

Successful S3Chem Partner Meeting in Brussels

11th Interregional Working Group Meeting

On 22nd of November 2018, the project partners came together in the representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU. The aim of the meeting was to present first ideas for regional action plans which should improve the implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) of each of the seven regions. Based on results of previous analyses on stakeholder involvement and governance, project generation, funding instruments as well as monitoring and steering processes in the framework of the RIS, each region aims to establish actions to enhance the access to innovation funding for companies. The results of the analyses, identified recommendations for improvements and lessons learned from exchanges of experience with other partner regions will be incorporated into the development of action plans. After the partner meeting and the presentations of possible measures, all project partners are now invited to prepare a draft regional action plan by the end of phase 1 of the project duration. The implementation of these action plans in the regions will then be monitored in phase 2 of the project, i.e. from April 2019 to March 2021.



Developing Actions to Promote Future Innovation Cooperation in Chemical Regions

During the second session of the meeting, first ideas on action plans were also discussed with representatives from other European institutions and initiatives which have the aim to promote interregional cooperation. Firstly, a brief overview of the project, its achievements and regional action plans per partner region were presented by Andreas Fiedler (isw). Afterwards, Lieven Top (Flemish government) gave interesting insights into the trilateral cooperation between chemical regions of Limburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Flanders. Laurent de Mercey (European Commission, DG Region) demonstrated the intentions of the European Commission to promote interregional and



cross-boarder collaboration for the next funding period from 2021 to 2027. The European Commission, based on good experiences made during pilot actions in the current funding period, will focus on future interregional innovation investments. Thomas Wobben (Committee of the Regions) reported about current developments with regard to debate of the European Union about the design of future interregional cooperation. Mikel Iruja, representative of the Vanguard Initiative, highlighted the importance of European cooperation in the field of innovation funding. In particular, bundling of resources and use of synergies between European regions are important benefits of European cooperation. In order to use regional strengths in an effective and sustainable way, cooperation platforms play a crucial role. Neli Georgieva (European Chemical Regions Network) and Andreas Pauer (Ecorys) introduced such a platform with focus on chemistry – S3Platform on the Thematic Area Chemicals. Five of seven partners of the S3Chem project are already part of the S3Platform for Chemistry in which Limburg and Lombardy have the lead role. Moreover, almost all partners participated in the [kick-off event of the S3Platform on the Thematic Area Chemicals](#) in Brussels on 24th of October 2018 that was dedicated to an exchange about ideas, regional ambitions and possibilities for joint cooperation. The S3Chem partner meeting closed with the participation of partners in the evening event organised in the representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU with the focus on: „Bauhaus – Modernism - Magdeburg in its twenties“.

A Good Practice Example From Lombardy Region – The Regional Law “Lombardy is Research and Innovation” (Ir 29/2016)

In Lombardy, the Regional Law “Lombardy is Research and Innovation” (Ir 29/2016) is the first example of a regional law managing policies dedicated to research and innovation, built up and shared with quadruple helix (involving international researchers and academia as well as citizens). Hence, it could be an example of innovative governance approach to transfer to other regions.

The Regional Law “Lombardy is Research and Innovation”, approved in November 2016, aims to enhance regional investment in research and innovation in order to promote the competitiveness of the economic-productive system, the growth of human capital, the sustainable development and to contribute to raise the social well-being and the quality of services provided to citizens and businesses.

The abovementioned law introduced the following innovative governance approaches:

- Inter-ministerial steering committee, chaired by the President of the Region, with strategic coordination function on the development of research, innovation and technology transfer policies. The main output of this level is a Three-year Strategic Programme (PST).
- The Regional Forum for Research and Innovation, an independent entity composed by 10 members among highly qualified experts in the scientific disciplines, social sciences and humanities, selected through a process of international public evidence;
- The tool of Public consultation was introduced on the Open Innovation Platform: users, who for various reasons, "see and live the territory" and work on the topic, were asked to identify the key features of social innovation and the main factors that could favour the development of the region.
- "Research Day", established on 8 November of each year, an award of 1 million (per year) is granted to researchers and companies that have distinguished themselves in the field of Health and Life Sciences.

Upcoming Project Events

Final Project Conference in Saxony-Anhalt +++ Save the Date +++

The project's final interregional working group meeting, site visit as well as the third dissemination conference will take place in Halle (Saale), on 26th and 27th of February. The aim of this final conference is to present final results of the project implementation in phase 1 and to introduce the regional action plans to a broader audience. Stakeholders from the chemical industry are warmly invited to join the event. News about the venue and the agenda will be announced shortly on the project website.

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