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FREIIA

Transnational FREIIA-TIPPING Report on Circular Economy

Island of Schiermonnikoog

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BETTER
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1. Introduction

This report is a summary of the TIPPING strategies and intended projects in the field of the Circular Economy (CE), which the Municipality of the Dutch Wadden Island Schiermonnikoog has formulated through a number of transnational activities and a closing workshop.

This report is very concise in nature, as it is largely based on an earlier joint FREIIA study by AAU Aalborg University and the Municipality of Schiermonnikoog: 'Feasibility Report for Schiermonnikoog – Circular Economy and the Tipping Strategies'.

Only additional information will be presented here, plus a self-assessment TIPPING Wheel drawn up by the Municipality.

2. The Feasibility Report for Schiermonnikoog – CE and the Tipping Strategies

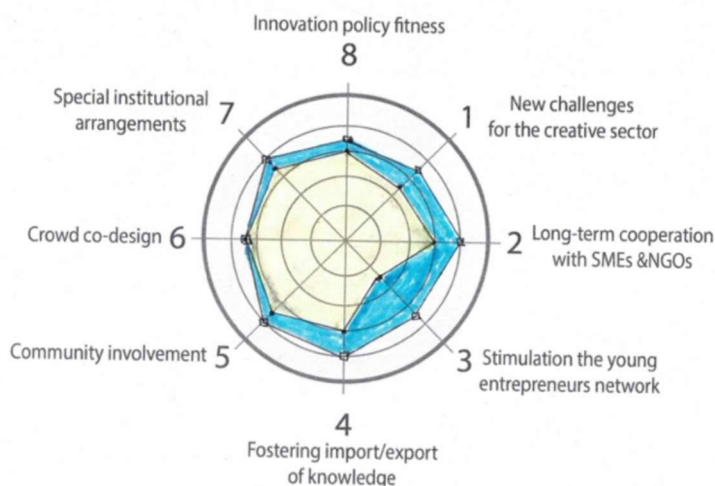
In the report, the researchers describe:

- The context for CE on the island;
- The state of affairs with regard to CE, from the perspective of the eight TIPPING strategies and assessed from the perspective of the researchers;
- The potential they estimate on each TIPPING axis to increase the scores in the coming years through best practices and innovation; and
- A list of innovation projects, in which the Municipality can stimulate and facilitate the stakeholders on the island and the continent in a co-design process, based on the roles and actions that the RUDDER approach offers. (A separate FREIIA-RUDDER report will be drawn up on this as a follow-up step.)

3. TIPPING Scores

The result of the CE-TIPPING workshop on Schiermonnikoog is shown below. The results of the CE-Feasibility report were weighed by a team from the Municipality of Schiermonnikoog and their inhouse advisors, facilitated by the FREIIA team from the Province of Fryslân. The transnational teams was once more consulted for the finetuning of the Tipping workshop results.





In comparison with the final scores of the researchers in the CE-Feasibility report, it is generally noticeable that the ambitions of the Municipality are slightly lower than those of the international researchers. For example, the own Innovation Policy Fitness (Strategy 8) does not score very high when it comes to CE. This is a deliberate choice, because the administrative capacity of the Municipality is limited, and not all transitions (Water, Energie, Agriculture, Transport, CE etc.) can receive the same amount of attention at the same time.

However, it is also noticeable that the pattern in the municipal self-assessment scores strongly corresponds with that of the researchers:

The Municipality sees **major to very major improvement opportunities** for itself, especially in:

1. Strategy 1 – New challenges for the creative sector

Among other things, by combining CE-oriented festivals and small-scale art and culture projects. Also: promotion of the CE concept at the festivals 'Meet Me at the Lighthouse' and 'Rock aan de Plas'.

2. Strategy 2 – Long-term cooperation with SMEs and NGOs

Among other things, through the development of sustainable products based on a combination of waste-material flows and more focus on the CE aspects 'Rethinking' and 'Reducing'.





3. **Strategy 3 – Stimulating the young entrepreneurs network**

Consideration is being given to better support for young entrepreneurs who would like to undertake CE innovation activities, like in the field of sustainable construction and consumer goods (furniture, tools, repair, etc.) on the island.

4. **Strategy 4 – Fostering import/export of knowledge**

For example, by focusing more on the high-quality CE strategies Remanufacturing, Refurbishing, Recycling and Recovery with the help of knowledge institutions on the mainland.

Small steps of improvement are considered possible and desirable in Strategy 5 Community Involvement (much is already happening) and Strategy 7, setting up Special institutional arrangements (already exist, e.g. with Sintrale, the Regional Deal for the Wadden and Natuurmonumenten).

4. Projects for the FREIIA CE Portfolio on Schiermonnikoog

In summary, the Municipality wants to boost the following circular projects, which were also mentioned in the CE Feasibility report, in the coming years with the RUDDER instruments:

- I. **A Circular Crafts Centre**, where artists, designers and others collaborate on innovative CE projects on and for the island.
- II. **A ‘Young Entrepreneurs Association’ Schiermonnikoog**, focused on CE and entrepreneurship promotion.
- III. **A Thrift Store**, for the promotion and sale of CE-based products and services.
- IV. **A Human Capital Centre**, which motivates residents and other stakeholders to make a CE contribution.

References

Feasibility Report for Schiermonnikoog – Circular Economy and the Tipping Strategies. FREIIA-Interreg Project, October 2024. AAU Aalborg University.