

# ERDF Managing Authority Network

Niclas Forsling - PA-Innovation

Macro regional strategies – what's in it  
for Cohesion Policy

EUSBSR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Berlin  
13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017

# Policy Area Innovation in EUSBSR

The role of policy area innovation is to foster innovation by:

1. Enable shared learning,
2. Create and strengthen networks across the BSR,
3. Align resources and regulations,
4. Facilitate the joining up of forces in common programmes and investments.



# ERDF MA network in EUSBSR

- Formed 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 in Warsaw
- The MA network explores the opportunity of transnational collaboration funded by the ERDF structural funds programmes.
- Activating Common Provision Regulation Art. 70?
- The ambition: Increase the geographical flexibility of ERDF structural funds, to better contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the BSR.
- Initial focus:
  - Policy Area : PA-Innovation
  - Innovation policy applied: Smart Specialisation Strategies
  - Topic for pilot: Clean-tech



# Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative

CLEANER  
GROWTH



REGION  
VÄSTERBOTTEN



EUROPEISKA  
UNIONEN  
Europeiska  
regionala  
utvecklingsfonden



# Cleaner Growth, a pilot project initiative

## Overview of the procedure:

### A few key dates :

- 30th of March: Meeting between regional innovation planners with clean-tech focus in their smart specialisation strategies, Stockholm
- 2nd – 3rd of May: Workshop to develop proposals for project collaborations, Copenhagen
- 13<sup>th</sup> of June: Communication by ERDF MA-network on procedure to initiate project collaboration



# Outcome; 30<sup>th</sup> of March meeting

## - regional innovation planners

Agreed overall themes and target group

General objectives:

- To support transnational implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (policy instrument), *confirmed*
- Agreed topic: clean-tech, *confirmed*
- To address overall themes aligned regional structural funds programmes:
  - Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets*
  - Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions*
  - Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer*
- Agreed target group for the workshop:  
*"Innovation support agencies actors/clusters etc. that works to develop companies, which provide either clean-tech solutions, including clean energy, contributing to a circular thinking and or solutions which reduce material use or waste."*



# Outcome; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> of May workshop

## - Innovation support agencies actors/clusters

5 project collaboration proposals developed:

Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets:

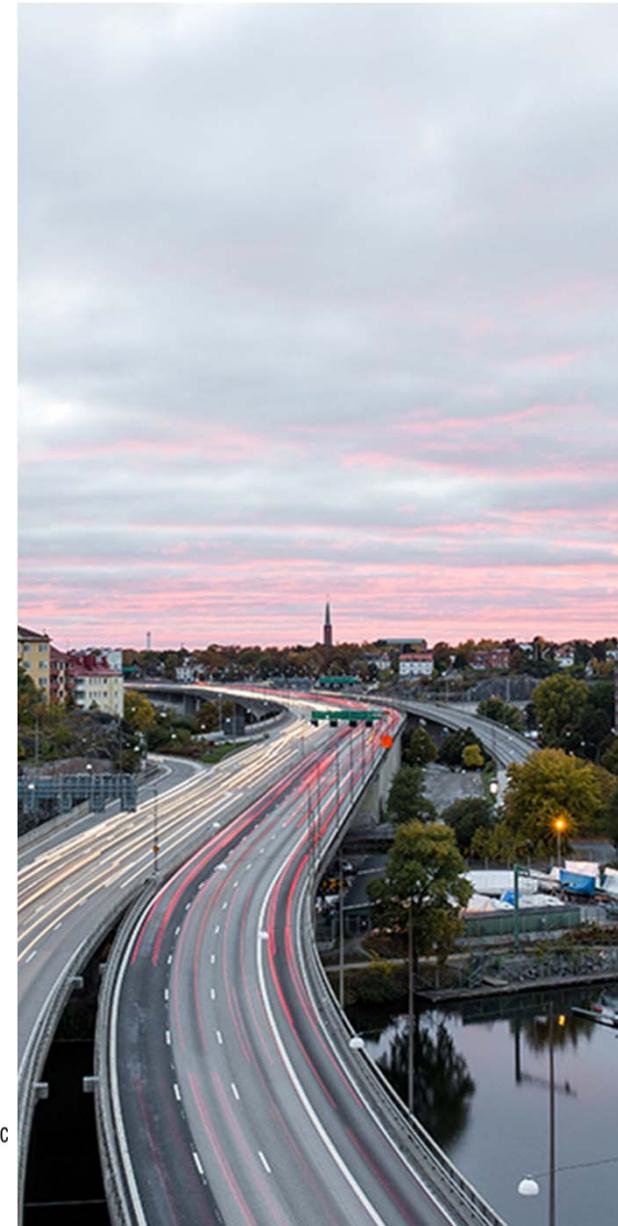
1. Jointly entering new challenging markets

Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions:

2. Commercializing forest-based protein
3. Increasing the share of renewable energy in e-Mobility
4. Increasing the share of renewable energy e-Mobility

Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer :

5. Testbeds for testing and verifying new clean tech solutions



# Question; how to cooperate?

## - For ERDF MA-network to consider and address

1. No Lead Partner Principle
  - Probably separate decisions for each partner
2. Need of a coordinator for coordination of activities
  - Ensuring that all activities are being interlinked and carried out according to plan
  - Be responsible for internal communication, the contact point, for project stakeholders
3. The coordinator can be assigned to do joint project reports
  - Be responsible for joint external communication of project activities
  - Need to be appropriately equipped and EXPERIENCED
4. Can all partners share cost for project implementation?
  - Not all regions will be able to activate art.70, politically impossible.
5. Concern if ERDF Structural funds are available in all regions
5. Eligibility concern when involving companies,
  - match funding from companies not eligible/viewed as an income in projects



# Outcome; 5<sup>th</sup> ERDF MA-network meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2017

4 pioneering project collaboration proposals agreed to move forward with:

Clean-tech collaboration to enter new markets:

1. Jointly entering new challenging markets

Clean-tech collaboration for feasibility studies, to test and verify solutions:

2. Commercializing forest-based protein
3. Municipal operator symbiosis-circular economy
4. Increasing the share of renewable energy e-Mobility

Clean-tech collaboration for technology and knowledge transfer :

5. Testbeds for testing and verifying new clean tech solutions



# Outcome; 5<sup>th</sup> ERDF MA-network meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2017

## Agreements and Next steps:

- Ambition of aligning activities and resources by coordination of on-going project operations
- Agreed to attach additional activities and corresponding budgets to the on-going projects
- Budget amendments are possible for Finland and Sweden and in other countries budget reallocations are foreseen to be done within the current project budget frame.
- Review of appropriate projects to be attached with additional project activities, end date 15<sup>th</sup> of July.
- ERDF MA-network meeting to discuss final Monitoring Committee conditions for amending activities and budgets to ongoing projects, 13<sup>th</sup> of September in Stockholm
- Approval of pioneering projects by amending activities and budgets (or budget reallocations) expected to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2017.



# Outcome; 5<sup>th</sup> ERDF MA-network meeting– 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2017

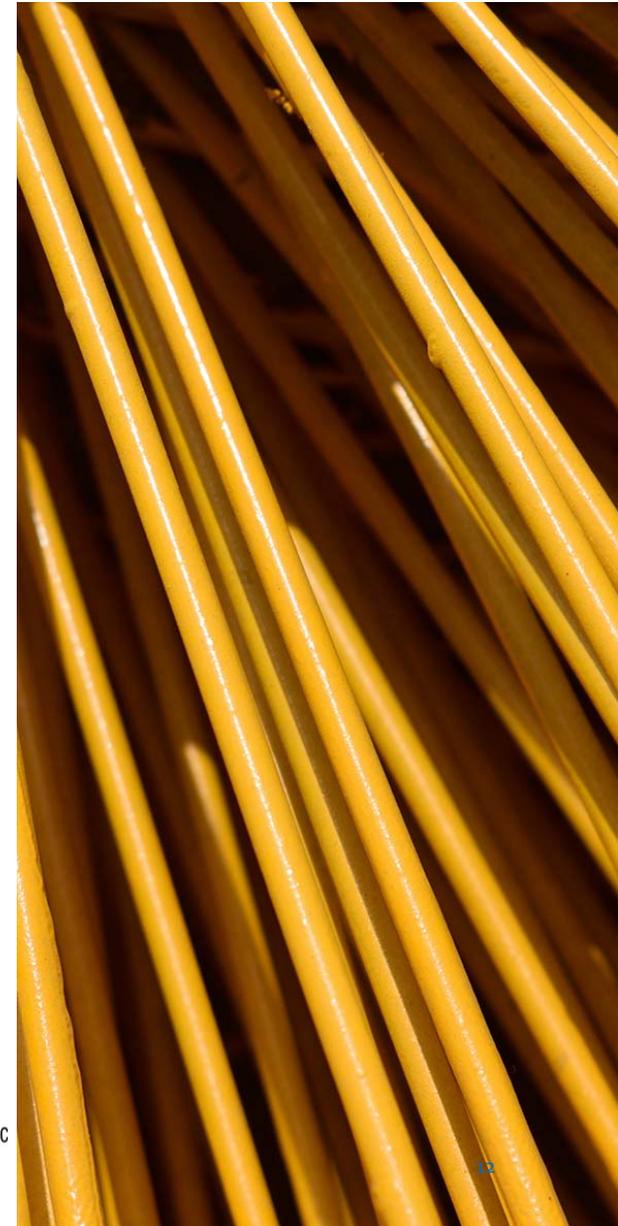
What is the current focus and future ambitions:

- ERDF MA-network is not in competition with, rather a complement to Interreg programme collaboration
- The objective, at this stage, is to increase the possibilities for transnational collaboration through continued focus on;
  - ✓ Implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies
  - ✓ Small scale operations such as:
    - i. jointly targeting new markets,
    - ii. knowledge transfer/networking and
    - iii. feasibility studies.
- ERDF MA-network aims to provide a more agile response to local and regional demand
  - ✓ Time span from project development to approval of pioneering projects, 7 months.
  - ✓ ERDF Structural Funds with strong local and regional connection, meet the need.
- ERDF MA-network welcome alignment other funding sources and instrument than ERDF structural funds, to project collaborations of priority.
- The ambition is to launch a coordinated call between ERDF Structural Fund Programmes, possibly during 2018 .



# MA network – upcoming initiatives

1. In the pipeline: A new pilot focusing on Digitalisation
  - Seed money project funded by Swedish Institute
  - Project proposals to be presented in June 2018 at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum in Estonia
    - *Possibly to be used to launch a coordinated call*
2. Alignment of Funding Models in the Baltic Sea Region (AFM-BSR)
  - Focusing on a match-making platform, region to region S3 collaboration.
  - Seed money project approved, May 2017
3. Smart Blue Regions, an Interreg-BSR project looking into the option of making use of the MA-network
  - Workshop conducted in Malmö on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2017
  - Project collaboration proposals to be presented to ERDF MA-network in December 2017



# Reflections from PA-Innovation

What can we see:

- Great local and regional interest for transnational collaboration in order to fully utilizing their smart specialisation strategies
- Managing Authorities for ERDF structural funds programme welcome transnational collaboration
- Can this bring new life and fuel to macro regional collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region?

But also:

- Will smart specialisation strategies 2.0 outline type of transnational collaboration needed for different focus areas?
- If so, can we see the need for and type of transnational collaboration being reflected in future ERDF structural fund programmes?



# INNOVATION express

...a core activity of BSR Stars

Transnational call for proposals for the internationalisation of SMEs through cluster initiatives and business networks



# Thanks.

