



Improving policies in support of shared pilot facilities to increase their impact on the Key Enabling Technology Industrial Biotech and the European Bio-economy

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Lunchtime briefing at CoR, 13 September 2018

SMARTPILOTS:

Why this important?

Running shared pilot facilities for IB & Bio economy:

- expensive equipment/ infrastructure
- Requiring different expertise and skills & a 24/7 activity
>> **Critical mass: people & infrastructure**
- State-of-the art changes & wear
>> **Recurring investment in new & replacement infrastructure & equipment**

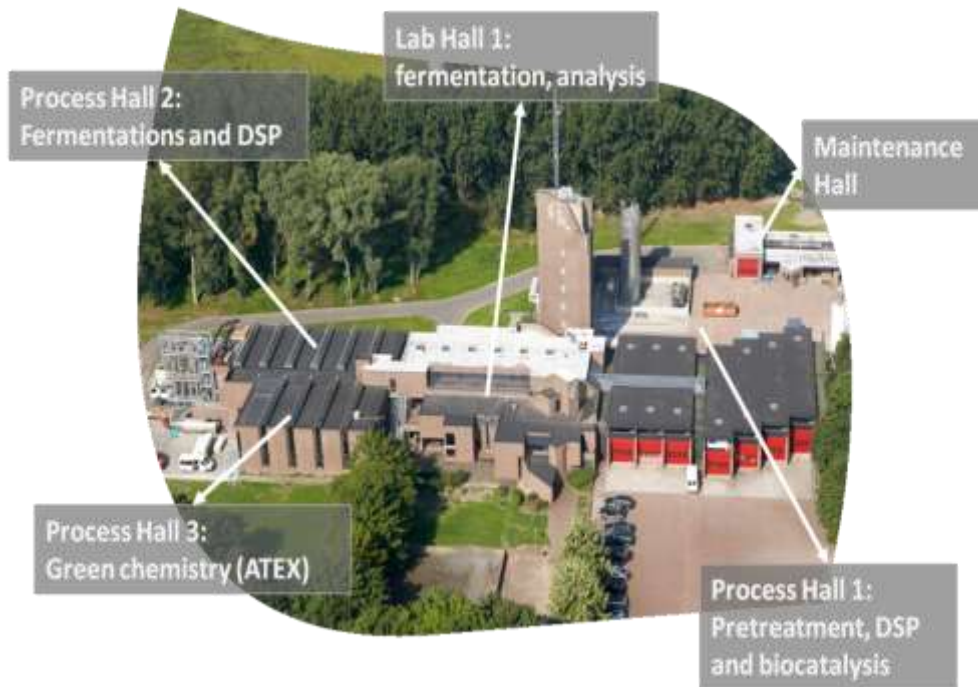
>> fragmentation to be avoided for capital and service –efficiency

>> Cross boarder collaboration and use to be facilitated!

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant:



Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant:



Investment in infrastructure

- Interreg VL-NL 2008-2013: 13 m€
- Interreg NWE 2013-2015: 1,35m€
- ERDF 2015-2015: 1,26m€
- Interreg VL-NL BioHarT: 0,2mio€
- ERDF « impact » 9,4m€
- ERDF « Biobase Flow » 3.7mio€

Multi-purpose pilot facility in the Port of Ghent (B)

Bio-Based products & processes

Current number of employees: 67 FTE (75 persons)

Independent non-for-profit SME

Since 2012

> 200 **bilateral collaboration** with > 100 private Cies
21 **EU projects** (18 H2020, 3 Interreg)
3 **regional projects**



SmartPilots

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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Optimizing support mechanisms for SPF:

- Investments in hardware/infrastructure , maintenance and replacement of equipment
- Covering operational costs incl.overhead

Optimizing support for SFP users:

- By promoting innovators to use SPF
- Innovations have an increased chance to make it to the market
- the long term viability of the SPF are supported

Facilitate interregional cooperation for pilot activities:

- by promoting regional innovators to use an SPF from outside the region
- by co-investment of different regions in the same SPF



Good practice:

Innovation Vouchers for SME to access pilot & demo infrastructures



- Reaching out to stakeholders in the bio-based economy
 - Bio-innovation agents
- **Innovation support** to SMEs to assess the feasibility of a **bio-based idea**
 - Access to **Bio Base NWE network** with leading **bio-based experts**
 - **Innovation coupons** for technological support
- Programs and tools for **training and education**
- Representing SMEs in the **European bio-economy strategy** roll-out

INNOVATION
COUPONS

Worth up to €30.000 to assess the feasibility of an innovative biobased idea.

Good practice: Innovation Vouchers for SME to access pilot & demo infrastructures

Resources needed:

- Region: North-West Europe (NWE)
- Interreg NWE program (Belgium, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom, Netherlands)
- EU funds: €3,074,587 – 50% of the total amount
- Timespan: 01/01/2013 to 31/12/2015
- Coordination: Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant
- Category: Smart Specialisation for SME Innovation
- Website: <http://www.biobasenwe.org>

Good practice: Innovation Vouchers for SME to access pilot & demo infrastructures

Evidence of success:

- over **755 SMEs benefited from networking** opportunities and technological solutions
- **17 SMEs signing contracts** or negotiating partnerships with investors
- **4 bio-based products were commercialised** before the project period ended
- **16 companies have firm plans** to build pilot lines or new production lines, with a total investment of €71 million
- **creation of at least 43 jobs**, with an estimated 275 more to come in the next few years



Good practice: Innovation Vouchers for SME to access pilot & demo infrastructures

Other partner regions:

Lombardia region & province of south holland are studying how to implement similar schemes



- We support **SMEs** and **start-ups** in the biobased sector – training & networking
- We offer **financial support** towards services that can help the company to bring their innovation to market: €100 K max, 50-100% funded

Available trainings and services

1. Technical assistance such as process development and scale-up to pilot scale
2. Life Cycle Assessment
3. Application testing
4. Market research, feedstock analysis, techno-economic evaluation
5. Social acceptance
6. Business planning and business plan support



Support and Partnership for sustainable value chains in the BIO-based economy

www.h2020-SuperBIO.eu

Submit an application form!



SMEs can receive services for a maximal total value of € 60 000. 75% is funded by the project. Up to 25% needs to be cofunded by the applicant.

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Innovation Vouchers: Potential for learning or transfer

- (1) Vouchers scheme for technological support helped SMEs to establish the dataset and prototypes required to convince investors and/or partners to take the innovation to a next level. Working with an open access pilot and demo infrastructure proved to be faster, cheaper, better and increased the chances that the innovation makes it to the market.
- (2) Continuity of such innovation (TRL4-6) voucher schemes is important, ideally structural measure which is continuously open.
 - It is important such voucher is substantial and
 - procedure is low threshold and fast.
- (3) enable access to expert services where they are: cross regions!
 - SMEs and Start-ups typically do lack expertise on the different aspects which need to be addressed when entering the market. A network of international experts proved to be very successful to overcome these barriers and challenges.
 - The international network also proved to be very successful in supporting SMEs to find partners in Europe to complement their value chain.

More Info?

SMEs rise through EU-wide cooperation
Building cross-border value chains for the bio-economy

19 November 2018 | 19:00 - 22:00



🕒 TIME

(Monday) 19:00 - 22:00

📍 LOCATION

*Members' Salon, European Parliament,
Brussels*

<https://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/events/smes-rise-in-industrial-value-chains-with-new-innovations-in-the-bio-based-economy/>



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