

4th Stakeholder Meeting in Poland

PRDF organized another stakeholders meeting on 19th of January 2018.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Bialystok Science and Technology Park (Milena Kulesza), Marshal's Office of the Podlasie Voivodeship (Joanna Sarosiek, Emilia Malinowska, Katarzyna Poleszczuk-Woźniewska), Bialystok University of Technology (Wojciech Trzasko), Metalworking Cluster (Katarzyna Hantke), EkoExpert company Consulting Ecological and Economic (Marcin Kibitlewski) and PRDF staff.

Kamil Pendowski presented the previous activities of the Podlaska Regional Development Foundation, including projects implemented by the Foundation (FFWD, SUPER, GoSmart BSR, EEN). Additionally, the issues of measures 1.2 and 1.4 ROP, which are to start in 2018, have been raised. Magdalena Borys - moderator of the meeting - presented the basic information about the SAT tool, explained to the participants the principles of conducting the assessment and explained the basic concepts used in the assessment (eco-innovation, support, etc.)

During the meeting, the current and the upcoming activities of the project were discussed, including self-evaluation in the scope of the eco-innovation support system using the SAT (Self-Assessment Tool) that is being prepared by project partner Wisdom Kanda. This Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) is formulated as a survey in which responds to 19 questions/statements. The study was conducted in a group so that individual participants could discuss key issues and possible non-conformities.

The respondents for the majority of questions agreed on the answers, but many questions brought a lively discussion about the choice of the answer that best describes the situation. Each partner noticed that companies have to put in a lot of effort to access support instruments, access is difficult due to the time and resources available, therefore the support is mainly used by companies that have adequate resources and experience. Most companies use the support of consulting companies. Another identified problem was that support actors work rather in isolation, they rather don't support each other's but they don't work with conflicts. From time to time there is an emerging interactions and complementarities but generally – co-operation and complementarity need to be improved.

Most of the participants agreed that there is widespread mix of different types of support. During the discussion participants agreed that there is a specific specialization developed by different support actors (one actor – one specialization) but there is widespread mix of different types of support. A combination of different types of support is available and the situation is changes in favor, although diversity is not common. The respondents also realized that the region is still on the way to full acceptance of support for eco-innovations – public support for eco-innovation continues to gain formal and informal acceptance.

Respondents' answers will be analyzed, while the results of the evaluation will be presented to the meeting of project partners in February in Riga.

The meeting was closed with presentation of further steps in the SUPER project.