BIOECONOMY AS A DRIVER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Kristaps Ročāns
Vidzeme Planning Region
Latvian high added value and healthy food cluster
VIDZEME PLANNING REGION

- Largest region in Latvia
- Lowest population density
- Green region - more than 50% of area is forest
- 26 Municipalites
- RIS3 - integrated in regional development strategy 2030
VIDZEME PLANNING REGION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030
FOCUS AREAS

HUMAN RESOURCES  ECONOMY & INNOVATION  TERRITORY
### RIS3 SMART SPECIALIZATION AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National specialization areas</th>
<th>Vidzeme regional specialization areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge intensive Bio-economy</td>
<td>High value added wood products</td>
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<td>Production of healthy food and drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedicine, medical technologies, biopharmacy and biotechnology</td>
<td>Biomass for chemical conversion and production of energy</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation and health care</td>
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<td>Smart materials</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>ICT</td>
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<td>Smart energy</td>
<td>Recreation and sustainable tourism</td>
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<td>Creative industries</td>
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<td>Distance professional services</td>
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ADVANCING BIOECONOMY IN THE REGION:

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS (I)

VIDZEME PLANNING REGION PROJECTS - POLICY LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

- Research and innovation infrastructure sharing
- Improvement of business support instruments for eco-innovation and innovation development in rural areas
- Sustainable innovation ecosystems in RIS3 areas
VIDZEME PLANNING REGION PROJECTS - INNOVATION CAPACITY AND CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT

- Wood processing and furniture innovation capacity – Wood and Furniture

- Green Innovation Governance

- Cross-sectorial (food, ICT, logistics) cluster management excellence
R&D AND CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE VIDZEME REGION:
AGRICULTURE, FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
TWO R&D INSTITUTES SPECIALIZED IN BIOECONOMY

IES - international network of scientists, artists, engineers and practitioners. Ad hoc multidisciplinary teams to design and develop customized innovative environmental solutions.

Space technologies, land, water, forest, heritage, gastronomy, open science

AREI - only research institute in Latvia engaged in breeding of field crops, specialized in breeding, arable farming and interdisciplinary studies in the science of economics

Field crops genetics, breeding, field crops growing technologies
TRIPLE HELIX NETWORK IN FOOD INDUSTRY

HIGH ADDED VALUE FOOD AND DRINKS
CROSS-SECTORIAL COLLABORATION
INTERNATIONALIZATION
COMPETITIVENESS
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION
KNOWLEDGE SHARING

LATVIAN HIGH ADDED VALUE AND HEALTHY FOOD CLUSTER
PRODUCT INNOVATION

BSR Innovation express project «Enhancing market competitiveness in food SME’s-new methodologies and better interaction (EMCF)

2015

Partner clusters: Food Network (DK), Ideon Agro Food (SE)

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PACKAGING INNOVATION

BSR Innovation express project «Cross-sectorial collaboration for efficient and sustainable food value chains in Baltic Sea region»

2016-2017

Partner cluster: Food Network (DK)

• Recently developed project proposal:

**Horizon 2020 project** «Unwrapping the Packaging – Removing Barriers to Market Uptake of Promising Innovative Food Packaging (UNIVERSE)

20 partners from Europe & Israel, Lead partner: Aarhus University MAPP Centre (DK)
BIOECONOMY AS A DRIVER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Initial regional potential – resources, actors
- Supporting framework conditions, and policies at national and regional level
- Support to clusters, companies, R&D institutions
- Triple helix actors - involved, engaged and ready to collaborate
- Internationalization – developing partnerships beyond the region
- Learning and improving
- Moving towards a joint Nordic Baltic bioeconomy strategy