

# ENSEA

## *Work package 2*

*Authors:*  
*David Butler*  
*Natasha Madeira*

Date:  
*December 2013*

**© 2013 European North Sea Energy Alliance**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written consent of the lead partner or partners of ENSEA including but not limited to, in any network or other electronic storage or transmission, or broadcast for distance learning.

**Lead Partner:**

Energy Valley Foundation  
Laan Corpus den Hoorn 300  
9728 JT Groningen  
The Netherlands

E-mail: [info@ensea.biz](mailto:info@ensea.biz)  
Twitter: @ENSEA2012  
LinkedIn: ENSEA – European North Sea Energy Alliance  
Phone: +31 (0) 50 789 00 10

## Work Package 2

Work package 2 (WP2) of the ENSEA project involves analysis of the research capabilities, activities, roles and connectivity of participating project partners.

This work ties into the main 3 main objectives of the project:

1. Provide information on the capabilities, roles and connectivity of participating ENSEA research driven clusters
2. Analyse strengths and weaknesses of current approaches to research and innovation and identify opportunities for improving the overall effectiveness of the system
3. Identify opportunities for strengthening the relationships within and between the clusters, to optimise the impact on regional economic development and global competitiveness.

Work Package 2 assembles an information base and includes SWOT analyses which will help the ENSEA partners to identify opportunities to work together to address the challenges of Energy Systems Integration. It also provides a critical analysis of existing performance of the institutions involved in R&D, innovation and regional economic development work and identifies opportunities for best practice and synergies across regions. This creates the basis for the Joint Action Plan to be developed in Work package three. WP2 also includes an analysis of EU and international links and cooperation as part of ENSEA internationalisation strategy.

### **Work Package 2 comprises five main tasks:**

- Task 2.1 Define methodological framework
- Task 2.2 Definition and validation of methodological framework
- Task 2.3 Collect regional & international data
- Task 2.4 SWOT analyses per region
- Task 2.5 Analysis & integration of findings

The methodological framework is partly based on the Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS). The IUS (a national level assessment) and also the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) have been developed by the EU to enable a comparison of the levels of innovativeness of EU countries and regions relative to each other. IUS and RIS are well established and have been used for a decade by the EU.

In the development of a sound methodological framework, ENSEA builds on prior efforts as executed in the Interreg IVB project: Energy Vision North Sea Vision. The Energy Valley Foundation is lead beneficiary of this project and is currently developing this research approach towards regional cluster analysis.

WP2 provides insight into the following areas of interest for comparing the ENSEA research driven regional energy clusters (and their parent countries):

- Research strengths in the sector (public institutions)
- Research strengths in the sector (private institutions)
- Effectiveness of existing linkages and collaborations
- Skills availability
- Talent attraction
- Capacity for EU and international engagement

The collection methods for the ENSEA SWOT analysis were:

- Desk-based research to collect data for all the ENSEA regional clusters, using metrics defined in the European Innovation and Regional Innovation Scoreboard.
- Desk-based research to capture analyses of aspects of local energy innovation systems and gather relevant statistical material.
- Interviews with key institutions in energy research and innovation in the cluster to collect detailed information that is not available from the desk research. Examples included case studies on the ENSEA cross cutting themes (grid, storage, etc.) and also forward-looking plans for activities over the Horizon 2020 time period.
- Regional workshops with local companies and Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to identify any perceived barriers to increased energy innovation and to help evaluate the effectiveness of current research and policy support.
- Social Network Analysis to capture the linkages between stakeholders within and between the ENSEA clusters.

Information and data gathered was used to do SWOT analyses on each partner region and to develop and intra regional comparison of the partners.