**Draft**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

**NETWORK GROUP**

**Sustainable Tourism**

**NG-ST**

**25 May 2020**

**ZOOM meeting addressing: COVID-19 Facing extraordinary challenges**

(comments were received by Renate de Backere, Mira Hohmann)

In Annex 3 you find information submitted in writing by Dr. Marta Jacuniak-Suda, Marc Klinke, Caroline Pupelis, Jennifer Renner

**1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

Document: NG-ST Draft agenda

Anja Domnick, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the extraordinary meeting of the Network Group Tourism (NG-ST) which was conducted as a video conference because of the Covid-19 crisis. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The proposed draft agenda of the meeting was **adopted** without amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

**2. Overview of every region / member of the NG-ST how they managing the crisis, accelerating recovery and preparing for tomorrow.**

The Netherlands

Mr. Aaldering informed about the measures against the corona virus taken on Terschelling. Many companies have been closed and there is an adapted service at Rederij Doeksen. All events are canceled until September 1. There is no travel ban, but there is advice from the government to limit the number of trips. To generate cash flow for the business on the island a voucher system was created.

There are various campaign and activities going on like a “virtual visit”, a sustainable (corona safe) crossing with tall ships with focus on the Dutch visitor which were well received also by the press. The intention is to create “island fans” and let visitor know that they are still welcome on the island.

For the local inhabitants /stakeholders a newsletter was created which “translate” the policies into easier understandable language and adapt to the island situation.

(*Michel can you add links – please)*

Ms. Apfel gave an overview about the Visit Wadden activities which now are mainly focus on inspiration. Visit Wadden launched in collaboration with the Lifestyle magazine Noorderland a “Wadden Special”, a special edition of Noorderland that is entirely devoted to the Wadden area.

For August/September a new “Green Campaign” is planned collecting ideas, project overviews on sustainable products in cooperation with Waddenagenda. Ms Apfel invited the meeting to actively participate in this campaign.

Ms. Pruyt told the meeting about the national support scheme and special measures taken in Friesland. In the first/second week of June a campaign is starting. “Fryslân yn Ferbining” is an initiative of the province of Friesland and offers a platform for initiatives that contribute to the quality of life in Friesland in times of Corona.

With the campaign special attention is paid to all the beautiful initiatives, schemes and activities that are currently being developed in Friesland.

The Frisian corona monitor is a weekly newsletter, which provides some insight into the economic impact of the corona virus in Fryslân. [Meld je dan nu aan](https://fryslan.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=330d1e534454f0b01e7a9c5b6&id=6f962ebdbd&e=c374778819)

There is a lot of lobby work going on in the moment for e.g. the islands. Also a lobby for extending / spreading the holiday periods to avoid crowds and other measurements with focus on the national guest are taken up.

Mr. Revier/Ms. de Backere informed the meeting that the Waddenvereniging has cancelled all excursion so far. They experienced an increased public interest in policy methods and online activities.

The TV documentary series 'Het WAD' with four episodes of almost one hour each pays tribute to the Wadden Sea and is shown every Wednesday evening at 8:35 pm at BNNVARA on NPO 1.

They see the situation as chance to start a shift from quantity to quality in the Wadden Sea. And highly advice to make use of the Sustainable Tourism strategy. The recently hold 24th symposium of the Wadden Academy looked at what is meant by sustainable tourism? How is sustainable tourism in the Wadden region? What opportunities do entrepreneurs see and what role can the local government play in this? And of course: What are the consequences of the corona crisis? These and many other questions were addressed in the webinar.  
[The video recordings of the webinar on sustainable tourism can now be viewed.](https://www.waddenacademie.nl/symposium-duurzaam-toerisme-in-het-waddengebied)

Germany

Schleswig-Holstein

Mr. Förster told about the severe problems the Schutzstation Wattenmeer is facing in Schleswig-Holstein. With a 50% income loss due to cancelled excursion and closed visitor centres could the NGO face bankruptcy within 2 months. They are in close contact with the Nationalpark administration and the local government to discuss new concepts and funding.

There a various (regional) concept dealing with the regulation regarding numbers of excursion participants, hygienic requirements etc. in place. Maybe an exchange would be worthwhile looking at.

Ms. Engels suggested to look how the “Deutsche Alpenverein” has handled the situation.

Lower Saxony:

Ms. Hohmann reported that

18 National Park Houses are facing financial problems, too. They are run usually by the siting commune in cooperation with a nature conservation association. Additionally, there are agreements with the state of Lower Saxony who bears part of the operating costs. There are ongoing negotiations to bridge the gap caused by income loss during the lockdown. Currently, the facilities are in the process of reopening with the implementation of concepts for compliance with distance and hygiene rules. Nature guided tours are considered educational offers and are allowed by most of the counties with restrictions, other outdoor events are not yet allowed.

The members of the Lower Saxon Partnership Initiative also reported financial pressure due to the lockdown. In reaction to this there are a lot of digital marketing activities ongoing or planned by various stakeholders (DMO, project Wadden Agenda, National Park Authority and SME). The aim is to keep in touch with possible guests of the Wadden Sea destination and push online shops of regional products. Tourism Marketing Lower Saxony for example is also currently preparing an image campaign.

Within the national park administration nearly half of the employees work at least part-time in home office. Events are postponed or carried out digitally. No official appointments with external persons are allowed yet.Holiday apartments, holiday homes, campsites, mobile home parking spaces and boat berths can be rented out to guests again from 11 May. Except for Norderney, the East Frisian Islands have agreed on a common rule for vacationers. From now on, guests who stay at least one night may also come. Norderney stays a minimum of six nights to avoid club tourism. Day visitors are currently not yet permitted on the islands (the counties have adopted this rule).

Ms Rohenkohl noted that the municipalities on the coast and the island communities are in discussion with the state of Lower Saxony, about any financial support. As soon as there are results, she will report to the group.

WWF

Ms Szczesinski informed the meeting about the ongoing LAC (Limits of Acceptable Change) study of PROWAD LINK. Looking at the new distancing due to Corona may be worth at looking at also.

The World Heritage Explorer – an app promoting Walking and hiking in the Wadden Sea region will be launched I June which in these times may is a nice alternative for visitors.

Hamburg:

Ms Lieven gave an overview on the situation in Neuwerk / Hamburg. There was recently no ferry service to the islands, no guests in the hotels, the National Park House was closed and no mudflat tours or events. The City of Hamburg is offering a support system for the entrepreneurs on the island. An Initiative is a project funding connected to become a CO2 neutral island.

Denmark

Mr. Simonsen informed that the situation in Denmark is severe as the borders still remain closed. 70% of the visitors are usually from Germany and there is no way to compensate that with local tourist coming to the area.

Ms. Abilgaard said that marketing activities are focused on the Danish tourist, there are special national initiatives e.g. on Facebook and Social Media.

Everybody is awaiting the announcement of the prime minister with a timeframe for future scenario planning.

International

Ms Engels informed about the situation in other World Heritage sites. The situation e.g. in Africa is troublesome as poaching has surged during the coronavirus pandemic as illegal hunters take advantage of the lockdown to kill more endangered wildlife in remote areas.

[World Heritage sites are also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the managers of World Heritage sites tell here how they are coping with the crisis.](https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2101)

**3. Discussion on planned “Weekly bulletin on Coronavirus (COVID-19): Insight, Action and Resources”**

As the situation is constantly changing it is often difficult to find relevant updates, particularly in English. With this weekly overview, CWSS attempts to provide a summary of the most recent information and relevant links to add some more transparency to the situation. The online overview will be updated weekly with the latest news on what is happening throughout the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination in response to COVID-19, using the Wadden Sea network of public and private partners.

The meeting noted the draft and is invited to provide input in written form weekly to CWSS (Anja Domnick and Annika Bostelmann).

[Weekly Overview: Regional regulation and activities in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Destination during COVID-19](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/news/weekly-overview-regional-regulation-and-activities-wadden-sea-world-heritage-destination-during)

**4. Next Meetings**

The meeting agreed to have the next regular NG-ST meeting held in beginning of September, probably also as video conference.

To find a suitable date a doodle poll is forwarded in due time to all NG-ST members:

<https://doodle.com/poll/xm7c6vvachs2qui2>

**5. Closing**

Ms Domnick thanked all participants for their cooperation and closed the meeting at 16:00 h.

**ANNEX 1 - List of Participants NG-ST-24**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mr Michel Aaldering**  VVV Terschelling/Nordzicht  Willem Barentszkade 19a  8881 BC West Terschelling  +31(0)6 55305421 [m.aaldering@vvvterschelling.nl](mailto:m.aaldering@vvvterschelling.nl) | **Ms Monique Pruyt**  Provincie Fryslân  Tweebaksmarkt 52, Postbus 20120  8900 HM Leeuwarden  Tel 31 (0) 58 2925887  [m.pruyt@fryslan.frl](mailto:m.pruyt@fryslan.frl) |
| **Mr. Eric Neef**  Koninklijke Nederlandse Toeristenbond ANWB  Zwedenlaan 22, 9403 DE Assen  Mobile +31 (0)6 51358296  [eneef@anwb.nl](mailto:eneef@anwb.nl) | **Mr. Hans Revier**  Programmaleider Toerisme en Werelderfgoededucatie  Hoofdredacteur WADDENmagazine  Lector Mariene Wetlands Studies Stenden Hogeschool  M 06 53 674 194 T (0517) 493 693 [revier@waddenvereniging.nl](mailto:revier@waddenvereniging.nl) |
| **Ms. Renate de Backere**  Coordination of World Heritage Excursions and trainingprogramme Waddenvereniging  Droogstraat 3  8861 SR Harlingen  +31-6-13670527  [Backere@waddenvereniging.nl](mailto:Backere@waddenvereniging.nl) | **Ms Susan Apfel** Marketing Groningen Gedempte Zuiderdiep 22 9711 hg Groningen  T  +31 (0)50 21 10 503  M +31 (0)64 371 76 61  S.Apfel@marketinggroningen.nl |
| **Ms Stephanie Rohenkohl**  Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung  Theodor-Tantzen-Platz 8  D - 26122 Oldenburg  Phone: +49 (0)441 799 2395  [stephanie.rohenkohl@arl-we.niedersachsen.de](mailto:stephanie.rohenkohl@arl-we.niedersachsen.de) | **Ms Mira Hohmann**  Nationalparkverwaltung  Niedersächisches Wattenmeer  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  phone: +49 (0) 4421 911-282  Mira.hohmann@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de |
| **Ms Janne Lieven**  Behörde für Umwelt und Energie (BUE)  Nationalpark Hamburgisches Wattenmeer  Neuenfelder Str. 19  D 21109 Hamburg  Phone: + 49 (0)40 42840-3392  Mobile: +49 (0)152 2364 6244  [Janne.Lieven@BUE.Hamburg.de](mailto:janne.lieven@bue.hamburg.de) | **Ms Christiane Gätje**  Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein (LKN)  Schlossgarten 1, D - 25832 Tönning  Phone: +49 (0)4861 616-35  Fax: +49 (0)4861 616-69  [Christiane.Gaetje@lkn.landsh.de](mailto:Christiane.Gaetje@lkn.landsh.de) |
| **Ms Anja** **Szczesinski**  WWF - Germany  Hafenstraße 3  D - 25813 Husum  Phone + 49 (0)4841 66 85 45  Fax: + 49 (0)4841 66 85 39  [anja.szczesinski@wwf.de](mailto:anja.szczesinski@wwf.de) | **Mr Harald Förster**  Schutzstation Wattenmeer  Hafenstraße 3  25813 Husum  Tel.: 04841-668553  Mobil: 0151-56340564  [h.foerster@schutzstation-wattenmeer.de](mailto:h.foerster@schutzstation-wattenmeer.de) |
| **Ms Winnie Abildgaard**  Business Region Esbjerg  Niels Bohrs Vej 6  6700 Esbjerg  Tel +45 3697 3508  wab@bre.dk | **Ms Bettina Munch**  Nationalpark Vadehavet  Havnebyvej 30  6792 Rømø - Denmark  Mobil: +45  27 59 39 36  [bemun@danmarksnationalparker.dk](mailto:bemun@danmarksnationalparker.dk) |
| **Mr Peter Saabye Simonsen** Nationalpark Vadehavet  Havnebyvej 30 6792 Rømø – Denmark  Kontor/Office: +45 72 54 36 26 Mobil: +45 93 56 40 99 [pessi@danmarksnationalparker.dk](mailto:pessi@danmarksnationalparker.dk) | **Ms Barbara Engels**  Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)  Konstantinstr. 110  D-53179 Bonn  Phone.: + 49-(0)228-8491-1746  Mobile: +49 (0)171 7170104  [barbara.engels@bfn.de](mailto:barbara.engels@bfn.de) |
| **Ms Anja Domnick** (project officer PROWAD LINK)  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  Virchowstr. 1  D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  phone: +49 (0)4421 9108-24  Mobile +49 (0)170 9108 024  [domnick@waddensea-secretariat.org](mailto:domnick@waddensea-secretariat.org) |  |

**Written Information**

**by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dr. Marta Jacuniak-Suda**  Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Weser-Ems Dezernat 2 - Regionale Landesentwicklung Theodor-Tantzen-Platz 8  26122 Oldenburg  Tel.: +49 441 799-2651  Fax: +49 441 799-6-2651  [marta.jacuniak-suda@arl-we.niedersachsen.de](mailto:marta.jacuniak-suda@arl-we.niedersachsen.de) | **Mr Marc Klinke**  Marketing-Koordinator  Ostfriesische Inseln GmbH  Goethestr. 1  26757 Borkum  Phone: + 49 4922 933 120  Mobil: 0151 649 299 53  [Marc.Klinke@ostfriesische-inseln.de](mailto:Marc.Klinke@ostfriesische-inseln.de) |
| **Ms Corinna Wilken / Jennifer Renner**  Projektmanagement Weltnaturerbe Wattenmeer & Onlinemarketing  Die Nordsee GmbH  Börsenstraße 7, 26382 Wilhelmshaven  Fon   +49 (0)4421-956099-6  [corinna.wilken@die-nordsee.de](mailto:corinna.wilken@die-nordsee.de) | **Ms Caroline Pupelis**  Ostfriesland Tourismus GmbH  Ledastraße 10  26789 Leer  Tel. + 49 4 91 / 91 96 96 53  Fax. + 49 4 91 / 91 96 96 65  pupelis@ostfriesland.travel |

**ANNEX 2**

**Annotated**

**Proposed Draft AGENDA**

**NETWORK GROUP SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

**NG-ST**

**ZOOM meeting addressing: COVID-19 Facing extraordinary challenges**

**25 May 2020**

**1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting will commence at 14**:00**. Adoption of the draft agenda of the meeting.

**2. Overview of every region / member of the NG-ST how they managing the crisis, accelerating recovery and preparing for tomorrow.**

The members are invited to address the following questions:

1. Introduction (business/product, employees, location etc.)
2. How has the crisis affected your work, what have you done to keep your work afloat?
3. How do you adapt to the continuous changing regulations?
   1. Examples how to cope with the new reality.
4. What support measures do you think are most necessary in this situation?
5. Will the fact that nature is an important aspect of our destination have an impact on the recovery after the crisis?
6. The hashtag #TravelTomorrow through which the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) calls for shared responsibility among travellers and the tourism sector around the world to deal with the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. For the Wadden Sea Region: Can the crisis lead to a more sustainable business, more bilateral/trilateral cooperation - how?

.

**NG-ST members should provide local information by mail after the meeting to CWSS for documentation.**

**3.** **Discussion on planned “Weekly bulletin on Coronavirus (COVID-19): Insight, Action and Resources”**

The meeting is invited to discuss and complement the document (document by CWSS**: NG-ST DRAFT Corona Overview**)

**4. Next Meeting**

**5. Any Other Business**

The meeting will be invited to discuss any other business.

**6. Closing**

The meeting will be closed at **16:00** at the latest.

**Annex 3 - information submitted in writing**

**Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Weser-Ems**

**Dr. Marta Jacuniak-Suda**

29.05.2020

**Overview of the new Interreg B projects in the region of Weser-Ems and the effects of coronavirus crisis**

**Part A: New Interreg B-Projects (approved since 2019)**

1. *Thinking growth: Supporting growth in North Sea Region economies*

**BLING**

13 beneficiaries from 6 NSR countries are involved in the project (BE, DE, NL, DK, SE and UK). BLING targets the use of blockchain technology for public service delivery. Blockchain-enabled systems will allow governments to deliver a range of new solutions and service designs that have the potential to redefine the relationship between governments, citizens and SMEs in terms of transparency, trust and data-sharing.

The project held the kick-off in February 2019. The event was organised in Gothenburg around the theme "The Future of Blockchain in the Public Sector” and was well attended by around 60 participants from government, companies and other stakeholders. In addition, the project published a booklet on "The Financial Emergency Brake" - a prototype of a government service that is built with blockchain-based technology. The goal of this service is to help citizens with timely paying off debts. It is a multi-stakeholder application that works under the principle of “zero-knowledge” – which means no private data is shared. Implementation of the prototype is foreseen in 2020.

**Futures by Design**

12 partners from 5 Member States (BE, DE, NL, SE, UK) are working to help 300 SMEs in the North Sea Region to grow, increase productivity and innovate better by helping them to use data to drive up performance. The targeted SMEs are placed at the end of the value chain, typically located in hinterlands of larger innovation hubs. While critical to regional economies, their capacity for success is limited by insufficient access to and ability to analyse data - about finance, legal changes, and markets.

The project is addressing these challenges by designing and creating new ‘Horizon Scanning Knowledge Transfer’ (HSKT) hubs that will provide data-analytic tools and data-harvesting capacities to support SMEs in the health technology, light engineering and agri-technology sectors, and by evaluating and disseminating the experiences from HSKT and data analytics tools.

In 2019, the partnership laid the relevant groundwork for further implementation and for starting their pilots. Special emphasis was placed on developing the HSKT hub concept, creating the first tools and conducting an in-depth analysis of SMEs demands and pressures.

1. *ECO-innovation: Stimulating green economy*

**NONSTOP**

The project brings together 8 beneficiaries from 4 NSR countries (DE, NL, BE and DK) to implement a green smart digital transition in the management of NSR ports of regional importance. This will be achieved by introducing, testing, and monitoring intelligent technologies and processes in the storage, deployment, sharing and transmission of data related to marine conditions, sea/landside operations and energy production / consumption / distribution in ports. The goal is to reduce by 10% the time of pre-defined logistical / maintenance port operations and lower by 10% the port energy and pollution by building on collaborative expertise and joint practice.

**Stronghouse**

14 beneficiaries and 5 sub-partners from 6 countries (Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, U.K., Denmark, and Sweden) aim to change the attitude and behavior of individual homeowners and neigbourhoods towards energy renovation.

Stronghouse will adjust and redesign these measures based on a better understanding of the drivers that motivate homeowners – individually and on a neighbourhood level - to invest and reduce the environmental footprint of their homes. Together these redesigned measures support homeowners in their journey from initial interest, to planning, financing and contracting energy renovation.

1. *Sustainable North Sea Region: Protecting against climate change and preserving the environment*

**C5A Cluster for Cloud to Coast Climate Adaptation**

The project brings together ten beneficiaries from six member states (except Norway) to respond to the challenge of climate change.

The project want to delivers a whole-of-system approach that will integrate four constituent systems (catchment, coasts, cities, infrastructure networks) and enable the development of multifunctional and adaptable solutions that deliver more sustainable, integrated and multifunctional solutions across the NSR. To do so, the project will build upon the outcomes of seven ongoing Interreg NSR projects to ensure the approach is both evidence-based and practical.

**GEANS**

GEANS is a project consisting of nine partner organisations from all North Sea Region member states. The project operates in the field of ecosystem health assessment of the North Sea Region and will promote the shift from morphological species identification to harmonized genetic tools.

Steps in the project will be to develop a reliable DNA sequence reference library, carry out a set of pilot studies and develop a decision support framework, which will facilitate the implementation of a transnational uniform DNA-based approach by all competent authorities. A harmonized genetic approach will reduce conflicts and create synergies and improve the environmental health assessment, as demanded by different EU directives.

**BEESPOKE**

BEESPOKE (Benefitting Ecosystems through Evaluation of food Supplies for Pollination to Open up Knowledge for End users) is a project consisting of 16 partners from all member states – except for Norway.

The overall objective is to increase levels of pollinators and crop pollination at local and landscape scales by providing land managers and policy makers with the new expertise, tools and financial knowledge to instigate bottom-up change creating more sustainable and resilient North Sea Region ecosystems. This is supposed to be achieved by enhancing and improving non-crop habitats for pollinators, by creating more resilient ecosystems for pollinators and crops and by demonstration of improved habitats for pollinators and techniques for measuring pollination.

In addition, the project will focus on stakeholder engagement, delivery and uptake of outputs and results to bring change in land management and policy.

The aim of the project is to achieve a 10 % increase in crop yield or quality as a result of enhanced pollination on the demonstration sites with improved flowering habitats as well as a 10 % increase in the measured diversity of pollinators on the demonstration sites with improved flowering habitats.

1. *Promoting green transport and mobility*

**ART-FORUM**

The project has 13 beneficiaries and one co-beneficiary from 6 countries (Germany, Flanders, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the UK).

The project's aim is to create a debating ground for local/regional authorities, address risks and opportunities and help guide policy development with regard to the impact that automated transport could have on the road transport system and life in cities and regions of the North Sea Region.

“Mobile Zeiten”, a consulting enterprise from Oldenburg, and the Province of Groningen have recently organised a successful transnational knowledge transfer between the German-Dutch border region. Exemplary through the workshop "Driverless Mobility Experience" in Scheemda (NL) they managed to create a positive environment for sharing good practice. At this event, the participants were able to test a pilot, which is in use at the hospital in Scheemda.

**AVATAR**

AVATAR (Sustainable urban freight transport with autonomous zero-emission vessels modal shift from road to water) brings together 7 partners from 3 countries (BE, DE, and NL). The project focuses on the massive under-exploitation of inland waterways (IWW) in the North Sea Region, especially in and around urban environments, which provides opportunities for technological innovations. This project aims to deploy zero-emission automated vessels that can-do hourly traffic between the Urban Consolidation Centers outside the city and inner-city hubs, focusing on the distribution of palletized goods and waste return.

The AVATAR project will develop, test, and assess adequate technologies and business models for urban autonomous zero-emission (IWT). Through this, the project will unlock the economic potential of urban vessels and corresponding waterways, increase available solutions for full-cycle automation and set up a sustainable supply chain model for urban goods distribution and waste return.

**BITS**

BITS, with 10 beneficiaries from 5 countries (the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and the UK) aims at implementing ITS solutions that directly increase the take-up of cycling and reduce CO2 emission, while collecting and processing reliable and useful cycling data for policy-making.

The first ITS Academy in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, including an interview with BBC Humberside was a success. One of the first actions of the project was to research existing ITS systems and services for cycling. The implementing partners within BITS have started to develop their implementation plans, and a first implementation with 3D cameras to improve safety of cyclists was carried out in the Province of Antwerp (BE). First co-design events were held in Zwolle (NL) and East Riding (UK), thus involving local and regional stakeholders in the implementation plans.

The project organized an internal workshop in Bruges (BE) to identify cycling data needs. This was then used to start a first discussion on the structure of the Cycling Data Hub, e.g. about data structure, metadata, and data availability.

**Part B: The effects of the coronavirus crisis on Interreg B projects in the region of Weser-Ems**

The restrictions related to the outbreak of the corona virus have led to a number of cancellations of conferences, meetings and thematic workshops. Many project activities have been cancelled or postponed. Around 10 projects intend to extend the project timeline.

Some projects can catch up on the delays caused by the virus later on but for others it means that it is impossible to carry out all project activities within the project timeline. Some activities are currently delayed or completely stopped, especially with regard to the pilots.

There is a concern how the staff employed for the project only can be paid in the case of project extension or beyond the project end in order to complete project activities. An additional budget to cover running staff expenditures would be welcome. This also applies for additional costs related to the acquisition or rental of equipment resulting from the social distancing rule.

Here is a summary of responses provided by the Joint Secretariat to the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the projects:

* The Monitoring Committee has given permission for the Joint Secretariat to extend the project timeline by 6 months (the extension will not have budgetary effects).
* If activities such as travel or events are restricted in one country, the potential costs of cancellation - e.g. plane tickets, hotels, rent of venue - will be regarded as eligible costs in all seven NSR countries.
* It is possible to make shifts to the project budget between the budget lines and between beneficiaries, keeping in mind that the total project budget must remain the same.
* At the moment there is no additional funding available.
* The Joint Secretariat is striving to be as supportive and flexible as possible.

**Ostfriesische Inseln GmbH**

**Marc Klinke**

Production of a new image film of the East Frisian Islands for an online experience of the islands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTP9WrLqU2Y>

Plead for help of the East Frisian island to Mr. Althusmann, Lower saxony ministry of economics, labor, transport and digitization:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOwGKeR5KgY&t=5s>

**Ostfriesland Tourismus GmbH**

**Caroline Pupelis**

Creation of a landing page with information about the Coronavirus in East Frisia. The information is constantly updated: <https://www.ostfriesland.travel/service/corona-ostfriesland-hinweise-fuer-urlauber>

Bringing the region to the visitor: "East Frisia for your living room": <https://www.ostfriesland.travel/urlaubsthemen/ostfriesland-fuer-zu-hause>

Active use of social media channels e.g. on Instagram a trip around the world or stories with miniature figures to take the guests on the trip and keep them happy.

World tour: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B_b43YRClHF/>

Miniature stories: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B-otnGxCs0d/>

Development of the “Wadden-Games” available in three languages (DE, NL, EN): <https://www.instagram.com/p/B-otnGxCs0d/>

**Die Nordsee GmbH**

**Jennifer Renner / Corinna Wilke**

During the Corona time nothing specific is produced or a video is shot, but the newsletter and the website are extended by a digital experience offer. For example "Aerial Panoramas of the Wadden Sea" of the National Park Administration: <https://www.die-nordsee.de/nordsee-news>

Also, very active on social media channels Facebook and Instagram.

In addition, advertising of our video theme series "The 7 Wadden Wonders", which was produced within the framework of the Wadden Agenda Project, on social media channels again, quasi according to the motto "We bring the Wadden Sea World Heritage home to you".