


DT4.1.2.

Implemented trainings on participative governance

Project region Serbia



ALMA MONS
March 2022

Project Information

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1. General information about the trainings on participative governance

Date of the training	24.02.2022
Location	University EDUCONS, Vojvode Putnika 87, Novi sad & on-line
Project partner	Regional agency for the development of small and medium size enterprises Alma Mons Ltd. Novi Sad
Format of the training	Hybrid
Topic of the training	Participative governance in regional development processes
Guiding question of the training	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify potential participants in the preparation, adoption and implementation of regional development plans and projects in rural regions that will treat the circular bioeconomy as a tool to prevent negative demographic and migration processes (at the local level / bioeconomization of the economy)2. Identify the existing ecosystem (local governments / private sector, academy) where participatory management related to the project topic could be initiated.3. What are the initiatives that need to be launched in order to create an initial favorable environment for starting a participatory dialogue and project management (drafting a public policy concept, forming an initial working body, organizing conferences and presenting project results, etc)4. Identify potential sources of funding for projects related to circular bioeconomy and local rural development and bioeconomization of economic entities
Number of participants	16

Type of participants (Target groups)	<p>National public authority :The Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environmental Protection; Regional public authority: Provincial secretariat for regional development, interregional cooperation and local selfgovernment,</p> <p>Universities, University of Technical Sciences: The University Educons;</p> <p>Business support institutions in the field of circular bioeconomy: Chamber of commerce of Vojvodina, Resursni centar fruskogorsko-dunavskog regiona, Centar za upravljanje razvojem, Garancijski fond;</p> <p>Clusters: Klaster Agroindustrija, Klaster transporta i logistike; Klaster Fond mikroturizma regije Subotica Palić,</p> <p>Companies: Mobilsistemi Novi Sad,</p> <p>NVO EuropolisExperts -Vesna Piperski consultant</p>
Cooperation with experts (i.e. speakers, external moderators, politician...)	External moderator: Goran Vasić

2. Agenda of the training

10.00 – 10.10	Purpose and expected result. Rules of the workshop
10.10 – 11.00	<p>Why participatory decision making ?</p> <p>Methods and tools for ensuring the participation of all stakeholders;</p> <p>Discution</p>
11.00 – 11.40	<p>Circular bioeconomy and rural development:</p> <p>– How to support development at the local level?</p>

	– Stakeholders involvement
11.40 – 12.50	Bioeconomization of the economy through cooperation: – how to encourage the stakeholders' interconnections? – Stakeholders involvement
12.50-13.00	Wrap-up Agreement on next steps

3. Was a methodology presented at the training and if so, which one?

Selected methods and tools for participative governance were presented at the conference, with the aim to familiarize the audience with various technics suitable for different purposes, topics, and participants. The methods: Word Caffe, Open Space-Technology, and Simulation game were presented in more detail. An example from Western Australia – City of Geraldton: „2029 and Beyond“, was exercised, showing the use of the complex method with multiple technics: World Café, Targeted surveys, Online discussions, Social media, Simulation game, and 21st Century Town Hall Meetings; in a process of defining the common ground in sustainable regional development goals and actions.

The method Consensus conference was used at the conference itself. We found the method the most appropriate since the meeting was designed to inform the public and present participants the opportunity to actively engage in learning and expressing their opinions, aiming to find common ground regarding participative governance in regional development processes.

4. How does this capacity building activity contribute to the upcoming co-creation workshops?

The workshop began with an input that elaborated on the benefits of participatory decision making, methods and tools to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, with the aim of making an introduction for the purpose of the meeting. With the support of an external expert moderator, the discussion was conducted on the leading issue of training: identification of potential participants in the bioeconomization of the economy at the local level; identification of existing structures in local governments / private sector

/ academy; identification of initiatives of the greatest importance for regions and cities and potential sources of project funding. Participants were also involved in a discussion of their experience with participatory management to date.

Workshop participants agreed that the circular bioeconomy can be an effective concept that can significantly contribute to rural development. They believe that there are institutional capacities that can be drivers of participatory dialogue by establishing specialized Working Groups and (green councils, councils for local economic development) or by building the capacities of existing ones. For economic entities, it can be a network of institutions organized within the system of the Chamber of Commerce.

Participants agreed on the need and readiness to identify several pilot projects that are estimated to have the potential to serve as an example of the application of circular bioeconomy in rural development and business bioeconomization.

In order to affirm this topic and gain the necessary support of decision makers and the general public, it is emphasized that permanent work will be done to inform and raise awareness of all potential participants about its importance and unimagined opportunities that can contribute to overcoming urgent problems of rural areas. Of particular importance are examples of good practice, ways of organizing, financing and implementation that come from developed EU member states.

In the coming period, through workshops, panels and discussions, several pilot projects will be identified that are estimated to have the potential to serve as an example of circular bioeconomy in rural development and business bioeconomization. Successful implementation could significantly serve in the next steps of affirming the concept and further spreading the project idea.

5. Do you think the participants of the training are likely to attend in the co-creation workshops and why?

When planning the workshop, the purpose and the topic were defined, and, in accordance with that, a list of the stakeholders that are likely to be interested and have the capacity to contribute to the success of the event, was made. Most of them responded to the invitation and participated in the workshop.

The participants agreed to be involved in defining the topics for the co-creation workshops they are interesting in and thus expressing their commitment to active participation in the co-creation workshops.

6. Do you already have plans for the regional co-creation workshops?

The general idea of co-creation workshops is the development of projects that can actively contribute to the specific needs of stakeholders, where the circular bioeconomy is used as a means to prevent negative demographic and migration processes at the local level and thus affect regional development. Stakeholders were defined before the event, which was held on February 24 and supplemented with a list of other stakeholders, as a result of the discussion at the workshop,

We have started consultations with stakeholders, as agreed at the conference, on particular topics of co-creation workshops. We will be able to set up the agendas and dates by end of March 2022. The co-creation workshops are planned to be finalized by May 2022.

7. Did the region in which the training was organised have already a tradition/culture for participative governance? If so name an example.

The Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, passed in 2018, prescribes the steps and elements that public policy should contain, public policy system management, mutual consistency of the planning documents, the procedure for establishing and implementing public policies and reporting requirement on the implementation of the planning documents, and application of regulatory impact assessment and measuring regulatory performance. Conducting consultations at all stages of the development of public policy documents is required.

An authorised proposer shall enable the participation of all stakeholders and target groups in the consultation process conducted during the development of public policy documents. Depending on the scope covered by a public policy document, the consultation process shall include stakeholders and target groups from among citizens and business entities, civic or business associations and other civil society organisations, science, research, professional and other organisations, and representatives of public authorities, local government and other planning system participants that implement the policy concerned. The proposer shall consider suggestions made by stakeholders and target groups during the consultations and inform consultation participants on the results of conducted consultations, in particular on the reasons for not including specific suggestions in the public policy document.

Joint decision-making, from proposals to broad decision-making rights of the parties involved, is not commonly used in the Republic of Serbia. The workshop that we organized, deals with the most important issues regarding the mobilization of social actors, and openness to participatory decision-making. The

approach is important for its influence on the culture in public activities emphasizing joint ownership, rules for decision-making, and the sharing of competencies.

8. Do you think that the training can have any positive effect in regards to a bottom-up approach on policies and regulations related to the circular bioeconomy in your country / region? Please explain.

Generally, public consultation are the most used method in participative governance in the Republic of Serbia. But, the most far-reaching form of participation is co-decision. Stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on the development of the project, its implementation and enforcement. The degree of joint decision-making can vary from the joint development of proposals to broad decision-making rights of the parties involved. The workshop is definitely the step forward to a bottom-up approach on policies and regulations. It will lead to improved governance, including increased democratic legitimacy of institutions due to close links with citizens, improved reputation of public authorities, increased opportunities for active citizenship, and greater social cohesion.

As the first concrete result of the workshop, the proposal for the inclusion of bioeconomy cluster organizations in the process of participatory management is agreed. In the next period, a meeting with the representatives of the clusters and the Ministry of Economy and the Development Agency of the Republic of Serbia is planned. The topic is, how bioeconomy clusters can be supported at the national level – framework, proposals, possibilities, time frame.

9. Problems occurred and lessons learnt

The participants were principally acquainted with benefits of participative governance and with (at least) some methods and tools for smoothing the processes. Usually their experience was through the implementation of the particular short term projects and in cluster organization management. The workshop has expanded their insight of the benefits, methods and tool for participative governance. Also, it has been demonstrated that the involvement of an experienced moderator is very important to enable a well-conducted process and the involvement of everyone in the discussion, where they are free to express their views. The main lesson is that the stakeholders have to be involved from the very beginning where the definition of the most urgent feasible initiatives are created.

10. Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop Invitation

Annex 2: Pictures from the workshop