

TESTIMONIAL

BERRY+ Partnership

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The BERRY+ Partnership

The BERRY+ Partnership was established to introduce effective ways for developing Circular Bioeconomy (CBE) in the regions, by valorising functional ingredients of natural resources and their side streams. As CBE is a science-based, complex domain, attention has been paid to the way the partnership competences bring together research, raw materials and existing industries. This concern is reflected in BERRY+'s 5 selected Value Chains (VC), its objectives and its governance scheme.



Added Value of the Partnership

The added value of the partnership can be seen through the CBE-based industrial renewal of the participating regions exercise of interregional complementarities and joint development through strategic collaborations. Deep knowledge of industry and science-driven development of the selected VCs, readiness to invest in VC analyses (competitiveness, research, technology), readiness, knowledge and competence proximities of the innovation systems, commitment of regional policy makers and engagement of the relevant stakeholders, are all required.

Case Studies & Concrete Examples

The partnership has achieved the following successful initiatives:

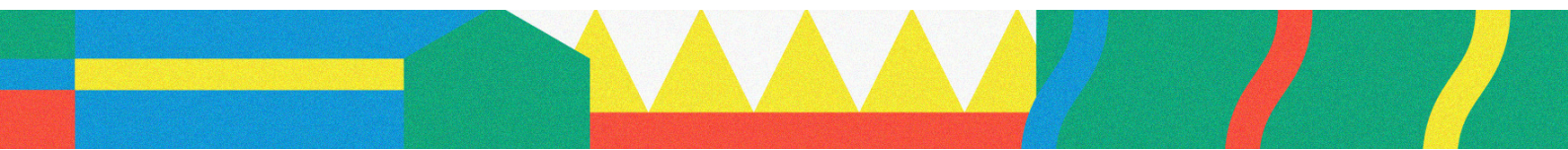
- As part of the BRIDGES project, we conducted VC feasibility studies for VC 2 (dairy industry side streams) and 5 (renewable and recyclable textiles).
- We worked in depth with the VC coordinators to operationalise the concept of value chain as a development concept with policy, i.e. action plan implications. We have found a way to address the issue; it might not be perfect, but we are testing it. It implies that we need to reinforce our partnership with demo cases and reinforced partnership options - and interests
- Preparation of an article by three BERRY+ regions, dealing with the multiplier effect of publicly funded research. The article identifies direct investments, and follows up development initiatives by businesses among the eligible, quantifiable results. The article is useful when we plan BERRY+ and regional policy initiatives.
- We have developed a concept for linking regional innovation systems through innovation intermediaries. This system facilitates close to market (TRL4) research diffusion, VC-based initiatives, liaising regional to interregional initiatives.

In the context of the service offered by the S3 CoP Secretariat the partnership has worked on clarifying how to make the VC approach accessible to regions and has started thinking of the types of initiatives that might be suitable, while also considering the need to attract more regions to the partnership.

Benefits of Interregional Collaboration

In the partnership we believe that interregional collaboration has brought the following benefits:

- Understanding the mechanisms of radical diversification implied in the development of emerging domains, such as those of CBE sectors. The evolution of technologies, environmental challenges and geopolitical modifications, imply / require updated development models with multi sided requirements: we realise, for example, that science-driven development is a must for all, not only for the innovation advanced regions. Through the VC approach, in BERRY+, we work to address this requirement that has systemic implications. We want to increase readiness of regions to invest in emerging domains and, through careful steps, to reduce the risk this implies for businesses and regions. We understand VC-based collaboration as a tool to support and motivate these aspects.
- Understanding and diffusing awareness of and knowledge of functional ingredients of natural resources and market, industry and science endowments. Making this aspect of green transition to work for all.
- Investing in systemic dimensions of CBE-based development, involving regional innovation systems and enhancing exchanges between and among them.
- Investing in strategic aspects of interregional collaboration and liaising with regional initiatives, coherently.
- Putting on the table, at least among the partners, issues such as win-win collaboration schemes, and benefits of interregional collaboration for all, the advanced innovation regions.
- Realising challenging questions such as models linking advanced research and science -driven initiatives to place-based economies. Learning how this can be done and seeking good practices.



- Understanding how to deal with VC as regional policy instruments and integrating VC analysis and complementarities into regional innovation and overall development programmes.

Impact of the Partnership

Several BERRY+ partners have benefitted from the IE project BRIDGES (2016-2021) which dedicated resources to VC mapping and associated development actions. Most of those partners have benefitted from BERRY+ options, work requirements, and project planning and participation.

Link to Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership page: [Inforegio - Berry+ \(europa.eu\)](https://inforegio.europa.eu/en/berry-plus).



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