting a new EPF Cooperation Agreement for the period 2025–2027. In this case, the provincial contribution will amount to a maximum of €485,000 per year (in line with the structure set out in the Definitief Ontwerp Friese Projectenmachine [Final Design of the Frisian Project Machine] on which the EPF is based). Funding for these costs can be found within the general co-financing budget of ERDF/EZ Europe.

4.2 Co-financing of European projects

The previous estimate and target of €130 million in European subsidies up to and including 2027, as set out in the policy letter 'Fryslân en Europa' [Friesland and Europe], was based on the knowledge available at that time. Through cooperation within the EPF, we have gained greater insight into Frisian European activities and subsidy outcomes. Moreover, projects for which the Province did not need to provide co-financing were responsible for an unexpectedly large share of European subsidies secured for Friesland. At the beginning of 2024, the target at that time had therefore already almost been achieved.

Table 1: Estimate of Frisian European policy 2020–2027 and interim report (early 2024), amounts × €1 million

2019-2028, (Fryslân and Europe 2020-2028)						
Estimate up to 2028				Interim result up to 2024		
Funds	**Province Fryslân**	**EU subsidy**	**Multiplier**	**Province Fryslân**	**EU Subsidy**	**Multiplier**
GLB/NSP	72	105	1,5	38	75,3	2
OP-EFRO	5	10	2,2	2,8	10,5	4
Intereg & Other	8	15	2,0	7,9	42,7	4
Total Funding	85	130	1,7	48,7	128,5	2,6
EPF	1,7	nvt	nvt	1,7	nvt	n.v.t.
Total:	**86,7**	**130**	**1,7**	**50,4**	**128,5**	**2,5**

We will continue to strive for the highest achievable outcome in participation in funds, which we will primarily assess on the basis of the substantive added value for Friesland, rather than purely in financial terms, while also taking into account the multiplier effect for the co-financing to be deployed.[21] In contrast to the interim report of May, we now include the costs of the EPF in the calculation of the multiplier, which results in a slightly lower figure. In addition, we will pursue the most appropriate role for Frisian parties, particularly where Friesland's focus themes are concerned and where the project consortium in question allows for this. However, for the calculation of the required provincial co-financing, we will henceforth only take into account those European funds that advance Friesland's substantive themes and for which Frisian co-financing is a requirement. These include the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the National ERDF Programme North, the Interreg programmes (Interreg A, NRS, NWE and Europe), and LIFE. Particular attention is paid hereby to the implementation of the ERDF Programme North and Interreg VI-A D-NL, both of which are expected to reach peak implementation at the beginning of this new policy period.

The relevant monitoring data on Frisian European projects since mid-2019 and the current remaining budgets in the 2021–2027 programmes form the basis for the further estimate of the required co-financing for 2024–2027, amounting to €5.4 million for European funds such as OP-ERDF, Interreg, Horizon, Erasmus+, LIFE, Creative Europe, etc., in combination with the Province's commitments and experiences from previous programme periods.

The figures included in the tables above and below relating to the CAP and its successor, the National Strategic Plan (NSP), including Agri-environment and landscape management (ANLb) and the LEADER programmes, are in accordance with data previously adopted by the Provincial Executive and Provincial Council. Budgetary cover is available for the estimated co-financing required for the remaining period up to and including 2027.

Better chance of balance 2024–2028				**Total mid-2019–2028**		
Estimate				**Estimate**		
Funds	**Province Friesland**	**EU-subsidy**	**Multiplier**	**Cofi**	**EU-subsidy**	**Multiplier**
GAP/POP3/NSP	22,4	33,2	1,5	60,4	108,5	1,8
OP EFRE	2,3	4,5	2,0	5,1	15	2,9
Interreg & other	3,1	15,3	3,4	11	58	5,3
Total funding	27,8	53	1,9	76,5	181,5	2,4
EPF	1,45	n. z.	n. z.	1,45	n. z.	n. z.
Totakl	**29,25**	**53**	**1,8**	**77,95**	**181,5**	**2,3**

4.3 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and National Strategic Plan (NSP)

including LEADER and agri-environment and landscape management (ANLb)

The table above presents the estimate of the required co-financing for the implementation of the remaining CAP/POP3 programme and the new NSP programme, as well as the expected European subsidy for Friesland. LEADER and ANLb form an integral part of POP3/NSP. Through the implementation of the CAP and NSP, the Province lays claim to the European funds made available to it. In April 2023, the Provincial Executive signed for the implementation of the NSP, thereby assuming responsibility for co-financing and utilising the European funds for the Province of Friesland. In total, more than €33 million in European funding is available to the Province of Friesland for the entire NSP period from 2024 onwards. In the coming years, these funds will be utilised through subsidy calls. By 2029, it will become clear how much of these funds has been definitively used.

In the Northern clay regions, efforts have focused on arable bird management. Since 2019, additional provincial budget has been deployed for Water Framework Directive surface water objectives. From 2022 onwards, with additional funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), implementation of the Black-tailed Godwit Action Plan commenced, followed by further measures from 2023. The total scale of management has increased from €16 million to nearly €20 million per year from 2023 onwards. This is in line with the national growth of the ANLb budget within the CAP-NSP.

Within this growth, a start has also been made on achieving climate and water objectives within the agricultural area.

4.4 General: unforeseen opportunities up to 2028 and financial frameworks thereafter

Any new financial aspects up to 2028 may be introduced within the framework of annual reporting and discussions with the Provincial Council, including within broader policy considerations and other appropriate moments during the Planning and Control cycle. This also applies to the financial consequences beyond 2027.

Annex 1:
Further explanations

Explanation 1: Motions and commitments of the Provincial Council, 29 May 2024

Explanation 2: The significance of Europe for Friesland

Explanation 3: How does Germany affect us?

Explanation 4: Overview of European bodies, with a special focus on Germany (non-exhaustive; will be supplemented)

Explanation 1: Motions and commitments of the Provincial Council

During the consideration of the initial memorandum for the Policy letter Europe and Germany 2024–2030 on 29 May 2024, two motions were adopted and two commitments were made by the Provincial Executive. The full text of the motions and commitments is set out below. All points have been addressed in the policy letter, as explained in the information letter to the Provincial Council (reference 02288707) on 10 September 2024). Points 2 and 3 of Motion 02 will be addressed during the implementation of the policy letter.

Motion 09.01, CDA, PvdA, VVD, D66, FNP, and Jonker (member of the provincial council)

1. Make clear policy choices regarding Frisian priorities in Europe and Germany, and avoid designating everything as important, which would ultimately render nothing truly important; however, remain willing to respond flexibly to new developments and opportunities.

2. Specify concretely how cooperation with Drenthe and Groningen will be shaped in the field of Europe/Germany.

3. Clarify how the Executive ensures that its own staff increasingly possess knowledge and expertise on Europe in order to represent Frisian interests in Brussels as effectively as possible.

4. When drafting the policy letter, take into account the Strategic Agenda 2024–2029 to be adopted by the European Council in June of this year; review the policy document when the new European Commission establishes its work programme in the autumn; and report on any resulting adjustments at the next meeting of Platform Europe.

5. Henceforth, include in every new policy document a section explaining (where applicable) the European dimension (opportunities and risks) of the policy document in question.

Motion 09.02: BBB, VVD

1. Map the successful elements from the previous policy letter, such as Interreg programme(s), ERDF, etc., and continue these where possible.

2. Identify how the regions in the area from Vlieland to Esbjerg have organised their cooperation with the EU.

3. Examine how these regions can jointly act within the EU on shared themes such as salinisation, drinking water security, agriculture, the energy transition, the economy, and innovation.

4. Keep the policy letter concrete.

Commitment 1:
The Executive will incorporate the European guidelines of the Water Framework Directive into its policy.

Commitment 2:
The Executive indicates that it will make efforts, both in Strasbourg and in Brussels, to advocate current and future policy by actively seeking cooperation with other partnerships and coalitions.

Explanation 2: Europe

2.1 Significance of Europe for Friesland

How does the EU actually impact our daily lives? Difficult to answer? That is not surprising. Over the past seventy years, European influence has become so embedded in our daily lives that we are no longer consciously aware of it. Our passports, the euro, mandatory information on product

labels, travelling without border controls - we take it all for granted. And what about the protected status of the Frisian language as a minority language? LF2018 provided a significant boost with a lasting impact for our province. And what about subsidies for projects that are implemented in Friesland? At the same time, some Frisians cannot avoid the effects of EU decisions. Consider, for example, the agricultural sector or import/export companies that operate with other European countries. In these cases, European legislation and regulation have a direct impact on day-to-day operations, and the Province, as a public authority, also plays an active role as an implementing body for European legislation. The farmers' protests in the Netherlands, as well as in France, Germany, and Brussels, have demonstrated the reactions triggered by nitrogen legislation.

What began in 1952 with coal and steel has, through the Common Agricultural Policy and a customs union, developed into a common market with free movement of people, goods, services, and capital. The collective security framework, as shaped from 1949 within NATO, has also contributed to European integration. Economic integration and security are two sides of the same coin when it comes to a free, stable, and prosperous Europe.[22]

Looking back on what has been achieved over the past seven decades, the EU, despite all its complexities and ongoing challenges, can be regarded as the most successful peace project in Europe's turbulent history.
For the Netherlands, Europe has effectively become a fourth tier of government with a broad range of responsibilities. The EU, the central government, the provinces, and the municipalities are inextricably linked as communicating vessels in various configurations. In addition to governments, regions are important actors for the EU, with which direct relationships are maintained. Within our Northern Netherlands cooperation with Drenthe and Groningen, the

Europe gives regions considerable autonomy in their responsibilities relating to regional language and culture. In fact, they often have more control than Member States. This direct relationship is of great significance for Friesland and has been translated into concrete objectives in the Bestjoersôfspraak Fryske Taal en Kultuer 2024–2028 [Frisian Language and Culture Administrative Agreement 2024-2028], implementing the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This forms an important foundation for both the new language policy 'Fansels Frysk' and the new cultural policy Tosken yn in nije Tiid [Assertiveness in a New Era].

A large part of Dutch legislation and regulations originates in agreements that the Netherlands has made within the EU. A recent example is the Nature Restoration Law, which has a direct impact on regional authorities.

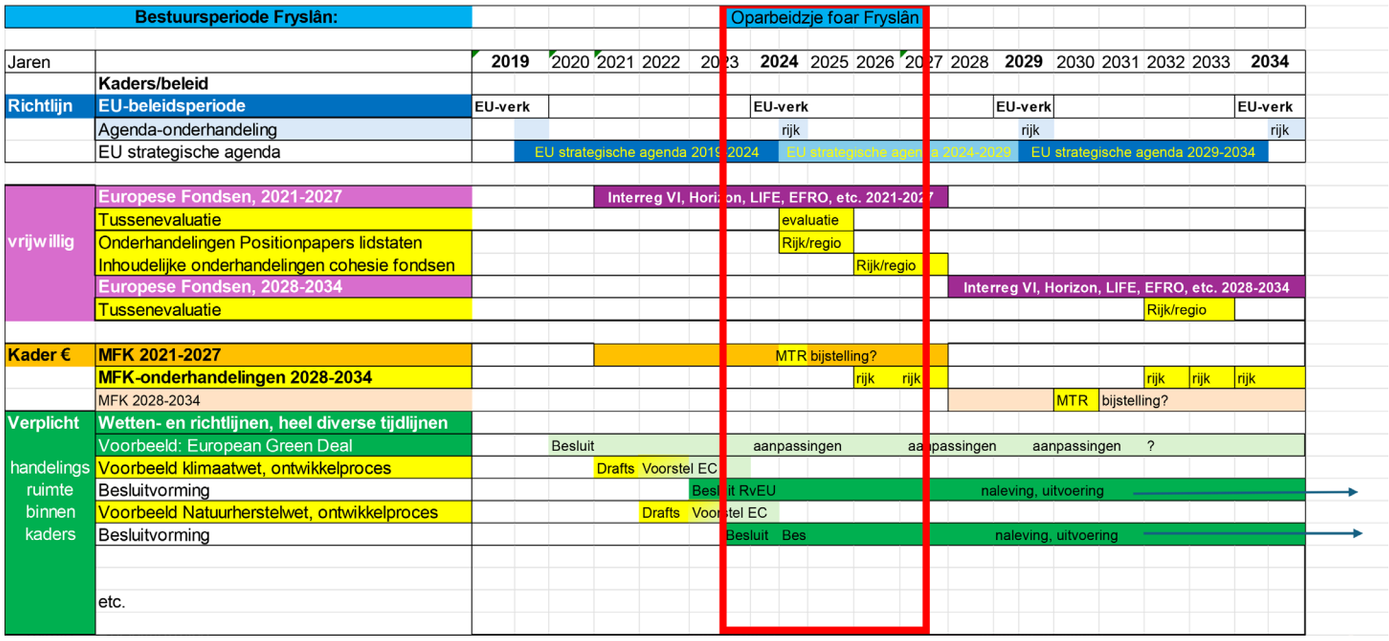
EU therefore plays a significant role.
Globally, the EU is also indispensable for engaging with other power blocs on issues where individual European countries lack a voice at this level. These matters must be addressed collectively by the Member States within the EU.[23]
A banking crisis, a euro crisis, increasing climate challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and migration flows; all are subjects of global negotiation. Relations with Russia, China, and the United States increasingly compel the EU to make far-reaching geopolitical choices. Key issues currently high on the agenda include:

- Asylum and migration
- Security (defence industry) and strategic dependence/independence (raw materials, energy)
- Climate/nature/agriculture/water quality (Green Deal, the new Nature Restoration Law, including CO_2 reduction, nitrogen reduction and manure issues, the Water Framework Directive)[24]
- EU financing (size and allocation of the budget across policy priorities)

European decision-making is traditionally often slow due to conflicting interests among Member States, although crises can also lead to unexpected decisiveness (e.g. the COVID-19 response and support for Ukraine). Nevertheless, divisions are never far away, and issues such as asylum/migration and climate and environmental policy generate significant tensions in many Member States and, consequently, at European level.

2.2 Explanation: periods, processes, and decision-making within the European Union

Figure 3: Periods, processes, and decision-making within the European Union:



Explanation of Figure 3:

The figure shows the different timeframes of the EU policy cycle (five years; fixed rhythm), the programme period for funds (seven years; fixed rhythm), and the Financial Framework (running parallel to the seven-year programme period). Beneath these are the frameworks: laws and directives with varying timelines, often derived from EU policy. For illustrative purposes (non-exhaustive list shown), the moments at which Member States can share their positions, both in the development of frameworks and in the establishment of funds, are highlighted in yellow. Although it must be recognised that regional influence on the creation and modification of frameworks is very limited, the greatest opportunities for influence arise through the channels and methods outlined earlier. The red frame indicates the window of the current provincial administrative period. This shows, for example, that for the current period of European funds it is already determined which themes Friesland may pursue for subsidy applications. The first phase of the development of the 2028–2034 funding period begins within the current administrative term.

Explanation 2.3: European Funds

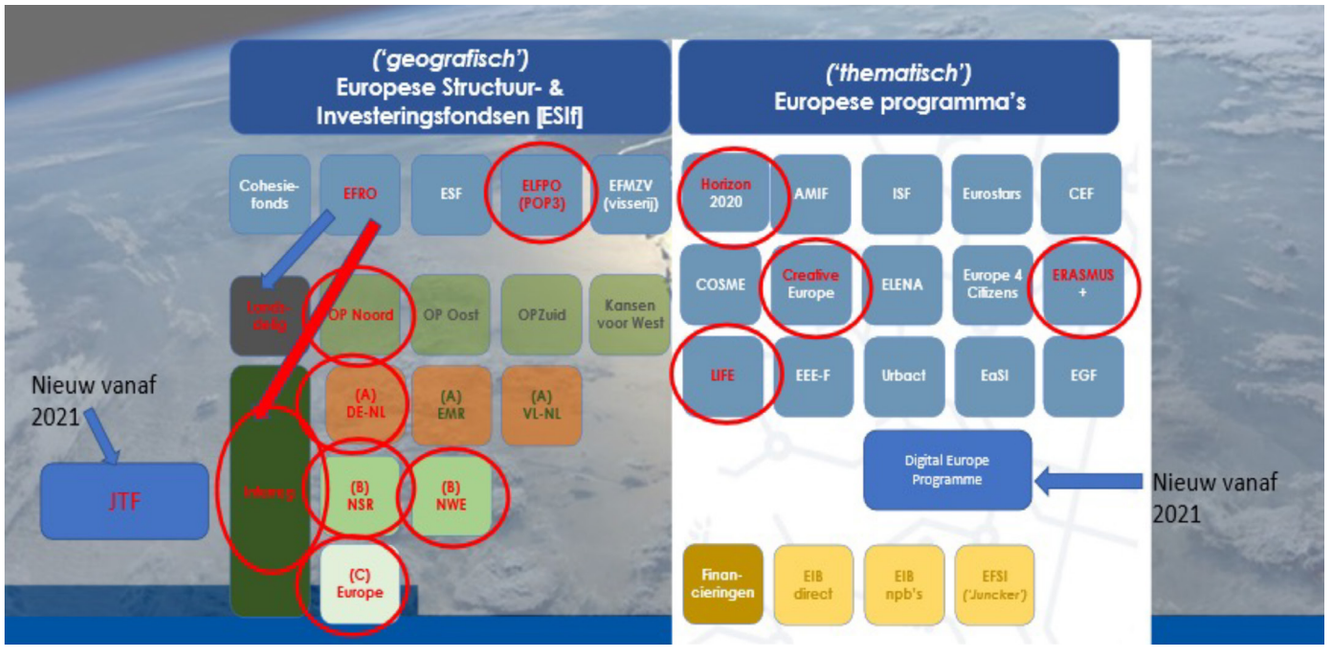


Figure 4: Overview of subsidy funds to which Friesland can apply (2021–2027, red marking)

Figure 4 shows two different types of funds. On the left-hand side are the funds available to regions within the relevant programme area. The red circles indicate the funds relevant to Friesland. These include Interreg A Deutschland-Nederland, Interreg North Sea Region, Interreg North-West Europe, Interreg Europe, OP ERDF North, and also the EAFRD (CAP or NSP). These funds are organised in a decentralised manner within the regions to which they apply. For example, the CAP/NSP, as well as Interreg North Sea and Interreg North-West Europe, are administered by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), while Interreg A D–NL has its joint secretariat in Kleve. On the right-hand side of the diagram are the funds organised around specific themes, such as LIFE (for nature) and Creative Europe (for culture). These funds operate centrally at European level. We reported on the results per European fund to your Council on 29 May, upon adoption of the initial memorandum for this policy letter, in an interim report.

Explanation 2.4: European policy now and from 2024/25:

Which European policy objectives are most relevant for Friesland as a region?
For the current period of European subsidy programmes, the EU policy objectives for 2019–2024 remain decisive up to and including 2029. The relationship between these European policy objectives and Friesland's ambitions that have strong potential within European cooperation is therefore highly relevant.

Four core EU priorities (2019–2024): 1. Protect citizens and freedoms. 2. Develop a strong and dynamic economic base. 3. Build a climate-neutral, green, fair, and social Europe. 4. Promote European interests and values globally. These have been translated by the European Commission into six priorities:

- A European Green Deal
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- An economy that works for people
- A stronger Europe in the world
- Promote our European way of life
- A new boost for European democracy

Looking ahead:

On 27 June 2024, the European Council presented the EU Strategic Agenda for the period 2024–2029. There are three priorities:

1. A free and democratic Europe
2. A strong and secure Europe
3. A prosperous and competitive Europe

The European Commission has not yet translated these priorities into concrete objectives.

The incoming Commission must present a new European deal for competitiveness (priority 3), based on recommendations issued by the European Council in April 2024. Of the nine 'essential drivers', the following are of particular relevance to Friesland:

- Single market: including efforts towards fully unobstructed cross-border services and improved transport connections. In 2025, a plan for a modernised single market will be presented, with particular attention to SMEs.
- Industry: focusing on clean and digital technologies, AI, biotechnology, etc.
- Climate and energy: including the development of an energy union, the use of all net-zero and low-carbon solutions, and investment in electricity grids and energy storage.
- Social policy: focusing on a stronger and more future-proof labour market through different forms of education, labour participation, and equal opportunities.
- Trade: focusing on reliable supply chains and a level playing field.
- Agriculture: focusing on food security and strategic autonomy through a strong and sustainable agricultural sector based on stable and predictable policy.

Matrix: Opportunities for Frisian priority areas in European funds 2021–2027

Focus Theme: Nature & Water in Balance European priority 2019–2024: a European Green Deal Looking ahead - European priority 2024–2029: the green and digital transition, including a genuine energy union		
Frisian strategic priorities and other themes	European funds 2021-2027	Suitable priorities per theme
1. Strengthening nature and water (incl. Green Deal) a. Other theme: sustainable energy	1. ERDF North	• From a linear to a circular economy • From fossil to renewable energy
	2. Interreg A D-NL	• A more innovative programme area • A greener programme area Themes: - Energy & Climate - Agri & Food - Education - HTSM (high-tech systems and materials)
	3. Interreg North Sea	• Robust and smart economies in the North Sea region (research and innovation capacity; development of skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, and entrepreneurship) • A green transition in the North Sea region (energy efficiency, transition to a circular economy, sustainable multimodal urban mobility) • A climate-resilient North Sea region (climate adaptation and risk prevention, protection of biodiversity and green infrastructure in urban areas, and reduction of all forms of pollution)
	4. Interreg North West Europe	• Smart climate resilience for NWE regions (nature and biodiversity, climate adaptation) • Transition to a place-based circular economy (circular economy and resource efficiency) • Strengthening innovation capacity in NWE regions
	5. Interreg Europe	• A greener and more resilient Europe
	6. LIFE	• Nature and biodiversity • Circular economy and quality of life • Climate mitigation and adaptation • Renewable energy transition
	7. Horizon	• Climate change • Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals Themes: - Energy & Climate - Agri & Food
	8. CAP/NSP	• Training • Innovative agricultural businesses • Young farmers • Land consolidation • Water Framework Directive (WFD) a and b • ANLb [agri-environment and landscape management]

Focus theme: Circular Technical Innovation European priority 2019–2024: An economy that works for people and a European Green Deal Looking ahead - European priority 2024–2029: the green transition and the digital transition		
Frisian strategic priorities and other themes	European funds 2021-2027	Suitable priorities per theme
2. Agri & food **3. Water and water technology** **4. Circular materials** **5. HTSM (high-tech systems and materials)** **6. Maritime technology**	1. ERDF North	• From a linear to a circular economy • From fossil to renewable energy • From analogue to digital
	2. Interreg A D-NL	• A more innovative programme area • A greener programme area Themes: - Agri & Food - Labour market, education, health - HTSM (high-tech systems and materials) - Energy & climate
	3. Interreg North Sea	• Robust and smart economies in the North Sea region (research and innovation capacity; development of skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, and entrepreneurship) • A green transition in the North Sea region (energy efficiency, transition to a circular economy)
	4. Interreg North West Europe	• Smart climate resilience for NWE regions (nature and biodiversity, climate adaptation) • Transition to a place-based circular economy (circular economy and resource efficiency) • Strengthening innovation capacity in NWE regions
	5. Interreg Europe	• A more competitive and smarter Europe • A greener and more resilient Europe
	6. LIFE	• Nature and biodiversity • Circular economy and quality of life • Climate mitigation and adaptation
	7. Horizon	• Climate change • Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals Themes: - Agri & Food| - Energy & Climate - Water technology in terms of health
	8. CAP/NSP	• Training • Innovative agricultural businesses • Water Framework Directive (WFD) a and b • ANLb [agri-environment and landscape management]

Focus Theme: Quality of Life

European priority 2019–2024: Promote our European way of life & A new boost for European democracy

Looking ahead - European priority 2024–2029: A free and democratic Europe.

Frisian strategic priorities and other themes	European funds 2021-2027	Suitable priorities per theme
7. Hospitality economy	1. Interreg A D-NL	• A greener programme area • Cooperate on connecting the border region Themes: - Energy & Climate
	2. Interreg North Sea	• Robust and smart economies in the North Sea region (research and innovation capacity; development of skills for smart specialisation and entrepreneurship) • A green transition in the North Sea region (energy efficiency, transition to a circular economy)
	3. Interreg North West Europe	• Transition to a socially inclusive, sustainable and resilient society (labour market, healthcare, culture, and tourism).
	4. Interreg Europe	• A greener and more resilient Europe
8. Frisian language	1. Creative Europe	• Safeguard, develop, and promote Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage and its diversity • Strengthen the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, particularly the audiovisual sector
	2. Interreg A D-NL	• Cooperate on connecting the border region • Bridge the gap between Europe and its citizens
Other theme: Culture	1. Creative Europe	• Strengthen the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, particularly the audiovisual sector • Safeguard, develop, and promote Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage and its diversity
	2. Interreg A D-NL	• Cooperate on connecting the border region • Bridge the gap between Europe and its citizens • Labour market, education, health
	3. Interreg North West Europe	• Transition to a socially inclusive, sustainable and resilient society (labour market, healthcare, culture, and tourism).
	4. Interreg Europe	• A more social and inclusive Europe
Other theme: Digitalisation	All funds	This other theme can be incorporated wherever it supports priority areas.

The above matrix indicates which funds offer opportunities that 'link' them to Frisian focus themes and other themes. No rights can be derived from this table, nor does it guarantee actual funding following project applications. This framework is subject to continuous change and will have to be updated regularly.

Explanation 3: Germany

3.1 So, how does Germany impact us?

It is hard to imagine that anyone in Friesland has never noticed Germany or come across German people. To begin with, German visitors enjoy spending time in Friesland on day trips or longer holidays, where they can be found in the region's cities, villages, and islands, and sailing on Frisian waters. The Netherlands is a popular study destination for German students, and there is therefore a sizeable German student community in Leeuwarden, attracted by the programmes offered at Campus Fryslân of the University of Groningen (RUG/CF) and the universities of applied sciences. (statistics to be added later in visual form) There are many exchanges between Frisian and German schools. And the 'Bruine Vloot' (fleet of traditional sailing ships) is, for many German pupils, an unforgettable school trip experience at least once in their lives.

How is it the other way around? The Dutch can easily pop over the border to Germany as well. Just as cooperation at the broader European level is not new, cooperation between Friesland and Germany is also long-standing. From a geopolitical perspective, the intrinsic interest in international cooperation between neighbouring countries has increased across European countries and regions. We enjoy working together. Between Friesland and Germany as a whole, activities include trade, cooperation between schools, and collaboration among cultural, scientific, and sports-related organisations, as well as numerous private visits for study or holidays in both directions. The Netherlands is an important trading partner for Germany, ranking second in exports and third in imports in 2023.

However, trade is not the only factor. After the United States, the Netherlands ranks second in terms of German outward foreign direct investment, while Germany is the primary destination for Dutch foreign direct investment abroad.

The total value of Frisian exports of goods amounted to approximately €9.5 billion in 2022. More than half (62%) of Frisian exports in 2022 were destined for countries within the European Union. Germany ranks first and accounts for 29% of Frisian exports. The total value of exports from Friesland in 2022 increased by almost €1.5 billion compared to 2021, representing growth of 18.2%. Exports to Germany in particular increased significantly, with growth of €1 billion. The combined export values of all provinces represent overall growth of 16.3%.

"Foreign direct investment is an important instrument in international economic integration, as it involves capital flowing from one economy into another. The Netherlands is among the countries with the largest volumes of foreign direct investment worldwide, both inward and outward."

For Friesland, these figures are lower, but proportionally the role of Germany remains just as significant for the Northern Netherlands and Friesland.[25]

Due to the shorter distance, it is logical that Friesland, along with the wider Northern region, has stronger connections with regions in northern and north-central Germany than with other German regions. From a historical perspective, rooted in the Frisian regions[26] we share a history that is still tangible and audible in language and culture. The Northern Netherlands and Friesland are more similar in many respects (socially, economically, landscape) to the Weser-Ems region in the north-west of Lower Saxony than to other regions in the Netherlands. In addition to the specific connection with Weser-Ems and in broader terms with Lower Saxony, we are also focusing on strengthening ties with other regions in Germany, such as North Rhine-Westphalia, Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen, Hamburg, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, and Berlin, as well as other federal states. There are also various other connections, such as the essential ties between German cities and Frisian municipalities. Examples include between Dokkum and Fulda, and Ameland and Kleve. Based on existing data and contacts, we will identify regions with similar profiles in terms of economic development, the balance between nature and the economy, and general prosperity We will then explore potential cooperation accordingly.[27]

3.2 Investing in one another – sustainable relationships

To bridge the differences in governmental systems and sectoral organisation between Germany and the Netherlands as effectively as possible, cooperation among the Dutch provinces themselves is of great importance. This creates greater scale on the Dutch side, enabling dialogue with German partners to take place more effectively at a higher level.
Taking the time to build and maintain relationships is highly valued in the German federal states. Just as thorough preparation is important, so too is the awareness that arriving half an hour early and taking time after meetings for

Staatsform

Die Niederlande sind eine Monarchie und ein dezentralisierter Einheitsstaat, während Deutschland ein föderaler Bundesstaat ist. In der bilateralen Zusammenarbeit mit Deutschland treffen drei niederländische Verwaltungsebenen auf vier deutsche Verwaltungsebenen, ergänzt durch Regierungsbezirke oder Ämter für regionale Landesentwicklung (z. B. in Niedersachsen). Arbeiten wir als Friesland in einem europäischen Kontext mit Deutschland zusammen, beispielsweise im EU-Förderprogramm Interreg VI A Deutschland-Nederland, kommt noch die europäische Ebene dazu. Zudem können in Deutschland die Zuständigkeiten, etwa für Naturschutz oder die Gesundheitsversorgung, je nach Bundesland variieren. Die Zuständigkeiten und die Größe der Verwaltungsgebiete lassen sich nicht mit den niederländischen Strukturen vergleichen. In Deutschland sind Themen wie Bildung und Wissenschaft, Polizei und Sicherheit sowie Kultur primär Zuständigkeit der Bundesländer. In den Niederlanden hingegen ist der Staat für Bildung und Polizei zuständig, während die Kultur auf alle Verwaltungsebenen verteilt ist. Diese strukturellen Unterschiede ziehen sich durch die gesamte Gesellschaft, bis in die Organisation von Verbänden und die Wirtschaft (vor allem im Bereich KMU). Diese Unterschiede zeigen, dass bei fast jedem Thema erst einmal zwei völlig unterschiedliche Verwaltungssysteme verglichen werden müssen. Wir müssen sowohl auf friesischer als auch auf deutscher Seite genau prüfen, welche Stelle welche Befugnis hat, gemeinsame Vereinbarungen und deren Umsetzung zu beginnen. Für eine erfolgreiche Kooperation muss auch die Eigenständigkeit der 16 deutschen Bundesländer berücksichtigt werden. Als Niederlande, Region und Provinz treffen wir auf Bundesländer mit jeweils ganz eigenem Verhältnis zum Bund und zueinander.

lunch or dinner are at least as important as reliability and a genuine willingness to do business.
We therefore attach great importance to sustainable relationships, networks, and ecosystems. At the same time, we actively seek new contacts with like-minded partners based on substantive alignment. We therefore continue to invest in the exchange of innovative expertise. Especially in collaboration with Germany, we are well placed to further strengthen Friesland's role as a region. In addition, we seek and create opportunities for substantive engagement that enhance mutual intercultural understanding, particularly through trade missions, working visits, bilateral cultural events and intergovernmental exchanges. We also make choices. Not everything is possible, as we wish to avoid superficial engagement.
We involve stakeholders and initiators from Frisian innovative ecosystems, as defined in Chapter 1, and where possible we connect with young people. In cooperation with our German partners, we remain aware that sustainable cross-border collaboration requires sustained effort. Given our similarities, differences between the two cultures can easily be overlooked. We actively address this in various ways, one example being investing in German language proficiency.

3.3. Frisian–German opportunities: focus and coherence

The following frameworks have resulted in a substantive focus for the period 2024–2027:

- The focus in the current coalition agreement on general circularity according to the Blue Delta concept, and on Germany
- The priorities from the current RIS3 Northern Netherlands 2021–2027
- The experiences and outcomes of Frisian Germany policy from the previous administrative period (2019–2023)
- RIS3 Lower Saxony 2021–2027
- The Regionale Handlungsstrategie Weser-Ems 2020-2027
- Der Niedersächsische Weg
- Niedersächsische Strategie Biologisierung 2022
- The Interreg VI A D–NL Cooperation Programme
- The GROS Lower Saxony–Netherlands Cooperation Agenda

The overall goal is to realise integrated connections and cross-overs. Young people receive particular attention; where possible, we respond to their initiatives or actively involve them in cooperation with Germany.

Explanation 4: Overview of European bodies, with a special focus on Germany

4.1 Partnerships and programmes

We will continue Friesland's participation in existing programmes, networks, and bodies, as these form an essential link in cooperation with our German partners in substantive engagement between Friesland and Germany. In this context, we also attach particular importance to interregional cooperation and the pooling of strengths within the Northern Netherlands and the Netherlands as a whole. This includes: The Netherlands–Lower Saxony cross-border cooperation agenda (GROS NdS–NL), the

cooperation through European funds such as Interreg A-Deutschland-Nederland (D-NL), Interreg North Sea, Interreg North-West Europe, Interreg Europe, within the North Sea Commission and CPMR network, the Ems Dollard Region (EDR), Trilateral Cooperation on the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage, and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

In addition, we encourage Frisian initiators and other stakeholders to participate in selected cross-border and bilateral partnerships, programmes and networks, or to initiate new forms of cooperation (see Chapters 2.3 and 2.4).

GROS NdS-NL and Interreg A D-NL

The substantive objectives of the GROS cooperation agenda and the Interreg VI A D–NL programme are seen as major opportunities to implement mutually reinforcing goals between Friesland and Lower Saxony, particularly the Weser-Ems region. Within Interreg A D–NL, Friesland also cooperates with North Rhine-Westphalia.

GROS

Friesland forms part of the Dutch border region with Lower Saxony, and has therefore long participated in the Netherlands–Lower Saxony cross-border cooperation (GROS NdS–NL), which was established between the Netherlands and Germany. Within this framework, the main cooperation themes of the border region have been agreed. Friesland will continue its participation and take on a leading role in the theme of the circular economy in the border region. This role is fulfilled by the King's Commissioner.

The aim is to use the governance structure of administrative counterparts in the border region to enable tailored solutions and coordination on both sides of the border. This governance structure also provides an entry point for the operational dimension in Chapter 2.3, namely lobbying and coalition-building at various levels of government, including at the European level. Together with partners at regional and national levels, we advocate for the interests of the cooperation agenda in the border region at EU level.

Examples of successful outcomes include cross-border cooperation between Dutch and German police, labour market mediation, and the establishment of cross-border information points (GIPs). The GIPs are currently funded by Lower Saxony for the Labour Market agenda item of the GROS agenda. We will continue our participation in the GROS cooperation agenda and, together with the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the German State Chancellery of Lower Saxony, the German Ministry for Federal and European Affairs and Regional Development, represented by the Office for Regional Development Weser-Ems, the Ems Dollard Region (EDR), and the provinces of Groningen, Drenthe and Overijssel, we will contribute to initiating, implementing, and accelerating the cross-border cooperation agenda.

GROS agenda:

- Economy and trade promotion
- Labour market, education, and language
- Energy and climate
- Infrastructure and accessibility
- Water and nature

Interreg A Deutschland-Nederland

We have been participating in the European subsidy programme Interreg A D–NL since 2007. With two innovation priorities accounting for the majority of programme funding, its objectives align closely with Friesland's missions and strategic priorities and with RIS3 Northern Netherlands 2021–2027. As Interreg A is a partner programme, we participate as board members in the assessment and decision-making on project applications. We value the relationships maintained in this way with German public authorities, border regions and programme bodies.
We facilitate accessible entry points in the Northern Netherlands and the Netherlands in general for German partners and work jointly within the programme framework. Within the available financial frameworks, we provide co-financing to projects that meet programme requirements and align with Frisian policy.

Focus themes

- Agro & Food
- Health & Care
- High Tech Systems & Materials
- Energy & Climate
- Integration, Building & Work market

Priorities

- A more innovative programme area
- A greener programme area
- Cooperation on a conneted border area
- A Europe that is closer with the civilian in the border area

3.2 Networks and partnerships focused on Europe

In Friesland

- Circular Friesland Association
  This association has more than 150 members, including nearly 100 companies, all Frisian public authorities, and all educational and knowledge institutions (vocational, higher professional, and university level) based in Friesland. Its aim is to organise and accelerate the circular transition of its members and the region. This is driven by the ambition for Friesland to become one of Europe's leading circular transition regions by 2025, and to achieve national climate targets in the region by 2030.

- SPARK the Movement
  SPARK the Movement is a UN-recognised Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE). It works to inspire schools, experiment with learning challenges across all educational levels, and make curricula more sustainable.

SPARK is an initiative of the Circular Friesland Association, aimed at structurally involving education in the transition towards a circular economy and a sustainable world.

- Water Alliance
  The Water Alliance is a partnership between government, knowledge institutions and the business community. The emphasis lies on businesses in innovative and sustainable water technology that can be marketed worldwide. Together with Wetsus, the CEW and CIV Water, the Water Alliance forms an innovation chain for water technology at the WaterCampus in Leeuwarden.

- WaterCampus Leeuwarden
  WaterCampus Leeuwarden is the hub of the Dutch water technology sector and aims to fulfil a connecting role for this sector across Europe. WaterCampus organises cooperation between national and international companies, knowledge institutions, and government bodies in the water technology sector, in order to create synergy for innovation, education and entrepreneurship at a world-class level, thereby strengthening the position of European water technology. More than 300 companies and knowledge institutions are affiliated with WaterCampus. In addition to this cooperation function, WaterCampus offers a unique research infrastructure and consequently serves as a meeting place for scientists and companies from across Europe.

In the Northern Netherlands

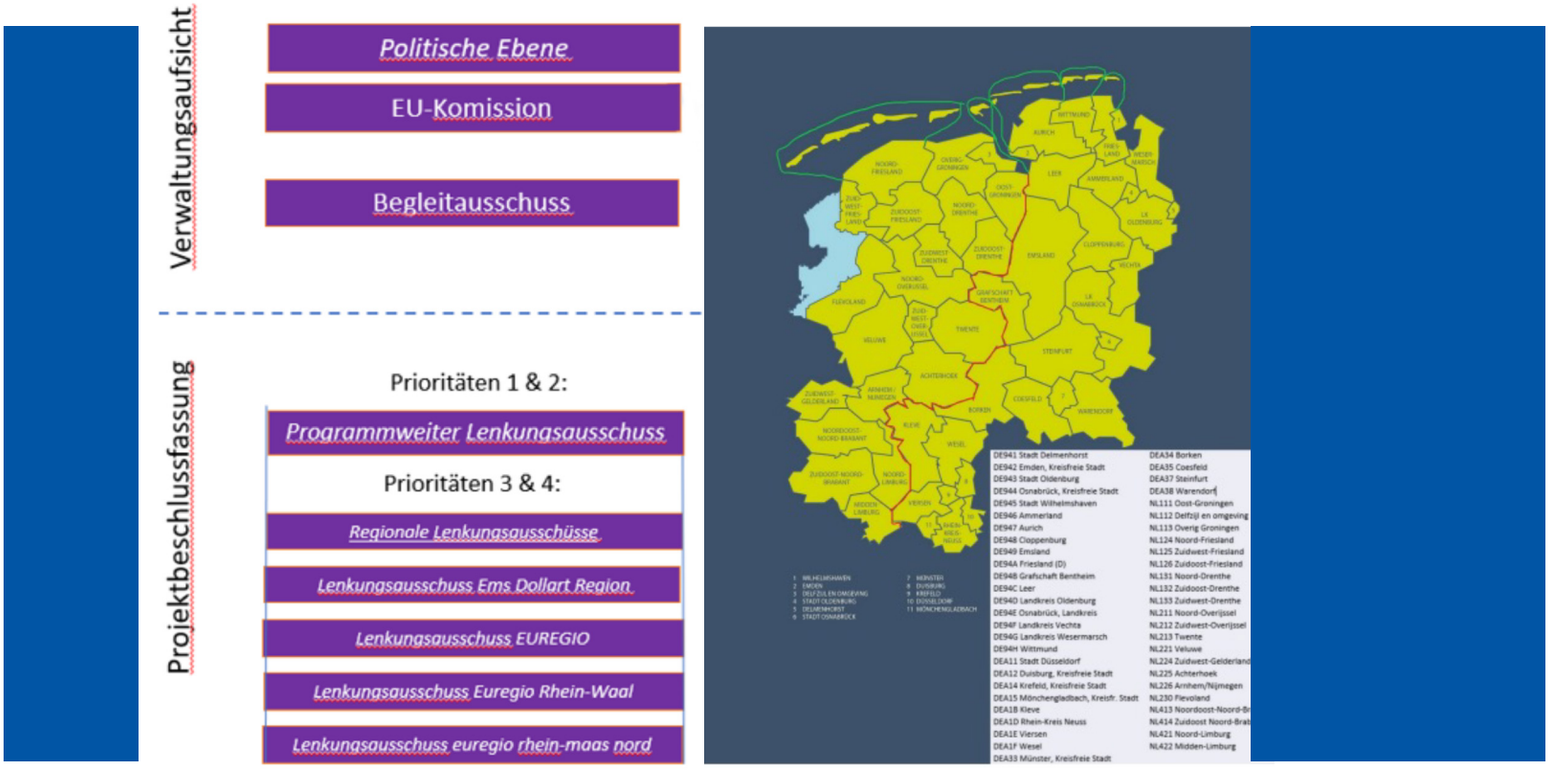
- The Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN); European Regional Development Fund 2021–2027

In The Netherlands

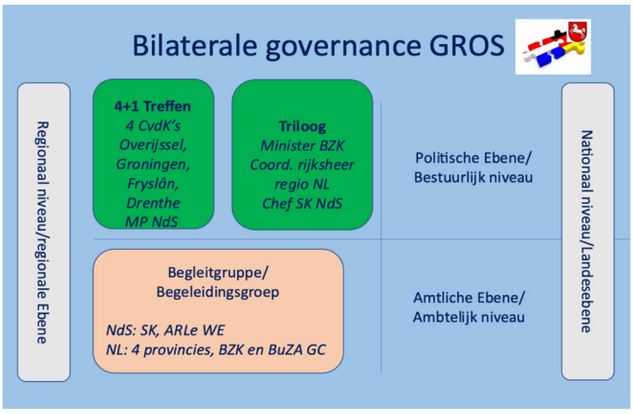
- Association of Provinces (IPO);
- Wadden Sea Area Environmental Council (Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied);
- Lely Line Netherlands international working group;
- Sectoral ministries in The Hague;
- House of Representatives;

In Europe

- • European Committee of the Regions;
- • Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg;
- • House of the Dutch Provinces (HNP), Brussels;
- • Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU, Brussels;
- • Permanent representations of other EU Member States in Brussels;
- • Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions / North Sea Commission;
- • Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity (NPLD);
- • Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+);
- • Wadden Sea Board;
- • Interreg Programmes: Deutschland-Nederland, North Sea, North-West Europe, Europe
- • Creative Europe
- • Horizon
- • LIFE
- • Erasmus+



Organigramm Vorstand Interreg VI



Governance structure of the Netherlands–Lower Saxony Cross-Border Cooperation Agenda. Friesland participates at the administrative level in the 4+1 Treffen.

Specifically in relation to Germany

- **• Netherlands–Lower Saxony Cross-Border Cooperation Agenda (GROS)**

The green boxes in the figure above show the administrative consultation structure between Lower Saxony and the Netherlands. The responsible ministers at state level meet in the Triloog (trilogue), accompanied by the coordinating King's Commissioner representing the Dutch north-eastern border region, in order to take decisions on joint implementation and to steer progress of the cooperation agenda. In the 4+1 Treffen meeting, the Minister-President of Lower Saxony and the King's Commissioners from the border region (Overijssel, Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe) exchange relevant information from the border region and submit questions. To carry out the necessary preparatory work on the Dutch side for administrative meetings within the framework of GROS, a Dutch GROS Steering Group has been established. It is chaired by the King's Commissioner for the Dutch region, Commissioner Paas. Commissioner Brok is the member for Friesland. Unlike the other three provinces, no Frisian municipalities currently participate in the Dutch GROS steering group. This is, however, an ambition of the Province of Friesland.

- **Interreg VI A Deutschland-Nederland 2021-2027**

Interreg A Deutschland–Nederland is a European subsidy fund within the Interreg family of programmes, focusing on cooperation in border regions within Europe. Friesland is part of the programme area and has signed the cooperation agreement between the fifteen programme partners. The programme partners are North Rhine-Westphalia, Niedersachsen, and the Netherlands, along with eight provinces in their role as public authorities (Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe, Overijssel, Flevoland, Gelderland, North Brabant and Limburg) and four border regions (Ems Dollart Region, EUREGIO, Euregio Rhine–Waal and Euregio Rhine–Meuse North). Friesland is a member of the Monitoring Committee and, together with Overijssel, represents the eight provinces in the preparation and guidance group on behalf of the Monitoring Committee. Friesland is Vice-Chair and member of the Ems Dollart Region Regional Steering Group, which decides on regional projects. The Northern Region in the Netherlands rotates membership between the three northern provinces in the programme-wide steering group, which decides on innovative projects.

- **Ems Dollard Regio (EDR), (Bad Nieuweschans)**

The EDR is a joint arrangement for municipalities, districts (Landkreise) and other local authorities. The EDR is both a partner in Interreg A Deutschland–Nederland and a member of the Dutch GROS Steering Group.

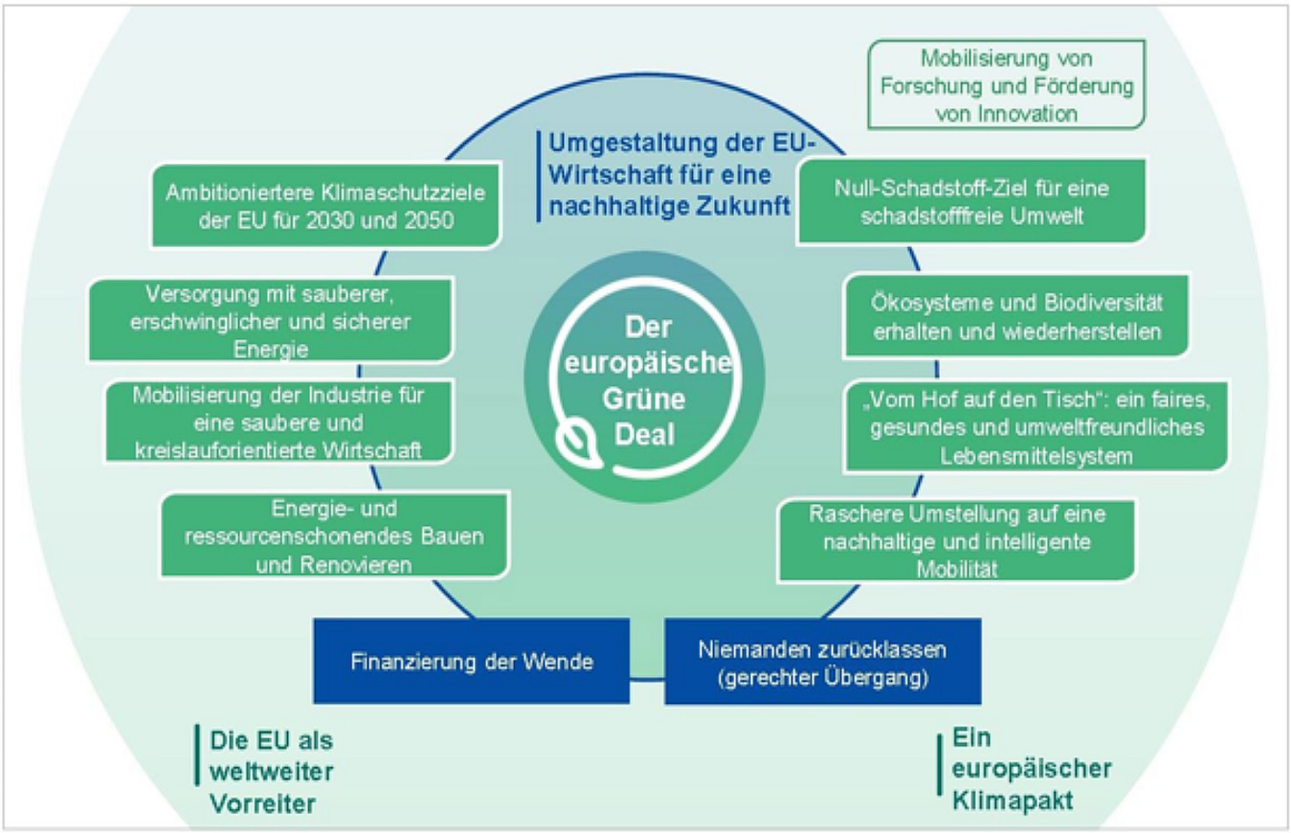
To date, no Frisian municipality is a member of the EDR joint arrangement. It is the ambition of the Province of Friesland to encourage Frisian municipalities to become members and actively contribute to setting the agenda of the EDR. Given its relationship with both GROS and Interreg A, Frisian membership of the EDR is logical.

- **Rhineland Institute (Emmen)**

The Rhineland Institute is a knowledge institute for regional development with various partners in the Northern Netherlands and North-West Germany. The network stimulates the development, sharing and application of knowledge by and for regional vocational education (higher professional education and secondary vocational education). Thanks to good links with regional professional fields, this takes place through cooperation between government, education, businesses and citizens (quadruple helix). By pooling the strengths of vocational education institutions on both sides of the border, the Rhineland



Map from the No(o) rd2020+ Strategy showing the EDR working area.



Institute promotes education relevant to the labour market within the Euroregional knowledge economy and thereby contributes to cross-border living, working, studying, and quality of life.

- **Fryslân Paviljoen**

The Fryslân Paviljoen is a physical presentation of Frisian SMEs at various major trade fairs in Germany. This initiative of the Oranjewoud Export Academy is for businesses who want to understand the German market better in order to increase their exports to Germany. They follow a joint programme involving experts and students (NHL Stenden).

4. Substantive information on specific themes

European Green Deal

A healthy planet is essential for the future of Europe. EU countries have committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2050, in line with the commitments under the Paris Agreement. The Green Deal is the strategy through which the EU aims to achieve this 2050 objective.

- Europese Green Deal
- eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640

Annex 2:
Endnotes and bibliography

List of sources

1. Sources consulted

Europe

- De organisatie van de EU – ProDemos [The organisation of the EU – ProDemos]
- Consilium (europa.eu)
- The EU in easy English | European Union (europa.eu)
- Europe in 12 lessons - Publications Office of the EU
- Instellingen Europese Unie – Europa Decentraal [Institutions of the European Union – Decentral Europe]
- HNP (nl-prov.eu)
- Home - Erasmus+ (europa.eu)
- Mijlpaal:Europese FietsVerklaring getekend - Fietsplatform [Milestone: European Bicycle Declaration signed - Fietsplatform]

National Government

- Circular Dutch economy by 2050 | Circular economy | Government.nl
- Niederländische staatliche Agentur für Unternehmer (RVO)
- Regio Deal Noordwest
- Regio Deal NIL
- Regio Deal Eilanden
- Agenda 2050 Waddengebied
- Nationale Raumordnungsstrategie

Province of Friesland

- Friesland and Europe Policy Letter 2020–2023 (Beleidsbrief Fryslân en Europa 2020-2023)
- Friesland and Europe implementation Agenda 2020–2023 (Uitvoeringsagenda Fryslân en Europa 2020-2023)
- Bestuursakkoord Oparbeidzje foar Fryslân [Administrative Agreement 'Working Together for Fryslân']
- Friesland Budget 2024
- Omgevingsvisie Fryslân De Romte Diele [Sharing space - Friesland Environmental Vision] (2020)
- Startnotitie Provinciale Omgevingsvisie [Initial Memorandum on Provincial Environmental Vision] Startnotysje Fryske Beliedsbrief Europa/Dútslân aginda 2024–2027 Provincie Fryslan (notubiz.nl) [Initial Memorandom on Frisian Policy Letter Europe/Germany Agenda 2024–2027], Province of Fryslân
- Planbureau Fryslân: Figures | People | Insight (planbureaufryslan.nl)
- Home | Fryslân
- Welcome to the Budget of the Province of Friesland | Friesland (provinciale-begroting.frl)
- SharePoint Site Province of Friesland – Organisational Development
- Policy letters and agendas of the discussed themes
- Reports of discussions held by Deputy Douwstra with King's Commissioner Brok and Deputies Wiersma, Folkerts, Knol and De Vries as input for this policy letter
- Reports of discussions with relevant policy teams and organisational units as input for this policy letter
- Motion 9.1, CDA, PvdA, VVD, D66, FNP, Jonker, 29 May 2024
- Motion 9.2, BBB, VVD, 29 May 2024
- Commitment, 29 May 2024: The Executive will incorporate the European guidelines of the Water Framework Directive into its policy.
- Commitment, 29 May 2024: The Executive indicates it will advocate in Strasbourg and Brussels for current and future policy by seeking cooperation with other partnerships.

Frisian Municipalities

- Association of Frisian Municipalities (VFG) – Portfolio Holders Europe & Internationalisation
  The development of the draft policy letter was discussed twice in the portfolio holders' meeting (with both administrative and official briefings).
- Fourteen of the eighteen municipalities responded to the questionnaire on their European engagement. The collective discussion between Deputy Douwstra and Frisian municipal administrators took place at the General Assembly of the EPF.

EuropaPact Fryslân:

- Samenwerkingsovereenkomst Friese Projectenmachine (EuropaPact Fryslân) 2022 [Frisian Project Machine Cooperation Agreement]
- Subsidy Scheme Supporting European Project Development Friesland, 2023
- Lerende evaluatie EuropaPact Fryslân [Learning Evaluation EuropaPact Fryslân] report 2024
- Consultations were held with the civil service sounding board group (in an expanded composition) and, at both political and administrative level, with the General Assembly.

VNO-NCW/MKB Noord

- • Questionnaire completed by the chair of VNO-NCW/ MKB Noord

European and Germany Policy of Provinces

- Groningen
- Drenthe
- Overijssel und Gelderland
- Utrecht

Wetterskip Fryslân:

- On the basis of the completed questionnaire, a meeting was held with the deputy director.

Joint Documents with Other Provinces

- • Investeringskader Waddengebied (IKW); [Investment Framework Wadden Sea Area];
- • Research & Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) Northern Netherlands 2021-2027.

Dutch municipalities:

- https://vng.nl/sites/default/files/2022-04/VNG-Europavisie-en-strategie-2022-2030.pdfhttps://vng.nl/sites/default/files/2022-02/De-europese-agenda-2022.pdf

Special focus on Germany:

- Interreg VI A Deutschland-Nederland cooperation programme
- Strategy No(o)rd 2020+ EDR
- Netherlands–Lower Saxony Cross-Border Cooperation Agenda (GROS)
- Circular Economy in Germany - Circular Economy Roadmap for Germany — Circular Economy Initiative (circular-economy-initiative.de); Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), developed and supported by a large number of social actors from science, industry, and civil society. The focus of this roadmap has been, from the outset, on shaping a consistent, common target vision for a Circular Economy in 2030 and formulating concrete recommendations for action.
- Niedersachsen: Sicher in Zeiten des Wandels, Koalitionsvertrag 2022 – 2027
- RIS3 Lower Saxony 2021–2027
- Regionale Handlungsstrategie (RHS) 2020-2027 Weser-Ems | Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Weser-Ems (niedersachsen.de)061-Landesstrategie-Biologisierung.pdf, 2022
- Strategie No(o)rd 2020+ Eems Dollard Regio
- Emden/Leer: Technology of Circular Economy (M.Eng.) - Hochschule Emden/Leer (hs-emden-leer.de)
- Innomatch: E-auto-batterijen
- Battery recycling: the path to a circular economy in Lower Saxony | innomatch niedersachsen (nds.de)
- Battery recycling: The path to a circular economy in Lower Saxony - Automotive Agentur Niedersachsen (nds.de)
- Deutsche Normungsroadmap Circular Economy (gruene-niedersachsen.de)

End notes

1 Based on an article by Dirk Huizinga, 2020, 'Verhaaltjes bij een beeld' [Stories accompanying an image]

2 Photo 1 Source: De Ideaal, part of the Historic Sailing Fleet in Harlingen

3 Photo 2: Source: Internal archive, Prinses Margriet Lock

4 The fundamental attitude of Frisian businesses, educational institutions, and public authorities working together on the basis of a single shared economic cooperation agenda for Friesland to create a resilient and future-proof 'mienskip' (community) in which everyone can participate. Do it ourselves - together!

5 Definition of an innovative ecosystem: An innovative ecosystem is a network in which government authorities,

6 businesses, research and educational institutions, and other societal organisations collaborate on innovation.

7 Motion 01, CDA, PvdA, VVD, D66, FNP, and Jonker (member of the provincial council), adopted, 29 May 2024.

8 Friesland Blue Delta, source: Innovatiepact Fryslân [Friesland Innovation Pact], 2023

9 Source: De Noord-Nederlandse Agrosector en Agrocluster in Beeld, 2022 [The Northern Netherlands Agricultural Sector and Agri-cluster in Focus, 2022]

10 NSP: The NSP focuses on future-proof agriculture, stimulated and supported by a range of regulations and instruments from the global CAP budget.

11 Circular Economy Roadmap for Germany | European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (europa.eu)

12 FSP_LIF_TOTAAL-DEF.pdf (planbureaufryslan.nl)

13 Source: The Frisian Image Monitor 2024: the average attractiveness score for Friesland as a place for recreation is 8.4 among Frisians (residents) and 6.7 among non-Frisians (visitors)

14 Source: Inbound Tourism Survey (Onderzoek Inkomend Toerisme, OIT), 2022 and Inbound Day Visit Survey (Onderzoek Inkomend Dagbezoek, OID), 2021/2022

15 Programma | Veenweide (veenweidefryslan.frl)

16 Coalition Agreement Lower Saxony 2022–2027 (Koalitionsvertrag Niedersachsen 2022-2027), p. 15: Peatland protection

17 Timeline - Mid-term revision of the EU long-term budget 2021-2027 - Consilium (europa.eu)

18 The Council of Europe is not an EU body, but there is close cooperation. Within the Council of Europe, the governments of 46 European countries reach agreements with one another on issues such as combatting child labour and cybercrime, or abolishing the death penalty. These agreements are important for human rights, the rule of law* and democracy in Europe. Location: Strasbourg.

19 https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/regios/uitleg-regio-deals

20 By 'optimal', we mean the best possible outcome within an interplay of factors such as remaining budgets in funds with an appropriate thematic label, investing more in relationships than in funding, or competition in subsidy calls.

21 Definition of multiplier: European subsidy awarded in Friesland divided by the provincial co-financing awarded and the agreed costs for the EPF within a given period.

22 How much of Dutch legislation comes from the EU?'In many areas, its influence has increased' - EenVandaag (avrotros.nl)

23 National Government, about Europe, The role of the EU in the world | Look at Europe | About Europe

24 See Annex 2 for an overview and brief explanation of the EU Green Deal.

25 International Trade Factsheet, Province of Friesland, 2024

26 De Frieslanden: de historische woongebieden van de Friezen in de vroege Middeleeeuwen van Vlaanderen tot Denemarken [The Frisian regions: the historical settlements of the Frisians in the early Middle Ages from Flanders to Denmark]

27 Authors: Arjen Berkenbos (DNB), Sarah Creemers (CBS), Anne Maaike Stienstra (DNB), Manon Weusten (CBS)

Höhere Chancen auf Gleichgewicht
Die Kraft der Gegenseitigkeit

2024-2030

Friesisches Strategiepapier für Europa (mit besonderem Fokus auf Deutschland), 2024-2030