



Newsletter 03/2018

Bioeconomy in the Danube Region - Cross-clustering partnership for boosting eco-innovation by developing a joint bio-based value-added network

www.interreg-danube.eu/danubiovalnet



Meeting of the DanuBioValNet project partners

2nd new cluster services training in Cluj

On 17 and 18 May 2018, Cluj hosted the "EU-Asia Gateway" international conference aimed at bridging clusters from Europe and East and South East Asia. It was the 4th international cluster conference organized by the Northern Transylvanian Cluster Consortium, under the umbrella of the Romanian Cluster Association – CLUSTERO.



However, regional aspects have not been let aside. Over 40 representatives of clusters, research organisations and policy makers from Europe and the Far East, discussed intensively on the DanuBioValNet approach on internationalization: efficient fair participation, preparation of a clever offer in order to meet demand and useful digital tools to manage the complexity of the internationalization process

are the best practices which have been worked out based on Austrian, German and respectively Romanian examples. Rationale behind is the fact that the establishment of cross-clustering partnerships in order to boost eco-innovation and to develop a joint bio-based value added network in the Danube Region requires the development of new cluster services as a key element in supporting cluster members in becoming more innovative and more competitive in the context of the new industrial value chains and, in particular, in the bio-based industry.



Author: Romanian Cluster Association, Romania

Roadmapping Workshop on Bio-based Packaging Value Chain

From 24 to 25 May 2018, a two-day international Roadmapping workshop on Bio-based Packaging value chain in the Danube Region took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was organised by two European Interreg co-funded projects: DanuBioValNet and BIOCOMPACT-CE. The basic goal of the workshop was to further the ties and common understanding among representatives of all relevant players and stakeholders in bio-based packaging and the bioeconomy in general. As organizers of the event, the Ministry of Education Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, Anteja ECG and the National Institute of Chemistry brought together over 56 participants (clusters, industry, academia, experts, policy makers and SMEs) and 11 speakers from 10 European countries to discuss future trends and gaps in the Bio-Packaging value chain. The primary focus was on market and consumer needs in the Danube Region.



Discussions were held in three parallel working groups: WG 1: NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES led by Dr. Luka Juvančič focused on value gaps in engaging science with industry on new technology development (production processes).

WG 2: CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT & NEW MARKET DEVELOPMENT led by Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker focused on value gaps in the industry, consumer engagement and new market development (consumer education).

WG 3: NEW BIO-BASED RAW MATERIAL, NEW RESOURCES led by Dr. Andrej Kržan focused on value gaps in overcoming the obstacles in assessing and obtaining new raw material and new resources (competitive bio-based material).

The welcome and opening address was delivered by Dr. Tomaž Boh, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian MEP Franc Bogovič (SLS/EPP). The workshop keynote address was given by Katrin Schwede, European Bioplastics e.V. (EUBP) and Dr. Adriana Rejc Buhovac, Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana.

The outcomes of the workshop will help to inform policy-makers on how to improve conditions and support the environment for raising the competitiveness and awareness along the bio-based packaging value chain in the region. The findings and recommendations will be included as inputs for the upcoming project strategy actions.



Author: Anteja ECG d.o.o., Slovenia

The Bioeconomy Course in Ceske Budejovice for a third time

The University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, has been the pioneer of the bioeconomy awareness building since 2016 when the first Bioeconomy Course was organised. It is based on a multidisciplinary approach, covering a wide spectrum of topics from sciences, economy, business, law and communication. Therefore, the programme is addressed to a wide spectrum of students and experts coming from various backgrounds, such as life sciences, agriculture, economy and other social sciences. Last, but not least, the course represents a domain for communication about the importance of bioeconomy among science, policy and practice.

This year, the Bioeconomy Course took place on 21 – 25 May 2018 and, as well as the last year, the programme included the National Cluster Association's (NCA-CZ) presentation of the DanuBioValNet project as an important vehicle of the bio-based society concept fostering. The practical approach of the DanuBioValNet project based on the Danube countries cluster collaboration in activities towards innovative bio-based value chains was of great interest both for the international and local audience.

The Bioeconomy Course initiator and organiser, Eva Cudlinova, Ph.D., the Associate Professor of the University of South Bohemia, belongs among the critics of the missing Czech bioeconomy strategy and takes an active part in the DanuBioValNet activities, such as the Bioeconomy



awareness seminar organised by the NCA-CZ on 26 April 2018 in Prague. Logically, the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice with its Economic and Agriculture Faculties and their experts committed to bioeconomy will have their irreplaceable role in the Czech Bioeconomy

Development Platform launched by the NCA-CZ and the Joint Bio-Based Industry Cluster Policy Strategy of the DanuBioValNet project.

Author: National Cluster Association, Czech Republic

3rd cluster services training in Opatija



The third cluster manager training of the DanuBioValNet project, held on 5 June 2018 in Opatija, Croatia, delivered several interesting conclusions and recommendations. The main topic of the training was related to the development of new cluster services that could support the internationalisation of clusters. After several interesting presentations, the Cluster Tool Box was presented and the participants had the opportunity to learn about best practices from different project partners and clusters in the Danube Region. The training ended with the discussion about cluster internationalisation as the main challenge of the European clusters in the future period. The participants (Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and the Czech Republic) came to the several common issues and challenges and delivered following conclusions and recommendations:

support, clusters need more support from their own governments, especially in terms of financing those activities.

2. There is a big problem on the whole market which is related to the cluster definition. There are many organizations that call themselves “cluster” and they are actually only organizations or associations. The clear line should be drawn on the European level, and some firm criteria should be established so that governments could be able to support “real clusters” in a right way.
3. The further challenge, that is especially recognizable in the Southeast European Region, is the mix-up with the NACE codes. There are many companies that register under several different codes and operate in some totally different business. This causes problems for the clusters to identify possible members, and it lingers the collaboration possibilities in general.



4. Impact-oriented cluster activities should be supported, especially in terms of internationalisation. It is not enough to create the strategies, but the clusters should provide improved frameworks for pilot projects that are directly linked to the companies. In this way, companies accept better cluster activities and actually have a need to be part of it as an active member. Therefore, projects like the DanuBioValNet are needed. The main focus of the project is how to develop some new value-chains that will support the competitiveness of the European companies, and clusters, as linkages between all relevant stakeholders, are one of the important regional innovation system stakeholders, especially when it comes to cross-sectoral collaboration.



1. Companies’ access to new markets and knowledge should be supported by clusters. In long-term, this requires new partnerships among different stakeholders related to the market knowledge but also to the development of new products and services. In order to provide this kind of



Author: Croatian Wood Cluster, Croatia

The Bioeconomy in the World

Adidas' limited edition sneakers are made from recycled ocean waste

Last year, Adidas unveiled a prototype of 3D-printed sneaker made from **recycled plastic ocean waste**. Adidas collaborated with "Parley for the Oceans", an organization that raises awareness about the environmental destruction of the oceans, on the design of sneakers. The new shoes are supposed to be as functional as any other sold by the company.

The sneakers' uppers are made entirely from recycled ocean waste, including PET from discarded plastic bottles and nylon recovered from old fishing nets. Turning plastic into a usable material in this way is a laborious process, but Parley for the Oceans' founder, Cyrill Gutsch, says that now it's been done once and it'll be easier to repeat it. "We are creating new standards, new materials and technologies that are so different to those the sporting goods industry is used to," said Gutsch in a press statement. "It is an ongoing challenge, but we achieved the first step. Now we can replace new plastic with recycled marine plastic debris."



Source: <https://www.theverge.com/2016/6/8/11881670-adidas-3d-printed-sneaker-competition>

11th International Conference on Bio-based Materials

The conference, which took place in Cologne, Germany on 15-16 May 2018, awarded three developments in the innovative bio-based materials competition with a market launch in 2018:

No 1: Arctic Biomaterials Oy (Finland): Degradable PLA reinforced with glass fibre that erodes back to harmless minerals in composting environment

No 2: Cardolite Corporation (US/Belgium): Cashew nutshell residual-based blocking agent

No 3: AIMPLAS Instituto Tecnológico del Plástico (Spain): Bio-based and biodegradable nets for green beans.

The special award of the jury was given to Warka Water (US) for a water collecting bio-based tower in dry areas. More info: www.bio-based-conference.com

The Calls on bio-based industry are open!



Within the Horizon 2020 Programme, the calls for proposals of the BBI JU- 2018 (Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking) are opened in three areas of activities: RIA (Research and Innovation Actions), IA-DEMO (Innovation Actions – Demonstration) and IA-FLAG (Innovation Actions – Flagships), plus CSA – Coordination and Support Actions. The CSA include the topics of:

– Benefit from previous and current work to create a coherent and stimulating 'environment' for a sustainable bio-based industry in Europe. More info: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/bbi.2018.so4.s1.html>

– Expand the bio-based industry across Europe. More info: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/bbi.2018.so4.s2.html>

– Identify opportunities to promote careers, education and research activities in the European bio-based industry. More info: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/bbi.2018.so4.s3.html>

The deadline for the project proposal submission is 6 September 2018.

Budget in Euro Overall: 2320844,8 / Start date: 1 January 2017 End date: 30 June 2019

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