

Smart Specialisation Platform for Energy

Thematic Partnership

Bioenergy

Start Date (2016)

MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting Period: from January 2019 to June 2019

This Report is presented to the relevant Working/Steering Committee.
It contains two parts:

- I. Management Report prepared by the Lead Region(s)***
- II. Progress Report prepared by the Lead Region(s)***

Confidentiality: this document (part I) will be made available to the public via the Partnership's web page except for chapter *II.D. Self evaluation*.

Based on the monitoring results, the European Commission will decide on the following year's support.

Executive summary (max. 250 words):

Bioenergy is a common priority of smart specialisation for several regions across the EU. Accordingly, in 2016 the smart specialisation platform on energy has supported the creation of an interregional partnership for bioenergy and smart specialisation which is currently working in four priority areas: biofuels, biomass, biogas and knowledge transfer.

This bioenergy partnership is led by the regions of Lapland (FI) and Castile and Leon (ES) and engages the participation of more than 20 other regions committed to being frontrunners in developing forest-based as well as non-food agriculture-based bioenergy as the basis for sustainable regional growth. In line with the EU goals, bio-energy represents about two-thirds of the renewable energy production in the European Union and is one of the main energy sources contributing to fulfil the 20% objective with renewables for 2020.

With this interregional partnership initiative, participant regions are already meeting and expect to develop common ground for cooperation through the common elaboration of steps such as mapping, pilot activities and joint investments based on decentralized renewable solutions (e.g. wood chip or biogas CHP plants) second generation biofuels, produced mainly from lignocellulose biomass, residues or waste.

I. Management Report prepared by the Thematic Platform/Lead Regions

I.A. Partnership Action Fact Sheet

- **Partnership:** *Bioenergy*
- **Partnership's web-page:** *http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/bioenergy*
- **S3 Thematic Platform:** Energy
- **Objectives:**
 - *The interregional partnership for smart specialisation in bioenergy has been created as a way to develop common ground for cooperation, based on innovative applications for decentralized renewable solutions (e.g. wood chip or biogas CHP plants) second generation biofuels, produced mainly from lignocellulose biomass, residues or waste.*
 - *The bioenergy S3 partnership offers interactive and participatory arenas for interregional cooperation along regions and MS who selected bioenergy related areas as a priority in their RIS3 strategies. Among the different interesting thematic areas in bioenergy, biofuels, heating and cooling, knowledge transfer and electricity production from forestry power plants have been identified as specific working lines.*
 - *Furthermore, the bioenergy S3 Partnership is aligned with the Energy Union R&D and competitiveness priorities and promotes the energy related TO1 (Research and innovation), TO4 (Low carbon economy) and TO7 (Sustainable transport), together with the commitment to the Set Plan 10 key actions.*

- **Lead Regions: list of regions/countries leading this partnership**

<i>Lapland (FI)</i>
<i>Castile and Leon (ES)</i>

- **Official partner regions: list of regions/countries that have officially committed to follow this partnership and have been active in the last six months.**

<i>East Slovenia (SI)</i>	<i>Kainuu (FI)</i>	<i>Asturias (ES)</i>
<i>North Karelia (FI)</i>	<i>Centru (RO)</i>	<i>Epirus (EL)</i>
<i>North-West Croatia (HR)</i>	<i>Central Finland (FI)</i>	<i>Normandy (FR)</i>
<i>Western Macedonia (EL)</i>	<i>Extremadura (ES)</i>	<i>North-East Romania (RO)</i>

- **Other regions: list of regions/countries that have expressed their interest in this partnership but have not signed a commitment letter).**

<i>Trento Autonomous Province (IT)</i>	<i>Opolskie (PL)</i>	<i>Podlaskie (PL)</i>
<i>Pomorskie (PL)</i>	<i>Slaskie (PL)</i>	<i>North-East Romania (RO)</i>
<i>Slovakia (SK)</i>	<i>East Sweden (Östergötland) (SE)</i>	<i>Region Värmland (SE)</i>
<i>North Great Plain (Észak-Alföld) (HU)</i>	<i>Weser-Ems (DE)</i>	<i>South Tyrol (IT)</i>
<i>Algarve (PT)</i>	<i>Grand Est (FR)</i>	<i>Catalonia (ES)</i>
<i>South Ostrobothnia (FI)</i>		

- **Intentions to join: list any regional/national authorities**
(Please list here all other regions that have expressed their interest to join the partnership)

- **Other participants (other than national/regional authorities):**
(Please list here all other (non-region) participants (clusters, institutes, RTOs, etc.))

<p>Representative of Lead Region 1: <i>(name, institution, address, phone, e-mail)</i></p> <p>Eero PURONTAUS Regional Council of Lapland eero.purontaus@lapinliitto.fi</p>	<p>Representative of Lead Region 2 <i>(if applicable): (name, institution, address, phone, e-mail)</i></p> <p>M^a Puy DOMÍNGUEZ PÉREZ, EREN Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y León DomPerMi@jcy.l.es</p>
<p>European Commission Coordinator: <i>(name, e-mail)</i></p> <p>Isabelle SEIGNEUR, Directorate B, Growth and Innovation. Unit 3, Territorial Development. S3PEnergy Isabelle.Seigneur@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Any other relevant information:</p> <p>Please enter here...</p>

I.B. Thematic Working Areas (WA)

- **Thematic Working Areas (if any, please list of WAs, region(s) in charge of it, names and affiliations of involved regional/national authorities, and other actors)**

Working Area	Region in Charge	Involved regions	Other actors
Implementation of rural and small-scale biomass installations.	Castile and Leon, North Karelia and Centru Region	Lapland, East Slovenia, Central Finland, Northeast Romania, Highland council, Asturias, RNAE, Norte Alentejo, Varmland, South Ostrobothnia, Western Macedonia	Other actors
Added value of biogas installations	Kainuu Region and Central Finland	Lapland, East Slovenia, North-east Romania, North Karelia, Highland council, Asturias, RNAE, Varmland, Western Macedonia	Other actors
Small scale generation of electricity by using pellets and wood chips (and straw).	North Karelia	East Slovenia, Highland council, Norte Aleantejo, Asturias, RNAE, Kainuu, Varmland, Western Macedonia Castilla y León	Other actors
Development of a forest management model.	tbd	Castilla y Leon, Central Finland, Centru Region, North Karelia, RNAE, Norte Alentejo, Varmland, Western Macedonia	Other actors

I.C. Overview of partnership's activities**Past activities (past six months, the 1st half of 2019)****Past Meetings**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>Interreg Europe project APPROVE</i>	<i>22-23.10.2018</i>	<i>Ioannina, Epirus, Greece</i>
<i>Coordination of H2020 LC-SC3-RES-28 application Biocarma</i>	<i>Winter 2018</i>	

Past Workshops

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>

Past Dissemination Activities

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>Bilbao - S3 Thematic Platform Days</i>	<i>27-28.11.2018</i>	<i>Bilbao</i>
<i>S3P introduction in the Innovact closing meeting in Guatemala</i>	<i>13-14.11.2018</i>	<i>Guatemala</i>
<i>EWRC 2018 S3PEnergy Presentation</i>	<i>10.10.2018</i>	<i>Brussels</i>

Future activities (the next 6 months – the 2nd half of 2019)**Future Meetings**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>Interreg Europe project APPROVE+technical visits</i>	<i>24-26 september (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Valladolid, Spain</i>

Future Workshops

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>S3 bioenergy Thematic Platform. Bioenergy in the next financial EU period</i>	<i>24-26 september (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Valladolid, Spain</i>

Future Dissemination Activities

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>

II. Progress Report prepared by the Lead Regions of the partnership, describing results achieved during this period.

All items listed in Sections A, B, and C, below, must be addressed.

Additional documentation such as extended technical reports and/or proceedings of workshops may be provided separately as an annex to this report (and should be referenced in the report).

II.A. Innovative results

- Innovative results and achievements that could be attributed to the Partnership.
(Specific examples of Results vs. Objectives)
 - consolidation of phases 1 and 2 of cooperation methodology: learning and connecting,
 - identification of 5 demo cases to develop joint projects,
 - elaboration of 1 project proposal for Interreg Europe, followed by grant approval,
 - Proposal for H2020 LC-SC3-RES-28,
- Tangible short- and medium-term socio-economic impacts achieved or expected.
(Specific examples)

Expected socio-economic concrete impacts in the running of pilot activities and concretisation in phases of commercialisation and scaling-up.

II.B. Inter-regional and inter-partnership collaborative results

- Additional results obtained from working with other partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms.
(Specific examples)

Much of the inter-partnership collaboration of the Bioenergy partnership has taken place within the S3PEnergy in the form of S3PEnergy platform joint organised activity such as joint workshops, meetings and working groups. From these sessions, partnerships have been able to exchange their experiences and the challenges they have faced developing S3 energy projects and this has enabled them to learn from each other.

A meeting of the partnership was organised in Ioannina, Greece on the 2nd of April. Tine Seljak from the University of Ljubljana presented a potential demo case that will be further elaborated with interested regions, in light of a potential application for funding.
- Evaluation of the involvement of relevant business sector (clusters, SMEs, business associations, chambers of commerce, Digital Innovation Hubs, etc.) in the Partnership activities. (Specific examples)

Arctic Smart Rural Community in Lapland which is a cluster of 30 companies. Clube, bioenergy/bioeconomy cluster in Western Macedonia, Greece. AVEBIOM, Spanish industry association.

Expobiomasa trade and congress is organised by the AVEBIOM (Spanish Biomass Association) and we are establishing a channel of collaboration
- Evaluation of whether **the level of inter-regional cooperation is sufficient** to potentially provide practical and relevant socio-economic impacts. (Specific examples)

Evaluation of whether the level of interregional cooperation in the partnership is sufficient for to be socioeconomically impactful cannot take place until the partnership activity enters the Demonstrate, Scale-up and Commercialisation phases. Key task for the next period is to prepare applications for funding further inter-regional work on concrete cases.

II.C. New activities

- Involvement of regions from EU13 Member States in the Partnership, in particular with respect to scoping, mapping and/or matchmaking. *In addition, justification should be provided if no EU13 regions are involved.*

EU13 regions involved in the partnership are: North-East Romania (RO) and Slovenia (SI). A functioning demo plant case from Slovenia designed to produce bio- and waste-refined fuels.

- Involvement of regions/countries from outside of EU28 Countries. *(Number of participants from non-EU countries. Specify their contribution)*

Na

- Advancement and promotion of the Partnership through publications and other communication/outreach activities. *(Number of outreach activities that resulted from the Partnership. A complete list with references and web-links should be given in an annex)*

The S3P bioenergy will be presented in the recent created Working Group in Eneragen (Spanish Association of Energy Agencies).

- Activities and projects with partnerships working under other S3 Thematic Platforms *(Agri-Food, Energy and Industrial Modernisation).*

The S3PEnergy Bioenergy partnership was involved in a State Aid workshop organised by the JRC in Seville in March.

III.A Your Partnership and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The EU has a strong position when it comes to sustainable development and is also fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda¹, together with its member countries and regions. Many interregional partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms contribute strongly to the attainment of these 17 goals.

Please indicate to which Sustainable Development Goals and to what extent your thematic Partnership contributes?

Your Partnership and Sustainable Development Goals						
Goals to which your partnership (can) contribute:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not applicable
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 2. End hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth , full and productive employment & decent work for all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure , promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation & foster innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 11. Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas & marine resources for sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems , sustainably manage forests , combat desertification , halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015, gave a new impetus to efforts to achieve sustainable development.

III.B Your Partnership and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs)

The S3 Platform is currently considering carrying out a study which would feature how selected thematic S3 Partnerships are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Would you be interested to have your partnership to be considered to be included in this study? (Please feel free to put us in touch with a different region/colleague.).

Please enter here...