FACTSHEET

RESEARCH & INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Co-funded by the European Union

SUMMARY

This factsheet provides an overview of the achievements gained by the transnational projects within the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020** thematic priority **"Innovation"** and the objective **"Research and innovation infrastructures".** In this factsheet, you will find examples of the projects´ solutions, and for more information visit the **project library.** Many of these projects contributed to progress towards the objective of the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)** and helped to advance the implementation of the EUSBSR action plan in the policy areas of Innovation and Education.

What?

The projects tackled the following challenges and opportunities:

- Wide range of research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure in the region;
- Unequally distributed and poorly interconnected R&I infrastructure;
- Lack of a coordination framework for better management of infrastructures' assets;
- Access and application of data in healthcare and other industries;
- Insufficient capacity of incubators and SMEs to improve their performance and the provided services.

Who?

The solutions are for public administrations, analytical research infrastructures, innovation support agencies and innovation infrastructure organisations, laboratories, higher education institutions, start-ups, incubators and SMEs in various industries e.g. electronics, healthcare, building, agriculture and others, as well as civil society.

- **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Improved research, education and business collaboration

Enhanced macro-regional science-business cooperation (BalticTRAM)

- Overview of the national commonalities and differences in research and innovation in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland for better search of policy support tools on the science-business collaboration.
- Analyses of global, international, European and transnational governing structures of innovation and smart specialisation in the science-business cooperation.
- Overview of the smart specialisation trends with the focus on the added value to the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy, the EU Maritime Security Strategy´s Action Plan and the New Skills Agenda for Europe.
- List of the companies in healthcare, thermal insulation, cement manufacturing and other sectors that benefited from free access to analytical research facilities to perform measurements on material samples.
- Open data portal contains experiments performed in the context of material research measurements including the problem, the research activity, the used methods, instruments and the achieved results.

Action plan for coordination of research and higher education (BSN)

- Action Plan improves the conditions for cooperation in research and higher education in photon and neutron science, life sciences and welfare covering scientific excellence, mobility in research and higher education, widening participation in research consortia, and outreach to the EU institutions.
- Concept for mobility in research and higher education covers summer schools with a focus on large research infrastructures as well as research internships and short-term scholarships for PhD students

Paving the way for better diagnostics and treatment of citizens

Upscaled conditions for laboratories (ProVaHealth)

- Living Lab concept includes business models for laboratories, transnational service packages (workshops and usability testing), as well as country-specific services such as country whitepapers over health structures and systems.

Better access to data in healthcare (BFCC)

- Transnational fracture registry platform registers anonymous data from hospitals in Germany, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland about bone fractures and complications of their treatment and makes them accessible to companies developing medical products.

Strengthened support to incubators and SMEs

Focusing on SMEs in the fruit-growing sector (Innofruit)

- Open demo farm network with 22 research organisations and SMEs in fruit-growing and farming. The farms connected via the network offer consulting services for fruit-growers in orchard management, demonstrations of new technologies, demo objects, fruit crops and cultivars, processing and storing of fruit and berries.
- Recommendations for policymakers of the fruit growing sector focusing on the need for balanced regional coverage of independent advisors in fruit growing as part of a national advisory system. They contain financial and non-financial incentives for commercial farms to host on-farm demonstrations in fruit-growing.

Improved testing for SMEs (Test-4-SME)

- Training curriculum for laboratory staff outlines the scope, schedule, duration, target groups, trainers, and the content of the training. It enables to improve the knowledge of international standards and enhance quality and efficiency while reducing testing costs.
- The service provision rules aim to reduce bureaucracy when using the service and optimising costs and make the whole process of receiving testing services in electronics more SME-friendly. It represents a set of principles for competence centres and other cooperating laboratories.
- The sustainability strategy explores the organizational aspects of the network, technological improvements, and potential national and international funding sources. The strategy addresses the technological advancement of the network competence centres over the next 5 years, collaboration, and funding of the network activities.

Improved governance structure among incubators (IRIS)

- Roadmap for enhanced management capacity designed as a peer review and used as encouragement and guidance for incubators to adapt the process.
- Overview of the tests performed by the incubators within high-quality deal-flow to incubators, as well as coaching for growth and sustainability, successful management in start-ups and SMEs, female entrepreneurship and internationalisation of SMEs business activities.
- Online guideline to incubator supporting instruments including short inspiring films aimed to strengthen incubator support capacity

Better access to data

More available Copernicus Earth Observation data (BalticSatApps)

- Step-by-step data2information kit to improve the comprehension of Copernicus Earth Observation (EO) data covers user needs, capabilities, offered services and success stories demonstrating the applicability of Copernicus data.
- Catalogue of innovative Earth Observation services with a focus on Estonia, Finland, Poland, Russia, and Sweden. It outlines the name of service, service provider, operational status, type of provider (public/private), cost of service, coverage, spatial resolution, contact details, usage instructions, in brief, background information, screenshots, license type, application domains, and use cases.
- "Cookbook" of organising EO hackathons and iterative development of service ideas within the Earth Observation (EO). It focuses on the iterative development process, and how reapplying the previous (i.e., iterating) outcomes can bring the result closer to an effective and self-sustained process.
- Acceleration programme provides an overview of the activities led by Tartu Science Park (Estonia), Turku Science Park Ltd (Finland), and Krakow Technology Park (Poland). It contains first-hand information about the application phase, selection criteria, participating teams, key mentors, and follow-up actions.

Improved utilisation of the underground laboratories (BSUIN)

- The European Underground Laboratories Association (EUL) registered as a non-profit organization promoting science, research, technical development, innovation, education and events. The network accommodates the interests of the BSUIN organisations as well as facility providers, managers and utilisers.

- Open innovation platform supports the operation of the EUL and hosts the information, reports guidelines, underground laboratory business models and service designs, as well as helps the potential users of the laboratories to find optimal facilities for their purposes.

TAGS: research and development, research and innovation infrastructures, business support, commercialisation of products and services, digital technologies, health and social services, industry, SMEs and entrepreneurship