

TEMPLATE

Output factsheet: Innovation networks

Version 1

Project index number and acronym	CE633 URBAN INNO
Lead partner	City of Rijeka
Output number and title	O.T1.2 Urban innovation clusters/networks established
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP10 - Forschung Burgenland GmbH
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Summary description of the established innovation network explaining its structure and functions

Founding members:

Forschung Burgenland is the head of the network and sets in cooperation with the funding members an initial scope of activities. It is a research institute, which is closely linked to the university of applied sciences of Burgenland. Principally the huge expertise of the institute is paramount but in addition, Forschung Burgenland takes on a linking function between stakeholders. The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed as well by TBH Ingenieur and ECOsmart. Both are engineering and consulting offices with good relations to the economy within the energy sector. Both have a lot of expertise in research projects, which are nearly related to renewable energy, innovation, building sector, environmental topics and energy efficiency.

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Urban Innovation Network Burgenland / Styria is to increase the research and innovation activities in the fields of renewable energy and climate protection by set up of an innovation network and the belonging supporting services as well as the integration of the members of the network. Furthermore the innovation network will create a framework which should help to knowledge carriers in the region and should motivate other owner of know how to come to the region Burgenland and East Styria. Beyond that, also the regional economical power should be strengthened and improved.

Mission Statement

Eco innovations and decarbonizing are not only protection measures for climate and environment but they're also a chance for our economy. SMEs have a lot of unused potential to convert challenges caused by environmental pollution and climate change into chances for economic benefits. Often special knowledge and skills are needed. Therefore it is very difficult for SMEs to use these chances and big potential for the development of the region, for research, economy and labor market are lost. The Urban Innovation network will support SMEs to use the available innovation potential. During this process other companies and research institutes as well as public services also will support the SMEs in using the offered chances. By networking of all actors in the field of energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate protection and climate change adaptation synergies will be used and the benefit of all network members should be improved. The innovation network will contribute a significant part in reaching the aims of the research strategies of Burgenland and Styria. Furthermore the barrier to enter the market will be lowered for all stakeholders in the fields of research, development and innovation.

Governance of the Urban Innovation Cluster / Network

The network will be founded as an association. If economic supported measures will be offered in mid-term, a limited company (Ltd.) will be founded. But in general the network starts with voluntary input of the members which signed the MoU. For personal, following strategy is planned: sustainable growth according to request. All members will meet in a plenum once a year. During this plenum meeting an honorary chair man as well as a steering committee will be voted. Regarding citizen involvement in the context of a quadruple helix cluster / network the citizens could bring in ideas, proposals, requests or they could be test users for different products, services or innovations.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the innovation network (relevant NUTS level)

The "Innovationsnetzwerk Burgenland / Oststeiermark" was founded by Forschung Burgenland GmbH, located in Pinkafeld, Burgenland. Pinkafeld is located in a quite rural area in the middle of Burgenland near the border to Styria, but may be ideally reached due to its transport connection, especially via the motorway A2 that connect Vienna and Graz. The city Pinkafeld relates to the Nuts Region 3 AT113 Süd-Burgenland. The network itself with the initial partners, which signed the MoU, presents the region Burgenland and Styria. Therefore the NUTS regions AT11 Burgenland and AT22 Steiermark (Styria) are reached.

Expected impact and benefits of the innovation network for the concerned territories and target groups

The following potential added values and benefits for stakeholders and network members in the region of Burgenland/East Styria could be defined:

- For companies
 - Possible increase in turnover / profit / efficiency
 - Support for acquisition of customers
 - Chances for presenting the company
 - Relieved access to subsidies and scientific know how
 - Support for searching of skilled employees
 - Integration of the value chain (cut surface between involved companies)
- For research institutions and public administration:
 - Improved know how exchange between research and economy
 - Improvement of attractiveness of business location
 - Creation resp. Security of jobs
 - Representation of interests of network members in political fields
 - Better reputation of political decision makers
- For citizens:
 - Creation of new (green) jobs
 - Security of existing jobs
 - Enhancement of life quality in region due to selected topics of network (sustainability, climate change adaptation, ...)
 - Creation of innovative offers in region due to network
 - Involvement in innovation processes

Sustainability of the innovation network and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

Sustainability

For the network and all future activities related to it, it is priority to guarantee a sustainable development. The launch event with all previous activities (core-team trainings, roadmap, etc.) was the official go-ahead for the development of the network. The process of development is central to at least three challenges: how to link knowledge with actions, how to enhance collective actions of the network members, and how to promote the network in order to attract new members. To emerge as unity across all three challenges we started consciously with 3 network member which have already established a strong partnership of mutual trust. Sustainable development means creating a stable foundation with regard to all aspects of cooperation between the network members. To build sustainability the 3 network members work towards a matchmaking of targets (defined in DT1.2.4 Roadmap) and possible feasible actions. During an internal workshop the matchmaking was compiled. The result of a realizable collection of actions should also contribute as a basis to the development of DT1.4.1 UIAPs. One main goal is to grow slightly but steadily.

Transferability to other urban ecosystems in Central Europe

Many regions in Central Europe show similarity concerning small-scale structured economy as the region of Burgenland/Eastern Styria with similar problems and challenges. Otherwise, the content-related orientation of the cluster is facing issues, which are important for the whole European Union concerning its energy efficiency and climate protection goals. Therefore the basis for transferability to other urban ecosystems is given in any case. Nevertheless, international activities of the members of the cluster and active international networking with other regions shall improve the transferability factor beyond the borders of the region.

Lessons learned from the development and establishment process of the innovation network and added value of transnational cooperation

During the development process there was fortunately no need to cope with many hard issues. There is just one thing to mention, and it is the reason for the extension of the originally considered area of Burgenland to Burgenland and East Styria. This circumstance attributes to the already loose cooperation between the key-players and actors in the region of Burgenland and East Styria. Despite the good relations with companies and institutes in Styria only the federal state Burgenland was considered at the beginning of the analyses. It was more or less geographically limited. As mentioned before there was a lot of cooperation in the last years with East Styria. It would be advisable to modify the approach in direction to check the existing cooperation's and align the future innovation network in this direction. At the beginning of any development process it is quite difficult to gain attention and it is a lot of work to convince other stakeholders. It is likely to overcome obstacles and barriers much more easily with an already concerted core team. Because of the afterwards extended territory and the concerted effort it was much easier to convince partners to sign the MoU. For the establishment (Launch Event) we would recommend that the roadmap, which was already developed at the stage of the launch event, includes aspects of the action plan (concrete little steps/actions). We faced the problem, that the roadmap includes many general intentions for the future network which is a good fundament of the subsequent action plan, but nevertheless it would be helpful when some specific actions would be set in an earlier stage to promote the network before the establishment process (launch event), also to arouse interest with potential members. This issue goes along with the sustainability of the network.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links

If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The output O.T1.2 Urban innovation clusters/networks established builds as part of a logical sequence on the activities performed within A.T1.2 - Setting up of core teams and roadmaps in target regions and its different deliverables:

D.T1.1.2 - Inventory of key innovation stakeholders

D.T1.2.5 - Documentation: personal meetings with stakeholders

Both relevant to the identification of relevant stakeholders and their commitment.

D.T1.2.1 - Core team agreement, tying together motivated stakeholders

D.T1.2.2 - 1st training workshop for core teams

D.T1.2.3 - 2nd training workshop for core teams

Both relevant to supporting the process of defining a content for the new network

D.T1.2.4 - Basic urban innovation roadmaps - short-term goals, bringing to paper the vision, mission and structure of the new network.

The network itself also contributes to D.T1.4.1 Urban Innovation Action Plans (UIPAPs)