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Urban Nodes Forum

4 April 2019

Northern Netherlands

1.8 million inhabitants

1 university of fundamental research

4 universities of applied science

Centres of expertise on:

- Water technology
- Circular economy
- Energy transition
- Bio chemicals
- Dairy and Agri-food

Less densely populated area of the Netherlands

- average of 200 inh./km²
(compared to > 1200 inh./km²)



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Cities Northern Netherlands

Small and medium sized cities (SMCs)



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Key priorities: accessibility, connectivity & liveability

As a SMCs we face challenges such as how:

- can we stay connected to metropolitan regions?
- can we stay attractive for young people/start-ups?
- do we boost long haul autonomous driving and climate neutral solutions?
- can we promote car-sharing and other new mobility services by attracting suppliers?
- can we offer cheap mobility as alternative?
- do we manage capacity and knowledge within the SMC organisation?

Key priorities: accessibility, connectivity & liveability

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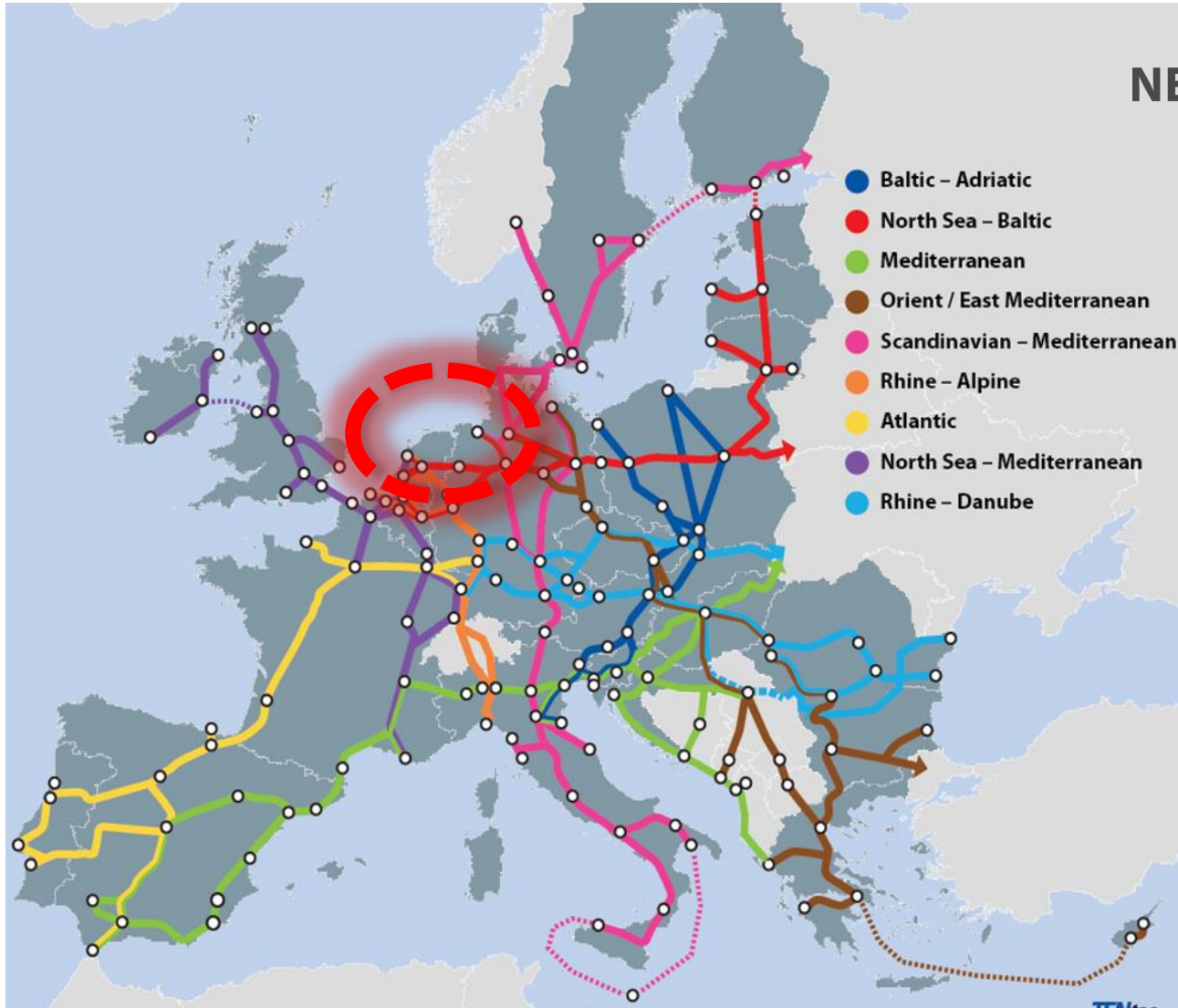
As a “living lab to be” we want to:

- be well-connected to metropolitan regions, universities and industry clusters
- have facilities within reach, enabling innovation and start-ups
- prepare for smart, climate neutral and green roads with 5G, smart sensor technology, renewable energy (hydrogen, solar, wind)
- facilitate C-ITS, EVs, car sharing and truck platooning

'Non-nodes' and the connection to the main corridors

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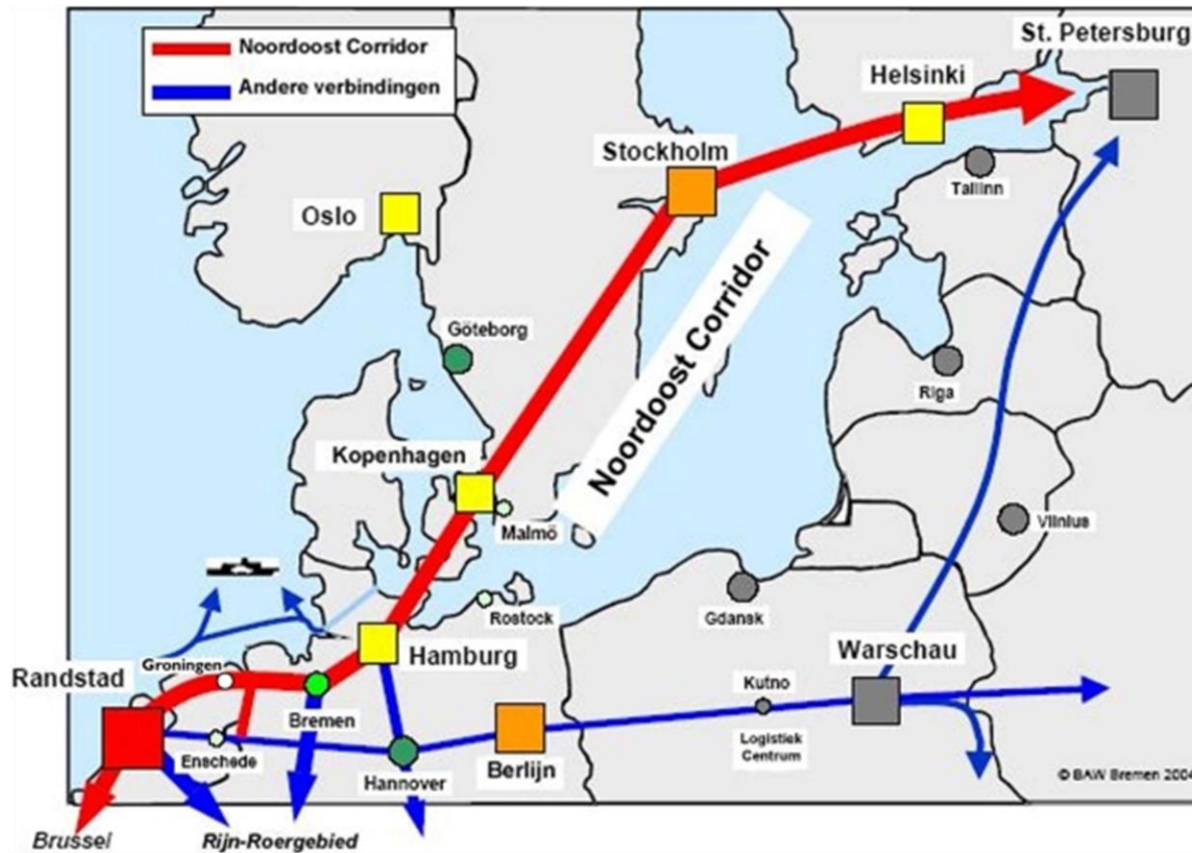
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SMC Platform

- Small and medium-sized cities (SMCs) are living laboratories for innovation. Due to their size, SMCs offer an ideal ground for testing and implementing new transport technologies and services that are crucial to solve the most pressing mobility challenges.
- Within the Polis SMC platform, SMCs will discuss mobility governance issues that are specific to their size and shape.
- First priorities highlighted at the launch, included:
 - **Deployment:** match-making between SMC's to share knowledge & best practice; work with “ambassadors”;
 - **Promotion:** use Polis to promote SMC accomplishments and innovations to other cities and outside world and to position SMCs as excellent living labs for innovation;
 - **Challenges:** discuss common challenges inherent and specific to small and medium-sized cities

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Priority challenges for SMCs

- Cooperation between urban core and suburbs / surrounding municipalities / rural hinterland / metropolitan region
- Attract new and shared mobility services to complement public transport, fill service gaps and reduce car dependence
- Attract expertise, skills and talent – pooling resources across SMC's?
- International connectivity, link to TEN-T, proximity to urban nodes and related impacts, cross-border aspects
- Densification linked to increasing population, housing developments, reducing car dependence through new circulation plans
- Smart mobility hubs, last mile solutions
- Financing, new cooperation models and ppp's

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Questions?

Contact:

- Pieter Faber: p.faber@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu
- Eelko Steenhuis: e.steenhuis@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu