



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



The Hungarian Presidency of the
EU Strategy for the Danube Region

EUSBSR Policy Area Innovation

Future prospects of macro-regional strategies

Brussels 23rd of May 2017



Policy Area Innovation in EUSBSR

The role of policy area innovation is to foster innovation by:

1. Enable shared learning,
2. Create and strengthen networks across the BSR,
3. Align resources and regulations,
4. Facilitate the joining up of forces in common programmes and investments.



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INNOVATION express

...a core activity of BSR Stars

Transnational call for proposals for the internationalisation of SMEs through cluster initiatives and business networks



BSR STARS
Innovation in the Baltic Sea Region



ERDF MA network in EUSBSR

- Formed 19th of May 2016 in Warsaw
- The MA network explores the opportunity of transnational collaboration funded by the ERDF structural funds programmes.
- Activating Common Provision Regulation Art. 70,
- The ambition: Increase the geographical flexibility of ERDF funds, in order to better contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the BSR.
- Initial focus:
 - Policy Area : PA-Innovation
 - Innovation policy applied: Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
 - Topic for pilot: Clean-tech



Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative (1)

CLEANER
GROWTH



REGION
VÄSTERBOTTEN



EUROPEISKA
UNIONEN
Europeiska
regionala
utvecklingsfonden



Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative (4)

Overview of the procedure to launch a call:

A few key dates to watch out for:

- 30th of March: Meeting between regional innovation planners with clean-tech focus in their smart specialisation strategies, Stockholm
- 2nd – 3rd of May: Workshop to develop proposals for project collaborations, Copenhagen
- 13th-14th of June: Launch of procedure to initiate joint collaboration by MA-network at the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Berlin in June.



Outcome; 30th of March meeting

- regional innovation planners

Agreed overall themes and target group, in *italic* below:

General objectives:

- To support transnational implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (policy instrument), *confirmed*
- Agreed topic: clean-tech, *confirmed*
- *To address overall themes aligned regional structural funds programmes:*
 - Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets*
 - Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions*
 - Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer*
- *Agreed target group for the workshop:*

"Innovation support agencies actors/clusters etc. that works to develop companies, which provide either clean-tech solutions, including clean energy, contributing to a circular thinking and or solutions which reduce material use or waste.."



Outcome; 30th of March meeting

- regional innovation planners

Other agreements:

- Clusters and other innovation support agencies/organisations are the primary target group for the innovation stakeholder workshop 2nd-3rd of May
- Maximum 1 participant and 1 innovation stakeholder per region can participate
- Each region are allowed to submit one project collaboration idea per innovation stakeholder, project idea form agreed.
- Project collaboration ideas will be grouped into the three overall themes for further discussion and development
- Maximum 5 collaboration proposals, with minimum 3 partners from 3 different regions and 2 different countries, will be presented to the Regional Innovation Planners.



Project idea form

- A project idea form developed and used
 - ✓ 12 project ideas submitted to 2nd-3rd of May workshop

Project Idea Form:

Funding through: ERDF MA-network for Baltic Sea Region
 Policy instrument: Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies
 Topic: Clean-tech

Project Title	
Overall Clean-tech collaboration theme:	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer
Project Description: (max. 500 words) Please list the transnational activities to be developed/piloted/implemented	
Justification of the added value from transnational S3 implementation. (max. 500 words)	
Current partnership: (possible list of partners, or expected partner profile)	
Profile of additional partners that could align to the project through a common call:	
Indicative partner budget:	
Contact person:	
Organisation and legal status:	
Address:	
E-mail address:	
Telephone:	



Outcome; 2nd – 3rd of May workshop

- Innovation support agencies actors/clusters

Applied structured development of project proposals containing:

- An initial partnership with at least 3 partners, from 3 regions minimum 2 countries
- Simple and concrete activities
- An appendix of indicative cost estimation for different activities
- An appointed coordinating partner
- Description of additional partners the initial partnership seek to align through a MA-network call
- For additional partners preferably outline:
 - i. Type of partners
 - ii. From which regions
 - iii. Expected role of additional partners
 - iv. What activities shall additional partners take part in
 - i. Cost estimation for the activities partners are expected to take part in



Outcome; 2nd – 3rd of May workshop

- Innovation support agencies actors/clusters

Workshop structure:

Day 1:

- 12 ideas submitted discussed + 1 additional idea developed
- All contributed clearly to a circular thinking
- Developed one idea jointly

Day 2

- 3 groups were formed and three additional ideas were developed
- Agreed next steps
 - One idea was agreed to be developed online after the meeting



Outcome; 2nd – 3rd of May workshop

- Innovation support agencies actors/clusters

5 project collaboration proposals developed:

Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets:

1. Jointly entering new challenging markets

Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions:

2. Commercializing forest-based protein
3. Increasing the share of renewable energy in e-Mobility
4. Increasing the share of renewable energy e-Mobility

Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer :

5. Testbeds for testing and verifying new clean tech solutions



Question; how to cooperate?

1. No Lead Partner Principle
 - Probably separate decisions for each partner
2. Need of a coordinator for coordination of activities
 - Driving the collaboration forward
 - Ensuring that all activities are being interlinked and carried out according to plan
 - Be responsible for internal communication with project stakeholders
3. The coordinator can be assigned to do joint project reports
 - Be responsible for joint external communication of project activities
4. All partners can contribute to cover cost for project coordinator, and Art.70 in Common Provision Regulation can ensure eligibility.

Not all regions taking part at the Regional Stakeholder meeting will be able to activate art.70, politically impossible.

All regions view transnational collaboration important for S₃ implementation



MA network – upcoming initiatives

1. In the pipeline: A new pilot focusing on Digitalisation
 - Seed money project funded by Swedish Institute
2. Alignment of Funding Models in the Baltic Sea Region (AFM-BSR)
 - Focusing on a match-making platform, region to region S3 collaboration.
 - Seed money project applied, decision in May 2017
3. Smart Blue Regions, an Interreg-BSR project looking into the option of making use of the MA-network
 - Workshop conducted in Malmö on the 27th of April 2017



Other possible topics for S3 collaboration

A. Seed Money Calls

- To help initiating Smart Regional collaborations

A. Flagship collaboration

- Regional interest to facilitate different flagship themes
- Possible flagship process around S3

B. Aligning to coordinated calls

- SME internationalisation through BSR Stars Innovation Express
 - ✓ Platform for SMEs to collaborate transnationally to spur innovation in regional selected S3 themes

C. Facilitation, match-making and coordination

- Leadership to coordinate actions, match actors, facilitate identification of collaboration themes and support
 - In case of S3, important to be a regional leadership to succeed with definition of collaboration themes
 - Possible continuation of Alignment of Funding models?



Thanks.



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