

D.T1.1.1

Capitalisation of existing results

Upper Austria



Biz Up
December 2020

Project Information

Project Title: GoDanuBio - 'Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy'

Project code: DTP3-471-4.1

Lead partner: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Start of the project: 01/07/2020

Duration: 30 months

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/godanubio>

Deliverable Information

Author/-s: Biz Up

Deliverable nr.: D.1.1.1

Submission date: December 2020

Dissemination level: Public

Version	Date	Content	Elaborated by	Reviewed by
1	20.11.2020	1 st draft	Biz Up	BIOPRO
2	16.12.2020	2 nd draft	Biz Up	BIOPRO
3	18.12.2020	Final	Biz Up	

Table of content

Chapter 1: Short description of the region and its economic situation in general.....	4
Chapter 2: Objectives and identification.....	4
Chapter 3 - Findings.....	10
Chapter 4: Consequences for GoDanuBio	11

Disclaimer:

The information and perspectives set out in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Commission institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Chapter 1: Short description of the region and its economic situation in general

Upper Austria had a total population of 1 473 576 inhabitants in 2018. A gross domestic product (GDP) of 59.957 billion euros was generated in 2016.

Upper Austria is the top country in Austria in the fields of industry, export and technology. About one quarter of Austria's industrial production and exports are generated in this region. This makes Upper Austria one of the most modern and competitive industrial regions in Europe.

Lasting employment growth and a low unemployment rate result from a highly motivated and qualified workforce and from flexible and innovative companies, which represent an ideal mix of large, small and medium-sized enterprises. There is no other region in the EU that promotes cooperation in networks as much as Upper Austria. In line with the largest sectors of the economy, a total of ten sector-specific clusters and four cross-sector networks have been established since 1998. More than 2,800 partners are networked in cluster initiatives - primarily companies from the automotive, plastics, furniture and timber construction, medical technology, mechatronics, environmental technology, eco-energy and food sectors. 85 percent of these companies are SMEs.

In these companies there is a high level of technological knowledge and good cooperation with research institutions. In addition, the companies have a high degree of innovation, which certainly makes Upper Austria a driver of innovation.

Chapter 2: Objectives and identification

Short overview on the objectives of this report:

The main objective of this deliverable is to gain good knowledge and, when possible, to capitalize results from a selected list of EU-funded projects and macroregional documents that are related with demographic change, circular bioeconomy and/or sustainable rural development.

The first research batch, focused on Horizon 2020 projects, was delivered by MIZS; BIOPRO made a first selection from this batch and extended the search in October 2020 with a focus on Interreg projects (Danube Transnational Programme, Alpine Space and Interreg Europe, including ARPAF) using the keep.eu database. Further research related to Horizon 2020 projects was done through [CORDIS](https://cordis.europa.eu) and the database of the Bio-Based Industries/BBi JU funded [LIFT project](#) that encompasses the results of up to 34 coordination and support actions funded mainly by Horizon 2020.

As search criteria, projects starting from 2016 onwards were considered and it was intended that most of the selected projects had at least one of the countries participating in GoDanuBio in their consortia. From each relevant project, its deliverables and outputs that could be interesting for the development

of GoDanuBio were identified using the project websites. In some particular cases, the deliverables were not available and, if relevant, were requested by other means.

The search has delivered 19 EU-funded projects and 12 transregional documents. Only a handful of them have a focus on the deployment of the bioeconomy in the Danube macro-region; some of the outputs can be used as inspiration or even guideline to gain insight in the transnational approach aimed by the project. Complementary to this search, all partners are invited to identify further transregional projects and macroregional documents that are relevant for their regions with regard to the implementation of GoDanuBio and to include them in their reports.

Project 1

Title

AlpLinkBioEco – Interreg Alpine Space

Coordinator

Plastics Innovation Competence Center

Start/Finish date

2018-2021

Main objectives

The project's main objective is precisely to develop a cross-regional bio-based circular economic strategy that includes a roadmap and test-bed for intelligently assessing, selecting and creating innovative value chains for the AS wood, agriculture, food/pharma and chemistry sectors.

Measures related to demographic change, circular bioeconomy and rural development

First, existing resources, actors, S3 and relevant policies are mapped to set up a cross-regional open innovation platform. Second, a smart tool is developed to match actors in new or alternative value chains. It enables new cluster activities for novel business development, and defining coherent data driven policies for stimulating the AS circular bio-based economy. Third, the project identifies previously untapped growth opportunities with test bed pilots for each selected sector for the production of bio-based high added-value applications and products. Furthermore, a joint cross-region action plan is delivered for establishing common framework conditions on innovation and data driven policy dialogues within the AS. The project targets all relevant stakeholders including, policy makers, cluster initiatives, sectoral agencies, research centres, SMEs and individual actors, who can benefit from the specific tools and engagement in the novel value chains.

Did your organization take part in the project?

Yes

Specify briefly the results to be capitalized in your region/country (a preliminary list of results was indicated in the Excel document and marked in light yellow boxes; columns G and H)

The Cluster Mapping Synthesis report integrates eight regional cluster mapping reports from fourteen PPs of the AlplinkBioEco project. The report serves as an overview of the maturity of the bio-based value chains in terms of activities and actors engaged in selected value chains. The cluster mapping provides value added to the AlplinkBioEco partnership by providing the partnership with data collected through interface and by identifying missing links in terms of gaps and constraints along the regional value chains. It further helps to identify potential synergies that can be exploited by effective cross-regional collaboration.

Synthesis of regional reports about state-of-the-art strategies, policies and clusters related to circular bio-based economy. The document represents a synthesis report based on the regional policy reports developed in WP T1 of this project. This synthesis report forms the basis for setting up a common policy dialogue scheduled for the second half of the project. The content of the regional policy reports prepared by the PPs is based on publicly available studies and databases, the current knowledge on regional strategies, and existing policy instruments.

Project 2

Title

MOVECO – Interreg Danube Transnational Programme

Coordinator

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

Start/Finish date

2016 - 2019

Main objectives

“Your trash is my treasure” This is the motto of the project MOVECO – Mobilising Institutional Learning for Better Exploitation of Research and Innovation for the Circular Economy. Sixteen partners from ten countries of the Danube region (DR) want to promote transnational cooperation to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy. The MOVECO consortium has focused on eco-design, extended producer responsibility, and green innovation; supporting best practices in these areas, promoting

economic growth, environmental sustainability and social engagement. Under the framework of the Danube Transnational Programme, MOVECO is an Interreg project, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Measures related to demographic change, circular bioeconomy and rural development

Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies.

Did your organization take part in the project?

Yes

Specify briefly the results to be capitalized in your region/country (a preliminary list of results was indicated in the Excel document and marked in light yellow boxes; columns G and H)

Transnational Strategy on circular economy in the Danube Region. For the purpose of this strategic document 12 indicators were selected to present the current circular and sustainable performance of the Danube region countries. The indicators were selected from the Monitoring framework for the circular economy, the Eco-innovation Scoreboard and relevant EUROSTAT official statistics. The indicators were further divided into three stages of the circular economy following the complete lifecycles of resources, products, and services, encompassed by competitiveness and innovation. Analyses of these indicators helped us to identify the challenges, prepare strategic objectives and formulate a set of recommendations based on the current circular performances of the Danube region countries. Three stages of a circular economy encompassed by competitiveness and innovation 1. Production and consumption 2. Waste management 3. Secondary raw materials.

Action Plan on circular economy in the Danube Region

The most important common, systemic messages of the Action Plan are as follows:

- Circularity starts at the productions stage.
- Research and development as part of waste management technology is the key to recycling and providing secondary materials of good quality.

- Functioning communication channels between the stakeholders should be implemented immediately, with special focus on continuous communication between producers and waste management operators.
- Secondary raw materials need to become competitive.
- Waste management terminology needs to be standardised.
- The waste management system needs to be given further consideration.
- A truly holistic approach to the Circular Economy is needed.
- A uniform data collection and processing system must be developed.

Circular Economy Tool Box; focus in SMEs

The Tool Box includes all relevant tools for SME's in the relation to a circular economy. Information materials, qualification programmes, collaboration tools and financing tools.

Macroregional Document 1:

Title

European Commission Report on the Impact of Demographic Change

Author/Publisher

European Commission

Year of publication

2020

Scope of the publication

Presentation of the drivers of demographic change and the impact they are having across Europe

Measures related to demographic change, circular bioeconomy and/or rural Development

- a. Investing in the qualifications of people with low educational levels
- b. Bringing more people from different backgrounds into employment
- c. Opening up the labour market to people with disabilities
- d. Having a larger and more inclusive labour market
- e. The transition to a climate-neutral and digital economy can help boost productivity.

- f. Europe needs a highly-skilled, well-trained and adaptable workforce
- g. The solution lies in investment in people and their skills and improving access to training and education

Macroregional Document 2:

Title

Bioeconomy development in EU regions

Author/Publisher

Silke Haarich

Year of publication

2017

Scope of the publication

The overall objective of the study is to map the intended priorities and activities of EU Member States (MS) and regions with regard to research and innovation (R&I) on bioeconomy according to the current national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and programmes supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020.

Measures related to demographic change, circular bioeconomy and/or rural Development

- a. Bioeconomy strategic planning and governance,
- b. Value chain/cycle development, in particular SME engagement,
- c. R&I on technologies, knowledge transfer and new bioeconomy skills,
- d. Coordinated funding and synergies between instruments,
- e. Public awareness and acceptance

Chapter 3 - Findings

Projects:

AlpLinkBioEco

The Cluster Mapping Synthesis report gave an overview of the maturity of the bio-based economy in the region of Upper Austria. Multiple activities and engaged actors were identified within the frame of mapping. The provide data collected for the report, supports the region in the identification of opportunities and gaps in the regional bio-based value chains. It further helps the region in identifying potential synergies that can be exploited by effective cross-regional collaboration. The Cluster Mapping provides a useful base for further development of bio-based value chains in the region.

In this respect, a connection can be made with the regional strategy #upperVISION2030¹. The *Cluster Mapping Synthesis report* deals, among other things, with how synergies can be promoted through cross-regional cooperation. For this purpose, the #upperVISION2030 includes the measure *establishment of a sustainable network with decision-makers and opinion multipliers from selected regions*. It is therefore clear that international cooperation is seen as a very important part of the bioeconomy.

MOVECO:

The **Transnational Strategy on circular economy in the Danube Region** serves as a valuable guideline for the region of Upper Austria. Following the strategy, many innovative plans can be generated in order to support the regional activities within a circular economy. Production and consumption, Wastemanagement and the recycling of materials are included in the strategy and can be used from every party in the region, that can make use of it.

The **Action Plan on circular economy in the Danube Region** includes useful input for policy makers, SMEs and intermediaries in the region. Producing companies can learn how circularity already has to be included in the early production stages. Intermediaries are taught about the importance of research and development as part of waste management technologies in order to reach qualitative recycling of materials and products. The region can understand how functioning communication channels between stakeholders should be implemented in order to provide effective circularity along the value chain. The action plan is a useful document for the region in order to learn and get informed about circular economy from all its aspects.

The **Circular Economy Tool Box; focus in SMEs** is a toolbox which can be used by primarily SMEs in the region, in order to learn more about circular economy in specific fields. Information materials are provided and qualification programmes for SMEs to promote the transition towards a circular economy.

¹ the strategy was presented in year 2020; initiator was Business Upper Austria - OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH and Government of Upper Austria

Macroregional Documents:

After consultation with the executing ministry (Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism) regarding the Austrian bio-economy strategy, it can be said that the bio-economy strategy for a sustainable Europe has provided the basis for the national strategy of Austria.

Additionally, in the regional strategy called #upperVISION2030 there are some measures that are in line with the results of the mentioned projects and the macro-regional documents. However, it is not possible to say to what extent the measures of the #upperVISION2030 were influenced by the projects and documents.

The macro-regional document *European Commission Report on the Impact of Demographic Change* mentions that Europe needs a highly skilled and well-trained workforce, that it is necessary to invest in people's skills and create better access to education. There is a link to the #upperVISION2030: for example, there is a measure to further develop offers for education. In Upper Austria, the aim is to improve people's access to further education in various areas such as the bioeconomy, digitalisation and logistics.

There is also a connection between the second macroregional document mentioned and the #upperVISION2030. In the macroregional document, *public awareness and acceptance* is mentioned as a measure. In the #upperVISION2030 there is a measure called *Raising awareness and pointing out alternative ways of acting on the topic of sustainability through appropriate activities for young people*. So, you can see that it is also important in Upper Austria to raise awareness, especially among young people, in the area of sustainability.

Chapter 4: Consequences for GoDanuBio

In the absence of concrete results from the policy recommendations - which were set out in the documents - particular attention must be paid to the involvement of high-level political stakeholders. The participatory governance schemes to be developed should be prepared in such a way that special attention can be paid to concrete implementation of planned measures. Although many of the results of the projects and macro-regional strategies have similar conclusions, no concrete measures have been implemented yet. Thus, it will be necessary for policy makers to enforce unpopular measures in consensus with the industry, to be prepared for demographic change and to meet the demands of the bio-economy.

References:

Amt der öö. Landesregierung, Abteilung Statistik, 2018. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.land-oberoesterreich.gv.at/statistik.html>