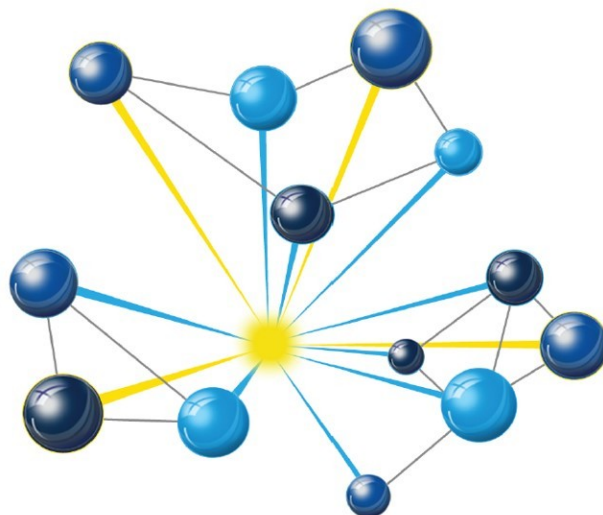


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Vanguard Initiative Monthly Newsletter

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VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

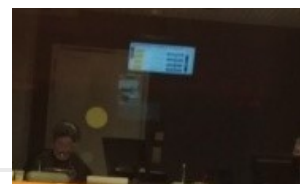
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[Vanguard in the spotlight at the Competitiveness Council](#)

The Vanguard Initiative was invited to make a presentation at the Competitiveness & Growth' working party of the Competitiveness Council on the 18th of September. This intervention took place in the context of the presentation and discussion of the recently published communication "[Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth](#)", which highlights the Vanguard Initiative as a good practice and inspiration model for the Thematic smart specialization platforms. During the discussion, the case for financing needs in interregional innovation projects was clearly made. The presentation is available on the [Intranet](#).

The Policy Influencing Task Group also organized in July a meeting with Peter Dröll (DG RDT), with DG GROW. The summary of discussions is available on the [intranet](#).



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The last 2 meetings of the Policy influencing TG took place on the 7 September, with a focus on the annual political meeting preparation, and on the 15 September for the Council meeting preparation. Next meeting : 26 September.

A contribution to the consultation on COSME mid term evaluation was submitted in August, and is available on the [Intranet](#).

An updated EU agenda is available [here](#)

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[Moving forward in the ASBL registration process](#)

The registration of Vanguard Initiative ASBL is now official! Therefore, all current and new members are asked to send in their membership application. Instructions on how to apply for ASBL membership are found below.

ASBL registration process for current members

We ask all current Vanguard members to send the completed membership application form (available [here](#)) as soon as possible. If your region would like to celebrate its official membership during our Annual Political Meeting, please keep in mind that the next deadlines for ratification by the General Assembly are 18 October and 14 November. After the APM, we will continue to accept membership applications up until 31 December. You can send the completed membership application form to the VI secretariat (elien.verstraeten@ewi.vlaanderen.be).

ASBL registration process for new members

Current and new observers can become official members of Vanguard Initiative asbl by fulfilling the membership requirements as set out in the ASBL Statutes and Internal Rules (available [here](#)). For a full overview of the membership application procedure, please refer to the document "How to become a new member of VI" available [here](#). For further questions and information, please contact the VI secretariat (elien.verstraeten@ewi.vlaanderen.be).

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[Annual Political Meeting preparations](#)

The Annual Political Meeting (APM) will be held on Wednesday 22 November 2017, 14:00-18:00, in Brussels.

The meeting is divided into two parts. The first part is a closed meeting for Vanguard Initiative member and observer regions. Due to the limited capacity of the room, ideally, each region should be represented by a maximum of 2 people per region (1 political representative + 1 assistant or Brussels based representative). This will allow us to keep a certain number of places for external guests. Additional regional representatives that you would like to register will be - for the moment - put on a reserve list. When we will have an overview on the number of the registered people, we will decide how to deal with the reserve list. We are discussing with the owners of the venue if there is a possibility to add additional chairs

The second part of the programme is an open meeting in which the political representatives of the Vanguard Initiative regions will be able to reconfirm their political engagement to the initiative and for pilot representatives to present the pilots' general state of play. The meeting will be followed by a networking cocktail at 18:00.

The invitation to the APM can be found [here](#).

The registration for the APM can be made [here](#).

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The Brussels Network will **vote on the proposed APM agenda** at the next Brussels Network Meeting (BNM) on 18 October. Please find the agenda, background to the agenda points and outline of the open session, "2017 APM draft Agenda", [here](#).

At the 18 October BNM the network will also vote on APM decision points. The decisions in the BNM, on APM decision points, is a recommendation to the APM. The formal decision on these issues are made by the APM. The APM decision points in the 18 October BNM are the following:

- New members
- 2018 membership fee
- 2018 Budget
- Financial Management Framework
- Shared funding model: Proposal for exceptional budget measures (2017 budget)
- APM agenda
- VI Rotating Board Membership - Under the condition that a new proposal, with the comments from the discussions at the June BNM, have been discussed and approved in the Future of Vanguard TG, and the board, and then sent out as an 18 October meeting document.

Furthermore, during the 18 October BNM the political message for the APM, the outline of the open session and a draft Annual Report will be presented.

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[Brussels network meeting 18 September](#)

On 18 September, the Brussels Network, acting as General Assembly, met at the office of Lombardy. The meeting included the accession of new members to the ASBL, a briefing on the financial status of the ASBL and information on the state-of-the-art.

Much of the meetings was focused on accession of new members and the process leading up to membership in the Vanguard Initiative. Two new regions were granted full membership by the general assembly; Asturia and Region Skåne. In addition, Skåne European Office was accepted as an associated member.

In connection to the vote described above, a detailed presentation was held by Vlaanderen to clarify all the steps and requirements needed to acquire the status of full member, associated member or observer. A detailed description of the process to become a member is available on the [intranet](#).

The next GA meetings where new member associations can be approved will be on:

- The 18th of October
- The 14th of November
- The 22nd of November

In a later stage of the meeting, the Basque Country gave a briefing on the financial status of the ASBL. The proposed budget for 2017 was presented and the estimated expenditures for the year explained. [The proposed budget for 2017 can be read in full here](#).

A preliminary budget for 2018 was also unveiled. It foresees the same level of expenditures as for the fiscal year of 2017. Therefore, the membership fee is predicted to remain on the current level for the year of 2018.

Due to the delayed registration of the ASBL with the Belgian authorities the VI has not been able to collect the budgeted amounts of membership fees during the year. Confronted with these delays, it will

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proposition regarding the reallocation of funds will be presented on the BNM on the 18 October.

Moreover, a financial framework was proposed in order to establish what bodies of the ASBL that will be given the mandate to decide on certain economic matters and which public procurement regulation applies for various types of decisions. Furthermore, provisions regarding financial transparency are included in the framework. The proposed framework will have to be approved by the APM to enter into force. The proposition can be read in its entirety [here](#).

All documents presented at the BNM on 22 September can be found in a separate folder on the [intranet](#). Background documents on the economic issues described above will also be provided in advance of the next BNM on the 18 October.

The APM TG also presented the preliminary agenda for the APM. Among the many decision points, the annual political meeting will decide on the accession of new members, the approval of the annual report, the member fees and budget for 2018 and approve the proposed financial framework. The proposed APM agenda is available [here](#).

The next BNM meeting will be held on the 18 October.

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[ESM demos showcased in Milan](#)

After the 1st semester of action plan implementation, ESM pilot has been enriched thanks to the inclusion of new Regions and today the network counts about 20 Regions involved in the development of the 5 demo-cases.

The renewed steering group meets regularly to share updates on the demo-cases and plan new activities. The pilot coordinators are constantly working to support demo-case coordinators leveraging on initiatives such as Watify and Re-confirm. Indeed, demo-cases are now planning plenary events in November to present their progresses and propose new activities.



The demo-cases on De-and Remanufacturing has already organized a plenary event with the support of Watify on the 5th of May in Milan. After a general introduction on Vanguard initiative and ESM pilot, the event was entirely dedicated to the presentation of De-and Remanufacturing demo-case with a specific focus on regional use-cases. The afternoon sessions offered the opportunity of speed dating and during dedicated workshop, Lombardy companies presented their contribution to the demo-case.

The event attracted about 65 participants from 8 EU Country representing universities and research centers (40%), regional associations and clusters (25%) and companies (35%).

For more information about the ESM pilot, please contact:

- Giacomo Copani (giacomo.copani@afil.it)
- Roberta Curiazzi (roberta.curiazzi@afil.it)
- Joan Guash (joan.guasch@eurecat.org)

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[ADMA pilot explores support mechanisms](#)

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Created by Luis Prado
from Noun Project

Platforms in Energy, and Industrial Modernisation in particular, to identify how the needs of the pilot can be supported by these platforms.

Thanks to the support offered by the S3P Energy, IDEA Consult has started to further develop the pilot's demo cases concept notes (Manufacturing of large scale components, Sensing and remote monitoring, reduction of O&M costs) in order to come to relevant projects involving industrial actors. Following this, there is a desire to look for appropriate funding streams for the types of projects to be funded.

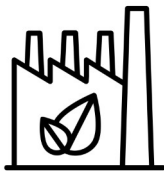
Similarly, as a result of the support offered by the KETs Observatory, Price Waterhouse Coopers started in July a value chain analysis regarding "sensing and remote monitoring technologies for the marine renewable energy". A first draft report has been received and is under evaluation.

In early September, the second stage of the INNOSUP H2020 proposal "Value Chains in Advanced Manufacturing for Offshore Energy, Automotive and Aerospace sectors" was submitted to the Commission. The aim of the proposal is to develop industry-led cross-sectoral value chains in areas where EU industry has key strengths in global markets (offshore energy, automotive, aerospace) by building upon the innovation potential of SMEs.

All the above-mentioned activities will be discussed during the next meeting of the ADMA Energy pilot that will take place in Asturias on October 11th. The ADMA Energy meeting has been organized back-to-back with the next NeSSIE (North Sea Solutions for Innovation in Corrosion for Energy) meeting. NeSSIE is a successful DG MARE funded project that aim is to develop solutions against corrosion in the most promising energy sources such as wave power, tidal currents or offshore wind power.

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[Demo case meeting and Biorizon Annual Event 2017](#)



Created by Made by Made
from Noun Project

On Wednesday the 29th of November the Vanguard Bioeconomy pilots demo case on bioaromatics will organise a meeting to prepare its business plan. All bioaromatics demo case members are invited to participate to the meeting, dinner and next day event. Registration can be done via email to ludo.diels@vito.be.

Bioaromatics case members that join the meeting on Wednesday 29 november will receive a personal invitation to join the diner and the event as well.

On Thursday, 30 November 2017 09:00 - 17:00 Shared Research Center Biorizon together with Watify, an awareness-raising campaign funded by the European Commission to stimulate the technological transformation of Europe's industry, will be hosting Biorizon's Annual Event at the [Antwerp Engineering Company](#) in Antwerp.

Large industry players, SMEs and RTOs from all over Europe will be present to discuss the latest progress in the field of biobased aromatics and to elaborate on the opportunities to accelerate biobased business together.

The night prior to the event (Wednesday, 29 November 2017 18:30 - 22:00), Biorizon hosts a complementary networking dinner at the [Felix Pakhuis](#).

More information: <http://www.biorizon.eu/agenda/biorizon-annual-event-2017>

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[3D-printing pilot updates](#)



The 3D Printing pilot gathered its Steering Group members on 8 September for an update on demo case developments and upcoming

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manufacturing, is swiftly moving into the operating phase. Another demo case, Additive-Subtractive Manufacturing, is focusing its attention on organizing local and regional match-making events and partner meetings.

This demo case was also presented during the CECIMO International Conference on Additive Manufacturing at EMO© Hannover (more info available [here](#)). In addition, the pilot organised a meeting of the Healthcare demo case. Possible actions involve the creation of certification standards for 3D-printed healthcare applications.

Regions wishing to participate in one of the demo cases, please contact one of the pilot co-leads! (w.dekinderen@brainportdevelopment.nl, pedro.rocha@produtech.org, or alien.verstraeten@ewi.vlaanderen.be).

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[S34Growth project update](#)

The S34Growth Interreg Europe project aims to make interregional cooperation possible through the modification of existing policy and financial instruments to overcome the current challenges. Within the project we are taking a deeper look at each of the involved organizations and regions. This is done in the framework of the On-Site Deep Dive (OSDD). These OSDDs give the consortium the opportunity to learn more about the regions, the funding instruments which they are tackling, as well as showcasing some of the regional manufacturing infrastructure and companies.

Since the last newsletter update in April, the S34Growth project partners attended OSDD meetings in the Basque Country (May 2017), Lombardy (June 2017), and the South Netherlands (September 2017). As a result of these meetings, project partners are looking at the possibilities for interregional cooperation on the basis of several scenarios; such as the funding of activities outside the programme area by regional players and the funding of activities within the region by players from outside the region.

Looking ahead, project partners will have their next meeting in Catalonia in October 2017. This will also be the last OSDD of the calendar year, with the final OSDDs in South Holland and Flanders planned in January 2018 and March 2018 respectively. Parallel to the OSDDs, partners continue to engage with their stakeholders in their regions and will start making concrete steps in the development of their Regional Action Plans.

Website: www.interregeurope.eu/s34growth/ - Twitter: @S34Growth

Upcoming S34Growth events:

- OSDD Catalonia: 3-4 October 2017
- OSDD Zuid-Holland: 30 January – 1 February 2018
- OSDD Flanders: 13-15 March 2018

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[Relaunch of intranet and meeting on pilots' communication](#)

The COM TG will shortly relaunch the intranet, as an action linked to introducing new procedures for granting intranet access. When the intranet will be relaunched, only representatives of member regions in the Brussels network will be granted access. For any future requests on access to the intranet, the COM TG will consult the chair and the secretariat, and/or the pilot lead to ensure that the intranet is only accessed by member regions and actors' active in the demo cases.

The pilots' contact persons for communication are invited to the next COM TG on 17 October, 10:00 – 12:00 at Central Sweden European Office, Rue du Luxembourg 3. The meeting is an action in the COM TGs ambition to coordinate pilots' communication activities. The development of a new newsletter

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external website are two items that will be discussed.

Furthermore, the COM TG is looking for a new coordinator from the 1 January 2018. Central Sweden is stepping down as the coordinator, but will still stay an active member of the TG. Thus, the COM TG are looking for a region that will take on the task of coordinating the Vanguard Initiative strategic communication actions for 2018.

A folder containing the previous VI newsletters has been created on the intranet. The folder, called "VI Newsletters", can be found [here](#).

The minutes from the COM TG meeting on the 14 September can be read [here](#).

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[Vanguard Initiative Calendar](#)

October

2: Coordination Group Meeting

3 - 5: S34Growth in Catalunya

9-13: [European Week of Regions and Cities \(ERWC\)](#)

11: ADMA Energy Pilot Meeting in Oviedo, Spain

12: Slovenia event at EWRC

16: APM TG meeting

17: COM TG meeting

18: Brussels Network Meeting

20: Deadline newsletter input

23: PI TG meeting

24: VPM meeting

25: FV TG meeting

26-27: [VI event in Saxony - New business opportunities for European Industry](#)

30: VI Newsletter

31: APM TG meeting

November

6: CGM

7-8: PPP Annual meeting

8-9: [GROW your REGION conference in Valencia, Spain](#)

9: Infoday H2020

10: COM TG meeting

13: FV TG meeting

13: PI TG meeting

14: Brussels Network Meeting

16: Bioeconomy S3 in Regions

20-24: [ERRIN Project Development Week](#)

22: Annual Political Meeting

24: Deadline newsletter input

28: JRC/Slovenia event in EP

29-30: Bioaromatics demo case event in Antwerp

December

1: Coordination Group Meeting

5: VPM meeting

6: PI TG meeting

7: [BBI Stakeholder Forum](#)

11: FV TG meeting

12: COM TG meeting

14: Brussels Network Meeting

15: Deadline newsletter input

21: VI Newsletter

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The chair is working on establishing a VT calendar which will include Vanguard related meeting and activities during the second semester 2017. Please find [the calendar on the intranet](#). The calendar is not complete, and will be regularly updated. But the dates included in the calendar on the intranet, and in the newsletter, have been confirmed.

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