



Best practices & challenges in multi-stakeholder and cross-sector interconnections

Cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration is a key factor to foster the growth of the bioeconomy in Europe, but it remains as a major challenge.

Good practices on fostering multi-stakeholder interconnection or collaborations i.e. between research, industry, policy... are more available than good practices on cross-sector collaboration.



Some effective instruments for multi-stakeholder interconnection are:

- Engagement events such as matchmaking events, pitch events, innovation boot camps, and phone applications;
- Establishment of working groups;
- Provision of support services for start-ups and public funding.

Clusters play an important role in enhancing both multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral collaborations, some good practices identified from Clusters in Portugal, Italy, The Netherlands, and Germany, are:

- The BlueBio Alliance (Portugal) offers support to startups working in the "blue bioeconomy" (marine and coastal bioeconomy) through the Blue Demo Network, which makes accessible a set of Portuguese infrastructural supports.
- The Spring cluster (Italy) fosters the development of partnerships carrying out research activities along the entire bioeconomy value chain, involving public and private entities in proposals at the regional, national and Horizon 2020 level.
- A Dutch subsidy regulation (Germany) offers local governments and their partners expert support for the implementation of projects focused on greenhouse gas reduction and the circular economy.
- Since 2012 the region Central Germany has received additional funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to develop Central Germany as a focal point for bioeconomy activities

The clusters' main challenges include:

- Lack of dedicated bioeconomy strategies and/or legislative support mechanisms
- Lack of national funding opportunities
- Shortage in the raw material supply and lack of skilled workforce
- Limited integration of bioeconomy products into mainstream supply chains
- Lack of entrepreneurial culture
- Difficulties in cross-sector collaboration due to logistical and "cultural" differences among sectors (differing financial models, ways of thinking etc.)