

3rd PA Bioeconomy Steering group meeting under Latvian presidency

21.05.2024. MS Teams

Attendees (with e-mail for networking):

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Minutes from the meeting

	Agenda points	Decisions
1.	Welcome and approval of agenda <i>Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia</i>	KS starts the meeting by approving the agenda.
2.	Information from Interreg	Interreg Baltic Sea Region representative Elena Kolosova gives a presentation on what Interreg Baltic Sea Region has to offered and has been

	<p>Project platforms and updates to Action Plans</p> <p><i>Elena Kolosova</i></p>	<p>doing so far and asks the question for the participants on what are the needs and potential for transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Participants give input on topics such as food security, nutrient leakage, and the possibility to include this topic in the upcoming Annual Forum.</p>
3.	<p>Status and further work to be done in the strategy</p> <p><i>Ministry of Agriculture, PA coordinators</i></p>	<p>EL thanks the participants from the Ministry of Agriculture side for participating in the meetings and being active participants in the PA Bioeconomy Steering Group. TJ notes that Jan and Feb were the period for reporting. Now – preparing seminars on specific issues that seem relevant for the group, next seminar is a hybrid seminar on food security with relevance to individual, societal preparedness. With other PA preparing workshops for the Annual Forum, there is interest from the organizers to follow up on the food security topic and topic on forestry. Action Plan will be updated. Workshop with PA Nutri in December.</p>
4.	<p>Tour de table with PA Bioeconomy stakeholders</p> <p><i>All</i></p>	<p>The tour de table starts with Ilze Dimante talking about Interreg project MainPotRe (https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/mainpotre/). The project mostly contributes to PA Culture, but PA Bioeconomy is second as in the project potato breeders, gene bank holders, research institutions, authorities, and NGOs work together to enhance the self-sufficiency of communities and food security in the region by improving access to planting material of local potato cultivars.</p> <p>Jennifer Avci talks about the project Circular FoodShift in the Baltic Countries – https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/circular-foodshift/ - need to put citizens in the center of the food system change. Main challenge is cross-sector cooperation, especially for the municipalities.</p> <p>Annika Steele from Submariner Network explains the premise of the project https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/roundgoby/. Project objective is to test and demonstrate new fishing methods, develop Round Goby products. Products will be tested in public kitchens. The results will be summarized in a document of recommendations and a roadmap for fishing Round Goby in the Baltic Sea. Part of the project is Working Group</p>

		<p>for sustainable fishing – encouraging participants to take part in it.</p> <p>Jennifer Avci sees synergies between the projects, mentions that she might contact the representatives of the project for networking opportunities.</p> <p>Anna Aalto talks about the project BioBoosters (https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/bioboosters/) – have recently finished 9 hackatons, have bioeconomy innovation hub. One of the hackatons focused on circular bioeconomy transition, three focused on valorizing biological sidestreams challenges, three challenges on discovering new biomaterials and bioproducts replacing fossil materials and three challenges focusing on digitalization. All challenges have successfully been solved with the hackatons and 11 partnerships have been established.</p> <p>Angela Schultz-Zehden talks about Submariner overarching projects – have 30 different projects for innovative marine resources, tells about ShapingBio project and algae initiatives. One of the projects - https://bluebiomatch.hivebrite.com</p> <p>Information from chat - My name is Ahmad Hafiz, and I am from the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) in Germany. We are the project manager for FoodLoops. This project empowers municipalities, educators, and caterers to improve waste separation at the source, such as in schools, canteens, and households. We also facilitate stakeholder cooperation to develop solutions for using bio-waste to create products like compost. Additionally, concerning the Bioeconomy Priority Area, we contribute to defining new methods for producing bio-based products. For example, we focus on improving waste separation and composting and enhancing the market for bio-based products by connecting with farmers including others.</p> <p>KS gives an overview of what was discussed in this agenda point – strategic autonomy is important, broader aspect on rural areas – how to attract people to the rural areas, involving municipalities in bioeconomy (bottom-up approach) – also important for policy making. Through these projects we can create a good network and also great innovations – f.ex. Round Goby – creating tasty alternatives and</p>
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		knowledge transfer about it on the affected areas.
5.	Closing <i>Nordic Council of Ministers Ministry of Agriculture</i>	In the closing point there was a large interest in sharing contacts for networking, therefore, it is included at the start of the minutes. Meeting closed.

