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GoSmart BSR will be part of a newly approved project platform in the Baltic Sea Region

Against the background of a strong international competition, the EU decided for a strengthening of regional smart specialization (S3) for the post-2020 period. Still, concrete examples of implementation particularly on a transnational level are lacking since specialization mostly remains limited to particular regions. This is the gap the new project “BSR S3 Ecosystem” – co-financed by the INTERREG VB-Baltic Sea Region Programme – is addressing in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Project platforms are meant to support cooperation among partners of projects funded by different funding programmes in a certain thematic field in order to increase their impact. Together with five partners from Finland, Sweden and Lithuania, who already possess experience when it comes to regional smart specialization, HWWI will have the chance to bring in its knowledge gathered in the project GoSmart BSR which also deals with questions of smart specialization in the BSR. The overall budget of BSR S3 Ecosystem amounts to 1,000,000 €, the official project start will be 01.08.2019.

The project BSR S3 Ecosystem consists of three pillars:

- 1) Analysis, alignment and incubation of key S3 projects in the BSR which either demonstrate potential for interregional scale-up and/or advancing the value chain orientation of the BSR when it comes to their integration over regional borders.
- 2) Interregional learning processes for the implementation of S3 and capacity building, whereby the experience gathered should lead to the creation of an action plan.
- 3) Involvement of stakeholders, thereunder science, research, SMEs and targeted actors from the social sector. The identified best practices are to be communicated and developed further in collaboration with the stakeholders for instance in the scope of particular events.

BSR S3 Ecosystem shall constitute a much needed platform to develop a better understanding of best practices and the opportunities of smart specialization in the BSR. This target is to be reached by an action plan, a manual for regional and interregional implementation, a mapping of value chains in the bioeconomy



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and digital economy, a training program as well as a long-term dissemination strategy.

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