



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



SmartPilots Interregional Seminar on Support Mechanisms for **International Collaboration** with Shared Pilot Facilities

Invitation and Program

We invite all stakeholders (managing authorities, intermediate bodies, regional funding authorities and applicants, funding beneficiaries, innovation organisations, cluster organisation, users of SPF...) with an interest in shared pilot facilities (SPF) and innovation **to be actively involved in the SmartPilots study visits and interregional seminars.**

Next SmartPilots Interregional Seminar:

WHEN: May 23rd, 2017 from 9:00-16:30

WHERE: VTT, Vuorimiehentie 3, Espoo, Finland

WHO: SmartPilots Project Partners and Stakeholders of Shared Pilot Facilities

What is SMARTPILOTS?

SmartPilots: Improving policies in support of shared pilot facilities to increase their impact on the Key Enabling Technology Industrial Biotech and the European Bioeconomy

Shared pilot facilities are open access test sites that bring bioeconomy innovations from the laboratory into industrial practice. They are open to all companies and research institutes, and can thus be seen as shared investments in innovation equipment. They have proven to be successful in helping innovators, especially SMEs, to bridge the so called Valley of Death, i.e. the innovation phase between laboratory and successful market introduction that comes with a high technological and financial risk. Typically, initial funding from governments is available to build a Shared Pilot Facility, but it is a challenge to safeguard their long-term existence, especially since bioeconomy is relatively new and dedicated policies are currently lacking in many regions.

SmartPilots **aims to improve regional policies** to provide support in a cost-effective and impact oriented manner. This will be done by:

- Optimizing direct support for shared pilot facilities
- Optimizing indirect support i.e. direct support for users of shared pilot facilities
- Facilitating interregional cooperation regarding Shared Pilot Facilities.

Phase 1 (2016-2018): The project partners, regions that locate a SPF or have a high interest and SPFs, each make a thorough regional analysis of availability and use of funding mechanisms for SPF and their users (through study visits and questionnaires to relevant stakeholders). During three interregional seminars, the results of these regional analyses will be compared and discussed and

best-practices will be exchanged. The findings of the seminars will be summarized in Regional Factsheets, used to draw up regional action plans.

Phase 2 (2018-2020): Regional implementation of the action plans and monitoring of the results of the implementation.

The Shared Pilot Facilities and regions involved are **Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant** (lead partner) and the **department of Economy, Science and Innovation** from Flanders (Belgium), **Centre for Process Innovation** from Tees Valley (UK), **VTT** from Helsinki Uusimaa (Finland), **Bioprocess Pilot Facility** and **Provincie Zuid-Holland** (the Netherlands), **Innovhub SSI** from Lombardy (Italy) and **ARD** (France) and **CBP Fraunhofer** (Germany) as Case Studies.

REGISTRATION:

Interested stakeholders can register via the following link: [online link](#).

PROGRAM

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 09.10 Opening words

By Jussi Manninen EVP, VTT

09.10 – 9.30 Introduction to SmartPilots

by Brecht Vanlerberghe, BBEPP and SmartPilots Coordinator

09.30 – 10.30 Stakeholder Presentations, on International Collaboration

9.30 – 10.00 Smart Specialisation for regions and International collaboration

By Krista Taipale, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Helsinki EU Office

10.00 – 10.30 Open Research and development infrastructures supporting industrial development, by Mari Hjelt, Gaia Consulting

10.30 – 10.50 Coffee break

10.50 – 12.00 Short Summary Presentation on Support Mechanisms for International Collaboration with Shared Pilot Facilities (1-2 slides pp)

- International Collaboration in FI (Lula Rosso, VTT)
- International Collaboration in BE (Hilde Vermeulen, EWI)
- International Collaboration in NL (Marije Groen, Prov. South-Holland)
- International Collaboration in UK (Derek Lincoln, CPI)
- International Collaboration in IT (Ilaria Bonetti, ISSI)
- International Collaboration in FR (Jean-Christophe Duval, FR)
- International Collaboration in GE (Gerd Unkelbach, Fraunhofer CBP)

12.00– 13.00 Lunch

13.00 - 13.20 ESFRI and Horizon 2020 support to Shared Pilot Facilities, Merja Särkioja, Academy of Finland

13.20 - 13.30 Horizon 2020 support to Biotechnology Piloting, Outi Suomi, Tekes

13.30 – 14.40 Discussion (Facilitated by Brecht Vanlerberghe, SmartPilots Project Coordinator)

Support Mechanisms for International Collaboration

- Gap Analysis
- Identification of Best Practices

14.40 – 15.00 Coffee Break

15.00 – 16.00 Formulating the conclusion of the discussion and policy recommendations

16.00 – 16.15 Closing Summary and way forward

16.15 – 17.30 Visit to VTT Biotechnology Research Facilities