

S3Chem Partners Met in Asturias

9th Interregional Working Group Meeting in Gijón

The partners from all partner regions came together on 7th and 8th June 2018 in Gijón to discuss first results of their analyses of existing monitoring systems and policy steering process of ERDF innovation funding. The interregional working group meeting was opened by Eva Pando Iglesias (General Director of IDEPA) who highlighted the importance of innovation and research for the development of the Region of Asturias. During the meeting, all partner regions presented their preliminary results from the analysis of the 5th semester: "Analysis of monitoring and policy steering process of ERDF innovation funding with focus on the chemical/bioeconomy sector". In their investigation they addressed issues such as: How are the regional monitoring and evaluation systems structured, which stakeholders are involved in the monitoring and evaluation process, how the impact of innovation funding is measured and which output and result indicators are used for the evaluation of the performance of ERDF funding. Further thematic work will focus on analysing the policy steering process including defining objectives, the implementation of programme, monitoring of the implementation of projects, the evaluation of results and the impact of projects.



Site Visit to INCAR - CSIC in Oviedo

On 8th June 2018, S3Chem partners were invited to visit the Instituto Nacional Del Carbón (INCAR) in Oviedo that is integrated into the area of chemical science and technology of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). During the site visit, project partners had the opportunity to learn more about the INCAR activities which are mainly focused on the development of the carbon and inorganic materials for structural, energetic and environmental applications, coal conversion and clean technologies. They also enjoyed a very interesting tour of the modern scientific facilities of the research centre.

Read more about the INCAR - CSIC [here](#).

Implementation of the Regional Industrial and Innovation Policy in the Framework of Asturias RIS3

Asturias, a region of 1 million inhabitants on the northern coast of Spain, shows interesting strengths in the global economic context as a highly specialised industrial region with a unique concentration of its activity in basic materials (steel, Zn, Al, glass...) as well as an impressive natural landscape. In short, two models coexist in the region: a strong industrial activity that contrasts with its extraordinary natural beauty.

The basic materials sector accounts for 43% of regional industrial employment and turnover, with a much higher proportion than that shown at the national level. These companies operate in very competitive international markets, which means that they are very sensitive to production factors and production inputs.

The Economic Development Agency of the Principality of Asturias (IDEPA), a public entity dependent on the Regional Government of Asturias, is responsible for the implementation of the regional industrial and innovation policy. IDEPA has elaborated the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy, [Asturias RIS3](#), and is now in charge of its deployment, assuming the Technical Secretariat.

One of the priorities of Asturias RIS3 is directly associated with the challenge of Sustainable Materials, in the words of the strategy itself: "... the opportunity is to valorise by-products and waste from industrial processes to extend the permanence of raw materials in the supply chain and also involve secondary raw materials and bioproducts, especially those related to the forest industry chain".

ERDF aids for financing innovation in Asturias

The R&D&I projects developed in Asturias around the priorities of Asturias RIS3 receive support from the Asturias 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Programme with a total budget of 317 million Euros and a EU contribution of 253 million from the ERDF.

IDEPA manages aid programmes aimed at R&D&I projects promoted by companies through annual calls for proposals co-financed by the ERDF. Applications are submitted through the electronic platform available at the website.

Regional roadmap for sustainable materials

On the other hand, in order to implement the priority of sustainable materials, IDEPA, together with the Association of Chemical and Process Industries of the Principality of Asturias (AIQPA), promoted in 2016 the creation of a working group to elaborate a regional roadmap of Sustainable Materials. In September 2017, the AsturiasRIS3 Executive Committee approved the Asturias Sustainable Materials Roadmap.

The next step will be to agree on an Agenda for Research and Innovation in Sustainable Materials, consisting of an action plan around 3 pillars:

- that of **Industrial Symbiosis**, to encourage innovation in the use of waste in existing industrial processes in the region;
- the **Sustainable Opportunity Windows**, to facilitate the discovery of markets or diversification scenarios through the combination of waste and available technologies; and,
- that of the **Technological Circuits for the Integral Recovery of Waste**, basically organic, in order to strengthen regional competition in carbon conversion technologies, inventorying key public and private R&D infrastructures for the creation of a public-private territorial network.

Links:

- [Asturias 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Programme](#)
- [Financing portal](#)
- [Roadmap for Sustainable Materials in Asturias](#)

Upcoming Events

On 18th to 19th September 2018, partners will meet in Warsaw to present final results of the analysis of the evaluation process of ERDF innovation funding in the framework of RIS at next interregional working group meeting. They also will discuss challenges and exchange proposals for improvement. Additionally, partners organise a site visit to the [Plock Industrial and Technological Park](#).

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