

BOSTON BY THE NORTH SEA

THE NETHERLANDS
AS A EUROPEAN MEDICINES HUB

PERFECT POSITION

Healthy, resilient and prosperous. That is the impression of the Boston region, after an 2019 economic mission. In the presence of, among others, our Prime Minister and Minister of Medical Care it became clear what the impact of a vibrant life sciences & health (LSH) sector is. And we want that in the Netherlands, too!

The top region provides much to the United States. As a driver of economic growth, Boston is an important engine for the entire country. This hub provides jobs, but also fast access for Americans to medical innovations. In addition, an autonomous region on home soil reduces the dependence on other countries.

Geopolitical developments

We are now experiencing through COVID-19 how important that strategic, geopolitical argument is. Considering not only corona vaccines, but also access to other medicines and vaccines. Over three quarters of the global drug production comes from China and India. This makes the chain vulnerable. Certainly in the event of a new pandemic or crisis.

Future of healthcare

That insight is increasingly shared. The Social and Economic Council (SER) stated in its study *The future of healthcare* that the health care sector makes an important contribution to our society, labour market and economy. We are living longer and healthier lives than a few decades ago, and that is largely due to healthcare innovations, according to the SER. This is a direct plea to invest more in Dutch medicine and vaccine innovation, such as in new antibiotics.

Future Pact Biotechnology 2025

VNO-NCW emphasized in the *Future Pact Biotechnology 2025* that the Netherlands has the knowledge, experience and trade position to become the European leader in biotechnology. However, this will require additional investments and better legislation and regulations, according to the employers' organization.

Gold

We have gold in our hands, even though we do not always realize it fully yet. In *Boston by the North Sea*, we make it clear why our country is perfectly positioned to play a key role in LSH innovations. Large companies, start-ups and universities reinforce each other within a clear geographical area. With Schiphol Airport and Port of Rotterdam as standard-bearers of a fantastic infrastructure.

WHAT MAKES BOSTON SO SPECIAL?

#1

In the United States, Boston is the dominant region in the field of biomedical research.

\$ 2,60

Every dollar invested in research generates \$ 2,60 for the Boston economy.

> Average growth

Economic growth in the Boston region is well above the United States average.

20%

The health sector, with a share of nearly 20%, is the largest job engine in the Boston region.

#3

In terms of job growth, the sector ranks third in this region. With thousands of additional jobs created each year.

18

The Boston region is home to eighteen of the twenty largest biotech companies in the world. The ten largest companies in medical devices are located there. The medical sector in Boston is extensive and sophisticated. The five best research hospitals in United States are located in Boston.

Source: Boston Planning & Development Agency, May 2020

Ambition

The time for Dutch modesty is over, we must push boundaries. Show ambition and guts. Especially now that an important corona vaccine, that will protect hundreds of millions of world citizens, has been developed in Leiden. This publication contains many more practical examples and impressive facts that make it clear why the Netherlands is unique and full of potential. Now is the time!

OUR OFFER

1. Position and ambition

The pharmaceutical sector in the Netherlands has the ambition to make our country the *Boston by the North Sea*. So much knowledge, expertise and infrastructure in a small geographical area gives us an excellent starting position in Europe. It is up to the government, companies and science to seize the opportunities together.

2. Investments in R&D

Our sector is already one of the largest investors in R&D in the Netherlands. But that's not all. Healthcare is facing major challenges. New viruses are emerging, there is the enormous risk of antibiotic resistance, and we need to invest heavily in research into combating diseases such as dementia and cancer. We want a strong, innovative ecosystem for LSH on our own soil. Already, the Dutch pharmaceutical sector accounts for some 65,000 jobs and The Netherlands exported €27.7 billion worth of medicines in 2019. In 2019, drug companies in Europe invested a total of € 166.8 billion in research and development.

3. Collaboration

The pandemic has taught us that working shoulder to shoulder pays off. The fact that we succeeded in developing several corona vaccines in just one year is due to the intensive and unprecedented cooperation between governments, companies and scientists.

OUR REQUEST

With the hard lessons of COVID-19 still top of mind, this is an exquisite moment to work together on *Boston by the North Sea*. We have a solid foundation, with stable policies around protecting intellectual property and competitive financial instruments, such as the innovation box. These are measures with which we score well internationally. Let's keep it that way! But we can make more progress if the government were to focus (even more strongly) on the following goals, which we would like to discuss further. What we ask:

1. Long-term government commitment to invest in the development and making of medicines and vaccines;
2. The courage to be competitive compared to other countries, both for investors and knowledge workers and in terms of facilities;
3. In the short term, the co-creation of new world-class laboratories;
4. Powerful bundling of existing initiatives in a National Control Table for Biotechnology and Medicines.

HOTSPOTS IN THE NETHERLANDS



University medical centers

AMC / VUMC / LUMC / Erasmus MC / Maastricht UMC / Radboud UMC / UMC Groningen / UMC Utrecht



Science Parks

Leiden Bioscience Park / Utrecht Science Park / Pivot Park Oss / Brightlands Maastricht / Amsterdam Science Park / Campus Groningen



Pharmaceutical companies

Hotspot Leiden / Hotspot Oss-Nijmegen / Hotspot Rotterdam / Hotspot Amsterdam / Hotspot Utrecht



Authorities

European Medicines Agency (EMA) / European Patent Office (EPO)



Logistics hubs

Schiphol Airport / Port of Amsterdam / Port of Rotterdam



Production sites

Weesp / Meppel / Bilthoven / Nijmegen / Delft / Amsterdam / Leiden

