

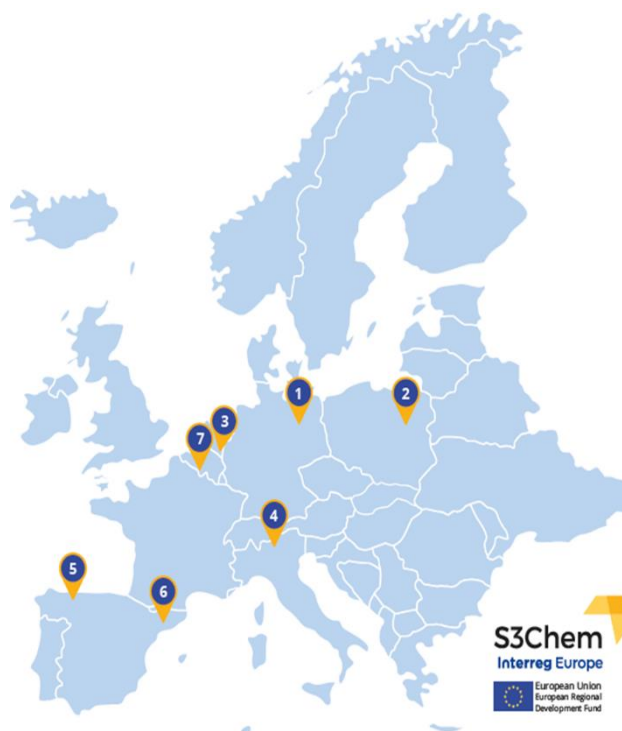
S3Chem project goes into the next round

Successful conclusion of the S3Chem project

The Interreg Europe project S3Chem aimed to improve the implementation of the Regional Innovation Strategies with focus on chemical related topics in an interregional cooperation and learning process between public authorities. In all seven partner regions from Poland, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Germany especially the promotion of innovation in the chemical industry has a high priority, as the chemical and process industry has a long tradition and is an important industry sector in all these regions. To influence these seven policy instruments the project got a budget of around 1.9 MEUR whereas 1.6 MEUR are funded by the Interreg Europe programme.

The learning process within the first three years (learning phase) of the project was not always easy. The project partners learned how different the regional backgrounds are and at the same time how many similarities there are. Throughout the first phase of the project, the interregional working group meetings were used for the exchange of experience. Often in relation with site visits to see the reality behind the theoretic directives, instruments and numbers. Very useful was the incorporation of regional stakeholders in the interregional working group meetings and site visits. But also on regional level, project partners met stakeholders to discuss the regional needs to improve the RIS implementation. In sum, there have been 54 policy learning events where project partners and stakeholders could learn from each other.

In the course of the exchange of experience process, 15 Good Practices in the regions have been identified. Ten of them are even in the Interreg Europe database. These Good Practices, insights from site visits, interregional working group meetings, thematic analysis and the stakeholder input were finally used to create the seven regional action plans, the guideline for the second project phase. Here, more than 5.2 MEUR of funds could be influenced. With a project budget of 1.9 MEUR, this implies a leverage effect of 2.7 MEUR. In addition, two action plan measures could be implemented as pilot actions. A very good way to test the theoretic approaches in practice were approved. The first pilot action dealt with the transparent presentation of EU funded projects in Saxony-Anhalt. The second pilot action in Asturias aimed to prototype a comprehensive waste recovery pathway and is related to the roadmap for Sustainable Materials in Asturias. This pilot project have allowed, with the collaboration of COGERSA, which has joined as a partner, to test models of collaboration between pilot plants for the integrated recovery of waste assimilable to urban waste, which facilitated the implementation of industrial-urban symbiosis processes. Finally, the project was successfully completed on 31.03.2021.



1 Ministry of Economy, Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry Saxony-Anhalt, DE (LP); 2 Voivodship Masovia, PL; 3 Province of Limburg, NL; 4 Regione Lombardia, IT; 5 IDEPA Asturias, ES; 6 ACCIO Catalonia, ES; 7 Wallonie Region, BE

An end is always a new beginning

The S3Chem project successfully participated in the fifth call for proposals of additional activities linked to COVID-19 activities of the Interreg Europe programme. The call was restricted to the 258 Interreg Europe projects approved during the first four calls. Thus, the project extension for another year was approved. The project extension officially started on 01.10.2021 with a budget of 354 KEUR, 301 KEUR of which are financed by ERDF funds. All seven partners of the previous project consortium continue to participate in the project extension, which aims to analyse the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the chemical and process industry and the innovation landscape in the partner regions.



To do this, the S3Chem project will wrap-up measures to face the crisis in the seven regions by bringing them together in an analysis and inventarise possible learnings for each other. There will be a close look on effects for the chemical companies and clusters and the relevant research institutions. The consortium will measure the effect of these measures on the new Policy Instruments: REACT-EU and ERDF-programs 2021-2027.

The S3Chem project extension aims to evaluate the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on innovation funding and the derivation of suitable instruments to make the innovation funding environment in general, and its custom fit instruments in particular, in every partner region resilient for future crisis. Therefore, the project

will focus on mechanisms to help post-Covid-19 recovery and the role that the chemical and process industry will play in achieving a green, digital and resilient economy. Here, the S3Chem project wants to improve instruments addressing challenges associated with circular economy, climate change and digitalisation.

In particular, the S3Chem project will help to identify updated needs and gaps for the transition of the industry and then reshape corresponding policy instruments, as well as promote interregional research and innovation projects to face common challenges of the crisis. This approach should lead to projects close to the Covid-19 problems caused in the region and with a quick procedure for decision making. All of that in order to speed up the recovery of the S3Chem related industry after the pandemic.

Contact

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