



BIOBORD
PLATFORM

PLANNING FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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 **Interreg**
Baltic Sea Region



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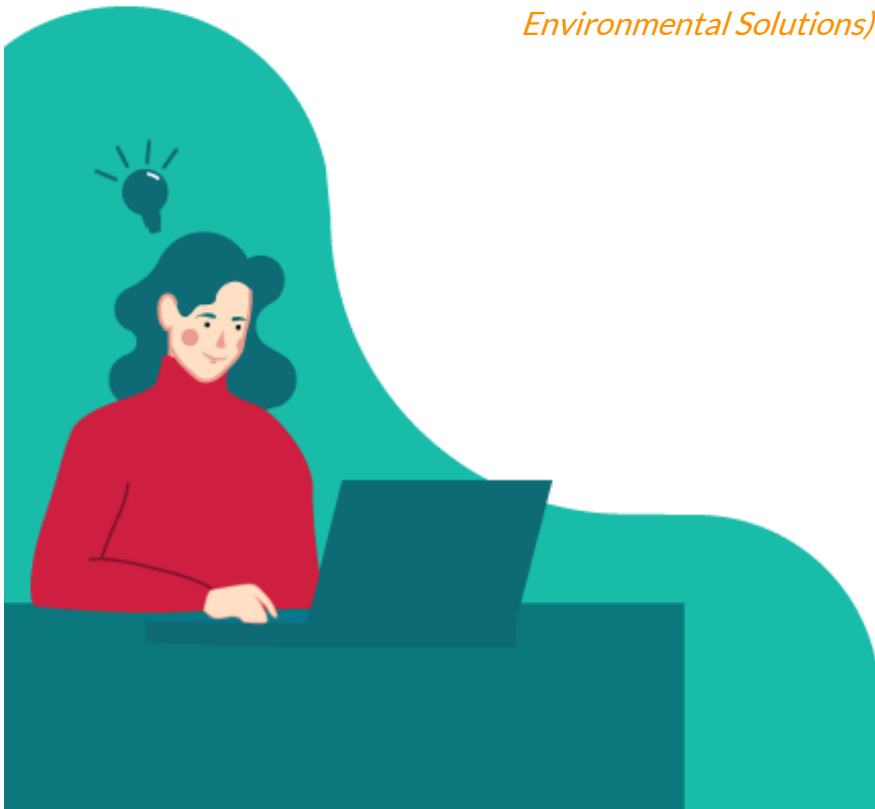


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1. Introduction

RDI2CluB -project is coming to its end in the end of September 2020. Last months of the project have been focusing on the afterlife of the bioeconomy network created during RDI2CluB -project and its future activities. This includes establishing official Biobord Network and starting of the extension stage project of RDI2CluB – ConnectedByBiobord, as well as planning of the future of Joint Action Plan that has also been designed in the RDI2CluB. All future actions have been planned together with the project team of RDI2CluB, which consist of 12 partners across Baltic Sea Region: Central Finland, Inland Norway, Świętokrzyskie Poland, Vidzeme Latvia and Estonia. Partners represent triple-helix frame with actors from business-sector, local authorities, and R&D.

Future planning has been conducted in many ways: by transnational co-operation and discussion on Biobord-platform as well as in a transnational workshop between RDI2CluB partners that was held in online in April 2020. This report will describe more deeply the future planning activities of RDI2CluB -project and it has been written by RDI2CluB PP1 JAMK University of Applied Sciences with the help of all partners.

RDI2CluB-project has been a three-year project funded by European development fund programme Interreg Baltic Sea Region. As mentioned, there has been 12 partners across Baltic Sea Region and the main goal of the RDI2CluB project has been to support smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth of the bioeconomy in rural areas of the BSR. ConnectedByBiobord is building on the outputs of the RDI2CluB: Joint Action Plans and the Biobord platform for transnational innovation co-operation.

2. Extension Stage Project

The main thread in RDI2CluB project's extension stage application was to get extra resources to exploit the main results of RDI2CluB project: the network, the Biobord- platform and the Joint Action Plan. Project was accepted by EU development fund's programme Interreg Baltic Sea Region in June 2020. Project is called ConnectedbyBiobord and implementation starts in October 2020 with the lead of JAMK University of Applied Sciences. ConnectedByBiobord will be 9 month project between nine partners across Baltic Sea Region: Central Finland, Värmland Sweden, Skåne Sweden, Inland Norway, Swietokryzskie Poland, Vidzeme Latvia and Pärnu Estonia, that represents rural regions in Baltic Sea Region with S3-strategy focusing on bioeconomy and its sub-sectors.

In ConnectedByBiobord, the partnership implements transnational innovation pilots derived from the Joint Action Plan elaborated in RDI2CluB. These pilots enable interregional peer-learning and the design of practices for effective innovation working methods for building co-creation dialogue between business and research. The capacity and tools for co-creation dialogue are applicable both in

the regional context as well as in the transnational context of the Biobord network and platform. The transnational innovation pilots also increase the knowledge of the target groups about the most potential bioeconomy subsectors and promising interfaces for developing higher added value bioeconomy products, related services, and knowledge-based jobs.

Furthermore, the service model of the online platform, Biobord, is upgraded and the related open community of bioeconomy developers extended with new members and users. The growing network and improved co-operation models can be leveraged for the benefit of the target regions as access to new connections and joint initiatives as well as resources, expertise, and tested practices for applying the smart specialization approach.

1.1. Extension Stage Planning

Extension stage project planning started in May 2019, when funding programme Interreg Baltic Sea Region announced that a call for extension stage project will be opened. The extension stage is an instrument of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region to support successful projects in the capitalization of their results and partnerships. PP1 JAMK University of Applied Sciences led the process and collected interested partners together. Thus, PP1 collected focus areas that partners were initially interested in. Following questions were asked from interested parties:

Activities and outputs of the preceding regular project

1. Please name the activities and outputs of your regular project you plan to use as the basis for your extension stage project
2. Please briefly explain why you selected the above activities and outputs

Activities and outputs of the potential extension stage project

1. Please name and briefly describe the main activities of a potential extension stage project
2. Please name and briefly describe the main outputs of a potential extension stage project

PP1's initial idea was to use the extension stage to implement a specific joint action from RDI2CluB's Joint Action Plan - or to continue piloting of the Biobord with new features, operating models and/or partners. Together interested RDI2CluB partners formed a following focus that would be on realization of a specific JAP with Biobord as the co-operation platform and communication channel. Proposal included:

- Technology transfer
- (Transnational) clustering
- Low-emission wood construction pilot
- Knowledge transfer & building in food branding & food + tourism concepts
- Knowledge transfer & building in bioeconomy education and employment
- Activity plan could involve benchmarking & study visits with online community building and knowledge base provided from Biobord.

19.05.2019 PP1 send a confirmation to Interreg Baltic Sea Region that RDI2luB-project is willing to apply extension.

Extension stage project planning started in October 2019. Most RDI2CluB partners expressed their interest in the call. However, the scope was smaller which limited options. PP1 proposed following principles for the planning process:

Principle 1: All partners and connected partners welcome to join the planning in the beginning.

Principle 2: Around six partners will be selected to the extension stage project. Selection is made based on the capacity to present relevant transnational actions to the extension stage project. The actions can include partners outside the RDI2CluB partnership. Proposed actions are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Criteria 1: Beneficiaries, Nro. of enterprises benefitting from the action
- Criteria 2: Level of internationalization
- Criteria 3: Ability to expand on existing results
- Criteria 4: Readiness for implementation and connectedness with other ongoing processes (in short, ability to ensure that the action can be implemented in the given timeline)
- Criteria 5: Ability to cover the co-financing required from partners

Planning started with all RDI2CluB partners in October 2019. The collaboration with partners was very smooth as partners knew each other's working styles, interests, and competences from the previous project, and they had built a mutual understanding. Final project team was formed in January 2020. RDI2CluB partners saw an addition of new partner regions from Sweden as positive. Application writing took place in January 2020 with the lead of PP1.

Extension stage planning was done in fairly short time with the lead of PP1 JAMK University of Applied Sciences. Planning included thematic group discussions to form the project activities, and the drafts were evaluated with the whole project team. Clear tasks and deadlines by PP1 were

appreciated, as well as regular weekly meetings with the project team. A clear vision of partnership and roles in earlier stage, would have been useful in the planning process. Also, one up to date online form document would have made the co-writing easier. Overall, project partners saw the extension stage planning as effective and as a positive experience, due to well established partnership during RDI2CluB and strong leadership from PP1.

3. Joint Action Plan in future

The Joint Action Plan was updated in April 2020, after one year since its development and some progress have been achieved, though several activities have been postponed due to restrictions because of corona virus.

The implementation of the measures included in the JAP will be continued after the project has been completed, by continuing already started activities, as well as the launching of new measures. An important tool in this process will be the Biobord.eu platform, which will be used for the exchange, transfer of knowledge and information, joint development of solutions and other joint actions. The Joint Action Plan will be reviewed and updated periodically by the JAMK.

The implementation of regional action plans will continue on the basis of a mutual agreement between regional partners. They will take different approaches in selecting priority measures to be implemented. The main preconditions for starting measures are representation or demand of regional stakeholders, financial resources, in some cases the facilities and knowledge base. Regional Action Plans will be reviewed and updated periodically by respective regional partner, being main stakeholder in charge with the regional plan's implementation.

4. Biobord Network

RDI2CluB partnership has been very successful and there was a common interest between RDI2CluB partners to maintain co-operation, Biobord-platform, Operating Model and Joint Action Plan after the project. The idea of official Biobord Network was born.

Biobord Network agreement was signed by JAMK University of Applied Sciences, the administrator of Biobord -platform and RDI2CluB-project lead partner, 28.09.2020. The main goal of the Biobord Network is to maintain Biobord-platform, Biobord Operating Model and Joint Action Plan. Biobord Network's management actor is Biobord Board that is starting from October 2020 responsible of the elements. All possible changes and upgrades will be accepted by Biobord Board. Biobord Board is also responsible of Biobord Staff which has been formed in the RDI2CluB-project to assist Biobord users.

Formation of Biobord Network was led by RDI2CluB lead partner JAMK University of Applied Sciences, who is also admin of Biobord-platform. JAMK presented first draft of the network agreement in the transnational workshop in April 2020 that was held for RDI2CluB partners. Comments were considered and network agreement was edited with the partners in summer 2020. Final version of the agreement was presented for partners in September 2020. All partners had a chance to affect to the content of the agreement. Legal consultation was offered by RDI2CluB partner Regional Sciences and Technology Center (Poland) and JAMK (Finland).

Final network agreement of Biobord Network includes the rights and roles of network members. Final network agreement in annex 1. Network agreement is signed until further notice and maintenance fee of Biobord is collected from members annually. Each member can resign at any given moment per their own announcement. Biobord Network will meet twice a year. More information for Biobord Network will be presented on Biobord later 2020.

5. Conclusions

RDI2CluB project has created great results: Regional Bioeconomy Profiles, Joint Action Plan, Biobord-platform, Operating Model and results of local pilots and a successful project is a project that can make a difference and maintain the results even after a project lifetime. With these plans, presented earlier in this report, RDI2CluB-project aims to secure this. Extension stage project will continue the great work done in RDI2CluB and give more depth to the RDI2CluB outputs. Biobord Network will secure the longevity of the results, at least for the next five years. Expanding network and further developed outputs of RDI2CluB-project will give more opportunities and knowledge for the actors of the Baltic Sea Regions' bioeconomy sector. Strong transnational co-operation and joint development of bioeconomy have been important values of the project team and it will surely continue after RDI2CluB-project.

6. Annex

Annex 1: Biobord Network agreement



BIOBORD NETWORK AGREEMENT

The aim of This agreement is to strengthen the cooperation and development in the field of bioeconomy in the Baltic Sea Region.

Partners have rights to:

1. **The membership in a management board- Biobord Board**, that guides the strategic development & joint action plans of the Biobord Network, network-building, and Biobord-platform and Operating Model upgrades & adjustments. Biobord Board consists of the members of Biobord Network who pay the maintenance fee (266,00€/year) of Biobord-platform and participate in the annual network meetings (2). Biobord Board is responsible for the strategic guidance of the Biobord network building activities, the quality assurance of the main outputs of RDI2CluB-project: Biobord-platform (<https://biobord.eu>), Biobord Operating Model (<https://forum.biobord.eu/t/biobord-operating-model/802/3>) and Joint Action Plan (<http://rdi2club.eu/>). As well as the integration of lessons learned to the long-term management and operation of the Biobord Network. The Biobord Board is formed on basis of this network agreement with RDI2CluB partners. In future Biobord Network is available for all interested parties.
2. **Create additional content** (news, service cards and organization's and hub's descriptions) on Biobord-platform via content management system Wagtail, with jointly agreed guidelines agreed in the newest version of the Operating Model (<https://forum.biobord.eu/t/biobord-operating-model/802/3>). Content management system Wagtail is only possible for Biobord Network members. Other registered Biobord users cannot create content to News (<https://biobord.eu/news>), Services (<https://biobord.eu/services>) or to Network Map (<https://biobord.eu/map>). Members of Biobord Network are responsible of their own content created via Wagtail Content Management system. This includes hub descriptions, news, and service cards. Each member of the network has a right to create content to these sections, but Biobord Network has the right to delete inappropriate content. Each organization owns the content that they have created on the Biobord-platform. In case organization does not have enough rights to edit or delete data that they have created on the Biobord-platform, Biobord admin JAMK University of Applied Sciences is obligated to move, edit or delete that data according to the instructions of the content owner.
3. **Right to request new open and closed categories, groups, and document management cabinets** for project-based use in line with jointly agreed guidelines as defined in the newest version of the Biobord Operating Model (<https://forum.biobord.eu/t/biobord-operating-model/802/3>) without charge. Other registered users must pay set-up fee for these elements.
4. **Right to use the shared communication resources of Biobord brand** in own communication and to present the open Biobord services - 'Open Biobord Forum', 'Biobord On Stage' and Service catalogue & network map - as a part of the partners' own service portfolio (in line with jointly agreed guidelines as defined in the newest version of the Operating Model (<https://forum.biobord.eu/t/biobord-operating-model/802/3>)).
5. All members have an option to **withdraw from the agreement per their own request to the management board, Biobord Board, on annual basis**. In case of disagreement of Operating Model updates and/or Biobord-platform updates, Biobord Network members are free to resign from this network agreement without any consequences. Resignation from the network agreement will cause a

cancellation of all member rights and discontinuation of potential annual fees for the following year onwards. The management board will approve the resigning from the network agreement as well as approve the inclusion of new network members. Failure to pay jointly agreed network membership fees can result in the cancellation of all membership rights.

6. **Members of ConnectedByBiobord-project (01.10.2020 – 30.06.2021) do not have to pay annual maintenance fee from first year** (October 2020 – October 2021), since the update of Biobord-platform is budgeted in the project. Other members of Biobord Network will pay the annual maintenance fee from the first year.

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*As per RDI2CluB subsidy contract with Joint Secretariat of Interreg BSR, **JAMK University of Applied Sciences is committed to running the Biobord platform until the end of 2025.** Referring to this contract and the role as lead technical designer of Biobord, **JAMK has the administrator role of the Biobord platform.** This entails taking responsibility of:*

- 1 **Running the platform and maintenance** (incl. servers, licenses, running required updates to DMS, Discourse, Wagtail, KeyCloak etc.).
- 2 **Ensuring proper data management**, data security & personal data protection. Once a year JAMK will offer a description of the current state of the data protection of Biobord-platform for Biobord Board.
- 3 **Managing the user groups and user rights.**
- 4 **Creating and updating forum categories & settings** as well as document management system's resource cabinets.
- 5 **Running the helpdesk services and providing technical support** for network members and all Biobord users.
- 6 **Training the Biobord Network Staff and assisting in its activities.**
- 7 **Updating and communicating Joint Action Plan** (formed in RDI2CluB-project) on Biobord. Joint Action Plan will be updated once a year.

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Partners are obliged to:

1. **Maintain the Biobord-platform with an annual maintenance fee of 266,00 €.** The fee is collected by the administrator who is JAMK. The amount of fee can be adjusted on an annual basis.
2. **Membership in Biobord staff** to take part in facilitating, activating, monitoring, and marketing the open forum of Biobord (Open Biobord Forum, Biobord User Support and Biobord On Stage) after

the RDI2CluB project. Biobord staff is formed inside of the Biobord Network, with the help of Biobord admin JAMK. Each region should be represented in the Biobord Staff. Staff members will be selected annually in the Biobord Network meetings. Staff members are free to resign at any given moment per they own request and new staff members are selected in the next Biobord Network meeting. Admin of the Biobord JAMK University of Applied Sciences inducts new staff members if needed. Newest version of the Operating Model (<https://forum.biobord.eu/t/biobord-operating-model/802/3>) presents jointly agreed staff's commitments. Staff commitments are revised annually within Biobord Network. Staff commitments include:

- a. Welcoming all new users to the Biobord platform and guiding them in the use of the forum. Aim is to engage new users in a discussion on to get to know what the expectations the users have and give recommendations on the possible use as well as shares tutorials with users
 - b. Making and actively sharing tutorial topics at 'Biobord User Support' in English and regional languages
 - c. Marketing Biobord in regional networks
 - d. Introducing themselves at the 'Open Biobord Forum' and activating others in their hub to utilize the matchmaking service of the 'Open Biobord Forum' and 'Biobord On Stage'
 - e. Reacting to the topics posted in the 'Open Biobord Forum' and connecting the people with matchmaking calls with relevant network members from their region with a quick response time.
 - f. Setting an example for new users on forum conducts, building trust and interactions.
3. **Monitor content of Biobord-platform.** In case of inappropriate content, Biobord Network members have a right to inform Biobord admin, JAMK, and the admin can delete this content.

The agreement is valid until 31.12.2025