The Project Partners:

- Intercommunal Leiedal, BE – lead partner
- atene KOM, DE
- BürgerBreitbandNetz GmbH & Co. KG, DE
- Municipality of Vejle, DK
- Municipality of Middelfart, DK
- Aalborg University, DK
- University of Groningen, NL
- Oldambt Municipality, NL
- Groningen Internet Exchange Foundaon, NL
- Municipality of North Djurs, DK
- Municipality of South Djurs, DK
- Municipality of Grue, NO
- Hedmark County Council, NO
- Municipality of Eidskog, NO
- Municipality of Kongsvinger, NO
- Värmland County Administrave Board, SE
- Torsby Municipality, SE
- University of Lincoln, UK

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North Sea Region
CORA
European Regional Development Fund
EUROPEAN UNION

COnnecting Remote Areas with digital infrastructure and services

Rural Digital Divide – A Territorial Challenge in the North Sea Region

Digital divide across rural areas of the NSR is liming their attractiveness for families and businesses. This phenomenon represents a market failure, as infrastructural investment is not adequately delivered due to high financial risks. Digital skills also fail to meet a certain level of progress. Local authories are often not aware of their future-coming digital needs and end-users have limited skills to create an effective level of demand.

CORA Target

CORA revolves around stimulating digital infrastructure and services in rural areas and comprises a transnational consortium with 18 partners from seven European member states. It aims at enabling local authorities to identify their common challenges and empowers them to exchange experiences and test innovative solutions to create an advanced digital environment. To do so, it emphasizes the main components of digital divide, namely digital infrastructure, services and skills.

CORA Transnational Approach

CORA partners develop a model, which provides a comprehensive set of guiding measures towards digitalization in rural areas. It employs fixed and mobile digital hub concepts for providing in-place advice, technology demonstration and incubator spaces. Built on "train the trainer", face-to-face and online training concepts will be tested to enhance digital skills. The aim is to enable local authorities to identify their common challenges and empower them to exchange experiences and test innovative solutions to create an advanced digital environment. The results will be utilized to formulate digital strategies for rural areas to be streamlined to the regional, national and European authorities and influence EU digital inclusion policy.

CORA Work Packages

- Transnational project management
- Transnational project communication
- Knowledge on digital inclusion in rural areas
- Enhancing digital skills and competences
- CORA test beds
- Mainstreaming the CORA approach, policy briefing and knowledge transfer

CORA Pilots

Until 2020, 10 regions will demonstrate one or more dimensions of digitalization depending on their baselines and local priorities. Example of pilots are:

- Cross-border fibre sharing model
- Superfast wireless internet for rural communities and enterprises
- New digital public services for rural communities and businesses
- Fixed & mobile digital hub concepts
- Digital skills training in rural areas