

A Step Towards Realizing the Bioeconomy in the Baltic Sea Region,
Nordic Council of Ministers' seed money grant

Project title	Developing cross-cutting stakeholder involvement for realizing the bioeconomy
Project leader	Karlstad University , Professor <i>Margareta Dahlström</i> , <i>margareta.dahlstrom@kau.se</i>
Partners	<p>Nordregio, Senior researchers <i>Jukka Teräs</i>, <i>jukka.teras@nordregio.se</i> and <i>Gunnar Lindberg</i>, <i>gunnar.lindberg@nordregio.se</i>, Sweden</p> <p>The Paper Province, CEO <i>Maria Hollander</i>, <i>m.hollander@paperprovince.com</i>, Sweden</p> <p>Region Värmland, Research and innovation strategist <i>Anders Olsson</i>, <i>anders.olsson@regionvarmland.se</i>, Sweden</p> <p>HAMK University of Applied Sciences, Dr. <i>Matti K. Hakala</i>, Senior Advisor R&D, <i>Matti.Hakala@hamk.fi</i></p> <p>Forssa Region Development Centre Ltd, <i>Juha Pirkkamaa</i>, Environment and Energy Cluster Manager, <i>juha.pirkkamaa@fskk.fi</i></p> <p>Envor Group, CEO <i>Mika Laine</i>, <i>mika.laine@envor.fi</i></p> <p>Aalborg University, Professor, research director <i>Lene Lange</i>, <i>lla@adm.aau.dk</i>, Denmark</p> <p>Estonian Forest Industry Association, <i>Pille Aasamets</i>, Theme manager, <i>pille.aasamets@empl.ee</i>, Estonia</p> <p>Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, <i>Peter Gornischeff</i>, Director of services, <i>peter@koda.ee</i>, Estonia</p> <p>Stockholm Environment Institute in Tallinn, <i>Kaja Peterson</i>, Senior expert, <i>Kaja.Peterson@seit.ee</i>, Estonia</p>
Time period	August 2014-May 2015
Activities	<p>The "bio-economy" has come to the fore as a concept linking the challenges and opportunities with a transition to sustainable development. There is a need to generate new ways of working, new processes, services and products that can contribute to such a transition. Research and policy actors nationally and internationally are supporting various initiatives to address this need – not least with the establishment of the EU Bioeconomy Observatory. Broad collaborations across disciplines and stakeholders are a must to contribute to the realisation of the bio-economy.</p> <p>The project organised an open seminar at Nordregio, Stockholm, on 8 September 2014. The aim with the seminar was threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To provide inspiration to address the agenda of how to realise the bio-economy 2) To share knowledge and ideas from ongoing bio-economy projects 3) To provide a meeting place for those working with the challenges of realising the bio- economy <p>The seminar was in preparation of the project's subsequent, closed, workshop which took place 4-5 November.</p> <p>At the seminar there was a presentation by <i>Lene Lange</i> about the development of the Danish Bioeconomy panel. Furthermore, the results from Nordregio projects on regional bioeconomy development as well as the current Nordregio activities on bioeconomy were presented, as well as the 10 year Vinnväxt project "Paper Province 2.0– an innovation system for a bio based economy". The seminar also allowed time for discussions - picking up burning issues across the different presentations. About 30 participants from several Nordic countries attended the seminar, and it provided valuable input for the workshop.</p> <p>The main activity of the seed money project was the workshop that took place at Nordregio, Stockholm, 4-5 November. This workshop involved a core team of senior level participants representing 3 regions and Nordregio (= added Nordic value). Each region participated with a researcher, a firm/firm network organisation, and a regional development agency. The workshop explored ways of working to communicate across disciplines and roles. An aim of the workshop was to identify key research and development questions for a transition to a sustainable regional development in a forestry and agriproduct based bio economy. The workshop succeeded in generating several preliminary research questions dealing with themes such as quadruple helix, and actors within the fourth helix, innovative firms in relation to transitions, strategic visions for policy and path dependency. With regards to development issues the workshop generated some preliminary themes such as relations between bio economy policies</p>

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	and regional development policies, integration of bio economy in other policies when policies are updated, and implementation of such policies.				
Main results	<p>In addition to the results generated at the workshop 4-5 November (networking between the partners and preliminary research and development questions), the project generated a small spin-off research project entitled "Transition to a bio economy, smart specialisation and quadruple helix" that is carried out at Centre for research on region building, Karlstad University. The project is co-funded by the three Swedish partners in the seed money project: Karlstad University, Region Värmland and Paper Province.</p> <p>Another result of the seed money project is the special session at Regional Studies Association's international conference in Piacenza, Italy, 25-27 May 2015. Karlstad University and Nordregio co-arranged this session entitled "The Bioeconomy: knowledge dynamics and regional development policy". The session generated 9 research presentations out of which three came from the seed money project team and one from the spin-off project. These presentations were:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <p>A challenging Path from a Traditional Industrial District Towards a Modern Bioeconomy Community – A Longitudinal Case Study of Forssa Region in Finland</p> <p>Matti K. Hakala, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Harri Mattila, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Tapani Pöykkö, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Hannu-Heikki Saarinen, Forssa Region Development Centre (FSKK), Finland</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Realising the Bioeconomy: Developing Multi- and Transdisciplinary Knowledge Dynamics</p> <p>Margareta Dahlström, Karlstad University, Sweden Cecilia Nahnfeldt, Karlstad University, Sweden</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Bioeconomy, Smart Specialisation and Development Strategies for Rural Regions</p> <p>Jukka Teräs, Nordregio, Sweden Gunnar Lindberg, Nordregio, Sweden</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Quadruple Helix and the Bioeconomy</p> <p>Ida Grundel, Karlstad University, Sweden</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>A challenging Path from a Traditional Industrial District Towards a Modern Bioeconomy Community – A Longitudinal Case Study of Forssa Region in Finland</p> <p>Matti K. Hakala, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Harri Mattila, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Tapani Pöykkö, Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland Hannu-Heikki Saarinen, Forssa Region Development Centre (FSKK), Finland</p>	<p>Realising the Bioeconomy: Developing Multi- and Transdisciplinary Knowledge Dynamics</p> <p>Margareta Dahlström, Karlstad University, Sweden Cecilia Nahnfeldt, Karlstad University, Sweden</p>	<p>Bioeconomy, Smart Specialisation and Development Strategies for Rural Regions</p> <p>Jukka Teräs, Nordregio, Sweden Gunnar Lindberg, Nordregio, Sweden</p>	<p>Quadruple Helix and the Bioeconomy</p> <p>Ida Grundel, Karlstad University, Sweden</p>
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Next Step	<p>The plans for the next step for the project have had to be amended. The project originally targeted the joint call on Green growth that was pre launched in Iceland in November 2014 (Nordforsk, Nordic Innovation and Nordic Energy). However, the desk officer at Nordforsk has informed us that the bio economy has been broken out of that call. The planned call on the bio economy will target a theme that is not close to our project (water as a generic component within the bio economy), and the form of the funding (Nordic centre of excellence) in the call is not appropriate for the work in our project. Therefore the current plan is for the partners of the project to look for alternative opportunities of research funding. The partners also continue to work in line with the ideas that was developed within the project in their own contexts.</p>				