Northern Netherlands: living lab for the future of mobility in Europe
The provinces of the Northern Netherlands – Drenthe, Fryslân and Groningen – celebrate a rich and long-term tradition of regional and cross-border cooperation, and have joined hands in the transition towards the mobility of the future.

Whether you need an innovative mobility solution for a big city or a low populated rural area; make it work in the Northern Netherlands, and it will work anywhere! The three provinces are characterised by a great diversity. The provinces aim to use this diversity to everyone’s advantage by testing innovative mobility solutions in the area, creating a living lab. The region aims to inspire the world with its contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement and the EU’s Clean Power for Transport Directive.

Energy transition

- achieve an energy transition of such scale that by 2035 95% of all the energy used in Northern Netherlands comes from Renewable Energy Sources (RES);
- become the leading hydrogen economy in Europe;
- create a zero emission (ZE) transport system for Road, Rail and IWT by 2035.

In order to realise the above focus, the Northern provinces prepare multiple projects, such as:
- increasing the capacity of RES and charging/refuelling infrastructure, including energy-generating roads;
- testing several charging possibilities such as vehicle to grid (for hubs, depots, buildings, etc.) and inductive charging;
- testing and implementing clean vehicles, like hydrogen fuelled vehicles. Public transport will be used to set the example with hydrogen and hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuelled trains and fully electric, HVO and hydrogen fuelled buses;
- testing and implementing smart transport solutions, such as autonomous shuttles and other fully electric autonomous driving technologies.

Cross-border Connections

Improve (cross-border) connections to further reinforce the competitive position, connectivity and quality of life:
- a shift towards a faster, safer and healthier (zero emission and quiet) mobility system to improve the connection between highly urbanised areas;
- a more flexible and innovative underlying system of comprehensive connections from and to everyone’s final destinations.

In order to realise the above focus, the Northern provinces prepare different projects, such as:
- improvement of the railway connection between Emmen (NL) and Rheine (DE);
- an upgrade of the Kornwerderzand gateway, improving access to inland waterways and the European hinterland and enabling Motorways of the Sea connections;
- the Wunderline, improving the railway connection between Groningen (NL) and Bremen (DE);
- an investigation of fast and innovative developments like Hyperloop that can contribute to the mentioned system shift in core connections with the rest of The Netherlands and other countries;
- assessing the testing of autonomously flying airplanes and drones at Groningen Airport Eelde.