

Stimulating smart specialisation ecosystem through engaging SMEs in open innovation processes

→ *The project will improve competences and capabilities of innovation actors to apply a transnational approach in the implementation of their regional and national smart specialisation strategies. Partners will develop integrated support to innovation policy management for regional authorities and national policy-makers as well as open innovation tools for innovation facilitators and businesses.*

Priority area	Innovation
Specific objective	Smart specialisation
Project acronym	BSR Stars S3
Lead Partner	The Baltic Institute of Finland
Project partners	3 DK, 3 LT, 3 SE, 1 FI, 1 NO
Project budget*	Total EUR 2,9 MM
*preliminary figures before contract signature	



Summary

The introduction of the concept of smart specialisation has challenged European regions to establish innovation driven development strategies that focus on areas of strength and competitive advantage. Regions are also urged to “specialise in a smart way” – considering how they can leverage and develop their own areas of specialisation in relation to those of other regions. Even though regions desire to leverage their own strengths in combination with innovation capacity in other regions transnationally, the existing structures, operational mechanisms and financing frames are not suited to these transnational ambitions.

Building on existing activities and policy governance structures the project aims to develop more integrated innovation support infrastructures, such as test and demonstration facilities and new innovation management tools to leverage complementary competences across borders in the BSR.

The project focuses on cross sectoral S3 field bio/circular economy using digital economy as an enabling field leveraged from the smart specialisation strategies of the participating regions of Skåne (Sweden), Copenhagen (Denmark), Tampere (Finland),

Vilnius (Lithuania) and Sør-Trøndelag (Norway). The project will engage almost 400 SMEs in public research business events, 150 SMEs in transnational coaching, and 10 SMEs with transnational access to bio-economy test facilities in the BSR – leading to new financing and international business cooperation projects. The project will engage the five regional project partners in analysing, developing and testing new tools and methods for regional and transnational implementation of S3 as well as more than 30 additional regional and national authorities in learning and policy development activities. The project main outputs are a cross sectoral S3 support programme for SMEs and policy briefs with recommendations that can be used at the regional, national and EU levels for efficient S3 implementation. The project expects to foster more efficient approaches to transnational collaboration on common challenges with specific focus on bio/ circular economy and a more integrated innovation ecosystem in the BSR.