



## The TransNational Network – your single entry point to the world of PICs

Photonics is an emerging technology with a potential multitrillion market. Innovative small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are at the forefront of this development, but the R&D costs are prohibitive for them. That's why 12 partners from northwestern Europe are creating an open access pilot line that will drastically reduce costs and time for the pilot production of new products. The 14 million euro project (OIP4NWE) is supported by the European Regional Development Fund and kicked off in November, 2018 in Eindhoven.

Within the OIP4NWE project, a TransNational Network (TNN) of existing organisations has

been built, active in engaging with SMEs in the implementation of integrated photonics.

Consisting of some partners in this project and other additional support organisations not included in the project, the Network will be expanding over the life time of the project in order to reach new markets and increase the projects outreach.

An organisation joining the TNN will benefit from early identification of business opportunities, connecting to Digital Innovation Hubs, avail of knowledge and expertise in PIC technology and

benefit from the pilot line established within the project OIP4NWE. The TNN will be active in soliciting candidates for the voucher scheme, leading to 7 SMEs using the Pilot Line for PIC manufacturing.

The TNN also supports the internal relationships between key work packages of the project (Figure 1), the vouchers to increase the outreach of the call for proposals and communications – the TransNational Network will be the project’s dissemination instrument and will promote

**Perfectly set from the beginning.**

But the TransNational Network doesn’t need to be set up from scratch – the project partners already include leading photonic innovation hubs and support organisations in the NWE region, and the task leader has approached EPIC (European Photonics Industry Consortium), a leading support organisation with a global presence, to include the TransNational Network in future outreach and dissemination activities. EPIC are the outreach and dissemina-

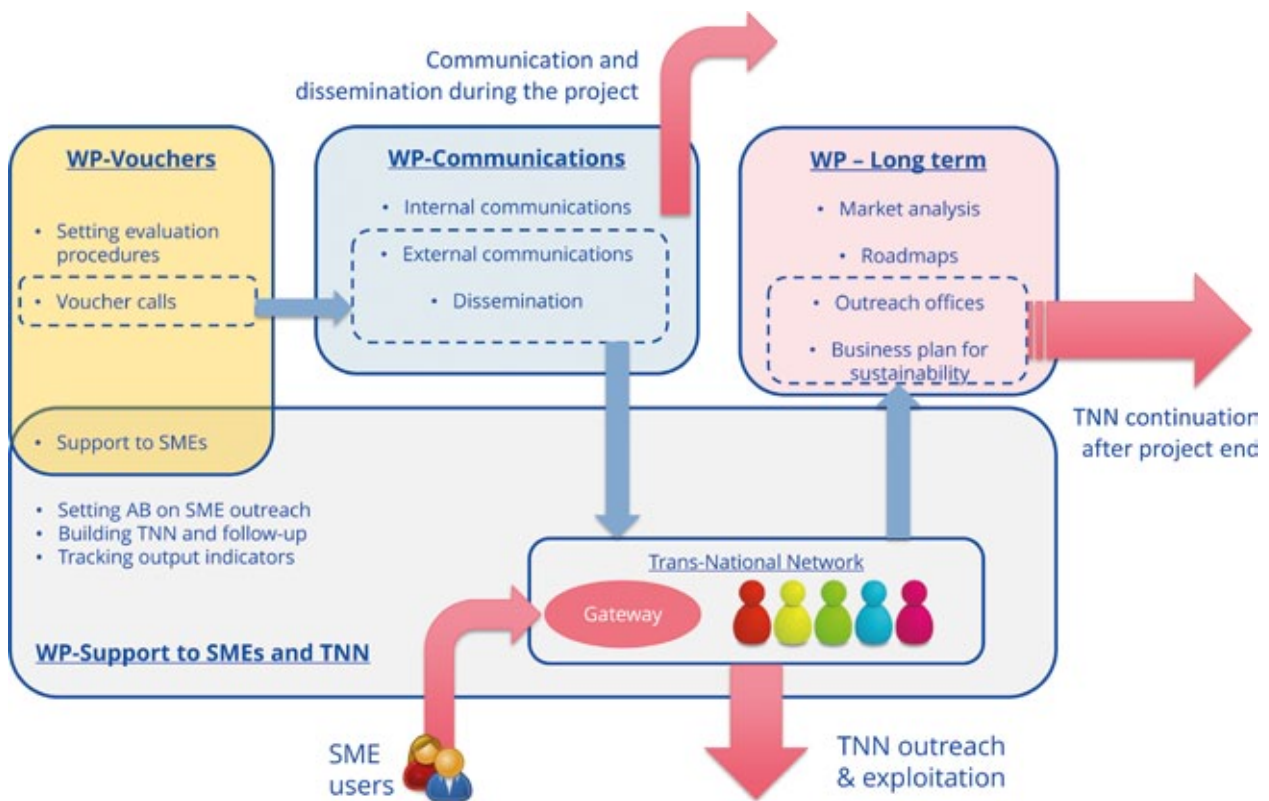


Figure 1: Work Package relationships and user outreach

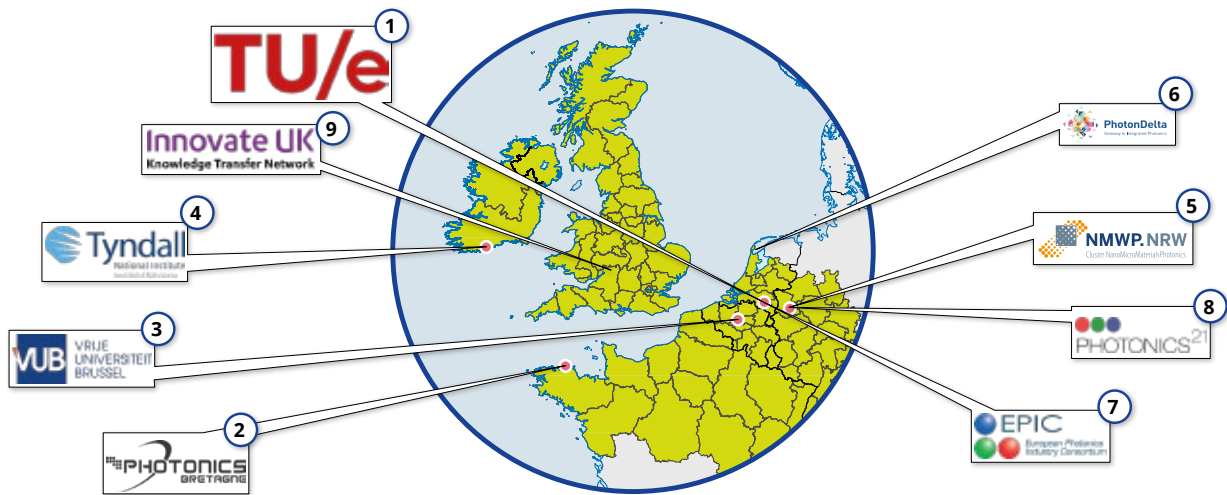
open innovation collaboration. After project end, the TNN will remain in operation to serve as marketing instrument for attracting SMEs making use of the pilotline and other parts of the ecosystem.

Therefore, the TransNational Network is an important tool to reach the projects goals, increase the visibility of the emerging pilot line and the partners activities and gain sustainable success of the services offered within OIP4NWE.

tion leaders for MIRPHAB, PIXAPP and InPULSE photonic pilot lines. In addition EPIC has a wide membership within the photonics industries and organise and attend multiple events including events, in USA and Asia.

That is why the TransNational Network has already started its work and represents the Interreg NWE project OIP4NWE internationally even before the network and their members themselves go public to introduce the TNN.

# The TNN Partners



Nr	Partner name	Role	Responsibilities	Contact person	Email
1	Technische Universiteit Eindhoven	RTO	Coordinator for InPULSE and JePPIX.	Ekaterina Panina	e.panina@tue.nl
2	Photonics Bretagne	Photonic Innovation Hub	Outreach and dissemination	David Mechin	dmechin@photonics-bretagne.com
3	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	RTO	Coordinator for ACTPHAST4.0, task leader for Voucher WP.	Jürgen Van Erps	jverps@b-phot.org
4	Tyndall National Institute	Task Lead/RTO	Create and expand TNN, collaboration and support from PIXAPP pilot line	Donal Behal	donal.behal@tyndall.ie
5	Cluster Nano-MikroWerkstoffe-Photonik.NRW	Photonic support organisation	Outreach and dissemination	Dirk Kalinowski	dirk.kalinowski@nmwp.de
6	Photon Delta Cooperatie	Photonic Innovation Hub	Outreach and dissemination	Anna Nikiel	anna@photondelta.eu
7	European Photonics Industry Consortium (EPIC)	Photonic support organisation	Outreach and dissemination	Ana Gonzalez	ana.gonzalez@epic-assoc.com
8	Photonics 21	Photonic support organisation	Outreach and dissemination	Markus Wilkens	Wilkens@vdi.de
9	Knowledge Transfer Network – Innovate UK	Photonic support organisation	Outreach and dissemination	Matthew Wasley	matthew.wasley@ktn-uk.org



The Interreg NWE-Project “OIP4NWE” aims at establishing an open innovation pilot line for the development of a generic photonic integration technology for the production of Indium Phosphide Photonic Integrated Circuits (PICs). Integrated photonics is the emerging technology where the manipulation of light takes place on a chip, making the components an order of magnitude cheaper, smaller and more energyefficient compared to today’s solutions. By providing these services to SMEs across Europe, the project reduces PIC access barriers and strengthens the competitiveness and innovativeness of European SME sustainably on the global markets.

Current generic PIC facilities are of a laboratory nature and inadequate for manufacturing and packaging

PICs with cost-efficiency, speed and reliable quality. There is a strong need to increase the technology readiness level (TRL) from the current 4 to 7. The equipment for PIC manufacturing and packaging is of an innovative, specialised nature that cannot be obtained from a single country. As application of PICs grows, North-West Europe needs to stay ahead. Therefore, intense collaboration between innovation stakeholders at transnational level is an important goal of the project.

The project is funded by the Interreg North-West Europe programme, which fosters transnational cooperation to make North-West Europe a key economic player and an attractive place to work and live, with high levels of innovation, sustainability and cohesion.

[www.nweurope.eu/oip4nwe](http://www.nweurope.eu/oip4nwe)