

CREATING A COLLABORATION ARENA

SCHIERMONIKOOG



ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

SCHIERMONIKOOG

CREATING A COLLABORATION ARENA - A DEDICATED PHYSICAL SPACE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE INTERACTION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE MUNICIPALITY



TARGET GROUP

LOCAL RESIDENTS
MUNICIPALITY STAFF AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS
NGOS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
STUDENTS AND YOUTH COUNCILS



PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

THE ISLAND LACKS A DEDICATED SPACE FOR STRUCTURED DIALOGUE, CO-CREATION, & JOINT DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR
A PHYSICAL COLLABORATION ARENA LIMITS THE POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INNOVATION, PARTICIPATORY PLANNING, & SUSTAINABLE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



SOLUTION

DEVELOP A "COLLABORATION ARENA" AS A MULTIFUNCTIONAL PHYSICAL SPACE WHERE DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS CAN MEET, EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND INITIATE JOINT PROJECTS



WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

ACTIVE LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS & CIVIC INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON NATURE CONSERVATION & CULTURAL HERITAGE
TRADITION OF COMMUNITY PRIDE & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT
MUNICIPALITY COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
PRIOR EXPERIENCES WITH SMALLER CO-CREATION PROJECTS & COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



WHAT IS NEEDED?

APPROX. €60,000 STARTUP BUDGET
SUPPORT: VENUE ALLOCATION & LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIPS: LOCAL BUSINESSES, NGOS, & EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DEVELOPMENT OF AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAM PLAN INVOLVING ALL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
DIGITAL PLATFORM



WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

FREIIA AND PARTNER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
MUNICIPALITY OF SCHIERMONNIKOOG
LOCAL NGOS AND ASSOCIATIONS
BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS
YOUTH COUNCILS AND STUDENT NETWORKS



WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

PLANNING & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: JANUARY – MAY 2026
RENOVATION AND SETUP: SUMMER 2026
PILOT PROGRAMMING PHASE: AUTUMN 2026
FULL OPERATION LAUNCH: JANUARY 2027



EXPECTED IMPACTS

STRENGTHEN LOCAL BUSINESS COLLABORATION, FOSTER INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY IDENTITY, SUPPORT INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE
CO-DESIGNED SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

STRATEGIES

LIMITED PARTICIPATION → EARLY AND INCLUSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FROM DESIGN PHASE
OPERATIONAL COSTS → DEVELOP DIVERSE FUNDING SOURCES, INVOLVE VOLUNTEER NETWORKS
GOVERNANCE CONFLICTS → CLEAR GOVERNANCE MODEL WITH ROTATING REPRESENTATION
UNDERUTILIZATION → DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING, OPEN ACCESS, MULTI-PURPOSE USE



POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

MODEL

EU INTERREG OR LEADER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
DUTCH REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTICIPATION FUNDS
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS (LOCAL BANKS, SERVICE PROVIDERS)
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
EVENT HOSTING REVENUES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FEES



SUGGESTED NEXT

STEPS

PRESENT CONCEPT TO MUNICIPALITY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS
HOST INITIAL CO-CREATION WORKSHOPS TO DEFINE ARENA PURPOSE AND DESIGN
IDENTIFY AND SECURE SUITABLE LOCATION ON THE ISLAND
DEVELOP GOVERNANCE MODEL AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS
APPLY FOR INITIAL STARTUP FUNDING
LAUNCH PILOT EVENTS BY LATE 2026

Island: Schiermonikoog (Netherlands)

Title: **Creating a Collaboration Arena** - A dedicated physical space should be established to facilitate interaction and cooperation between the local community and the municipality. Currently, the lack of a structured venue for joint initiatives and discussions limits the potential for effective collaboration. By creating a collaboration arena, local residents, businesses, and public authorities would have a centralized hub for sharing ideas, co-developing projects, and fostering a stronger sense of community involvement.

1. Target group

Local residents. Municipality staff and public authorities. Local businesses and entrepreneurs. NGOs and community organizations. Students and youth councils.

2. Problem and Opportunity

Currently, Schiermonnikoog lacks a dedicated space for structured dialogue, co-creation, and joint development between the community and public sector. The absence of a physical collaboration arena limits the potential for community-driven innovation, participatory planning, and sustainable project development. Establishing such a hub would strengthen local ownership, empower citizens, and create a visible platform for collective problem-solving.

3. Solution

Develop a "Collaboration Arena" as a multifunctional physical space where diverse stakeholders can meet, exchange ideas, and initiate joint projects. The arena will:

- Host regular town hall meetings, workshops, and co-design sessions.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships and social innovation.
- Serve as a venue for exhibitions, learning programs, and community events.
- Provide flexible spaces for working groups and collaborative planning.
- Act as a central point for youth engagement and participatory governance.

4. What already exists?

- Active local associations and civic initiatives focused on nature conservation and cultural heritage.
- Strong tradition of community pride and volunteer engagement.
- Existing collaboration between Wadden Sea stakeholders and educational programs.
- Municipality commitment to sustainability and citizen participation.
- Prior experiences with smaller co-creation projects and community consultations.

5. What is needed?

Approx. €60,000 startup budget (renovation, furnishings, technology, coordination)

Municipality support for venue allocation and long-term management

Partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, and educational institutions

Development of an inclusive program plan involving all stakeholder groups

Digital platform to coordinate events, resources, and community feedback

6. Who Implements It?

FREIIA and partner university students (project coordination, program design)

Municipality of Schiermonnikoog (venue allocation, facilitation, funding)

Local NGOs and associations (program content, outreach)

Businesses and entrepreneurs (mentorship, collaboration projects)

Youth councils and student networks (youth-driven initiatives)

7. When is it Feasible?

Planning & Stakeholder Engagement: January – May 2026

Renovation and Setup: Summer 2026

Pilot Programming Phase: Autumn 2026

Full Operation Launch: January 2027

8. Expected Impacts

Economic: Strengthen local business collaboration, foster innovation and entrepreneurship

Social: Empower citizen participation, enhance community identity, support intergenerational dialogue

Environmental: Facilitate co-designed sustainability projects and nature-based solutions

Educational: Provide real-world learning spaces for students and lifelong learning opportunities for residents

9. Risk Factors and Mitigation Strategies

Limited participation → Early and inclusive stakeholder engagement from design phase

Operational costs → Develop diverse funding sources, involve volunteer networks

Governance conflicts → Clear governance model with rotating representation

Underutilization → Dynamic programming, open access, multi-purpose use

10. Possible Funding or Business Model

EU Interreg or LEADER community development grants

Dutch regional sustainability and participation funds

Corporate sponsorships (local banks, service providers)

Membership programs for businesses and community organizations

Event hosting revenues and educational program fees

11. Suggested Next Steps

- Present concept to municipality and community leaders
- Host initial co-creation workshops to define arena purpose and design
- Identify and secure suitable location on the island
- Develop governance model and stakeholder commitments
- Apply for initial startup funding
- Launch pilot events by late 2026

Municipality's Facilitating Role (RUDDER Framework)

Leadership: Appoint a municipal community innovation coordinator to oversee the arena development.

Connector: Facilitate partnerships between residents, businesses, NGOs, and public authorities.

Facilitator / Creator: Support inclusive co-design processes and capacity-building workshops.

Provider: Offer space allocation, in-kind support, and seed funding.

Ambassador: Actively promote Schiermonnikoog's community innovation approach regionally and nationally.

Leverage / Capitalize: Use the arena to showcase participatory governance and sustainable community planning.

Network Orbiting: Build connections with similar community innovation hubs across European islands.

Procurement Trendsetter: Integrate citizen participation into procurement processes for public services and development projects.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Interest / Motivation
Students (FREIA, partner universities)	Concept development, program design, delivery	Leadership, entrepreneurship, community innovation
Municipality of Schiermonnikoog	Strategic owner, facilitator, funding, governance	Sustainable development, participatory governance,
Local NGOs and associations	Program contributors, outreach, mentorship	Civic engagement, conservation, cultural
Local businesses and entrepreneurs	Partners, project collaborators, sponsors	Economic growth, local innovation, social responsibility
Youth councils and student networks	Co-creators, program leaders	Youth voice, skills development, future
Community residents	Participants, idea generators, volunteers	Strengthened local identity, influence on development
Regional and EU funders	Funding, advisory support	Model for participatory regional development, policy