

ERDF Managing Authority Network

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Macro regional strategies – what's in it
for Cohesion Policy

EUSBSR 8th Annual Forum in Berlin
13th of June 2017

Policy Area Innovation in EUSBSR

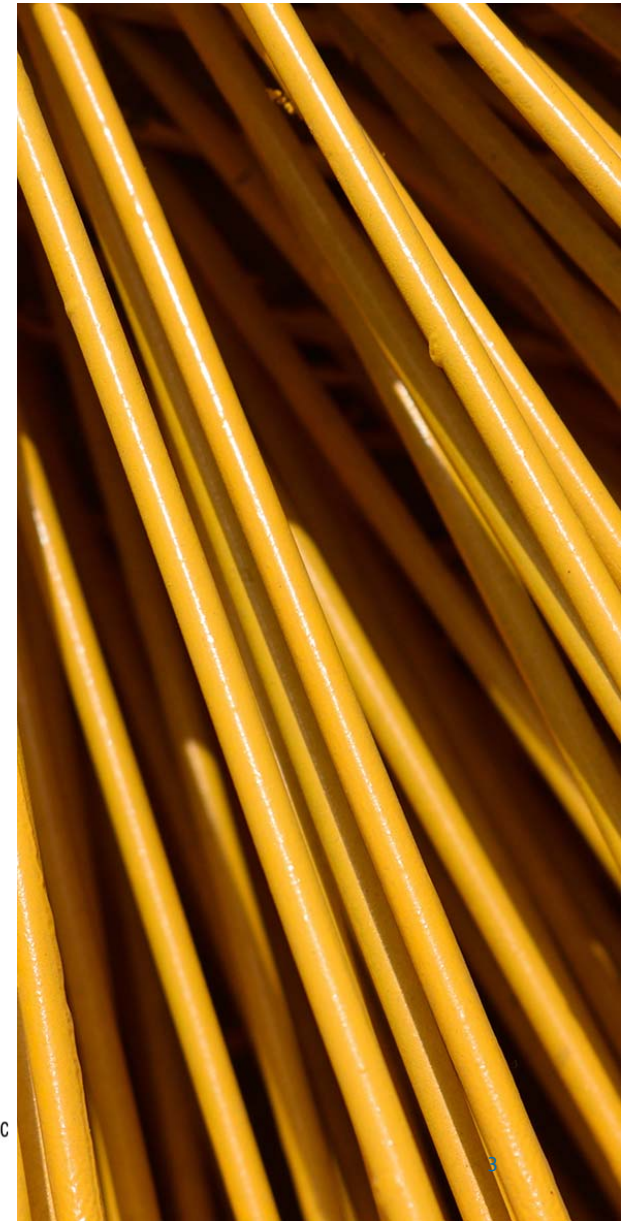
The role of policy area innovation is to foster innovation by:

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.



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 structural funds, to better contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the BSR.
- Initial focus:
 - Policy Area : PA-Innovation
 - Innovation policy applied: Smart Specialisation Strategies
 - Topic for pilot: Clean-tech



Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative

CLEANER
GROWTH



REGION
VÄSTERBOTTEN



EUROPEISKA
UNIONEN
Europeiska
regionala
utvecklingsfonden



Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative

Overview of the procedure:

A few key dates :

- 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 of June: Communication by ERDF MA-network on procedure to initiate project collaboration



Outcome; 30th of March meeting

- regional innovation planners

Agreed overall themes and target group

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; 2nd – 3rd of May workshop

- Innovation support agencies actors/clusters

5 project collaboration proposals developed:

Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets:

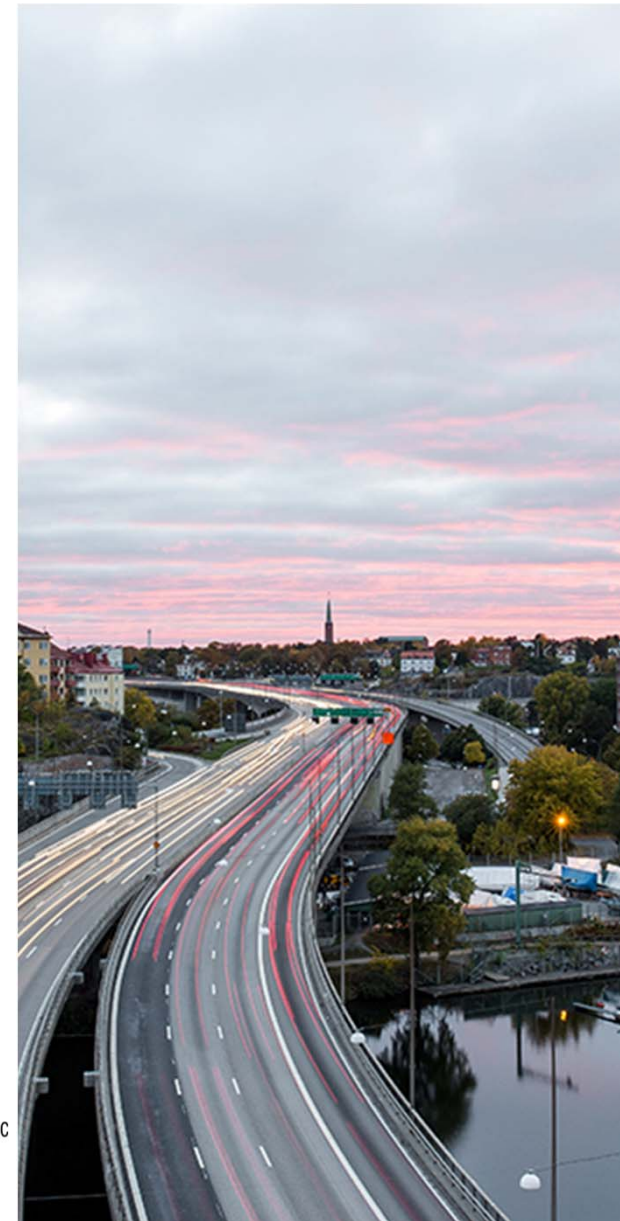
1. Jointly entering new challenging markets

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?

- For ERDF MA-network to consider and address

1. No Lead Partner Principle
 - Probably separate decisions for each partner
2. Need of a coordinator for coordination of activities
 - Ensuring that all activities are being interlinked and carried out according to plan
 - Be responsible for internal communication, the contact point, for project stakeholders
3. The coordinator can be assigned to do joint project reports
 - Be responsible for joint external communication of project activities
 - Need to be appropriately equipped and EXPERIENCED
4. Can all partners share cost for project implementation?
 - Not all regions will be able to activate art.70, politically impossible.
5. Concern if ERDF Structural funds are available in all regions
5. Eligibility concern when involving companies,
 - match funding from companies not eligible/viewed as an income in projects



Outcome; 5th ERDF MA-network meeting – 31st of May 2017

4 pioneering project collaboration proposals agreed to move forward with:

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. Municipal operator symbiosis-circular economy
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



Outcome; 5th ERDF MA-network meeting – 31st of May 2017

Agreements and Next steps:

- Ambition of aligning activities and resources by coordination of on-going project operations
- Agreed to attach additional activities and corresponding budgets to the on-going projects
- Budget amendments are possible for Finland and Sweden and in other countries budget reallocations are foreseen to be done within the current project budget frame.
- Review of appropriate projects to be attached with additional project activities, end date 15th of July.
- ERDF MA-network meeting to discuss final Monitoring Committee conditions for amending activities and budgets to ongoing projects, 13th of September in Stockholm
- Approval of pioneering projects by amending activities and budgets (or budget reallocations) expected to be completed by 31st of October 2017.



Outcome; 5th ERDF MA-network meeting– 31st of May 2017

What is the current focus and future ambitions:

- ERDF MA-network is not in competition with, rather a complement to Interreg programme collaboration
- The objective, at this stage, is to increase the possibilities for transnational collaboration through continued focus on;
 - ✓ Implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies
 - ✓ Small scale operations such as:
 - i. jointly targeting new markets,
 - ii. knowledge transfer/networking and
 - iii. feasibility studies.
- ERDF MA-network aims to provide a more agile response to local and regional demand
 - ✓ Time span from project development to approval of pioneering projects, 7 months.
 - ✓ ERDF Structural Funds with strong local and regional connection, meet the need.
- ERDF MA-network welcome alignment other funding sources and instrument than ERDF structural funds, to project collaborations of priority.
- The ambition is to launch a coordinated call between ERDF Structural Fund Programmes, possibly during 2018 .



MA network – upcoming initiatives

1. In the pipeline: A new pilot focusing on Digitalisation
 - Seed money project funded by Swedish Institute
 - Project proposals to be presented in June 2018 at 9th Annual Forum in Estonia
 - *Possibly to be used to launch a coordinated call*
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 approved, 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
 - Project collaboration proposals to be presented to ERDF MA-network in December 2017



Reflections from PA-Innovation

What can we see:

- Great local and regional interest for transnational collaboration in order to fully utilizing their smart specialisation strategies
- Managing Authorities for ERDF structural funds programme welcome transnational collaboration
- Can this bring new life and fuel to macro regional collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region?

But also:

- Will smart specialisation strategies 2.0 outline type of transnational collaboration needed for different focus areas?
- If so, can we see the need for and type of transnational collaboration being reflected in future ERDF structural fund programmes?



INNOVATION express

...a core activity of BSR Stars

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



Thanks.

