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# RegioStars Awards 2012

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*Regional  
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**Sustainable growth** • Investments in ecosystem services and green infrastructure leading to sustainable regional development

**Promoting measures to help North-West Europe adapt to the impacts of climate change**

## Strategic Initiative Cluster – Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change (*SIC adapt!*)

A major challenge for territorial development in North-West Europe (NWE) is improving its capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change. Some 100 project partners from seven EU Member States are combining their efforts to promote climate change adaptation through a strategic cluster of eight transnational projects.

The projects form part of the Strategic Initiative Cluster (SIC) entitled 'Adaptation to the spatial impacts of climate change' (*SIC adapt!*) and focus on appropriate adaptation measures for sensitive environments such as urban areas, floodplains and coastal zones across North-West Europe.

*SIC adapt!* is a grouping of networks or clusters that brings together eight projects funded by the INTERREG IV B North-West Europe Programme, to jointly tackle adaptation to the impacts of climate change in different spatial settings.

The cluster, which is led by the German Water Board, Lippeverband, was launched in October 2010 with the aim of:

- increasing the resilience of built, water, natural and social environments towards climate change;
- building a stronger knowledge base;
- inputting climate change impacts into key EU policies; and
- supporting wider international efforts at adaptation.

The funding of this strategic cluster allows 100 project organisations to work together and refine their strategic approaches at the local and regional levels. The cluster will provide a significant contribution to the review of key EU policies as proposed by the European Commission under the EU climate-change adaptation strategy after 2013.

Supporting the project is a 'Cluster Expert Board', which brings together representatives from all levels and types of organisations beyond the existing project networks to provide effective knowledge transfer from the local/regional level to the national/EU level and vice versa for aligning the approaches.

*'This project exemplifies effective cooperation and information sharing in the area of climate change adaptation.*

*There are many examples of best practices, tools, and measures employed in order to achieve efficient adaptation in different locations and sectors.'*

*RegioStars July 2012*



A web-based cluster knowledge platform provides a comprehensive knowledge base of experts and will serve as a long-lasting information basis within these organisations. Moreover, the knowledge platform will be integrated into a web portal that will sustain the professional network.

The initial conclusions from the project indicate that climate change adaptation will only be successful and effective if the development of technical adaptation tools and measures include stakeholders as part of the process. It is evident from the early work that the main challenges in this process lie in improving communication, facilitating organisational change, and increasing institutional capacity.

Special attention needs to be paid to the local and neighbourhood dimension of climate change and to the target groups such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The concerted actions of the cluster will result in extensively tested assessment tools and good-practice adaptation measures that can be easily transferred throughout NWE and other European regions.

Given the benefits of having access to the knowledge of around 100 clustered organisations it is anticipated that this transnational exchange will last beyond the formal establishment of the cluster.



Project	Strategic Initiative Cluster – Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change ( <i>SIC adapt!</i> )
Region	North-West Europe (BE, DE, FR, IE, LU, NL, UK)
Programme or Body	INTERREG IV B North-West Europe (NWE) Programme
Duration of project	10/2010 – 06/2013
Funding	EUR 879 525, European funding only (ERDF)
Websites	<a href="http://www.sic-adapt.eu">http://www.sic-adapt.eu</a> • <a href="http://www.eglv.de">http://www.eglv.de</a>