

2 Mers Seas Zeeën

INTERREG IV A

FRANCE - ENGLAND - VLAANDEREN - NEDERLAND

# Unlock human capital invest in soft skills

## 2 Seas Cluster

### Programme

Boosting the European economy and local businesses by enabling people to reach their full potential

Friday November 14, 2014  
Kinepolis Lomme (Lille)



Friday November 14, 2014

9.30-10.30



### **Registration and coffee, mini soft skills expo**

The 2 seas Programme is very proud to present some inspiring tools and instruments on soft skills developed during the 2007-2013 Program period.

Participants of the conference will learn about the social policy perspective and economic value of soft skills, cross border activities that have been undertaken by European partners and concrete outputs.

10.30

### **Welcome and Opening Session**

#### **Welcome to Lille**

- Introduction to the event and its main objectives
- Opening session: participants will learn more about the bigger picture of the STEPS-cluster projects. Bart Vanhercke, OSE Director (European Social Observatory) will talk about the social dimension of the EU 2020 strategy and the need to invest in human capital.

12.00-13.00

### **Network lunch break, mini soft skills expo**

13.15

### **Unlock human capital - invest in soft skills**

#### **Introduction to STEPS cluster**

- In the STEPS cluster, partners from different countries (The Netherlands, UK, France and Belgium) and different sectors (welfare, education, vocational training and labour market) were joined by their experience that the key to successful and sustainable employment is investment in soft skills and human capital. Participants will learn more about the different partners, and the methods and tools that have been developed in order to unlock human capital.

#### **A look at field-experiences**

- STEPS movie – an overview of actions and results on soft skills from the Netherlands, UK, France & Belgium.

#### **Joint findings of the STEPS-cluster partners**

- 1/ The economic value of soft skills: a smart investment in human capital.
- 2/ Job searchers and employers: crossing the bridge!

14.00

### **Coffee break, soft skills mini expo**

14.30

### **Panel discussion: the desired future**

Five key representatives from different sectors give their view on the value of soft skills and their crucial role in the process of unlocking human capital - in work life and personal life.

15.15

### **Q & A**

15.30

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

Closing remarks and recommendations for the future, aimed at policy and decision makers on a local, regional and European level to recognise the benefits of soft skills training, to ensure this important issue remains on the strategic employability and skills training agenda.

15.45-17.00

### **Network reception**



For further information on the 2 Seas Programme,  
please visit our website :

[www.interreg4a-2mers.eu](http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu)

### INTERREG IV A 2 Mers Seas Zeeën

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**"Investing in your future"**  
Crossborder cooperation programme  
2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union  
**(European Regional Development Fund)**



The Interreg 2 Seas Programme is an EU funding programme which promotes crossborder cooperation between partners from France, England, Belgium (Flanders) and The Netherlands. It aims to develop the competitiveness and the sustainable growth potential of maritime and non-maritime issues through the establishment and development of cross border partnerships.