



DanuBioValNet project

COUNTRY

Interreg - Transnational

PROJECT PROMOTER

Multiple

FUNDING

National funds, EUR 143 339

DURATION

2017 – 2019

CONTRIBUTION TO

- mitigating climate change
- increasing efficiency of biomass resource use
- creating value through increased cooperation among value chain actors

KEYWORDS

Cooperation, pilot project,
transnational, renewable, value
chains

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WEBSITE

www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danubiovalnet

The initiative

The DanubeBioValNet project is a transnational project across the Danube macro-region, aiming to develop new methods and tools to connect enterprises using bio-based material. It aims to establish bio-based value chain networks across the Danube Region in the Phytopharmaceutical, Eco-construction and Bio-based packaging (bioplastic) sectors.

The activities of the project focus on awareness building, information sharing and network building. Its main outputs will be the creation of a policy strategy and an action plan for a joint bio-based industry cluster. Thanks to this project, the bio-economy cluster initiative “CzechHemp” was also set up in the Czech Republic.

RESULTS

- ✓ Environmental benefits will result from building awareness about the bio-economy concept and the importance of bio-based industries. The target groups of the DanuBioValNet project will be informed about the potential and the benefits of the bio-economy; namely the development opportunities that it offers to bio-based industries.
- ✓ 30 individuals directly employed in/by the initiative.



Context

The DanuBioValNet project was launched in 2017 as a cross-regional partnership involving 16 partners from 10 Danube regions. The project facilitates the transition from a fossil-based economy, towards an economy that uses renewable resources, by creating Danube bio-based value-added networks.

The project was initiated due to a lack of bio-economy strategies in the Danube macro-region and the absence of a holistic transnational approach bringing together all actors involved in the bio-based industry.

Objective

The overall objective of the project is to develop new methods, strategies and tools to connect actors in the Danube macro-region, including SMEs, farmers, universities, research institutes, etc., in bio-based value chains.

Activities

The project focuses on three bio-based value chains with high potential, including phytopharmaceuticals, eco-construction and bio-based packaging (bioplastic).

Business clusters are considered to be a powerful tool for supporting bio-economy development in the region. The clusters and SMEs will benefit from new innovative tools and methods developed for transnational cross-clustering. The successfully-established bio-based value chains that emerge from the pilot actions will motivate other clusters and SMEs to test this newly developed approach in the future.

The project partners include ministries, cluster organisations and associations, business support organisations, consulting firms and research institutes. The following partners were the most important in terms of relevant knowledge and expertise resources: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg, Cluster Agentur Baden-Württemberg and Anteja ECG, Slovenia. Specific information was collected from all participating countries.

The activities carried out by the project include preparing reports on the current situation and the potential of the bio-economy; mapping the activities of bio-based clusters and value chains; and setting up a road map for the

promotion of the bio-economy in the region. Particular focus was given to identifying relevant clusters and SMEs that use renewable resources in their business activities. Within the project activities, project partners analyse local biomass resources, bio-based industries and human resources in the bio-based sector. These mapping activities deliver important information about the current bio-based supply/demand chains in the Danube Region, including missing links and chief constraints, in addition to illustrating the most promising areas for cooperation.

The project will also carry out stress tests and policy-benchmarking, develop a toolkit and strategic actions (including a joint bio-based cluster policy strategy and an action plan), as well as pilot actions devoted to three bio-based targeted industries: phytopharmaceuticals, eco-construction and bio-based packaging.

Environmental sustainability

The increased use of bio-based materials and products will have a significant impact on the circular economy in the Danube region. Recycling and the use of biomass as a raw material, will significantly contribute to sustainable development, and reduced waste, GHG emissions and pollution in the Danube region.

In addition, the Danube countries' dependency on oil and gas will be reduced. New enterprises will be able to enter emerging bio-based value chains, creating new products and innovation, and this will lead to the increased competitiveness of SMEs. Cooperation among SMEs across the region will also stimulate trans-regional investments. SMEs from regions that are frontrunners and regions that lag behind will foster cooperation along the value chains, thus contributing to a higher degree of territorial integration.

There is no tool within the project to measure its direct environmental impact. Nevertheless, the DanuBioValNet project is expected to impact both upon the sustainable development of SME clusters and the emergence of new business support services that assure sustainability.

The project is aligned with Europe's Bioeconomy Strategy: Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe. (2012), as well as to the bio-economy strategy of the Baden-Wuerttemberg bio-economy agency, Germany.