

Untapping regional bioeconomy potentials with BERST toolkit – functionalities and limitations

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Background

Transition to bioeconomy - leading strategic orientation of the EU

- Strategies and policy scope: Europa 2020, Bioeconomy Strategy for Europe, Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), national/regional bioeconomy strategies
- Supporting institutions: BBI, Bioeconomy Observatory (BISO), CoR, ERRIN...

Outcomes sofar:

- bioeconomy clusters operate in thirteen EU Member States (Bioeconomy observatory, 2015)
- bioeconomy not yet embedded in policy planning & implementation in several MS

Research challenges:

- Identification of the bioeconomy development potentials of EU regions (S3)
- transferable findings to narrow the gap between the leading and lagging regions

BERST – the Project ID



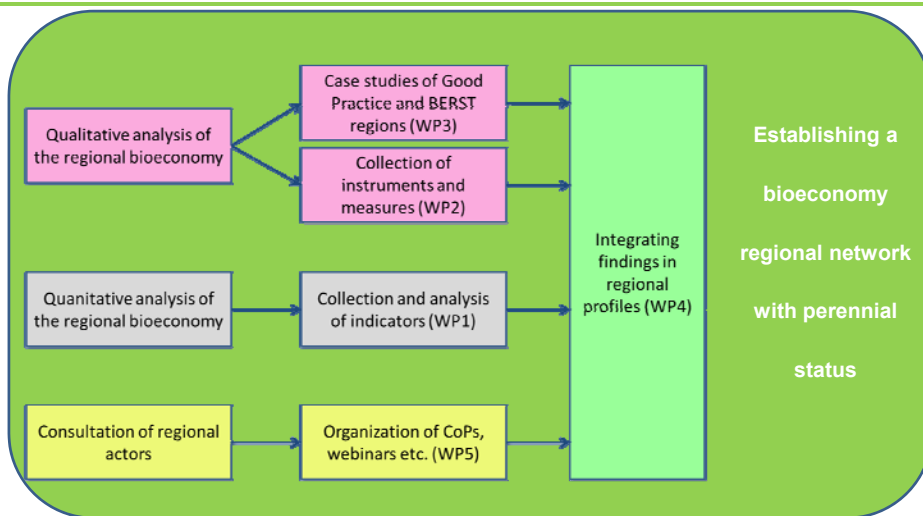
- FP7 Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
- 12/2013 –11/2015
- 1,3 mio € (1 mio € EC contribution)
- Project lead 
- 15 partners from 8 countries
- 8 Research partners
- 7 regional partners, 'bioclusters'



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BERST approach



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Identifying criteria and indicators describing the regional bioeconomy (WP1)

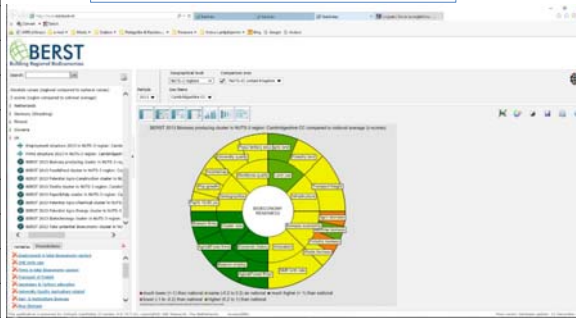


Key subsectors of bioeconomy

Bioeconomy sectors	
1	Primary biomass sectors
2	Food & feed processing
3	Construction
4	Chemical and polymers, biorefinery & co-digesting
5	Pulp & paper
6	Textiles & clothing
7	Energy
8	Biotechnology

Regional availability of data (sofar):

- NUTS 1 (DE)
- NUTS 2 (GR, ES, BE)
- NUTS 3 (NL, DE, UK, FI, SI)



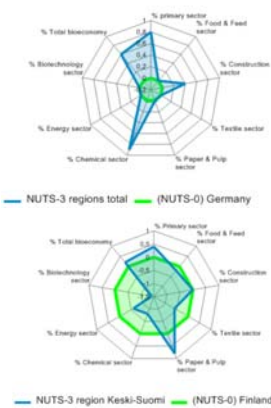
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WP1 – key outcome: regional benchmarking on-line tool



a) Employment and firm structure



b) Regional bioeconomy readiness check



Tool publicly available, ready for testing
Until 12/2016!



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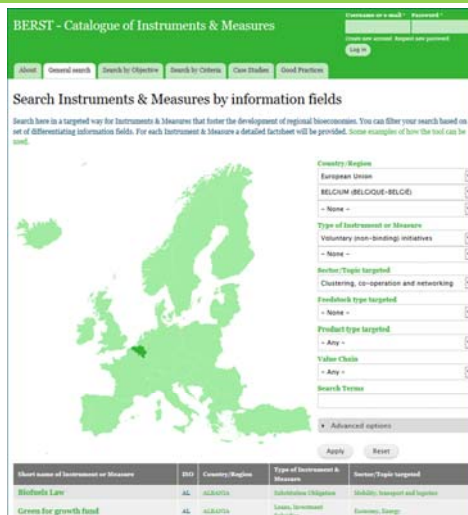


Catalogue of instruments and measures (WP2)



<https://berst.vito.be/>

- On-line search catalogue of Instruments & Measures enabling regional bioeconomy development
 - by country/region
 - by type of the instrument
 - by sector / value chain
 - etc.
- Supports stakeholders
 - to develop strategies & business plans
 - to learn from and get inspired by others
- Currently close to 1.000 instruments & measures
 - EU, national and regional level
- **A living toolkit!**
 - Open for new contributions
 - Quality check before publication

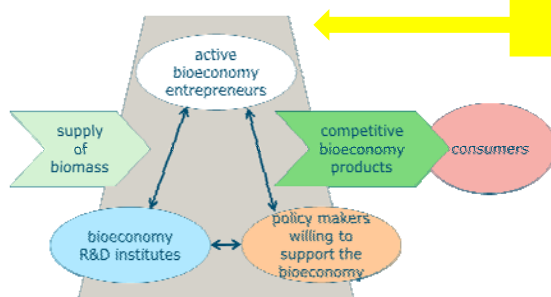


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Qualitative analysis : development path of BERST and good practice regions - case studies (WP3&4)

Imperial College
London



a focus on five key assets of a bioeconomy cluster

Enabling factors:

- active members: bottom-up process and intensive networking
- professional cluster management
- public support (early stages), alternative funding mechanisms

Barriers:

- passive corporate members, readiness to innovate low
- diverging objectives (eg. firms vs. researchers)
- a low sense of 'ownership' by cluster partners

Importance of local biomass sources not decisive !

Good Practices in BERST	BERST regions
Ghent (Belgium)	Central Finland (Finland)
North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)	Straubing (Germany)
Toulouse (France)	Biobase Westland (Netherlands)
Manchester (UK)	Biobase Delta (Netherlands)
	Madrid region (Spain)
	Western Macedonia (Greece)
	Slovenia



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Network of BioRegions (WP5)



- Community of Practice (CoP) approach
 - Actors brought together: practitioners, policymakers, companies, cluster managers, researchers
- Activities
 - Internally: field visits, presentations, brainstorming, academic reflections
 - Externally: participation at networking events (EP, CoR, ERRIN, Bioeconomy alignment with other (bio)regions, webinars)
- Challenges
 - A living Bioregions Network for Bioeconomy Development
 - Outreach of the testing and use of TOBE
 - Staying connected with other actors
 - Stakeholder engagement



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BERST – transferable findings

- Organisation:
 - connecting RTD institutions and firms, shared vision, inclusive governance („sense of ownership“)
- Biomass supply
 - preference given to local biomass; but abundance ≠ availability!
 - importance of secondary biomass, cascading use
- Fostering of (competitive) bio-based sectors
 - strong corporate R&D → higher adoption rate of innovations
- Funding mechanisms, institutional environment
 - consistent policies & long-term financing models
 - public support gradually replaced with private funding (importance of alternative funding mechanisms)
 - enabling policy environment (responsive administration, clear rules, regular networking) is of equal importance



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BERST approach & toolkit - limitations

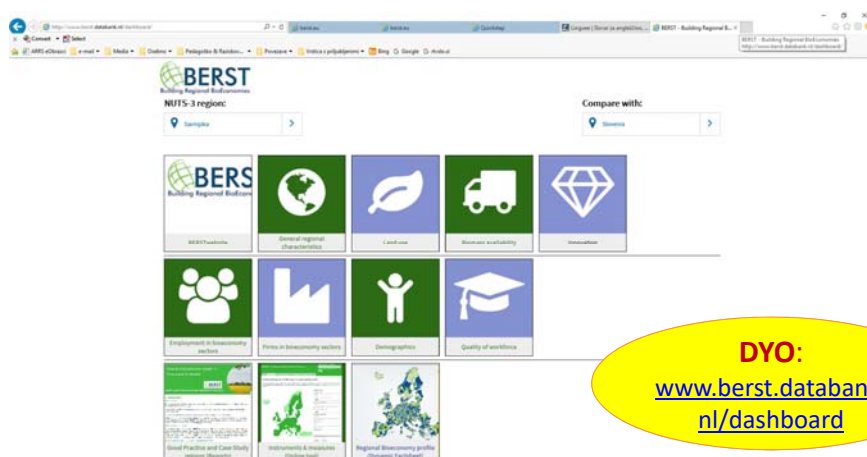
Approach

- Data availability and data collection
 - not all data that we would like to use actually exists (proxies!)
 - comparability and time series
- Bioeconomy clusters usually not operating within strict regional boundaries
 - nonetheless, some NUTS-3 regions are identifying their development priorities in bioeconomy sectors (e.g. renewable energy, green mobility, smart use of biomass)
- The context matters!
 - Regional profile: data quality check needed, combine figures with qualitative information
 - Instruments&measures: successful I&M are context-specific
 - building regional bioeconomy strategies on ‚machine-reading‘ of BERST-toolkit outcomes – a stairway to...FAILURE
 - Use of good practices as an inspiration

Toolkit

- Project output – a prototype
 - challenge: improvement of bioeconomy indicators (eg. biomass availability, employment in bioeconomy sectors, cluster size), and collection of data for these indicators
- Limited number of regions
 - challenge: Integration of BERST regional database in BISO database

BERST toolkit – ready to develop further



DYO:
www.berst.databank.nl/dashboard



Thank you!

Visit www.berst.eu

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