

INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS DIRECTS BSR TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!

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The BIS project involved more than 150 enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region in activities that supports the development of industrial symbioses. Screening of resources and matchmaking attracted companies eager to find sustainable green business models. Living Labs provided innovative arenas for both start-ups, SMEs and large companies to analyse, test and discuss their resource flows and the development of new products. Training and peer-to-peer exchanges were held to build capacity among industrial symbiosis practitioners. Council meetings acted as a platform for dialogue and policy learning and Roadshow events were arranged in the eastern part of BSR to disseminate all the learnings, articles, policy reports, guidelines and tools created. All this was done in close cooperation by the 13 BIS partners, representing public/private cross-sectoral actors from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland and Russia.

The project succeeded not only in creating awareness of Industrial Symbiosis among a broad field of actors in BSR, but also in providing capacity building among supportive structures such as clusters, public authorities, and academia. Successful training programs were developed and implemented based on close cooperation between the BIS partners from academia, and all training sessions were customized to each region in dialogue with the local BIS partners.

The project is about promoting industrial symbiosis, as a concept for sustainable regional development, across the Baltic Sea Region. A central objective of the project has therefore been to spread the knowledge of industrial symbiosis by describing and sharing the practical experience generated.

Tools, training materials and guides for companies and Industrial Symbiosis Practitioners are made publicly available on the BIS project website www.symbiosecenter.dk/bis/ for everybody to get started.

A 'Guide for Industrial Symbiosis Facilitators' is made available for the next generation of Industrial Symbiosis cluster managers, also beyond the project partnership. The Guide explains the key principle of industrial symbiosis and contains several examples of well-functioning and viable industrial symbioses in BSR. It covers all areas relevant for facilitators to be familiar with and work with throughout the life of the Industrial Symbiosis and the Industrial Symbiosis facilitating organisation. Positive response and interest shown by various stakeholders reflects that the Guide has been well received.

Many different stakeholders find the output of the BIS project very useful in their daily work to establish green business models. Some national/regional authorities and public institutions intend to make use of the 'Guide for Industrial Symbiosis Facilitators' in their region and disseminate it along with other BIS tools, such as the screening-tool. Some even plan to optimize the use of it by tailoring the material to local conditions.