

# BSR Bioeconomy Innovation Vouchers

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Two mappings reports to set the stage:

- Bioeconomy (NCM)
- Digital economy (BDF)



## Main conclusions from the mapping

A large (and growing) number of test and demonstration infrastructures to benefit SMEs in the bioeconomy attempting to commercialize new products, services or processes.

There are **overlapping** as well as **complementary** areas of tech/test excellence, with:

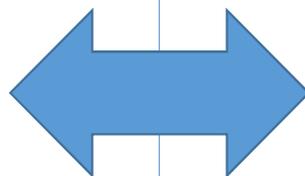
- Sweden and Finland having strongholds in forestry and bioenergy from forestry.
- Norway having strongholds in maritime areas of the bioeconomy as well as forestry.
- Denmark having strongholds in food, feed and ingredients and water.
- And with all countries offering pharma/life science technology development services.



## Some common obstacles for test-bed cooperation

### Obstacles

- Information
- Competition
- Cost



### Solutions

- Network
- Trust
- Vouchers

**Financial support is necessary but not sufficient**



## The Voucher Pilot:

- **Finnish company Dagsmark Petfoods Oy** had an extrusion processing test undertaken of selected raw materials for dog dental sticks at the pilot plant at **Danish DTI**. (test completed).
- **Finnish company Paptic Ltd** was supported in testing a novel fiber-based packaging material at the **RISE's Swerea** textile testbed in Sweden. (test completed).
- **Norwegian company Kvanne Industrier AS** undertook a test at **RISE Built Environment** testbed in Sweden of the physical properties of prototypes for sound insulation in efforts to improve – also environmentally – manufacturing of high performance industrial doors. (test completed).
- **Norwegian company Biocluster AS** that at **RISE Processum** in Sweden during March 2019 will undertake a test on the feasibility of production scale-up of single cell proteins. (test ongoing).

## Outcomes and next steps:

- The pilot voucher scheme has – despite a number of challenges – successfully been piloted.
- SMEs benefitted in particular in terms of:
  1. Being able to carry out tests they could not have done in their home country;
  2. Being able to speed up innovation and product development because of the financial support;
  3. Increased awareness of test opportunities available to them across borders in the BSR.
- RTOs/testbeds benefitted in particular in terms of:
  1. Network building with sister RTOs/testbeds in the bioeconomy;
  2. Increased awareness of complementary testbed excellence in the BSR;
  3. Awareness of challenges that need to be addressed to realize a macro-regional testbed infrastructure.
- GTS Denmark, RISE, SINTEF and VTT decided to put together a MoU and seek funding for networking activities.

# Lessons learned

- Cooperation between testbeds in the BSR benefits SMEs
- Innovation vouchers are a potential tool to achieve this
- Size matters: 5000 EUR/voucher is way too small
- There is a need for a "broker" that can guide the SMEs to the relevant service provider. The national RTO's can take this role...
- ...but it requires networking to build trust and obtain/maintain knowledge about each other's competences.