An aerial photograph of a satellite in orbit over the ocean. The satellite is rectangular and features a complex arrangement of instruments, including a large blue circular antenna, a white structure, and various smaller sensors. The background is a deep blue, textured ocean surface.

STRING Megaregion

From Connectivity to Competitiveness

STRING is a political member organisation for cities and regional authorities in Northern Europe.

Connects and aligns politically, industrially and geographically to accelerate the green transition and unlock new potential for green growth.

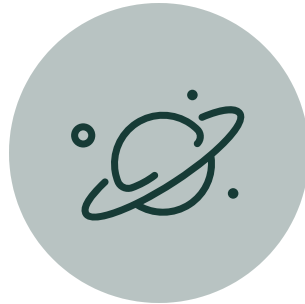
4 countries
7 cities
9 regions
14,5 million
inhabitants



Strategic Focus



A political platform for cross-border coordination

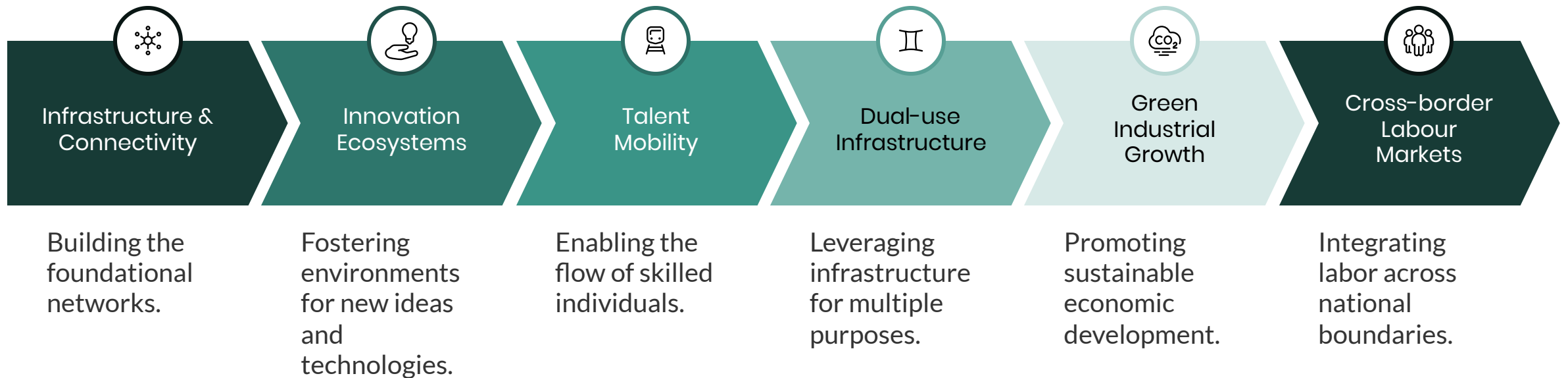


Connecting infrastructure, innovation and labour markets



Accelerating green growth and resilience

From Connectivity to Competitiveness



Infrastructure as the
enabler not the goal

Europe's challenge is no longer ambition — but coordinated delivery

Geopolitical Uncertainty:

Navigating an increasingly complex global landscape.

Security of Supply:

Ensuring resilient and stable access to critical resources and goods.

Competitiveness Pressure:

Maintaining and enhancing economic standing in a globalized market.

Green Transition:

Accelerating the shift towards sustainable and climate-neutral practices.

Fragmented Delivery Systems:

Addressing the implementation gap where national planning hinders cross-border progress.

Fehmarn Belt: The Game Changer

Reshaping the Geography of Northern Europe



Between Scandinavia and Germany.

Of labour markets and supply chains.

A strategic ScanMed TEN-T corridor connection.

Potential to shift freight from road to rail.

Competitiveness and resilience.

"Road freight across Fehmarn may grow by 50% – rail only ~20% unless bottlenecks are removed."

Oslo–Gothenburg Railway: From Bottleneck to Backbone

A Strategic Missing Link in Northern Europe



Critical Corridor

One of Scandinavia's most important cross-border corridors and a critical bottleneck in the ScanMed corridor.



Enhancing Resilience

Essential for shifting freight from road to rail, strengthening redundancy and resilience in Northern Europe.



Dual-Use Mobility

Supports both civilian and military mobility, especially with Sweden's NATO accession.

Current infrastructure capacity is insufficient for future demands. Investing now strengthens economic integration and preparedness, connecting Norway to continental Europe through allied territory.

Europe's Missing Operational Layer

Why Megaregions Matter



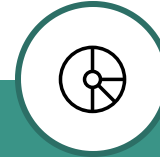
The link between EU and nations

Understanding the flow from EU-level strategies to megaregional cooperation and grassroots execution.



Cross-border Labour Markets

Integrated employment areas that span multiple administrative units, fostering a more cohesive workforce.



Functional Economic Systems

Regions where economic activity is deeply interconnected, irrespective of administrative borders.



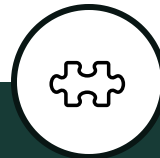
Shared Infrastructure Systems

Coordinated development and management of transportation, energy, and digital networks across borders.



Faster Implementation Capacity

Streamlined processes for projects and policies within integrated functional areas, enabling quicker execution.



Reduced Fragmentation

Overcoming administrative silos to achieve more cohesive and unified development.



Platform for Discussion: State of the Megaregions 2026

An initiative by STRING in Brussels to strengthen European dialogue on megaregional governance, competitiveness, and resilience.

Europe requires enhanced cross-border governance to effectively manage regions where economies already function as integrated systems.

State of the Megaregions Day 2026

Strengthening Europe's Capacity to Act Across Borders

1

A New EU Platform

Europe needs stronger discussion about how integrated cross-border territories can support implementation and resilience

2

Current State: Fragmented Governance

Europe's economies function cross-border, but governance and delivery remain fragmented. Megaregions represent Europe's missing operational layer.

3

Need for Cross-Border Capacity

Essential for competitiveness and resilience. Europe must transition from projects to long-term implementation capacity.

4

**Hosted by
STRING**

**13th October
2026**

Brussels

Keynote speaker:
Teresa Ribera

Executive vice-president for
a Clean, Just and
Competitive Transition,
European Commission



The Future Belongs to Connected and Resilient Regions

Europe must invest in cross-border capacity, and STRING stands ready to connect Northern Europe.